

St Mary Queen of Heaven, Georges Hall



1st Sunday of Lent | Year B | Sunday 21st February 2021

A Reflection

The Rainbow is God's signature to a treaty with humankind. On God's part, material forces will never be sent to annihilate human beings as a punishment for wrongdoing. On our part, as humans made in the likeness of God, we are to image God's rainbow relationship to nature.

This is the Divine Treaty basis of our responsibility for the environment. We undertake not to engage in practices or support policies which could severely damage the fragile ecology which supports life on our planet. The deforestation of the slopes of the Himalayas, leading to floods which kill thousands, is a catastrophic example.

And, gazing at the rainbow, we can pray for our planet, for the human beings and all other creatures who inhabit it, and quite often for ourselves at a deep personal level. For we know that, just as after a storm and dark clouds, light penetrates the misty sky and the beautiful bow of colour appears, the same phenomenon can occur in our own lives.

We could take a moment to pray that the rainbow will appear, perhaps for ourselves, perhaps for others we know who are going through a stormy time. - Fr Michael Tate



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 Lawrence Cauchi

Parish Office:

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Safeguarding Officer/Secretary:

Veronica Denning
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Parish Website:

www.smgh.org.au

Parish Facebook:

Follow: fb.me/smgh2



Parish School:

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



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:

Prayer Group in the Chapel // 5.00pm

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

Rosary // 8.45am; Mass // 9am

THURSDAY

Rosary // 8.45am; Mass // 9am

FRIDAY

Rosary // 8.45am; Mass // 9am

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH:

Sunday 21:

1st Sunday of Lent

Monday 22:

Chair of St Peter

Tuesday 23:

St Polycarp

Friday 26:

Stations of the Cross // 7pm

Sunday 28:

2nd Sunday of Lent

In his message for Lent 2021, Pope Francis calls on the faithful to "renew our faith, draw from the living waters of hope, and receive with open hearts the love of God."

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Sick:

Bourke Gibbons
Christina Apolinari
Daniel Matesic, Daniel Clarke
David Sanders, Eileen Ellery
Heather Graham, Irma Buoro
John Sanders Kerry Gibbons
Margaret Ward, Marie Reic
Mary Strambio, Paul Roughley
Phillip Nehme
Romela Onkowiedjaja
Rosa Agostino, Tamara Kalass
Tony Strambio, Vic Ryan
Warren Clarke

Recently Deceased:

George Voss, Fr Isidip Wilson
Arthur Hodson
Bishop Geoffrey Robinson
Samira Charbel, Dennis Graham
June Ryan

Remembrances:

Rodney Lawler
Olive Boyle
Joseph Wehbe
Paul Loc Van
Phan Maria Thi Tuu Nguyen

Anniversaries:

Max Graham
Katie Frances Enright
Lamaa Sassine (2015)
Paul Vasello
Charles P Herne
Lisa Gross
Bernard Barlow
Neal John (Digger) Hancock
Infant: Jordan Brown (2012)
Hazel Monica Faulkner
Denise Jakob
Marjorie Piper
Stanislaw Hruby
Jan-Tadeusz Lajch
Giovanni Serafino Biasi
Bill Burns (2006)

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)

Lent is here! And so is our Lenten series!
Join us this Sunday after the 5pm Mass for a night
on the **Three Pillars of Lent: Prayer, Fasting & Almsgiving.**

There'll be food, games and an awesome talk before
we finish the night off with prayer.
We hope to see you there! Bring a friend!

*Thinking of becoming an Ephesus Leader?
Join us on Sunday to find out more!*



St Mary's Primary School

Engineering Challenge



Every child from Kindergarten to Year 6 had a go at the
engineering challenge last week.
After learning about some of the principles of solid structures,
students worked collaboratively to build a structure that would
stay up all day.
Students discussed the frustrations and deep thinking that had
to occur to make their design work.
Persistence was certainly a skill needed for the challenge.

Sacraments

- **Baptism:** Baptisms will be held at 10am Mass on the 4th Sunday of the month; please speak to Fr Laurie to make arrangements.
- **Marriage:** At least 6 months notice is needed, a preparation course is required.
- **Reconciliation:** Sat @ 4.00pm or by appointment, please contact Fr Laurie

Family & Faith

**LOOK CLOSER...
A Story.**

At this time last year, you were feeling
resentful. When things went wrong, you
would look for someone to blame. It felt
like every day was gloomy with dark rain
clouds. So you gave up blame and
resentment for Lent! After a week you
began to feel better. Instead of feeling
gloomy and irritable like rain clouds, you
felt peaceful like a rainbow after a storm.

Read It: Read or tell the story of Noah's
ark. Talk about ways which you as a
family can be more like Noah. (Genesis
6-9)



WHAT'S IN YOUR PRAYER SPACE?

Symbol - A Rainbow.

You ways O Lord,
are love and truth
to those who keep your covenant.
Teach us to follow your paths and to
walk your truth. Amen.
Faithful Noah, pray for us.



