



St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish



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

10th March 2024

4th Sunday of Lent

2 Chron 36:14-16, 19-23

Eph 2:4-10

Jn 3:14-21

COMMENTARY: This fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally known as 'Laetare (Rejoice!) Sunday', and our readings today suggest many reasons for rejoicing. The First Reading from Chronicles describes the destruction of Jerusalem and the days of exile. But God, working through the Persian king, Cyrus, not only brings the Jewish people home to where they belong but also helps them rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. St Paul (Second Reading) writes that God, whose nature is Universal Love, brought us back to life in and with Christ Jesus through the gift of his infinite grace. Our good works and our lives lived in all their fullness are a grateful and authentic response to all we have been given by God. The Gospel tells us that the resurrection of Christ Jesus, who was 'lifted up and exalted' on the cross, brings salvation to all who believe in him and in his teachings. Christ's Passion, for all its injustice and brutality, is a glorious revelation of God's love for all of humankind, and the source of our healing. Jesus calls us to live by his truth and light, where we can dwell in the flow of God's energy and love. The Psalm of lament recalls the bitter days of exile in Babylon. For us today, 'Babylon' can stand as a symbol for all that threatens the fullness of human living. Hatred, selfishness, greed, and pride can all take us away from wholeness of life and into exile. This week, we pray for the personal faith and humility to be open to God's infinite grace and light. We pray, too, that all of humanity might be open and receptive to God's life-giving energy.

SECOND READING - EPHESIANS 2: 4-10: God loves us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus. This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

REFLECTION: I find a quiet, private, comfortable place to sit. I allow myself time to slow down into the present moment . . . offering Christ my alert attention. In my own way, I ask for the blessing of God's grace. When ready, I read Paul's beautiful words, perhaps out loud to appreciate them more fully. I linger on particular phrases, savouring and absorbing. I sit in silence, allowing God's love to speak to my open heart. As I read the passage again, I notice how Paul speaks from a place of great confidence in God. I ask the Holy Spirit to awaken me to that same confidence in the loving energy of God's grace in my daily life . . . to help me be more trusting and open to God's mercy. I ponder prayerfully the gifts that God, who knows me intimately, has given me. I invite the Lord to help me feel awe and wonder that I myself am 'God's work of art', like all those around me. Perhaps I can see this as an antidote to the many discouraging messages and life-draining forces in the world that stop me feeling my true worth in Christ. I open my heart to my Lord and my God. As I prepare to close my prayer, I ask for the grace of inner freedom, and a deep humility to trust in God's generosity, and in his power and presence. Glory be . . .

GOSPEL - JOHN 3: 14-21: Jesus said to Nicodemus: The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he or she has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world, men and women have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear their actions should be exposed; but the one who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what that person does is done in God.

REFLECTION: Like Jesus himself, I withdraw, if I can, to a quiet place of solitude to pray. Perhaps this is outside, or even on a prayer walk. I ask the Holy Spirit to help still my inner being, so that I become aware of the loving presence of Jesus. In my own time, I allow myself to be touched – and maybe challenged – by this profound Gospel. I notice any interior reactions and stay with them. As I read of the transforming power of the cross and the gift of eternal life, I ask for greater faith in the Creator who loves the world, and who loves me personally. Perhaps I pray: 'Lord, I believe in you; help my unbelief', as I ask to surrender ever more deeply to Christ. I ponder the light and darkness within the world . . . and in my own heart. How can I be a child of light and truth in our troubled land . . . in my local community? How can I help co-create a better future with Christ? In silence, I take both the darkness and the light to our loving, powerful Father, to be held and healed in safety and love. As I end my prayer, I ask that all peoples may follow Christ's Way of Light.

Courtesy of St Beuno's Outreach in the Diocese of Wrexham, UK

Inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit and the Gospel, St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish, a community of faith and service, strives to be a witness for Christ's love far and wide, reflecting the humility and wisdom of St Madeleine, the Patroness of the parish.

