



Gospel Mt 17:1-9

His face was shining like the sun.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

Reflection by Greg Sunter

Jesus takes his most trusted disciples up a high mountain to allow them to share in what he knows is about to occur. It is a very clear teaching moment in which Jesus hopes the disciples are going to finally grasp the truth about him. As the disciples stand by, Jesus is transformed before them – suddenly bathed in light and his clothes become dazzlingly white. The disciples also see Moses and Elijah standing and talking with Jesus. Moses was the great Law-giver of Jewish tradition and Elijah the great prophet. Together, they represent the Law and the Prophets – the combined wisdom that make up the tradition of Jewish teaching and Jewish scripture. It is the Law and the Prophets that Jesus' life and ministry brings to fulfilment. It is fitting that Moses and Elijah appear beside Jesus, as the three figures combined represent the fullness of Jewish tradition – the Law of Moses; the challenge and promise of the Prophets; and the compassion of Jesus that completes the other two.

Sadly, the disciples don't really get the point of what they see before them. Peter, caught up in the moment, wants to build tents on the spot to mark the moment and to continue to dwell in the moment. Jesus, however, leads them back down the mountain – back into the valley; back into the reality of life; back into the tragedy that he knows lies before them. No matter how powerful a religious experience may be, Jesus shows us that we always have to return to real life. It is not possible to remain on the 'mountaintop' as Peter would have liked to do; we have to take the experience back into the everyday of our lives.

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The Living Word

Transfiguration

6 August 2023

First Reading Dn 7:9-10. 13-14

His raiment was as white as snow.

As I watched:
Thrones were set in place
and one of great age took his seat.
His robe was white as snow,
the hair of his head as pure as wool.
His throne was a blaze of flames,
its wheels were a burning fire.
A stream of fire poured out,
issuing from his presence.
A thousand thousand waited on him,
ten thousand times ten thousand stood
before him.
A court was held and the books were
opened.
I gazed into the visions of the night.
And I saw, coming on the clouds of
heaven,
one like a son of man.
He came to the one of great age
and was led into his presence.
On him was conferred sovereignty,
glory and kingship,
and men of all peoples, nations and
languages became his servants.
His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty
which shall never pass away,
nor will his empire ever be destroyed.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 96:1-2. 5-6. 9. R. vv.1. 9.

*(R.) The Lord is king, the most high
over all the earth.*

1. The Lord is king, let earth rejoice,
let all the coastlands be glad.
Cloud and darkness are his raiment;
his throne, justice and right. *(R.)*

2. The mountains melt like wax
before the Lord of all the earth.
The skies proclaim his justice;
all peoples see his glory. *(R.)*
3. For you indeed are the Lord
most high above all the earth
exalted far above all spirits. *(R.)*

Second Reading 2 Pt 1:16-19

We heard this voice from out of heaven.

It was not any cleverly invented myths that we were repeating when we brought you the knowledge of the power and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we had seen his majesty for ourselves. He was honoured and glorified by God the Father, when the Sublime Glory itself spoke to him and said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour.' We heard this ourselves, spoken from heaven, when we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have confirmation of what was said in prophecies; and you will be right to depend on prophecy and take it as a lamp for lighting a way through the dark until the dawn comes and the morning star rises in your minds.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 17:5

Alleluia, alleluia!

*This is my Son, my beloved,
in whom is all my delight:*

listen to him.

Alleluia!



