

St Mary Queen of Heaven, Georges Hall



21st Sunday in Ordinary Time | Year A | Sunday 23rd August 2020



Mission Statement:

We the St Mary Queen of Heaven parish, are called to be a strong, loving, caring family united in faith. Guided by the Spirit of Jesus we desire to use our diverse talents to reach out and encourage others. We cherish the living tradition of our Catholic church and will seek to heal misunderstandings and hurt in our midst so that Jesus' prayer may be realised, "Father may they be one, as you and I are one."

Parish Priest:

Fr Joseph Kolodziej

Parish Office:

Monday - Friday ph: 9727 3759
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Safeguarding Officer/Secretary:

Veronica Denning
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(Please email to join our Bulletin mailing list)

Parish Website:

www.smgh.org.au

Parish Facebook:

Follow: fb.me/smgh2



Parish School:

Ph: 9727 0000
www.stmgeorgeshall.catholic.edu.au



A Message from Fr Joseph

In our modern parish community we use iPhones, emails and some of you have a lot of followers on social media. It is much easier to be an electronic follower than a disciple of Jesus. Jesus welcomes us into a personal relationship and guides us with His cross. It was not easy for the disciples to be confronted with many challenges on the way to Jerusalem.

In Matthew's Gospel, we read how Peter is chosen by Jesus to be the foundation of his church. Jesus just said to Peter, "I choose you." He chooses him because he has been gifted with revelation. Peter has been given blessings and gifts to be the Rock and foundation for the Church. During this time Jesus promised Him protection, strong leadership and the keys of the Kingdom. But Jesus asks the disciples one very important question, "Who do you say that I am?"

At this moment we realised that we are being invited to reflect on this and notice that the answer to the question "Who do you say that I am?" can help me grow in understanding of who I am called to be.



The more I seek to know God more fully, the more I enter into a deeper relationship with God, the more clearly I know myself. The opposite is also true. The more I dig deep into who I am at my core, find my voice, the more fully I will know who God is. What does that tell me about who I say God is? God is the provider of inspiration through the Holy Spirit working together to change this world. God says many words every day to all of us during our preparation for the First Holy Communion and Sacrament of Confirmation. Do we have the ability, like Peter, to take a greater, more mature role in the Church's Mission of living the Christian faith daily and witnessing to Christ everywhere?

EACH WEEK IN OUR PARISH:

SATURDAY:

Mass // 9am
Reconciliation // 4pm
Vigil Mass (English) // 5pm;
Vigil Mass (Vietnamese) // 6.30pm

SUNDAY:

Mass (English) // 8am, 10am, 5pm
Mass (Vietnamese) // 3pm

MONDAY:

Mass // 8am
Nursing Home Mass // 10.30am (fortnightly)
Prayer Group in the Chapel // 5.00pm

TUESDAY

Holy Hour and Rosary // 5pm
Mass // 6pm

WEDNESDAY

Rosary // 7.45am; Mass // 8am

THURSDAY

Rosary // 7.45am; Mass // 8am
Nursing Home Mass // 10.00am (fortnightly)

FRIDAY

Rosary // 7.45am; Mass // 8am

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH:

Saturday 22nd:

Queenship of Mary

Monday 24th:

Feast of St Bartholomew
Confirmation Lesson // 4.00pm
First Communion Lesson // 6.00pm

Tuesday 25th:

Funeral Mass 10.30am+ Giuseppe Versace

Thursday 27th:

Feast of St Monica

Friday 28th:

Funeral Mass 9.30am+ Bruno Riga
Feast of St Augustine

Saturday 29th:

Martyrdom of St John the Baptist

Sunday 30th:

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Nothing is far from God"
- St. Monica

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Sick:

Bourke Gibbons
Christina Apolinario
Daniel Matesic, Daniel Clarke
David Sanders, Denis Kin
Eddie Marks, Eileen Ellery
Eunice Davis, Heather Graham
John Sanders, Kerry Gibbons
Margaret Ward, Marie Reich
Paul Roughley Phillip Nehme
Romela Onkowitz
Rosa Agostino, Tamara Kalass
Vic Ryan, Warren Clarke

Recently Deceased:

Giuseppe Versace, Bruno Riga,
Phyllis Totterdell, Cole James
Deidre Prentice
Salvatore Albane
Baby Luca, Dusanka Jurcevic

Anniversaries:

Pietro Genovina Guisppina
Fattore, Margaret Tankard
John Neville
Thomas Nguyen Thanh Long
Josephine Smith
Douglas Gibson
Ramza Tannous (2011)
Robert Costantini (2017)
Joseph Howard Sanders (2019)
Martha Coorey
Marie Liliane Ducasse
Giuseppe Denichilo
Louisa Smith
Remo Strambio (2013)
Jean Turnbull (2015)
Joseph Nguyen
Serverina Zamai
Anthony Ungaro
Georgette Laba (2013)
Gregory Ryan
Gloria Boon
Vivienne Unitts
Joseph Farrugia
Bernice Boyce
Arthur Boyce
Clementina Vigilante
Jan Gorak
Michael Byrne (2014)
Gwen Green

For the Souls of the Faithful Departed:

Eternal rest grant unto them
O Lord and let perpetual light
shine upon them.