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)



2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

will take place on
Wednesday, 20 March
at 5.30pm and 7pm

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM CONFIRMATION



Our **COMMITMENT MASSES** for Confirmation are this weekend. Children will be handing out prayer cards during each Mass. Please come up and collect a prayer card from each child.

CAN YOU HELP? We would like to organise a BBQ for children being confirmed after each of the 5.30pm Masses on the following dates:

Sunday, 17 March
Sunday, 7 April and
Sunday, 5 May

We need a roster of parishioners to help at each of these BBQs. If you are available please write your name and details on the sign up sheet in the foyer of the Church.

For any queries
stmads.sacraments@gmail.com
Sandra mobile 0410 587 735

Please note enrolment forms for Reconciliation and First Eucharist will be available in May

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) = \$ 1,836.15
2nd Collection (for Parish) =
Envelopes \$1,519 Loose \$1,541.05

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

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS



Recently deceased: Jim Gibbons

For the dearly departed: Vincenzina

Americano, Angelo & Lonza Farrugia, Sam & Joe Farrugia, Mary Fitzpatrick, Ky Frendo, Geoff Burcham, Benito Sabellano, Anton Hasham, Samira Hasham, Jennifer Hasham, John Nati, Giuseppina Murdocca, Eugenio Loccisano, Rita Franceschina, Joseph & Louise Bonello, Maria Giuseppina Panetta, Anthony, Rose & Lawrence Apap, Frank Agresta, Adalgisa Verteramo, Maria Lisciotto, Ermenegildo Lisciotto, John Spencer, Ana Mlinac, Norah Joy, Carlo & Giuseppina Esposito, Mia Lisle

Please pray for the sick: Miriam & Vansen Tsueng, William Chapman, Rocco Scardino, Kia Benete, Nathan Luezzi, Greg Lambert, David Tierney, Dawn Phillips, Mathias Kintu Bamusibule, Yvonne Bolland, Brenda Riley, Henry Field, Aura Krakowszky, 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

ATTENTION: ALL MUSICIANS AND SINGERS

A Music Ministry practice/meeting for Easter Masses will take place in the Church at 7pm on both
Monday, 25 March 2024
for Holy Thursday and Easter Sunday and
Tuesday, 26 March 2024
for Good Friday and the Easter Saturday Vigil

For more information or to let us know you're coming along, please contact Selina Calleia on 0416 265 233 or s.calleia@hotmail.com

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

SOCIAL JUSTICE @ ST MAD'S

"Our World day of Prayer was a beautiful liturgy hosted by St Mads and joined by our two schools on site Marian College mission leaders and St Mad's primary year 6 leaders. Harmony Week is approaching March 18 -24, Harmony Week is the celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone, wear orange to show your support. This year the diocese is holding a Harmony Week Table Talk Dinner March 21st at Mamre House & Farm Orchard

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

Congratulations to the following couples on their weddings this weekend



Paul and Maddison

&

Georgina and Joshua

St Mad's Women's Breakfast

Come and join us to explore the concept of "I was in prison, and you came to visit me."

We welcome Lee Downes who has had a long career in the NSW Corrective Services, is an investigator and a consultant in correctional management and operations.

16 March, 8.30 – 10am

St Madeleine Centre

Sign in at back of church or call

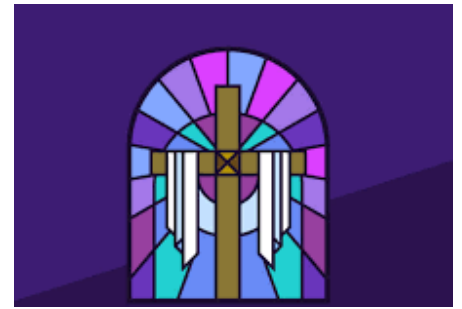
Sue

Carmel

0432716577

0417237013

St Mad's Lenten Retreat



23 March 2024

St Madeleine Centre

9am for 9.30 am start

to 12.30pm

Info: Careyanne

0438791813

Join us for renewal, reflection, healing, transformation, prayer, adoration, community, belonging.
Sign on sheet in church.