Catholic Parish of St Mary Queen of Heaven Georges Hall

Parish Priest: Rev. Peter Krigovsky
Secretary: Mrs. Zenna Azar (Tuesday 9.30am—5.30pm)
Address: 15 Georges Cres, Georges Hall NSW 2198 **Telephone:** 9727 3759
Website: <http://www.smgh.org.au> **Email:** parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com
Facebook: [fb.me/smgh2](https://www.facebook.com/smgh2) **Streaming:** <https://cutt.ly/StMarys>

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Georges Hall

God and us Together

Principal: Mrs Monica Palmer **Website:** www.stmgeorghall.syd.catholic.edu.au
School Tel: 9727 0000 **School email:** info@stmgeorghall.catholic.edu.au



SUNDAY, AUGUST 20 OUR PARISH FEAST DAY THE QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY SPECIAL 10AM FEAST DAY MASS

FAMILY PICNIC FOLLOWS: BBQ SIZZLE, LEBANESE AND VIETNAMESE FOOD, COFFEE, TEA, CORDIAL, (DESSERTS AND/OR SALADS—BRING A PLATE TO SHARE).

THIS WILL BE A COMBINED ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE AND SCHOOL COMMUNITY CELEBRATION. ALL WELCOME.

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO 8AM MASS ON THAT DAY.

MASS TIMES (English):
 Vigil Mass 5 pm (Saturday)
 Sunday 8.00 am & 10.00 am
 Weekdays: Wednesday 6 pm
 Mon. Tue. Thu. Fri. Sat. 9.00 am

VIETNAMESE MASS
 Vigil Mass 6.30 pm (Saturday)
 Sunday 5.30pm

RECONCILIATION
 Saturday 4.30pm-4.55pm
 or anytime on request

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
 Wednesday 5.00pm—6.00pm
 Friday after Mass 9am-10.30am

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK
 Offered to those in need on
 1st Tuesday at 9.00am Mass

Baptisms: Sunday 11.00am
 Bookings are necessary

Children first Sacraments:
 Please contact Elaine Nehme email:
nehme.elaine@yahoo.com.au

Parish site maintenance:
 John Impala Phone TBA
 Ivan Leskur Phone TBA

Parish Pastoral Council:
 Bernie Freeburn, Veronica Dening,
 Elaine Nehme, Zenna Azar,
 Paul Abdul Ahad, Natalie Goetz,
 Monica Palmer, Linh Bui,
 Jannette Samawi, Grace Mokdassi

Finance Committee:
 Bernie Freeburn, Michael Anderson,
 Ted Goetz, Veronica Dening, Eileen Stevenson

Golden oldies:
 Lorraine Impala

St Vincent de Paul:
 Mary Scott

Scripture:
 Lorraine Corkeron

Music Ministry: TBA

Youth Ministry: TBA

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

ADDITIONAL NOTICES If you are interested in any diocesan events, please collect a copy of additional bulletin at the back of the church.

CWF APPEAL – is being held this weekend and we need your help to keep alive the vital ministries of the Church in service to



those who need it most. In hospitals, churches, schools, communities and families, your donation is making our world a loving, caring and compassionate place. Please give generously, use the envelopes in the pews or back of the church. Your tax-deductible donation changes lives.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES
 The new envelopes have been received and are available at the back of the church. We invite all parishioners that would like to be included in the planned giving register to contact the Parish office to arrange a box of envelopes. Up to

30% of your Planned Giving is tax deductible. Thank you for your contributions which are absolutely necessary for keeping our church doors open. May God reward you hundredfold.

2023 FIRST RECONCILIATION
 Lessons continue this week and are held on Mondays at 6pm and Tuesdays at 6:30pm. All children and at least one parent must attend all four lessons – you don't have to attend the same day each week.
 Sacrament Dates:
 Wed 16/8, Thurs 17/8, Fri 18/8
 All enquiries via email:
nehme.elaine@yahoo.com.au
 We invite you to keep these children in your prayers as they prepare for this sacrament.

RECONCILIATION PREPARATION LESSONS
 This year we have a large group of children preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is therefore very important that everyone attending is at their best behavior. Parents, please supervise your child so as to maintain maximum silence and thus help our voluntary Sacramental Teachers to do their duty with joy and in peace.

Thank you for your understanding.

HOSPITALITY - SUNDAY 6TH AUGUST 2023
 This weekend hospitality will be served after 8am and 10am Sunday masses. Everyone is invited to bring a plate of food to share, and to stay for a cuppa, a bite to eat and a chance to have a chat.