May all the souls of all the faithful
departed, through the mercy of
God, rest in peace.
Amen.



Youth Corner (Ephesus)

Join us this Sunday as we continue our Faith and Arts series with Music To My Heart!

Meeting ID: 854 5677 8636

Don't forget to ask your parents for permission to join us online cutt.ly/ephesus-zoom



EPHESUS ONLINE | THE FAITH AND ARTS SERIES

MUSIC TO MY HEART



SUNDAY 23RD OF AUGUST | 6PM
MEETING ID: 854 5677 8636



St Mary's Primary School



We celebrated Mary's Feast with prayer and sporting activities with our classmates last week. We enjoyed beautiful weather and viewed Father Joseph's sporting skills!

Sacraments

- **Baptism:** Any weekend Mass or Sundays at 11am; bookings via Parish office.
- **Marriage:** At least 6 months notice is needed, a preparation course if required.
- **Reconciliation:** Sat @ 4.00pm or by appointment, please contact Fr Joseph.

First Holy Communion	Confirmation
Lessons for First Holy Communion for non-St Mary's Primary school children are held Monday at 6.00pm. First Holy Communion will be celebrated on 12 & 19 September.	Lessons for Confirmation for non-St Mary's Primary school children are held Monday at 4.00pm. Confirmation will be celebrated on 26 September.

If your child has not enrolled and would like to register for either of the above sacraments, please see Father Joseph after Mass or email veronicad.smgh@bigpond.com. Should you have any other enquiries, please contact Nadia 0414849569.

Family & Faith

"All families need God. Every single one. We need His help, His strength, His blessing, His mercy and His forgiveness. It takes simplicity. To pray as a family, simplicity is needed..."

As a family, you can pray the Our Father around the dinner table. That's not difficult to do, it's easy. Praying the Rosary together, as a family, is very beautiful and it gives strength. A husband for his wife and a wife for her husband.

Parents praying for their children and children praying for their parents and grandparents.

Praying for one another" - Pope Francis



Parish Notices



The Dempsey Medal

Awarded annually by the Archbishop of Sydney to members of the Catholic clergy and laity. Its presentation seeks to encourage and to recognise outstanding contributions and service by members of the Sydney Archdiocesan community to the local Catholic Church or the wider society.

It is wonderful that the Archbishop has advised that two of our parishioners, **Laurie Simpson** and **Michael Smith** have been selected to be awarded this medal. Congratulations Laurie and Michael on your outstanding service to our community.

Mary Queen of Heaven - Other Resources

- Queen of Heaven [colouring sheet](#) (choose your own crown)
- Plan a Mary Crowning ([link](#))
- Hymn: Hail Queen of Heaven ([YouTube](#))
- The Catholic Church's teachings on Mary ([link](#))
- Knowing Mary, an [online course](#) with Fr Rob Galea \$29

COVID Safe

St Mary's Covid Safety Plan is available on the parish website ([Link](#)). We request that upon entering the church that you sanitise your hands, register your attendance and maintain social distancing.



The NSW Government exhorts (strongly urges) the wearing of masks in...places of worship.' We also recommend that you download the COVID Safe app on your mobile phones to assist with contact tracing. If you have been to a COVID hotspot or are feeling unwell, please get tested, stay at home and follow the advice from NSW Health.

Planned Giving

Tax receipts for 2019-2020 and new sets of planned giving envelopes for 2020-2021 are both available for collection from the church. We all have an obligation to assist meet the parish's financial commitments - if you would like to assist by contributing to the planned giving please complete the [attached form](#) and add to collection plate or contact Michael on 0414889731.

Cashless donations

There are two tap donation devices at the entrance of the church for people who want to use Credit Cards. With a tap of your credit card you can help your parish meet its financial obligations. Donations of \$5 or \$10. Please note - donations are not tax deductible, can't be refunded and no receipts are issued.



Safeguarding our Parish

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at 93905810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police. Safeguarding resources are available in the sacristy. Enquiries: veronicad.smgh@bigpond.com

Parish Feast Day Queenship of Mary



History -

On 11 October 1954, Pope Pius XII established the Feast of the Queenship of Mary to be celebrated throughout the world, and commanded that on that day each year, the world should renew its consecration to her. In later years, the Feast came to be celebrated on 22 August. "The purpose of the Feast is that all may recognize more clearly and venerate more devoutly the merciful and motherly sovereignty of her who bore God in her womb" (Ven. Pius XII, Ad. Coeli Reginam).



