



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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OFFICE HOURS: TUES - FRI, 9AM - 4PM

28th January 2024

**4th Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

Deut 18:15-20
1 Cor 7:32-35
Mk 1:21-28

Dear Parishioners, please find below a commentary and reflection on this week's Gospel from one of Australia's most renowned biblical scholars, Fr Brendan Byrne - Fr Giovanni

The readings this week reflect the Psalm response: O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your heart. This was the response of the Israelites when they grumbled at Meribah and Massah in the desert. In the First Reading, Moses promises the tribes of Israel that the Lord will send them a prophet like himself, coming from within their midst, who will speak God's words. We meet this prophet in the Gospel. It is Jesus himself, who amazes his audience in the synagogue by curing a man possessed by an unclean spirit. They are particularly impressed by Christ's quiet authority. In the Second Reading, Paul seeks to reassure his audience in Corinth. They are worrying about marriage in the wider context of the end of time, which they think is imminent. They, too, must give their undivided attention to the Lord and ensure everything is as it should be.

FIRST READING: Moses said to the people: 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly . . . and the Lord said to me, "I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The one who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."'

GOSPEL: Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came he went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority. In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new,' they said, 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

REFLECTION: I may be coming to pray from a need to feel close to the Lord today, or because I feel I ought to or must pray. Whatever my reason, I take some time to slow down. I pause awhile. When I am ready, I read the Gospel passage. It may be familiar, but I spend time with it and read it slowly as if for the first time.

After a while, I may find that the whole scene arises in my imagination. I am there with them. I see the people listening to Jesus, I hear the man shouting, I feel his touch as he tries to grab me to stop himself from falling. I look around me at the faces of the group. What do I notice particularly?

For a few moments, I recall all the sounds, the cries, the words which I've just heard. What are the key words for me? Maybe it's 'Be quiet!' or 'new teaching' or 'authority' . . . or something else? I wonder why these particular words are important to me just now. In what ways do they relate to my own life? I speak to the Lord, and explain how this scene has affected me today. Like the man in the synagogue, perhaps I also want to tell him – though gently and lovingly – 'I know who you are, the Holy One of God, in you I trust'.

Finally, I thank the Lord for being with me in my prayer today, and ask him to help all those around the world who suffer from poor mental health.

Brendan Byrne, SJ, FAHA, taught New Testament at Jesuit Theological College, Parkville, Vic., for almost forty years. He is now Emeritus Professor at the University of Divinity (Melbourne).

PARISH NEWS



PRAYER AT ST MADS

The Sunday Gospel reflections	Tuesday at 10.30am via Zoom. Contact Careyanne 0438 791 813 or careyannemoylan@hotmail.com
Prayer Group	Wednesday after morning Mass at 10am in the St Madeleine centre: Explanation of Sunday Mass Gospel, Pray the Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy
St Mad's Book Club	To register contact Careyanne on careyannemoylan@hotmail.com
RCIA	For enquires contact the Parish Office
St Mads Rosary	Thursday after morning Mass Monday Rosary Via Zoom Contact Kay Brooks & Lydia Ceccato 0400 372 561
Baptism Preparation	First Saturday of the month in the St Madeleine centre: Ring/email Parish office for booking 9654 2260 (Tues-Fri 9am-3pm or kenthurst@parracatholic.org)



WELCOME MASS FOR FR GIOVANI

SUNDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2024

10am Mass

Followed by morning tea

Please bring a plate



SAFEGUARDING: All volunteers in our parish are required to undertake safeguarding training.

Training has been organised for
Saturday, 11 May 2024
10am—3pm
in the St Madeleine Centre
RSVP kenthurst@parracatholic.org

Online training details are found at:
<https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>
Brendan - Parish Safeguarding Champion
m. 0448 683 146

Please ensure your details are kept up to date
PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

On behalf of the Parish Community, I would like to thank you so much for your ongoing support, which has been very vital to keep our Parish going strong. You can drop off the envelopes at the weekend Masses or the parish office or you can do it electronically to:

Account Name : Kenthurst Catholic Church BSB : 067950 Account Number : 00000388

Parishioners wishing to donate or pledge their giving via direct debit, please pick up the form at the church and submit to Fr Vincent after completion.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$1, 211.05
2nd Collection (for Parish)
Envelopes = \$837.30 Loose = \$1,122.50