WORLD YOUTH DAY PARISH SUPPORT

One of our very own young parishioners, Jesse Azar, is currently on pilgrimage for World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal. Please keep Jesse in your prayers, for her safety and a spiritual experience which will help Jesse to grow in her faith.



PARISH CENTRE On Friday July 28 our architect visited our parish to visualize and assess the feasibility of the proposed changes. The existing surveying data from the time when the school was built is not sufficient for our project and a new surveyor will be hired to update the data. A town planner will also be hired to answer some critical questions regarding the new building line boundaries and the second floor. The architect estimated both tasks could be completed in 4 to 8 weeks.

OPPORTUNITY TO DONATE At our Parish Pastoral Council Meeting a decision was made that the requests to honour our founding parishioners are best fulfilled through an “active” choice rather than a “passive” choice, which would inevitably lead to divisions and complaints (Why him and not her). An “active” choice is through a donation for a church item which would bear the name of the person honoured. Eight new vestments, Thurible + stand, six candlesticks, celebrant's table (next to the celebrant's chair) and a new church laptop (to assist with PowerPoint presentation, were added recently to our church items collection. All these new items are available for a donation. The inscription such as “Please pray for ...” or similar will be sown on the vestments or inscribed on other items. The items will be reserved for donation on first come first serve basis. The life expectancy of a vestment is up to 20 years, candlesticks 100+ years, Thurible 10+ years, Thurible stand 100+ years. The candlesticks are offered on individual basis, which means that each candlestick will have an inscription. Of course the reason for a donation does not have to be only honouring and remembering of a

founding parishioner, but also could be remembering of any of your deceased loved ones, or remembering the donor him/herself. The “remembering” refers to the celebration of the Sacrifice of the Holy Mass for the repose of the soul of the deceased or blessing for the living. Each Sunday the Parish Priest celebrates one Mass for the welfare of the parishioners living and dead including all donors. 100% tax deduction is available. Please see Fr. Peter for the cost and/or reservation of the items and information on tax deduction.

ADORATION AND BENEDICTION is available on Wednesdays from 5-5.55pm prior to the 6pm evening Mass and on Fridays from 9.30-10.30am after the 9am Mass.

MINISTRIES AT ST MARY'S - Our Parish is blessedly growing in number and with this growth comes opportunity for parishioners to join our volunteer team to assist with various ministries. Please contact the Parish office if you can share your time and talents with our Church.

BLESSINGS DURING THE MASS are reserved to the priest. Acolytes or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion are not to give blessing during the Holy Communion. Any parents bringing their child for a blessing or anyone wishing to receive a blessing during the Holy Communion, please approach the priest. Acolytes or extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, if anyone approaches you for a blessing, simply say God loves you or Jesus loves you, without any sign of blessing or physical touching. Thank you.

PARISH WEBSITE - is updated on a weekly basis, if you have any feedback on content please email: gracemokdassi@gmail.com

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 in the church for parishioners to view. Check out the latest safeguarding newsletter. 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 email: parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com



Please Remember In Your Prayers Our Sick

Beryl Moran, Paul Tonkli, Daniel Clarke, Warren Clarke, Azelia Donati, Eileen Ellery, Paul Evans, Kerry Gibbons, Kathleen Gibson, Christine Hughes, Sue James, Barbara Kains, Daniel Matesic, Phillip Nehme, David Sanders, Mary Strambio, Tony Strambio, Cornelius Van Baardwyk



Let us Pray For All Those Who Have Died

Josephine and Alojzy Pientka, Jamilie Zaouk, Eddie Counihan, Jean Graham, Fr. Ignatius McNamara, Sam Cilia, Trevor Newton, Irma (Ziff) Buoro, Anna Nguyen, Anna Maria & Remo Raffin

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.
 May they rest in peace. Amen.*