St Louise de Marillac

Feast Day: 15 March



Louise was fortunate to have a wise and sympathetic counselor, Francis de Sales, and then his friend, the bishop of Belley, France. Both of these men were available to her only periodically. But from an interior illumination she understood that she was to undertake a great work under the guidance of another person she had not yet met. This was the holy priest Monsieur Vincent, later to be known as Saint Vincent de Paul. At first, he was reluctant to be her confessor, busy as he was with his "Confraternities of Charity." Members were aristocratic ladies of charity who were helping him nurse the poor and look after neglected children, a real need of the day. His work needed many more helpers, especially ones who were peasants themselves and therefore, close to the poor and able to win their hearts. He also needed someone who could teach them and organize them. Only over a long period of time, as Vincent de Paul became more acquainted with Louise, did he come to realize that she was the answer to his prayers. She was intelligent, self-effacing, and had physical strength and endurance that belied her continuing feeble health. The missions he sent her on eventually led to four simple young women joining her. Her rented home in Paris became the training center for those accepted for the service of the sick and poor. Growth was rapid and soon there was the need for a so-called "rule of life," which Louise herself, under the guidance of Vincent, drew up for the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. Monsieur Vincent had always been slow and prudent in his dealings with Louise and the new group. At her death on March 15, 1660, the congregation had more than 40 houses in France. Six months later Vincent de Paul followed her in death. Louise de Marillac was canonized in 1934 and declared patroness of social workers in 1960. <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/>

Please contact the parish office if you are sick and would like to organise a home visit by Fr Giovanni



ST MADELEINE'S PLAYGROUP

St Madeleine's Centre
28 Annagrove 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@parracatholic.c.edu.au



We have craft activities organised with Bunnings for our **Playgroup on Thursday, 4 April at 9.30am** - in the St Madeleine Centre. All parents and carers are welcome with their little ones
RSVP kenthurst@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

Lent is a time to focus on prayer, to open our hearts and minds to God who loves us. YOU are invited to experience God's Peace and Love by slowing down and reflecting in a small group each week. **EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING AT 10 am In the St Madeleine Centre**

St Madeleine Sophie's Daily Prayer

*Sacred Heart of Jesus,
Give me a heart that is one with your own;
A humble heart that knows
and loves its nothingness;
A gentle heart that holds and
calms its own anxiety;
A loving heart that has compassion
for the suffering of others;
A pure heart that recoils even at the
appearance of evil; A detached heart that
longs for nothing other than
the goodness of heaven;
A heart detached from self-love and
embraced by the Love of God,
its attention focused on God, its goodness its
only treasure in time and in eternity*

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



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9 & 10 March		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5:30PM SUNDAY
	WELCOMERS	Corrie Sebire	Fran & Rocco Scardino	Sandra Tabone	Joseph Spina
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	John Puleo	Piety Rocha	Phillys Hannah	
	READERS	Pat Waters Justin Sebire	Margaret Mieczkowski Tony Hooper	Sue Martin David Hall O'Dwyer	Lidia Ceccato Trish Maiden
	JNR MINISTERS	Emerson Sebire		Amelia, Luciana & Sophia B	Ben, Charlyze & Oliver
	MUSICIANS		Joan Sattler		
	COUNTERS	Sonali Arnold & Paul Vella		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Pauline Chaccal
	FLOWERS	Wedding		ALTAR LINEN	Jan Parslow
16 & 17 March		5:30PM VIGIL	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY	5.30PM SUNDAY
	WELCOMERS		Maria & Steve Fry Carol & Terry Scott	Teresa Capaldi	Sacramental Team
	MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR	Heidi Bou-Harb	Steve Fry		
	READERS	Pat Waters Robert Gerometta	Catherine Diekman Eileen Sherlock	Rosana Ceroli Adriana Kennedy	Sacramental Team
	JNR MINISTERS	Kerstin Grima, Jacinta, Amelia & Roderick		Grace, Luciana & Lily-Anne	Madison
	MUSICIANS	Rebecca Raad			
	COUNTERS	Corrie Sebire & Parish Team		CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Sandra Bonello
	FLOWERS	Lent		ALTAR LINEN	Maria Fry