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



Parish Notices

Lenten Reflections

The Archdiocese's Go Make Disciples Lenten Companion hosts a weekly online Lenten group and provides a Lenten Companion resource to accompany you through your Lenten Journey, to access both: www.gomakedisciples.org.au.

Lent provides an opportunity for deeper prayer as we contemplate Jesus' amazing self-sacrifice so that we may enjoy eternal life. Father Frank Freeman SDB has graciously shared his thoughts on how we can approach Lent in a unique way. Forgoing the assumption that we are right is a novel and interesting idea and more relevant at a time when so much of the world is politically and racially divided. We hope you enjoy these reflections and thank you to Father Frank for sharing his [wisdom](#).

Please Watch Out for Pedestrians

If you are coming to morning weekday Masses, please be aware that the church forecourt is a pedestrian thoroughfare and our school students and playgroup families use this area to meet and walk to school. Please do not drive or park in this area. There are 2 disabled parking spots right out front of the church for those who need them and if the car park is full, please park out on the street.



2021 - Sacramental Program

Dates for the Sacramental Program for 2021 are still being considered. Any other enquiries regarding the sacramental program please contact the Parish Office.

Supporting your Parish

It is possible to support your parish by:

- Offering envelopes are available in the church.
- Make an online donation from the [website](#) - click on the Support Us link and follow the prompts.
- Use the cashless tap devices available in the church.
- Join the Planned Giving Program - application forms are available in the sacristy.

The 1st collection (for Archdiocese priests) will be taken up after the Homily and the 2nd collection (for parish expenses) will be taken up after Prayers of the Faithful.

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 Office at 93905810 or email 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

CARITAS Australia - Project Compassion

This year, the theme of Project Compassion is "Be More." It challenges us to venture into a new experience of compassion, and is taken from the invitation of Saint Oscar Romero, to "Aspire not to have more, but to be more." This message invites us to step up and step out for those who do not have the essential resources they need for their survival. Those whose needs at this time are far beyond ours.



Jamila is a Rohingya refugee living in a camp in Bangladesh with her elderly mother and baby daughter. With the support of Caritas Australia, and through Caritas Bangladesh, Jamila has been able to access emergency food, shelter, counselling, and vocational training that will help to support her family.



PRAYER

God of all peoples and nations, As you accompany us on our Lenten journey, May our fasting strengthen our commitment to live in solidarity, Our almsgiving be an act of justice, and Our prayers anchor us in love and compassion. Through living simply and loving generously, May we care for our global family and our common home, as we "Aspire not to have more, but to be more." * We ask this in Jesus' name. AMEN

The Chair of Saint Peter - 22 February


The chair (cathedra) of a bishop is a pre-eminent sign of his teaching authority and pastoral oversight of a local Church. This feast, observed in Rome since the fourth century, celebrates Peter, first among the apostles, as found of the See of Rome and the focus of unity in the communion of one faith. In 2012, Pope Benedict XVI described the **chair** as "a symbol of the special mission of **Peter** and his Successors to tend Christ's flock, keeping it united in faith and in charity."



Children's Corner

The season of Lent is a special time when we prepare for the events of Holy Week and Easter. What things can you do to try to be more like Jesus during the forty days of Lent?



First Reading	Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading
<p>Gen 9:8-15 A reading from the book of Genesis <i>I will recall the covenant between myself and you... the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.</i></p> <p>God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'</p> <p>God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'</p>	<p>(R.) Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.</p> <p>1. Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. (R.)</p> <p>2. Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old. In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)</p> <p>3. The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)</p> 	<p>1 Pt 3:18-22 <i>A reading from the first letter of St Peter</i> <i>The water of the flood is a type of the baptism which saves you now.</i></p> <p>Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.</p>
	<p>Next Week's Readings</p> <p>2nd Sunday of Lent 1st Reading: Gen 22:1-2,9-13,15-18 2nd Reading: Romans 8:31-34 Gospel: Mark 9:2-10 (Transfiguration)</p>	<p>Gospel Acclamation</p> <p><i>Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!</i> No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.</p>

Gospel



Mk 1:12-15

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

Reflection by Greg Sunter

Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom of God is a call to live out God's transformative dream of right relationship with one another and with our world. To accept this call requires a change of heart and mind (a metanoia) and the adoption of a new orientation, a new worldview based on living the kingdom of God. This is a challenge to be counter-cultural – to go 'against the flow' of the majority attitudes at times. It is certainly not an 'easy option' that we are called to live. Jesus' call to 'repent and believe' is a very appropriate call to begin the Lenten season.

For all its starkness and inhospitableness, a wilderness can be an invitation to discover depths in ourselves that ordinary living can leave untapped, for a wilderness demands more resourcefulness than the everyday norm. This is why the wilderness is often used as a place for initiation in ancient religions, for here a person can meet the Divine reality with greater immediacy. In Mark, this wilderness time is reduced to a few sentences and we are not told what he experiences in the wilderness, but no doubt it was a time of reflection on this event, and wondering about his response. Lent invites us to share Jesus' experience of a wilderness time, to allow God's Spirit to drive us over the next forty days so that we, like Jesus, can meet with God and know God's desires for us.