



## St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

**11th February 2024**

**6th Sunday in  
Ordinary Time**

Lev 13:1-2, 44-46

1 Cor 10:31-11:1

Mk 1:40-45

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

**-Fr Giovanni**

**COMMENTARY:** The scriptural readings for today show divine power confronting one of the most dreaded of human ills: leprosy. The First Reading (Lev 13:1-2, 45-46) provides the biblical background with an extract from the lengthy prescriptions in Leviticus 13-14 concerning a variety of skin diseases. In fact, it is not at all clear that the biblical legislation deals with the condition recognised as leprosy properly so called (Hansen's disease in modern medical terminology). Whatever the precise condition, the text brings out the terrible sense of ritual uncleanness and hence social exclusion that went with it, heightened by the belief at the time that disfiguring skin diseases of this kind were a divine punishment for sin (cf. Num 12:10-15; 2 Kings 5:25-27). The sufferer appears condemned to a living death in social as well as physical terms.

**MIRACLE STORY:** Awareness of this biblical background greatly strengthens the impact of the miracle story told in the Gospel (Mark 1:40-45). The leper, who of course is not supposed to approach anyone, feels emboldened to come up to Jesus. His plea, 'If you want to (the NRSV rendering "choose" is too weak), you can make me clean', is already a strong act of faith in the power and status of Jesus. With leprosy considered a living death, curing it was tantamount to raising the dead. The man believes that to approach Jesus is to access the life-giving power of God. Jesus' response (v 41) 'moved with pity' translates a Greek word (*splangchnistheis*) that literally means 'moved to the depths of one's being' (the Greek plural *splangchna* refers to the lower abdominal organs). By stretching out his hand and touching the leper Jesus reaches right across the 'clean/unclean' barrier in all its physical, social and moral dimensions. The gesture and declaration, 'I do so choose', expresses the divine compassion reaching out to afflicted humanity. The verbal command, 'Be made clean', would have effected the cure. But, in a way that foreshadows the sacramental economy of the Church, Jesus wants the man to feel physically in his hitherto repulsive flesh the divine compassion and acceptance. In the conventional understanding of the time, breaking across the 'clean/unclean' barrier would have exposed Jesus to contracting 'uncleanness' from the afflicted person. But for Jesus the 'clean/unclean' process works the opposite way: uncleanness does not flow from the man to Jesus; 'cleanness' flows from Jesus to the man. 'Uncleanness', for Jesus, is not something human beings 'catch' like a contagious disease from physical objects or conditions. 'Uncleanness' is a moral condition and has to do with the dispositions – good or evil – of the human heart (cf. Mark 7:14-23). True 'cleanness' or holiness is something human beings 'catch' by coming close to God, which is precisely what this man has achieved by having the faith, in his condition, to approach Jesus.

**CURIOUS DETAIL:** Immediately following the successful cure (v 42), there is a curious detail where Jesus is said (v 43) to sternly warn the man and send him away (a literal translation would be, 'snorting with anger, he threw him out'). This response probably reflects some conflation of this healing miracle with the account of an exorcism in the tradition: it is not so much the man who is driven out but his disease, seen as a residue of demonic infestation. In any case, the expulsion conflicts with the following command where Jesus tells the man to go and show himself to the priest and make the offering prescribed (Leviticus 13-14). Jesus may have broken through the 'clean/unclean' holiness barrier to heal the man but he has not overthrown the legal prescription entirely. Performing the ritual will ensure that the man finds the social acceptance and reintegration into the community to which he is entitled on the basis of his cure.

**ENTER INTO THE WORLD'S SUFFERING:** The man violates Jesus' (surely unrealistic!) desire to keep the whole thing secret. Wherever there is context of faith, the divine compassion at work in Jesus will out, despite his attempts to dampen down the popular enthusiasm his miracles raise. Such enthusiasm raises messianic expectations incompatible with the kind of Messiah he is ultimately destined to be: one who will enter into the suffering of the world rather than miraculously abolishing it at a stroke (cf. Mark 8:27-33).