Mary was solemnly crowned by Christ and received by the whole court of Heaven as Queen. Now, what Christ has done in Heaven and the Church has done on our behalf we should now do individually, that is, recognise Mary's Queenship, enthrone her in our homes and hearts and establish in our lives the reign of Mary Immaculate Queen of the Universe.

Our church was blessed and opened by Archbishop Clancy on 27 May 1984 in honour of Mary as Queen of Heaven.

Prayer

We raise our eyes to you, beloved Mother Mary, to be comforted by the contemplation of your glory and to hail you as Queen of heaven and earth. Mother of Him who is King, show us the path of holiness and guide us that we may never go astray. Reign over the hearts of all people, particularly those who fly to your patronage, and provide a safe refuge, amid the troubles of our time. Reign especially over your Church. Give us the strength to bear adversity and to seek only what is true and good. Obtain for us, who acclaim you as Queen, the grace to one day, in Heaven, enjoy the fullness of the Kingdom of your Divine Son. Amen.

5th Glorious Mystery - Queenship of Mary

Mary is the Queen of Heaven and Earth. She listened to God's will and stayed true to his plan for her life. Mary was not spared suffering but her reward in heaven is great. She is our queen too, and if asked she will help us in all facets of our life. I imagine her lovingly looking down at us and her happiness at our requests for help. I pray for her humility, patience, and trust.



Children's Corner

S R R Y L I H G A C Y X J G I W O M J S
W T R G N O Y O N S K W Y D K O R O E O
C R N W Y R A M D H S H E F P R X T L O
R M O I M O O M Q P E U R A N L R H C N
L R B E A T G N E A H A M L R D X E J E
C K Z F E S G A V W O I H P I T O R I E
S L E G N A C E G R A C E R T A H L Q U
Y R A I R E N N B C F R N D Z I H T F Q
J K L S N I T M L E P I Z P N F O P E S
G E O R G E S H A L L C S U H F Y N N V

First Reading	Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading
<p>Is 22:19-23 A reading from the prophet Isaiah <i>I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.</i></p> <p>Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace: I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiyah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.</p>	<p>(R.) Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.</p> <p>1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, you have heard the words of my mouth. Before the angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple.</p> <p>2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you. On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul</p> <p>3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar. Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands.</p>	<p>Rom 11:33-36 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans <i>From him, through him, and in him are all things.</i></p> <p>How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.</p>
	<p>Next Week's Readings</p> <p>22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 1st Reading: Jer 20:7-9 2nd Reading: Rom 12:1-2 Gospel: Mt 16:21-27 - Jesus reveals his future death, rebukes Peter.</p>	<p>Gospel Acclamation</p> <p>Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it. Alleluia!</p>

Gospel

Mt 16:13-20
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.



Reflection by Mary Coloe

Caesarea Philippi is in the far north of Israel at the base of Israel's highest mountain, Mt Hermon. At the foot of the mountain there is a large cave from which issues the Jordan River. The mountain, the cave and the river have provided a sacred site for many people. The Greek god worshipped here in the centuries before Jesus was Pan, the god of nature and fertility. The large mouth of the cave was seen as an entrance to Hades, the underworld realm of the dead. Standing before this cave, looking up at the rocky cliffs it is very clear that Jesus draws on the physical setting of this place in his words to Peter.

Peter's response conveys awareness that, beyond being Israel's Messiah, Jesus is related to God in a unique way. In his company the disciples are being drawn into a fellowship with the divine never before imagined or foreseen. As a result, he received three gifts. *First*, as indicated by a new name - *Rock* - upon which the Church will be a community of life. *Secondly*, the gift of *protection* from the 'gates of the underworld' whose gates will never prevail against the Church either in the sense that, built upon a 'rock,' it will survive all attempts to destroy it or, more likely, in the sense that its members, even though they die physically, will not be held confined within the realm of the dead but will burst through its 'gates' in resurrection. *Thirdly*, the gift of *keys* which does not as commonly thought, make Peter the gatekeeper of heaven. It, along with the subsequent reference to 'binding' and 'loosing', has to do with authoritative teaching: the power to declare in particular circumstances whether one of the many commandments of the Torah are or are not applicable.

The question that Jesus asks the disciples is a question he asks of all of us. How we answer that question reflects our relationship with Jesus. But more importantly, how we answer that question reflects the way we live our life in response to who we believe Jesus to be. If we truly say that we believe in Jesus as the son of God, then how do we live our lives in such a way that we act on that belief? The gospel shows us that an inadequate answer to that question leads to missing the point of all that Jesus is.