



out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

Reflection by Greg Sunter

I don't know that we've ever properly understood the significance of the disciples in the gospels; our attention is always focused on Jesus. The disciples certainly got the inside running on all of Jesus' teachings; they witnessed the miracles; and were themselves empowered to carry on the work of Jesus. They can be seen as the prototypes for all the followers of Jesus that have come since. When we read the gospel stories we can perhaps place ourselves in the position of James or John or Peter or Andrew.

To be a disciple to a rabbi was not just to be a supporter or an interested bystander. To be a disciple was to hungrily learn from your rabbi. The fact that all of Jesus' disciples were called from other walks of life means that no other rabbi had already chosen them. They had been passed over as not good enough to study with a rabbi. When they were called by Jesus it was an opportunity they would never have dreamed possible; of course they left everything and followed him.

To be a disciple was effectively an apprenticeship to becoming a rabbi. To be discipled to a rabbi was to believe that you could do what your rabbi did. It is this belief that makes Peter get out of the boat. His rabbi is walking on the water and Peter believes that he can do what his rabbi does. And extraordinarily, Peter begins to walk on the water just like Jesus. It is only when he starts to think about what he's doing that he sinks. When Jesus asks Peter, 'Why did you doubt?' he is asking Peter why he doubted himself. It wasn't that Peter doubted Jesus; he doubted his own ability to be the equal of his rabbi!

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The Living Word

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

13 August 2023

First Reading 1 Kgs 19:9.11-13

Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord God.

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace.
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.)*

Second Reading Rom 9:1-5

I would willingly be condemned if it could help my people.

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 19:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

***I hope in the Lord,
I trust in his word.***

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 14:22-33

Command me to come to you over the water.

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far



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

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

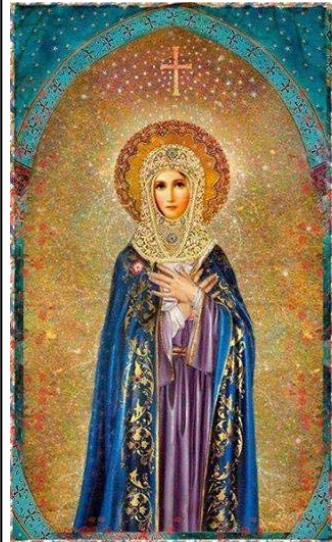
Golden oldies:
 Lorraine Impala

St Vincent de Paul:
 Mary Scott

Scripture:
 Lorraine Corkeron

Music Ministry: TBA

Youth Ministry: TBA



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.

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.

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
 Tuesday 15th August - Holy day of obligation, Morning Mass 9.00am (with school children), evening Mass 7pm.

CHOIR PRACTICE There will be choir practice on Thursday 17 August 2023 at 7.00pm in preparation for the 10.00am Parish Feast Day Mass on Sunday 20 August 2023. New members are always welcome. Pat Falvy is on leave so ring Maria Rega on 0408-282-559.

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.

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.

LOW GLUTEN HOSTS are available for gluten sensitive persons. If you or your child would like to receive such host, please inform the celebrating priest prior to the commencement of the Mass.

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 email veenita.chand@syd.catholic.edu.au

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL 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@syd.catholic.edu.au

TRIBUNAL OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
 Reaching out to all who have experienced a marriage breakdown and question the validity of their first marriage as understood by the Church.
 Enquiries: Ph (02) 6239 9813
 Email: tribunal@cg.org.au

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

John Kolodziej, Giuseppe Versace, Tom Counihan, Josephine and Alojzy Pientka, Jamilie Zaouk, Eddie Counihan, Jean Graham, Fr. Ignatius McNamara, Sam Cilia, Trevor Newton, Irma (Ziff) Buoro

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