*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 <a href="mailto:careyannemoylan@hotmail.com">careyannemoylan@hotmail.com</a>
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 <a href="mailto:careyannemoylan@hotmail.com">careyannemoylan@hotmail.com</a>
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 <a href="mailto:kenthurst@parracatholic.org">kenthurst@parracatholic.org</a> )



### YOU ARE INVITED TO THE INSTALLATION MASS FOR FR GIOVANI

**WITH BISHOP VINCENT LONG  
SUNDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2024**

**10am Mass**

Followed by morning tea  
If you are able to join us,  
please bring a plate

### THE CHOSEN

**Tuesday 13th February at 7pm  
Season 3 Episode 5**

**in the St Madeleine Centre**



For information:  
Loretta m. 0419260637

### SOCIAL JUSTICE @ ST MAD'S This year,

Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women: Ronita from the Philippines, Leaia from Samoa and Memory from Malawi. While from three different corners of the world and facing vastly different challenges, they are all united by one dream: to create a better world for all future generations. One Story is about Leaia who lives with her five children on the island of Upolu in Samoa. Not having access to a reliable source of clean water caused Leaia a lot of worry. With the support of Caritas Samoa, a water tank was installed at Leaia's home. She and her family now have a steady supply of clean drinking water. Next year, they will also have a toilet built, with the support of Caritas Samoa, which will further improve their health and living conditions.

**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](mailto:kenthurst@parracatholic.org)  
**NOTE: This is for parishioners who have not yet completed safeguarding training**

**OTHER SAFEGUARDING FACE-TO-FACE TRAINING**  
**A. MODULES 1-3: (Cycle 1)** For those new to Parish Ministry or for those who have not yet completed the initial Cycle 1 training

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February** (10.00am- 3.00pm) at Sacred Heart Parish, 9 Ropes Creek Rd, Mt Druitt

**B. MODULES 4-5 (Cycle 2): Renewal Safeguarding Training** is for those in Parish Ministry who commenced Cycle 1 Training two years ago.

**Monday 12 February (10am – 1.30pm)**  
Bishop Bede Heather Centre Blacktown  
**Thursdays (7.00pm-8.30pm) on 22<sup>nd</sup> (Mod 4) & 29<sup>th</sup> February (Mod 5)**

St Nicholas of Myra Parish, 326 High St, Penrith;

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March (10.00am-1.30pm)** at Holy Spirit Parish, Cnr Todd & Moore St, St Clair

Please register directly for training clicking on the training event at: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>

For more information, please email: [safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org)

Online training details are found at: <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>

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 : 0000388**

**Parishioners wishing to donate or pledge their giving via direct debit, please pick up the form at the church for completion and return to the office.**

**Thank you for your generosity!**

### **LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:**

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$1,426.70  
2nd Collection (for Parish)  
Envelopes = \$1,063.00 Loose = \$1,324.45

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

### **PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS**



**For the dearly departed:** Maria Lisciotto, Ermenegildo Lisciotto, John Spencer, Ana Mlinac, Norah Joy, Carlo & Giuseppina Esposito, Mary Cumbo, Giorgio Scarano, Mia Lisle, Toufic Khamis, Mansour Schelazi, Maria La Spina

**Please pray for the sick:** David Tierney, 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](mailto:kenthurst@parracatholic.org)**

### 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 11:30am

(Must make a booking)

Weddings: By appointment



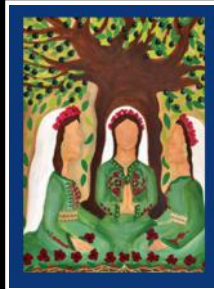
# DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA



Stay in touch through our parish

Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/stmadeleines>



1st March 2024

World Day of Prayer

## I beg you, bear with one another in love

Palestine

Written by the Christian women  
of Palestine

Come pray for peace.

St Mads on 1st of March. 10:30am.

Bring a plate.

RSVP Careyanne 0438791813

## PROJECT COMPASSION

### SUNDAY - THIS WEEKEND

Please take home a Project Compassion box or set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and for all future generations. With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction. Project Compassion 2024 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for all future generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.



