

St Mary Queen of Heaven, Georges Hall



2nd Sunday of Advent | Year B | Sunday 6th December



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."

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Fr Joseph Kolodziej

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Parish Website:

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A Message from Fr Joseph

Today's readings open with a great vision of the Prophet Isaiah: "Console my people", says your God.

He is like a shepherd feeding us, gathering and holding in His arms." Then in the Psalm: "Kindness and truth shall meet..." and finally, to the Gospel with John proclaiming: "Make straight the paths of the Lord."

All the readings seem to be specifically crafted to address the reality of our world today. These readings can assist us as we are preparing our hearts to welcome Jesus into our Advent. If the events in our world are causing you grief and anxiety, read and reread the opening lines from Isaiah about comfort. So many of us need comfort right now with Covid-19; fear about losing families, homes and work. These are chaotic, uncertain times and we know the only true strength in our life is the peace that comes from God. What do we need to do to stay grounded in God so that we can give comfort to others and not add to their unease and worries? In the gospel, Mark describes how people from the countryside and Jerusalem "were traveling to have John baptize them..."

as they acknowledged their sins."

What are my sins that I need to acknowledge during this Advent season? What barriers do I need to dismantle so I can prepare my heart for Jesus? What is preventing me from becoming someone who can "organize a world according to God's heart"?

John was very clear about what his role was: "I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." John was preparing the world for Jesus, our Redeemer. Instead of capitalizing on his newfound 'fame', John humbly continued to fulfil the mission given to him. John helps me realize that I don't have to do everything, I just need to do my part. I hope you can take comfort from today's readings. Sit with them and let them speak to you.

Maybe you'll find that during this Advent season, we can all move towards becoming "...the new human being society needs. The Christian knows that Christ has been working in humanity for twenty centuries and that the person that is converted to Christ is the new human being that society needs to organize a world according to God's heart." St. Oscar Romero

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
Prayer Group in the Chapel // 5.00pm

TUESDAY

Holy Hour and Rosary 7.00am // Mass 8.00am
Mass (Vietnamese) // 6pm

WEDNESDAY

Rosary // 7.45am; Holy Communion // 8am
Sacrament of Reconciliation Vietnamese // 7.00pm

THURSDAY

Rosary // 7.45am; Mass // 8am
Funeral Mass Eddie Marks // 10.30am

FRIDAY

Rosary // 7.45am; Mass // 8am

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH:

Sunday 6:

2nd Sunday of Advent
Saint Nicholas

Monday 7:

St Ambrose

Tuesday 8:

Immaculate Conception of Mary

Wednesday 9:

St Juan Diego

Friday 11:

Saint Damasus 1

Saturday 12:

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Sunday 13:

3rd Sunday of Advent



"Bethlehem is not the end of our journey but only the beginning"
- Frederick Buechner

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Sick:

Bourke Gibbons,
Christina Apolinari,
Daniel Matesic, Daniel Clarke
David Sanders, Eileen Ellery,
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:

Eddie Marks, Luisa Ius,
Peter McMartin
Dawn (Lawrence) McHugh
Franco Calligaro, Eunice Davis
Giuseppe Versace

Remembrances:

Joseph Wehbe Paul Loc Van
Phan Maria Thi Tuu Nguyen
Rosario Ivan Kucic (2017)
Sylwester Szatan (2019)

Anniversaries:

John Rumble, Anthony Pasa
Robert McHugh, Helen Morters
Sr Geraldine Foley, Barbara King
Therese Coleman (2005)
Carmelo Puglia (2010)
Therese Coleman
Paulette Tannous
Carmela Caligiuri (1980)
Lee Smith (2017), Nononie Green
Emmanuela Delia (2008)
Antonio Caligiuri (2010)
Elias Nohra, Vernon Mangin
Francis George Wilkin
Arthur Patrick Wilkin
Carlo Ukmar (1991)
Norma Jeffcoate (2010)
Gertrude Morrocu
Ron Williamson
Joseph Cecil Mulholland
Thomas Joseph Russell
Arthur John Francis Wilkin
Maria Sabella (2016)
Monica Fitch (2017)

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)

Thank you to all our teens who joined us last Sunday for a night on Blessed Carlo Acutis!

Our next and final night for the year will be on the 13th of December! We'll be having a Christmas themed games night. We hope to see you all there!



St Mary's Primary School



Congratulations to these Year 3 to Year 5 students who have been working with La Salle Year 8 students. The Year 8 students have acted as virtual mentors to nurture, extend and enhance the creative writing skills of our students. We are grateful for our connection to La Salle Bankstown and the opportunities they provide our students to extend their learning.

Sacraments

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

Family & Faith

LOOK CLOSER... Repent!

Advent is a time of waiting. Like Mary awaiting the birth of her son, we too await the coming of Jesus into our lives in a fresh and new way. It is a time to prepare our hearts and minds to receive Jesus anew. Take some time this week to unclutter your heart and mind: reflect, pray, go to Reconciliation, commit to change.

