

Gospel Mt 16:13-20

You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

Reflection by Greg Sunter

Like last week's gospel, this week's story takes place in a region that was outside predominantly Jewish territory. Caesarea Philippi (north of Galilee and in the region of modern day Syria) had long been a center of pagan worship. It was used originally by the Canaanites as a site of worship; the Greeks built a temple to one of their gods there; in 20 BCE Herod the Great built a temple to Caesar Augustus; and after his death, Herod's son, Phillip, renamed the city Caesarea Phillipi after Tiberius Caesar and himself. It is intriguing that Matthew's gospel chooses such a site as the location for such a significant revelation of faith.

Jesus asks the disciples who people say he is. They report that people associate Jesus with one of the great prophets of Jewish tradition. By people identifying Jesus with other great prophets they were projecting Jesus into the same mold as that prophet. What they were saying was that Jesus will be a great leader in the style of John the Baptist, or Elijah, or even Jeremiah. The expectation of a messiah was running very high at the time of Jesus and everyone had their own idea about what that messiah would be like—usually aligned with some previous leader. They didn't seem to understand that Jesus was breaking the mold and was not going to fit in with any of those expectations. To see him as one of the great prophets come again is always going to be an inadequate understanding of Jesus as messiah.

When Jesus pushes the disciples for their own ideas, it is Simon Peter who speaks up and identifies Jesus as being the Son of the living God. Making a play on Peter's name (in Greek, petros = Peter and petra = rock), Jesus states that hereafter, Simon Peter will be known as Peter and upon the rock of his profession of faith the church will be built.

The Living Word

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

27 August 2023

First Reading Is 22:19-23

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,

I remove you from your post,

and the same day I call on my servant

Eliakim son of Hilkiah.

I invest him with your robe,

gird him with your sash,

entrust him with your authority;

and he shall be a father

to the inhabitants of Jerusalem

and to the House of Judah.

I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder;

should he open, no one shall close,

should he close, no one shall open.

I drive him like a peg

into a firm place;

he will become a throne of glory

for his father's house.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, your love is eternal;

do not forsake the work of your hands.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, you have heard the words of my mouth. Before the angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple. *(R.)*

2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you. On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul. *(R.)*

3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar. Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands. *(R.)*

Second Reading Rom 11:33-36

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

**You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.**

Alleluia!

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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 **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



Father's Day Appeal Sunday 3 September 2023

Your priests helped begin your faith journey
 The Archdiocese Father's Day Appeal supports retired priests and honours
 our Fathers for their wonderful service to our community. Your gift to is a
 'thank you' to those who've contributed in so many ways in your life.



**Will you help look after them in
 their retirement this Father's Day?**

Donate today by completing the parish envelope,
 calling 1800 753 959 or online at www.ourfaithourworks.org/prf

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.

GOLDEN OLDIES BUS TRIP

Many of you
 have been
 enquiring about
 an outing and we
 are please to



advise that our
 next bus trip will be held on
 Wednesday 20 September. More
 details next weekend. Enquiries:
 Lorraine 9724 9519

BIBLE STUDY We're looking to
 begin a Bible study group for young
 adults in our Parish. Please register
 your interest to assist us with planning
 our nights [https://forms.gle/
 Bz1mVDjw72SAwW1Y8](https://forms.gle/Bz1mVDjw72SAwW1Y8)

FATHER'S DAY APPEAL – 3 SEPTEMBER 2023

Every year our Archdiocese conducts
 the Father's Day Appeal to assist our
 retired priests who have served us so
 faithfully. The 2023 Father's Day
 collection takes place on Sunday 3
 September. We are indebted to our

priests. When they retire usually at
 age 75, often after giving fifty years
 or more of service, they are no longer
 supported by a Parish. It then
 becomes our duty to look after our
 priests in respect of their years of
 selfless service to generations of our
 families. While retired priests will
 receive a government pension, and/or
 superannuation income, most will
 require support with their
 accommodation needs, once they
 move from a parish presbytery.
 Renting or jointly purchasing a
 property is the primary demand on
 PRF funds. Archbishop Anthony
 Fisher OP has generously agreed the
 Archdiocese will match every
 donation two-to-one. For example, if
 the parish raises \$9,500, the
 Archdiocese will add another
 \$19,000.

2023 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Registration and Information night
 will be held on Wednesday 13
 September at 6:30pm in the School
 hall. All enquiries via email:
nehme.elaine@yahoo.com.au

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.

PARISH CENTRE Our parish has appointed surveyor
 LTS Lockley (taking precise dimension and elevation of
 the building site), landscape designer GROUND Ink
 (design of the parish center building, the church foyer
 and visual harmonization), planner PLANNING PLUS
 (producing Statement of Environmental Effects needed
 for Development Application (DA) submission to the
 council), Michael Frost & Associates (producing
 Stormwater Concept Design needed for DA submission)
 and reappointed Leaf Architecture as our architect (to
 produce drawings for the builder). The surveyor should
 start the work this coming Tuesday.

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.

RETREAT DAY FOR PARISH STAFF - The Spring
 of Eternal Life (Jn 4:14) to encounter Jesus and to be
 refreshed and renewed in your work of serving His
 Church. You give so much – this is your time to
 receive! Select the date that suits you.

Option 1: Wednesday 8 November 2023

Option 2: Thursday 9 November 2023

Time: 9:30am – 2:30pm

Venue: St Martha's (formerly Sydney Catholic Schools)

Location: 38 Renwick Street, Leichhardt, NSW 2040

Cost: \$10 per person (plus booking fees)

Registraterr at: [https://www.trybooking.com/events/
 landing/1085284](https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1085284)

Programme includes Mass, talks, prayer, quiet time and
 reflection, morning tea and lunch.

MENTION MY NAME Please join us for this special
 Prayer Service to remember those who have lost their
 lives through suicide and pray for their grieving family,
 friends, caregivers and first responders.

7.30pm Tuesday

12th September 2023

All Saints Catholic Church

48 George Street, Liverpool

For further information please contact the Grief Care
 Team on

02 9646 6908 or email team@griefcare.com.au

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.

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: [safeguardingen-
 quires@sydneycatholic.org](mailto: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.

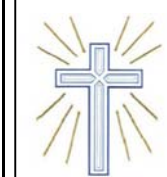
Enquiries:

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



Rest In Peace

Let us Pray For All Those Who Have Died

Trevor Newton, Claudia Tabares, Emilio Nohra, John Kolodziej, Giuseppe Versace, Tom Counihan,
 Josephine and Alojzy Pientka, Jamilie Zaouk, Eddie Counihan, Jean Graham, Fr. Ignatius McNamara

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