## 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.

## 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/>

## Sts Cyril and Methodius

Feast Day: 14 February



Tradition tells us that the brothers Methodius and Constantine (he did not take the name Cyril until just before his death) grew up in Thessalonica as sons of a prominent Christian family. Because many Slavic people settled in Thessalonica, it is assumed Constantine and Methodius were familiar with the Slavic language. Methodius, the older of the two brothers, became an important civil official who would have needed to know Slavonic. He grew tired of worldly affairs and retired to a monastery. Constantine became a scholar and a professor known as "the Philosopher" in Constantinople. In 860 Constantine and Methodius went as missionaries to what is today the Ukraine. When the Byzantine emperor decided to honor a request for missionaries by the Moravian prince Rastislav, Methodius and Constantine were the natural choices; they knew the language, they were able administrators, and had already proven themselves successful missionaries. Legend has it that in a feverish period of activity, Methodius translated the whole Bible into Slavonic in eight months. He died on Tuesday of Holy Week, surrounded by his disciples, in his cathedral church. Opposition continued after his death, and the work of the brothers in Moravia was brought to an end and their disciples scattered. But the expulsions had the beneficial effect of spreading the spiritual, liturgical, and cultural work of the brothers to Bulgaria, Bohemia and southern Poland. In 1980, Pope John Paul II named them additional co-patrons of Europe <https://www.catholic.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



## Lenten Programme 2024

Join us as we pray together to help us be renewed and prepare for Easter. Join us Tuesday nights, one or all six, at 7pm in the St Madeleine Centre. Meet new people and renew friendships.  
Careyanne 0438791813

## PLEASE RETURN ALL PALMS FROM LAST YEAR'S PALM SUNDAY



These will be burnt for use on Ash Wednesday on 14 February 2024.  
Mass times 9.15am and 7pm



## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM CONFIRMATION

Enrolment forms on our website [www.stmadeleine.org.au/sacraments](https://www.stmadeleine.org.au/sacraments)

Completed forms to parish office by Friday, 1 March.  
Parent Information Evening Tuesday, 5 March at 4.30pm and 7pm.  
Commitment Masses Weekend of 9 & 10 March  
Sunday preparation sessions at 4pm: 17 March, 7 April and 5 May  
Confirmation will take place on Wednesday, 22 May and Thursday, 23 May both at 7pm

For any queries [stmads.sacraments@gmail.com](mailto:stmads.sacraments@gmail.com)



## Funerals of Compassion

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<b>10 &amp; 11 February</b>		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY
	<b>WELCOMERS</b>		Fran & Rocco Scardino	Sandra Tabone	Joseph Spina
	<b>MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR</b>	John Puleo	Steve Fry	Phillys Hannah	
	<b>READERS</b>	Justin Sebire Colleen Dunlop	Maria Fry Tony Hooper	Sandra Tabone Adriana Kennedy	Jacqui Nisbet
	<b>JNR MINISTERS</b>				
	<b>MUSICIANS</b>	Rebecca Raad	Joan Sattler	Merle & Doug	
	<b>COUNTERS</b>	Paul Vella & Corrie Sebire		<b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY</b>	Pauline Chaccal
	<b>FLOWERS</b>	Parish		<b>ALTAR LINEN</b>	Vicky Hooper
<b>17 &amp; 18 February</b>		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5.30PM SUNDAY
	<b>WELCOMERS</b>		Maria & Steve Fry Carol & Terry Scott	Teresa Capaldi	Joseph Spina
	<b>MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR</b>	John Puleo	Piety Rocha	Steve Fry	
	<b>READERS</b>	Pat Waters Robert Gerometta	Maria Baldi Catherine Diekman	Rosanna Ceroli Adriana Kennedy	Joanna O'Neill Tereza Barisic
	<b>JNR MINISTERS</b>	Kerstin Grima	Bailey Gambrill		
	<b>MUSICIANS</b>	Rebecca Raad		Merle & Chris	
	<b>COUNTERS</b>	Corrie Sebire & Sandra Tabone		<b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY</b>	Sally Coppini
	<b>FLOWERS</b>	Parish		<b>ALTAR LINEN</b>	Kathy Fenech