WHAT'S IN YOUR PRAYER SPACE?

A Shepherd

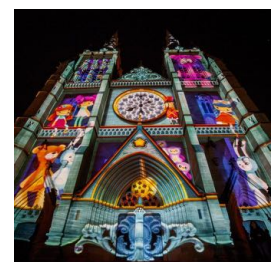
Lord God,
You call us to repentance, to turn away from sin and give our hearts and minds to you.
Forgive us for our sins.
Amen.



An Evening for all of the Family to Enjoy - The Lights of Christmas

Next Thursday, 10th December is the launch of the Lights of Christmas at St. Mary's Cathedral. If you haven't been before, it is absolutely spectacular and a great evening for the family. A light show is projected on the front facade of the cathedral and music is played in time to the show. The show runs from Thursday, 10th December until Christmas Day from 8.30pm - 11pm. For more information visit

[The Lights of Christmas](#)





Our lived streamed masses are available from <https://cutt.ly/StMarys>



Parish Notices

Christmas Rosters

Greeters, Commentators, Readers, Acolytes and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are invited to put their names down to serve at Christmas on the sheets at the back of the Church.

2nd Rite of Reconciliation

The 2nd Rite of Reconciliation will be held before every Mass on 12/13 December. Advent is a wonderful time to celebrate the reconciling love and the healing graces our Lord offers us. Reconciliation is what God does. We prepare for it by opening ourselves up, by reflecting upon the areas of darkness in our lives into which God so deeply desires to shine a light.

Advent Presentations

Everyone is welcome to join a series of Friday night presentations on the Sunday Mass readings will take place during Advent led by Dr. Ken Brimaud from the Catholic Institute of Sydney. They will take place on Friday nights (December 4, 11 and 18) from 6-7pm at St Peter's Parish, Surry Hills (235-241 Devonshire St, Surry Hills)

Christmas Nativity

Thank you to the Chidiac, Coorey and Colley families and Clarice Hayek who came along last Friday and set up the Christmas trees and Nativity. Love your beautiful work.



Promote the cause for sainthood of Eileen O'Connor

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney has launched a new website, Facebook and Instagram pages, aimed at promoting the pathway to sainthood for the Co-Founder of Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor, Servant of God, Eileen O'Connor. Eileen's great courage in serving the sick poor, despite enduring great personal illness herself is a truly remarkable example to us all. Visit: www.eileenconnor.com.au
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SoGEileenOConnor> or Instagram: www.instagram.com/theeileenconnor/
The new website features prayers through the intercession of Eileen O'Connor, details on upcoming events to honour her memory, videos and photo galleries. As we approach the centenary of Eileen's death in January, let us unite in a prayer that the Little Mother, as she was affectionately known, may soon be counted amongst the saints in heaven.

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 safeguardingquiries@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

2nd Advent Candle

THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION – God kept his promise of a Saviour who would be born in Bethlehem.

“As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: ‘A voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind will see God’s salvation.’ (Luke 3:4-6)



Christmas Masses



Christmas Eve

5.00pm - Children's Mass
7.00pm - Vigil Mass
8.00pm - Vietnamese Mass

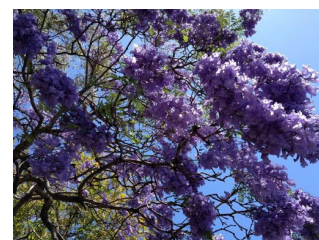
Christmas Day

12.00am - Midnight Mass
8.00a, 10.00am 5.00pm Mass
3.00pm - Vietnamese Mass

Jacaranda Trees

When driving around the suburb can you spot any Jacaranda Trees?

The flowers always bloom in the Advent season, the purple (a royal colour), reminds us that Jesus is the King of kings. The tree lays down a beautiful “carpet” for this holy occasion of when God became man.



Children's Corner

in the sacristy. Enquiries: veronicad.smgh@bigpond.com



First Reading

Is 40:1-5. 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Prepare the way for the Lord.

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. (R.)

3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)



Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Next Week's Readings

3rd Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Is 61:1-2. 10-11

2nd Reading: 1 Thes 5:16-24

Gospel: Jn 1:6-8. 19-28 - The Levites question John's identity.

Second Reading

2 Pt 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel

Mk 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by



him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Reflection by Greg Sunter

The gospel of Mark is sometimes portrayed as a 'no fuss' gospel. Nowhere is this more clearly seen than in this week's passage. We have the first eight verses of the gospel and the author wastes no time in announcing the purpose, 'The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.' The gospel of Mark does not give any infancy narrative or genealogy like Matthew or Luke, nor a theological foreword like John. It jumps straight in with a declaration that Jesus is the Son of God and almost immediately begins to explore his ministry.