

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

Last Sunday's Gospel described the first blow that Jesus struck against the rule of Satan in the world: his teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum in the course of which he dramatically frees a man possessed by an evil spirit (Mark 1:21-28). Today's **Gospel** (Mark 1:29-39) continues the account of that inaugural day of ministry. Leaving the synagogue, Jesus goes to Simon Peter's house and cures Simon's mother-in-law, who is ill with a fever (vv. 29-31). He then extends his healing and liberating activity to the whole town (vv. 32-34), before re-launching his mission on a wider scale (vv. 35-39).

DOMESTIC SCALE

We should note, however, that the healing ministry of Jesus begins on a rather modest, even domestic scale. Simon's mother-in-law is in bed with a fever, a more threatening condition in those days but not necessarily something out of the ordinary. Simon (Peter) is the leading disciple of the four that Jesus has just called to leave off being fishers of fish and become 'fishers of people' (1:16-20). Responding to his call has meant leaving both livelihood and family behind. The fact that Jesus performs this healing for the benefit of a member of Simon's family shows that having the family's menfolk follow Jesus is not entirely a loss. They are going to gain something as well – be drawn into the sphere of new life and healing associated with the new 'family of God', the band of disciples Jesus is beginning to gather around himself.

The language in which the healing action of Jesus is described, 'He came and took her by the hand and raised her up' echoes the language of resurrection. The 'service' that the recovered woman then provides for Jesus and his disciples is at one level simply the standard domestic service of preparing and serving a meal that a woman in that culture would provide. Here it certainly signals her complete restoration to health. At the same time, the language used (*diakonein*) seems to foreshadow the 'service' (*diakonia*) that Jesus himself will provide as the Son of Man who has come 'not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many' (10:45).

HEALING

With the Sabbath ended at sundown, the townsfolk are free to bring their sick and tormented for healing as well. The prominence of exorcisms in the account raises for homilists the problem of how to explain this kind of activity to hearers of the Gospel today. Undoubtedly, we find in the Gospels generally and in Mark, in particular, the attribution to demonic possession of many conditions that modern medicine would prefer to ascribe to various kinds of psycho-physical pathologies. There is no good reason to suppose that the Galilean towns and villages where Jesus laboured were any more prone to cases of true demonic possession than is the case today. The Gospel highlights the demonic, not only because its author attributed many more conditions to that cause than we would, but also out of the desire to portray all Jesus' activity – whether teaching, healing or exorcising – as a life-and-death struggle with the powers opposed to God for the freedom and enhancement of human life.

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). His commentaries on the Gospels can be found at <u>Pauline Books and Media.</u>

PARISH NEV

PRAYER AT ST MADS

el n	The Sunday Gospel reflections	Tuesday at 10.30am via Zoom. Contact Careyanne 0438 791 813 or <u>careyannemoylan@hotmail.com</u>
	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 <u>kenthurst@parracatholic.org</u>)



INSTALLATION MASS

FOR FR GIOVANI

WITH BISHOP VINCENT LONG

SUNDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2024

10am Mass

Followed by morning tea Please bring a plate

THE CHOSEN Tuesday 6th February at 7pm Season 3 Episode 4

in the St Madeleine Centre



Sundar

For information: Loretta m. 0419260637

SOCIAL JUSTICE @ ST MAD'S This week

as we go back to school, consider a Fairtrade project called All Good Bananas Back to School Campaign. This campaign is not targeting Australia but Ecuador. Please think before you buy ensuring it is Fairtrade.

Project Compassion has launched lots of ideas to help fund raise over Lent, one idea is to track your steps during lent, aim for 10,000 steps each day and ask your friends and family to sponsor your steps, called Caritas Ks

"CARITAS KS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO WALK IN SOLIDAR-ITY WITH THOSE IN OUR WORLD WHO WALK EACH DAY TO SURVIVE. [WHEN WE WALK] WE ARE SAYING 'I WANT TO KNOW HOW YOU FEEL. I AM WALKING WITH YOU. I AM BY YOUR SIDE."

Alexandra Mifsud

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

Monday 5 February (9.30am - 2.30pm) Bishop Bede Heather Centre Blacktown Please register for this training by emailing Maria Kervin at: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org Saturday 17th 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 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 clicking on

the training event at: https:// parracatholic.org/connect/events/? series=safeguarding-training For more information, please email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

PARISH VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Music Coordinators: Selina Calleia, Joan Sattler & SRF Coordinator: Maureen Iones Ministry to the Nursing Homes Coordinator: Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Pauline Chaccal Suzanne Kingston-Hunt Baptism Preparation: Angelique Easton Adult Faith Formation: Careyanne Moylan RCIA Coordinator: Steve Fry Property Maintenance Manager: Rick Jones Piety Shop: Sandra Tabone

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) = \$1,444.25 2nd Collection (for Parish) Envelopes = \$1,118.85 Loose = \$1,196.60

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

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS



ournev in faith

For the dearly departed: Ana Mlinac, Norah Joy, Carlo & Giuseppina Esposito, Mary Cumbo, Giorgio Scarano, 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: 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

Altar Linen Coordinator: Catherine Diekman Parish Council Chair: Patrick Tuttle Finance Committee Chair: Carl Mathias Safeguarding Champion: Brendan Ford

PARISH TEAM Parish Priest

Rev Giovani 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

\$t Josephine Bakhita Feast Day: 8 February



For many years, Josephine

Bakhita was a slave but her spirit was always free and eventually that spirit prevailed. Born in Olgossa in the Darfur region of southern Sudan, Josephine was kidnapped at the age of 7, sold into slavery and given the name Bakhita, which means fortunate. She was resold several times, finally in 1883 to Callisto Legnani, Italian consul in Khartoum, Sudan. Two years later, he took Josephine to Italy and gave her to his friend Augusto Michieli. Bakhita became babysitter to Mimmina Michieli, whom she accompanied to Venice's Institute of the Catechumens, run by the Canossian Sisters. While Mimmina was being instructed, Josephine felt drawn to the Catholic Church. She was baptized and confirmed in 1890, taking the name Josephine. When the Michielis returned from Africa and wanted to take Mimmina and Josephine back with them, the future saint refused to go. During the ensuing court case, the Canossian Sisters and the patriarch of Venice intervened on Josephine's behalf. The judge concluded that since slavery was illegal in Italy, she had actually been free since 1885. Josephine entered the Institute of St. Magdalene of Canossa in 1893 and made her profession three years later. In 1902, she was transferred to the city of Schio (northeast of Verona), where she assisted her religious community through cooking, sewing, embroidery, and welcoming visitors at the door. She soon became well loved by the children attending the sisters' school and the local citizens. She once said, "Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know Him. What a great grace it is to know God! https://www.franciscanmedia.org







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

****NEW DATE** Music for Lent Workshop:**

8 February Musicians and Liturgy Planners are invited to attend an evening exploring Music for Lent on Monday 8 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.

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 <u>https://parracatholic.org/events/tomashalik/</u> to register.



- 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.catho c.edu.au



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

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

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 <u>https://parracatholic.org/</u> <u>connect/events/?series=faithlife</u> OR get in touch with the team

via met@parracatholic.org



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

Enrolment forms will be available next week. 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

