



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

18th February 2024

First Sunday of Lent

Gen 9:8-15

1 Pet 3:18-22

Mk 1:12-15

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 Adam

COMMENTARY: At first glance, a rather odd collection of readings for this First Sunday in Lent. A common reference to the tradition of the Flood links the First and Second Readings, while the brief Markan account of Christ's Temptation in the desert has been expanded in the Gospel to include the summary of Jesus' inaugural preaching (vv. 14-15). Appropriately for the beginning of Lent, this contains the summons, 'Repent, ...'. The First Reading, Gen 9:8-15, tells of the follow-up to the account of the great Flood that had threatened to engulf the earth – creation going into reverse, so to speak. By God's providence one upright human being, Noah, together with his family and a selection of animals, had been preserved, creation renewed, and the human race is given a fresh start, albeit one adopting a more realistic view of the human disposition to violence and sin. As after the 'fall' of the first couple (Genesis 3), God graciously 'adjusts' to the new human situation. Just as the appearance of a rainbow signals the end of a storm and the re-emergence of sunlight, so the rainbow will function as a symbol of a renewed agreement (covenant) between Creator and creation. God's renewed intent is to communicate life and blessing, rather than destruction.

SYMBOL OF SALVATION: In the biblical and later Christian tradition, the story of the Flood and the rescue of Noah (which of course, should not be taken literally) has become a leading symbol of salvation: God's constant disposition to intervene in creation to rescue human beings and their world from the consequences of sin. The covenant made with Noah, symbolised by the rainbow, foreshadows first the covenant made with Israel at Sinai and then the 'new and everlasting covenant' sealed by the blood of Christ upon the cross. This final covenant, in fact, recaptures the universal scope of the covenant with Noah. Salvation is not just for Israel. Israel's privilege is to hold the promises and finally to give birth to the universal Saviour. The Second Reading, 1 Peter 3:18-22, seems to be taken from an early Christian hymn, quoted by the author to encourage members of the faithful experiencing persecution. Though they are suffering, and though evil forces may seem to have the upper hand, the hymn assures them of the fundamental victory of Christ. By virtue of their baptism, they are in the same situation (in a rather far-fetched comparison) as those rescued with Noah from the waters of the Flood. Who are 'the spirits in prison' to whom Christ, after his death and resurrection, went to make 'proclamation'? Many interpreters now accept the view of the Australian scholar William Dalton that what is in view here is not the 'harrowing of Hell' as traditionally understood: that is, Christ's descent into the underworld before his resurrection. Rather, the risen and exalted Lord, who has triumphed over death and sin, is now proclaiming his victory to the (hostile) spiritual powers, who, in the ancient worldview, held humanity captive because of sin. The author of the letter is assuring his persecuted audience that their sufferings should not be attributed to the continuing influence of these powers. Christ's victory is secure and, so ultimately, will be their share in it when salvation has run its full course.

RULE OF GOD: The Gospel, Mark 1:12-15, stands in continuity with the earlier readings in the sense that it presents Christ, first of all, confronting the evil spiritual power (Satan) personally and then announcing the good news that the era of Satan's overthrow has dawned with the onset of the 'Rule ("Kingdom") of God'. Mark's account of the Temptation is sparse but actually contains a great deal. Jesus has emerged from his baptism clad with the Spirit, the power of God's love (1:11). This will be the driving force of his mission. The Spirit begins this role by 'driving' him into the wilderness, the habitat of wild animals ('the beasts') as well as evil spirits. In this dangerous situation, bereft of human comfort and resources, Jesus personally exposes himself to the onslaught of Satan, before taking up his mission to reclaim human beings from demonic control, that is, not only from the relatively rare cases of actual demonic possession but from all the captivities of body and soul that alienate human beings from God and their own true humanity. As with Daniel in the den of lions (Dan 6:16-24), Jesus, among the beasts, rests solely on the power and providence of God. Divine care surrounds him in the shape of the ministering angels. Emerging victorious from his personal conflict with evil, Jesus announces the 'good news' of the imminent displacement of Satan's rule by the rule or 'kingdom' of God.

Each Lent summons us to a new alignment with this reality through deeper conversion ('Repent!') and faith.

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) |



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE INSTALLATION MASS

**FOR FR GIOVANI
WITH BISHOP VINCENT LONG**

**THIS SUNDAY
10am Mass**

Followed by morning tea

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
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

Further dates be confirmed

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

Thursdays (7.00pm-8.30pm) on 22nd (Mod 4) & 29th February (Mod 5)
St Nicholas of Myra Parish, 326 High St, Penrith;
Saturday 2nd March (10.00am-1.30pm) at Holy Spirit Parish, Cnr Todd & Moore St, St Clair

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

For more information, please email: 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 : 00000388**

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!

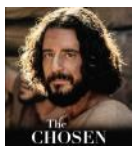
LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$1,567.10
2nd Collection (for Parish) = \$2,512.29

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

THE CHOSEN

will continue on Tuesdays after Lent. Date of next episode to be confirmed.



**For information:
Loretta m. 0419260637**

SOCIAL JUSTICE @ ST MAD'S Project

Compassion story from Malawi. Memory became the first female carpenter from her village! Today, Memory works as a carpenter at a hydroelectric power station. Her income has enabled Memory to provide some financial support to her parents. In the future, Memory wants to build a house for her parents and own her own workshop to support and employ others in her community. March 1st is World Day of Prayer, which is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. It is run under the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action," and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. The movement aims to bring together women of various races, cultures and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer, as well as in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year. 2024 host country, Palestine.

