



Catholic Parish of St Mary Queen of Heaven Georges Hall

Parish Priest: Fr. Lawrence Cauchi



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Office hours: Wed: 9.30am-4.00pm

Facebook: fb.me/smgh2

Streaming: <https://cutt.ly/StMarys>

Sunday Masses:
Saturday Vigil: 5pm
Sunday: 8 & 10am

Weekday Masses:
Tuesday: 6pm
Preceded by Rosary/Novena - 5.30pm

Wednesday - Friday: 9am
Preceded by Rosary - 8.45am

Vietnamese Masses:
Sat. Vigil: 6.30pm
Sunday: 5.30pm



Reconciliation:
Saturday 4-4.30 pm
or by appointment

Second Sunday of Advent

4 December 2022



SECOND SUNDAY

Advent

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve 6pm

Carols 11.30pm

Midnight

Christmas Day 8am and 10am

(Vietnamese 5.30pm Christmas Day)



STAY AWAKE! Prepare for the Coming of Christ - Advent Companion 2022

advent is here. Let us make the most of this precious time to gather in our parishes and communities to prepare for the coming of Jesus. Pick up your free advent Companion at the back of the church or download on the *Go Make Disciples* website

at www.gomakedisciples.org.au



First Holy Communion this weekend

Congratulations to the children who will receive the Blessed Eucharist for the first time this weekend. We pray for their families that they will give them the best example in having reverence and appreciation for the Blessed Eucharist.



Vinnies Christmas Appeal

Donations of long-life food and gifts for adults and children should be placed in the decorated tub at the back of the church.

Charitable Works Fund Appeal *this weekend.*

Our quota for this appeal is \$4225.

(The shortfall will have to come out of our parish savings).

Money raised will assist the many agencies of the Church.

Donations over \$2 are 100% **Tax deductible.**



Altar Server Training

Children in Year 3 or older who have made their First Holy Communion are invited to volunteer to be trained as Altar Servers. Parents, if your child is interested, please contact: Bernie (8am Acolyte) on 0412 227 554

Working Bee - 17 December - 11am

Our church and parish site need some loving care. Jobs to be done prior to Christmas: washing church windows, mowing grass, edging lawns, cleaning out gutters, weeding gardens. If you can spare some time, please come along, bring your own tools - **Sat. 17 Dec. at 11am.**



Hospitality next weekend

A chance to catch up after Mass next weekend over coffee and cake. All are welcome to bring a plate of food to share and stay after Mass to catch up.



Christmas Rosters - Greeters, Commentators, Readers, Acolytes - if you can assist at any of the Christmas Masses, please put your name on the sheet on the church main door.

COVID-19 is still around - Please **use sanitiser** when you enter our church.

Safeguarding our Children is our priority.

Out of School Hours Care (OSHC)



Sydney Catholic Early Childhood Services operate an OSHC facility to provide before, afterschool and vacation care for our primary school children. please contact the OSHC on 0438 118 864 or veenita.chand@svd.catholic.edu.au

St Mary's Primary School - 9727 0000 **Principal:** Monica Palmer

Playgroup - Thursday during school term in the iCentre, meet at 8.45am out the front of the church near Our Lady's statue. Enquiries: natalie.goetz@svd.catholic.edu.au

+Please Remember in your prayers:

Sick: Paul Ahad, Patrick Carroll, Kate Cheney, Daniel Clarke, Warren Clarke, Azelia Donati, Eileen Ellery, Jennie Falvy, Kerry Gibbons, Kathleen Gibson, Christine Hughes, Barbara Kains, Rosemary Levack, Daniel Matesic, Phillip Nelme, Margaret Rixon, Vic Ryan, Jenny Tankard, David Sanders, Mary Strambio, Tony Strambio, Cornelius Van Baardwyk, Margaret Ward, Ross Williamson, Sandor Toth
Recently Deceased: John Kolodziej, Elizabeth McVean, Hilda Freeburn, Margaaret Holmes
Anniversaries: Jack Wright, Robert McHugh, Sr Geraldine Foley, Lee Smith

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. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police. **Our parish has a folder** (with Safeguarding information including quarterly newsletters) in the church - parishioners are welcome to view. A link to the Archdiocese's Child Safeguarding Policy is available from the homepage of our parish website and on display in the folder. Enquiries: Veronica via parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com

Funeral for the late John Kolodziej will be 11am Friday 9 December



Gospel Mt 3:1-12

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

John proclaimed that the reign of God was 'at hand' as he immersed and plunged followers into the waters of the Jordan River. (His nickname was John the Immerser, or 'baptiser' in the Greek.) He used flowing water to symbolise the washing away of the past for those who repented so that they could be totally focused on the 'at hand' person who would inaugurate God's kingdom.

In this passage, John does not identify the 'Someone'! But he realised that this 'Someone' would have divine power to affect the future by immersing, baptising, his followers with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

At this stage of Advent, we should be like John's disciples, filled with a sense of anticipation, looking forward to the *coming towards us* ('Advent' in Latin) of the One who can flood our minds and bodies with the Holy Spirit and can immerse our hearts in Divine Fire.

We could pause for a moment to thank God that, even though we are unworthy to carry His sandals, there is One who is coming towards us wanting to transform us with Divine Power.

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The Living Word

Second Sunday of Advent, Year A

4 December 2022

First Reading Is 11:1-10

He judges the poor with justice.

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)

He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless,
his sentences bring death to the wicked.
Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb,
the panther lies down with the kid,
calf and lion cub feed together
with a little boy to lead them.

The cow and the bear make friends,
their young lie down together.
The lion eats straw like the ox.

The infant plays over the cobra's hole;
into the viper's lair
the young child puts his hand.

They do no hurt, no harm,
on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse
shall stand as a signal to the peoples.
It will be sought out by the nations
and its home will be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7

*(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.*

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. *(R.)*

- In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to the earth's bounds. *(R.)*
- For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. *(R.)*
- May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. *(R.)*

Second Reading Rom 15:4-9

Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Prepare the way of the Lord, make
straight his paths:*

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!