



Catholic Parish of St Mary Queen of Heaven, Georges Hall

Parish Priest: Fr. Lawrence Cauchi



15 Georges Cres, Georges Hall

Ph: 9727 3759

www.smgh.org.au

parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com

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:

Tues-6pm (Rosary 5.45pm)

Wed-Fri 9am (Rosary 8.45am)

Vietnamese Masses:

Sat. Vigil: 6.30pm

Sunday: 5.30pm



Reconciliation:

Saturday 4-4.30 pm
or by appointment

Thank you from Fr Laurie

I wish to express sincere thanks to all parishioners and school staff who made me feel so welcome in our parish family for the last two years.

We have achieved a lot during such a short time, and it could not have been possible without the generous efforts of many.

May Fr Peter feel truly welcome and

I trust that you will support him for the many years to come.

Wishing you and your families the very best for the future and may Mary Queen of Heaven continue to guide you into the future.

Turkey-Syria Earthquake Disaster

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake has unleashed devastation on Turkey and Syria, leaving thousands of people dead. After 12 years of war, Syria is at breaking point and desperately needs assistance.

We must act NOW and help those affected by this catastrophe.

Your generous donation means our partners in Turkey and Syria can respond swiftly to support the survivors of this unimaginable tragedy.

Visit: www.caritas.org.au/syria-turkey or call 1800 024 413 toll free to donate now.

First Sunday of Lent

26 February 2023

Stations of the Cross: 7pm Fridays during Lent

Spirit and Truth: The Power of Christ Revealed - this Lenten

companion for 2023 has been prepared by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney and provides a great opportunity for Catholics to prepare themselves, through prayer, reflection and discussion, to experience Christ's Passion.

Pick up your free copy of this resource from the church..



Project Compassion

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**. Please donate through **Project Compassion** donation boxes available from our parish, or by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.



Thank you and Farewell Father Laurie

This weekend will be Fr Laurie's last weekend with our parish.

All are invited to bid him farewell after one of this weekend's Masses.

Hospitality will be served after each Mass, and all are invited to bring a plate of food to share.

Fr Laurie commences as Parish Priest at Clovelly parish on Wednesday 1 March 2023.

Welcome to Father Peter Krigovsky

We welcome Fr Peter, who will be joining us for 5pm Mass this Saturday.

Father Peter begins his Ministry in our parish on Wednesday 1 March.

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

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: Patrick Carroll, Daniel Clarke, Warren Clarke, Azelia Donati, Eileen Ellery, Kerry Gibbons, Kathleen Gibson, Christine Hughes, Roger Luck, Daniel Matesic, Phillip Nehme, David Sanders, Mary Strambio, Tony Strambio

Recently Deceased: Bertha Smith, Les Bayley, Sandor Toth, Margaret McHugh, Eleanor Vereesen, James Mancini, Margaret Ward, Cardinal George Pell, Pope Benedict 16th, Jennie Falvy, Vic Ryan, Marlene Drew, Garry Czinner

Anniversaries: Stanislaw Hruby, Steve Folkes, Michael Hayek, Ted Faulkner, Francis Neville, Tom Atkins, Bruna Matosovic, Giuseppina Caliguri, John Neville, Jeanette Trevor, Edmond Ashkar

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.

Safeguarding UPDATE - The Safeguarding and Ministerial Office January 2023 Quarterly Newsletter is available to view in the folder at the back of the church. Everyone is welcome to take a look. If you'd like a copy, please email parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com



Gospel Mt 4:1-11

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone
but on every word that comes from the mouth
of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge,
and they will support you on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Jesus was offered three shortcuts for his ministry. Firstly, exceptional powers to satisfy his own needs (bread out of stones). Secondly, when he needed to take risks, angels to keep him safe. Thirdly, when he wanted to change the world, absolute political power.

These were the Temptations of Christ, but also for us. If you or I are tempted to sin, we will find the marks of this threefold pattern. We want the whole world to change to satisfy us, or we want to take stupid risks and come out unscathed, or we want to exercise total power over others.

How can we try to follow Jesus without the shortcuts of the fantasy world which the Devil may offer? Note that Jesus resisted each temptation with: 'It is written'. The forty days of Lent are a perfect opportunity to read what 'is written' in the Gospels about the episodes and pattern of the life of Jesus Christ.

We could pause for a moment to find what is written and to imitate what we find. That is how the Devil is defeated.

mtate@bigpond.com

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The Living Word

First Sunday of Lent, Year A

26 February 2023

First Reading Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Creation of our first parents, and sin.

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. see v.3

(R.) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)
2. My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done. (R.)
3. A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)

4. Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 5:12-19 (or Shorter form Rom 5:12, 17-19)

Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:4

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of
endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the
mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of
endless glory!*