Avg weekly Credit cards, direct debit \$1,864.38

THE CHOSEN

Tuesday 30th January at 7pm

Season 3 Episode 3

in the St Madeleine Centre



For information:
Loretta m. 0419260637

SOCIAL JUSTICE @ ST MAD'S

World Interfaith Harmony Week is an annual event observed during the first week of February, is a way to promote peace and harmony between all people regardless of their faith. At St Mad's we have an active team of social justice advocates within our parish. New members are always welcome email sue@kcj.net.au and share your justice passions with others in the team. Dates coming up February 8th St Josephine Bakhita who is the Patron Saint of South Sudan and Sudan. We also know her as the Patron Saint of the Victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. 13 February Anniversary of National Apology Day. You are invited to ACU on February 8th for the St Josephine Bakhita Memorial Mass & Public Lecture Mass is 12.30pm followed by a public lecture by Bishop Vincent Long ACU Campus, Blacktown, Building 910, Ground Level (park at Westpoint and walk to 22 Main Street Blacktown NSW 2148)

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS



For the dearly departed: Mia Lisle, Toufic Khamis, Mansour Schelazi, Maria La Spina, Paul Flynn, Thomas Dockery, David and Darren O'Reilly, Giuseppe Carli, Antonio Votano, Michael Esposito, Anthony, Rose & Lawrence Apap, Anthony Grima, Joseph & Louise Bonello

Please pray for the sick: Dawn Phillips, Mathias Kintu Bamusibule, Cherry Luezzi, Yvonne Bolland, Brenda Riley, Henry Field, Aura Krakowszky, Hoani Alexander Barker, Sofia Viizzo, Antonia Desanti, and Jennifer Burgess

If you would like someone to be included among these requests, please use the Mass offering envelopes found at the entrance to the Church or email the office kenthurst@parracatholic.org

PIETY SHOP

2024 Columban Calendar \$10

God's Word \$20

proceeds go to children experiencing poverty in India



Are you looking for a gift for a special person for Holy Communion, Confirmation, Baptism & Birthdays? Come and have a look in the piety shop. We have an ever changing array of gifts and religious items. Special orders are welcome too. We are open after every weekend Mass. Contact Sandra Tabone on 0413272400 for any special requests.

CAN YOU PLAY THE PIANO/KEYBOARD? DO YOU LIKE TO SING?

The St Madeleine's Music Ministry is searching for parishioners who can help our singers and congregation provide music for our weekend masses. Support and assistance provided!

Can you help us, please?

Contact: Selina Calleia 0416 265 233

PARISH VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Music Coordinators: Selina Calleia, Joan Sattler & Alexandra Mifsud

Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Pauline Chacal

Baptism Preparation: Angelique Easton

RCIA Coordinator: Steve Fry

SRE Coordinator: Maureen Jones

Ministry to the Nursing Homes Coordinator: Suzanne Kingston-Hunt

Adult Faith Formation: Careyanne Moylan

Property Maintenance Manager: Rick Jones

Piety Shop: Sandra Tabone

Altar Linen Coordinator: Catherine Diekman

Parish Council Chair: Patrick Tuttle

Finance Committee Chair: Carl Mathias

Safeguarding Champion: Brendan Ford

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest

Rev Giovanni Presiga

Assistant Priest

Rev Adam Carlow

Parish Secretaries

Sandra De Nardi

Susie Lee

Sacramental Coordinator

Sandra De Nardi

St Madeleine's Primary School

Phone: 9654 6751

Principal: Mrs Barbara Young

Marian College

Phone: 9654 6700

Principal: Dr Gavin Hays

PARISH SERVICES

Weekend Masses:

Saturday 5.30pm

Sunday 8:00am, 10:00am, 5.30pm

Children's Liturgy during school term

Weekday Masses

9:15am Tuesdays to Fridays

9:45am - 10:15am Fridays - Adoration

Prayer Group: Wednesdays after the

9.15am Mass

Reconciliation: Saturday 5.00pm

Baptisms: Every 2nd and 4th Sunday
at 11:20am

(Must make a booking)

Weddings: By appointment



DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA



Stay in touch through our parish

Facebook page:

[https://www.facebook.com/
stmadeleines](https://www.facebook.com/stmadeleines)

Diocesan World Day of the Sick Mass 10 February: A Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on Saturday 10 February 2024 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. RSVPs are required by 6 February 2024 to mary.gale@parracatholic.org

Bishop Vincent presents a conversation with Monsignor Tomas Halik 12 February:

The Diocese of Parramatta invites you to a conversation with Czech priest and theologian Monsignor Tomas Halik on Monday 12 February at 6pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Registration is free, but places are strictly limited. Visit <https://parracatholic.org/events/tomashalik/> to register.

Music for Lent Workshop 12 February: Musicians and Liturgy Planners are invited to attend an evening exploring Music for Lent on Monday 12 February 2024 from 7pm to 8.30pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. The session will be presented by Eric Grella, Music Formation Facilitator, Mission Enhancement Team. To RSVP, please contact mary.gale@parracatholic.org by 5 February 2024.