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS



For the dearly departed: Frank Agresta, Adalgisa Verteramo, Maria Lisciotta, Ermenegildo Lisciotta, John Spencer, Ana Mlinac, Norah Joy, Carlo & Giuseppina Esposito, Mary Cumbo, Giorgio Scarano, Mia Lisle, Toufik Khamis, Maria La Spina

Please pray for the sick: Greg Lambert, 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

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

Sts Jacinta and Francisco Marto

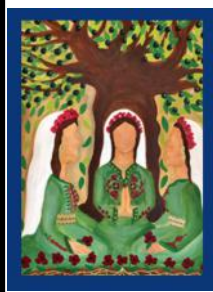
Feast Day: 20 February



Between May 13 and October 13, 1917, three Portuguese shepherd children from Aljustrel, received apparitions of Our Lady at Cova da Iria, near Fátima, a city 110 miles north of Lisbon. At the first appearance, Mary asked the children to return to that spot on the thirteenth of each month for the next six months. She also asked them to learn to read and write and to pray the rosary "to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war." They were to pray for sinners and for the conversion of Russia, which had recently overthrown Czar Nicholas II and was soon to fall under communism. Up to 90,000 people gathered for Mary's final apparition on October 13, 1917. Less than two years later, Francisco died of influenza in his family home. He was buried in the parish cemetery and then re-buried in the Fátima basilica in 1952. Jacinta died of influenza in Lisbon in 1920, offering her suffering for the conversion of sinners, peace in the world, and the Holy Father. She was re-buried in the Fátima basilica in 1951. Their cousin Lúcia dos Santos, became a Carmelite nun and was still living when Jacinta and Francisco were beatified in 2000; she died five years later. Pope Francis canonized the younger children on his visit to Fátima to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first apparition—May 13, 2017. The shrine of Our Lady of Fátima is visited by up to 20 million people a year.

Reflection: The Church is always very cautious about endorsing alleged apparitions, but it has seen benefits from people changing their lives because of the message of Our Lady of Fátima. Prayer for sinners, devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and praying the rosary—all these reinforce the Good News Jesus came to preach.

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/>



1st March 2024

World Day of Prayer

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

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



DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA

Catholic Youth Parramatta 2024 LIFTED

Launch: 29 February LIFTED Launch 2024 is here! Join young people from across our Diocese for an evening of faith, live music, formation, and announcements. Learn about ways you can meet, connect and 'walk with' other young people | West HQ Rooty Hill, 29 February 2024, 7pm to 9:30pm. Register www.parracatholic.org/liftedlaunch OR get in touch with the team via met@parracatholic.org

Youth Mass 'Round the Diocese: 25 February

Looking for some young adults to worship with? Hunting for an excuse to catch up with Jesus and friends? Wondering what goes on around our Diocese? Mass 'Round the Diocese is just that! Our young people are visiting different churches around the Diocese for Mass and fellowship afterwards with new and known friends. The next Mass will be at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes, on Sunday 25 February for 6pm Mass. For more information, please contact Laura on laura@stbernadette.org.au



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



Stay in touch through our parish Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/stmadeleines>

PROJECT COMPASSION

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 or by calling 1800 024 413.



PIETY SHOP

2024 Columban

Calendars still available \$6.50

PIETA Lenten book \$8

God's Word \$20

Contact Sandra Tabone
on 0413272400



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



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM CONFIRMATION

Enrolment forms on our website
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

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this country on which we worship



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1300 906 060 – 24 hours

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 17 & 18 February | | 5:30PM VIGIL | 8AM SUNDAY | 10AM SUNDAY | 5.30PM SUNDAY |
| | WELCOMERS | | Maria & Steve Fry Carol & Terry Scott | Teresa Capaldi Maureen Jones | Joseph Spina |
| | MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR | John Puleo | Piety Rocha | Steve Fry | |
| | READERS | Pat Waters Robert Gerometta | Maria Baldi Catherine Diekman | Rosanna Ceroli Adriana Kennedy | Joanna O'Neill Tereza Barisic |
| | JNR MINISTERS | | Bailey Gambrell | Kerstin, Fred, Xavier & Grace | |
| | MUSICIANS | Rebecca Raad | | Merle & Chris | |
| | COUNTERS | Corrie Sebire & Sandra Tabone | | CHILDREN'S LITURGY | Sally Coppini |
| FLOWERS | Linda Pellizer | | ALTAR LINEN | Kathy Fenech | |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 24 & 25 February | | 5:30PM VIGIL | 8AM SUNDAY | 10AM SUNDAY | 5:30PM SUNDAY |
| | WELCOMERS | Corrie Sebire | Brendan Ford Carmel & Mike O'Connell | St Mad's Primary | Joseph Spina |
| | MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR | John Puleo | Steve Fry | Phillys Hannah | |
| | READERS | Colleen Dunlop Justin Sebire | Margaret Mieczkowski Tony Hooper | St Mad's Primary | Trish Maidens Patrick Tuttle |
| | JNR MINISTERS | Emerson Sebire | | Madison, Sofia & Sophie | |
| | MUSICIANS | Rebecca Raad | Joan Sattler | Merle & Doug | |
| | COUNTERS | Paul Vella & Tony Hooper | | CHILDREN'S LITURGY | Sandra Bonello |
| FLOWERS | Lent | | ALTAR LINEN | Kathy Fenech | |