Liturgical Ministry Course returns in 2024: The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2024. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or mary.gale@parracatholic.org or visit our website to enrol: www.parracatholic.org/contribute/volunteer/liturgical-ministry

Diocesan Food Drives: Many vulnerable people in our community rely on the 'food banks' run by Jesuit Refugee Services and the House of Welcome, which operate thanks to donations from community food drives. All parishes and schools are encouraged to run a food drive for those seeking safety in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Find out more information about how you can help at parracatholic.org/fooddrive or emailing james.atanasious@parracatholic.org

MET FaithLIFE Scripture Short Course: Tuesday Evenings 13, 20, 27 February:

Looking to learn more about the Bible? Wanting expert guidance on interpreting Scripture for life & faith? Interested in the theme of women in the Bible through the Gospel of Matthew? Sign up now for the 3-session FaithLIFE Scripture short course with Dr Debra Snoddy on Tuesday evenings 13, 20 and 27 February! Registration and more dates and details via <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=faithlife> OR get in touch with the team via met@parracatholic.org

Presentation of the Lord

Feast Day: 2 February

At the end of the fourth century, a woman named

Etheria made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Her journal, discovered in 1887, gives an unprecedented glimpse of liturgical life there. Among the celebrations she describes is the Epiphany, the observance of Christ's birth, and the gala procession in honor of his Presentation in the Temple 40 days later. Under the Mosaic Law, a woman was ritually "unclean" for 40 days after childbirth, when she was to present herself to the priests and offer sacrifice—her "purification." Contact with anyone who had brushed against mystery—birth or death—excluded a person from Jewish worship. This feast emphasizes Jesus' first appearance in the Temple more than Mary's purification. The observance spread throughout the Western Church in the fifth and sixth centuries. Because the Church in the West celebrated Jesus' birth on December 25, the Presentation was moved to February 2, 40 days after Christmas. At the beginning of the eighth century, Pope Sergius inaugurated a candlelight procession; at the end of the same century the blessing and distribution of candles which continues to this day became part of the celebration, giving the feast its popular name: Candlemas.

Reflection In Luke's account, Jesus was welcomed in the temple by two elderly people, Simeon and the widow Anna. They embody Israel in their patient expectation; they acknowledge the infant Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah. Early references to the Roman feast dub it the feast of Saint Simeon, the old man who burst into a song of joy which the Church still sings at day's end. had preserved it in the world."

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org>



ST MADELEINE'S PLAYGROUP

St Madeleine's Centre
28 Annangrove Road, KENTHURST

- Every Thursday during school term, from 9.30am
- Play and activities for children 0-6 years old.

• Mums, Dads, Carers and Grandparents are all welcome!

• Bring a healthy morning tea and a hat for play.

• For more information, please contact Sarah - 0405 514 624 or Amy - aseychell3@parra.catholic.edu.au



Be Part of Our Synod Journey: Diocesan Synod

Report Now Available The Diocesan Synod Report is now available for download. The newly released Diocesan Synod Report offers a summary of our first Diocesan Synod assembly, held from October 13-15, 2023, its preparatory stages, in-depth details of the proceedings, and insights from delegates. Download your copy from the Parramatta Synod website now: www.parracatholic.org/synod/resources

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

2024 dates available on our website
www.stmadeleine.org.au/sacraments

For any queries
stmads.sacraments@gmail.com



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27 & 28 January		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY
	WELCOMERS		Brendan Ford Carmel & Mike O'Connell	Zakia Touma Teresa Capaldi	Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	Heidi Bou-Harb	Steve Fry	Phillys Hannah	
	READERS	Heidi Bou-Harb Trish Maidens	Margaret Mieczkowski Tony Hooper	Sandra Tabone Karla Quinn	Trish Maidens Patrick Tuttle
	JNR MINISTERS				
	MUSICIANS		Joan Sattler	Merle & Doug	
	COUNTERS	Paul Vella & Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	School Holidays
FLOWERS	Parish		ALTAR LINEN	Alice Garratt	
3 & 4 February		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5.30PM SUNDAY
	WELCOMERS	Anne Kyngdon	Rosa & Tony Carlino	Michelle Eamer Adriana Kennedy	Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	John Puleo	Piety Rocha	Joe Touma	
	READERS	Anne Kyngdon Justin Kyngdon	John Walcott Nigel Saunders	Sandra Bonello Ros Earl	Jan Schroder Gael Carpani
	JNR MINISTERS	Kerstin Grima	Bailey Gambrell		
	MUSICIANS	Rebecca Raad			
	COUNTERS	Sonali Arnold & Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Pauline Chaccal
FLOWERS	Parish		ALTAR LINEN	Vicky Hooper	