



Gospel Mt 16:21-27

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

Reflection by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel is the first of three predictions of Jesus' death and resurrection in Matthew's gospel (see also Mark and Luke). Despite Peter's confession of faith that immediately precedes this passage (see last week's gospel), the disciples still do not have a very solid understanding of Jesus' purpose. They may regard him as the Messiah, but still do not fully understand what that means. In this passage, Jesus is beginning to prepare them for the events of the passion – his death and resurrection. He is trying to lead them to a greater understanding of his mission and message. But Peter abruptly 'rebukes' Jesus and tells him not to speak like that. One can almost hear Peter saying, 'Look, Jesus, you've got a good thing going here, don't spoil it by talking about dying!' However, Jesus responds to Peter very sharply, suggesting that his lack of understanding is inspired by evil and reflects human thought, not divine wisdom.

The passage then leads in to a description of the challenge of discipleship. To be a follower of Jesus means to 'deny' oneself, take up one's cross and follow Jesus. In the context of this passage, to 'deny' oneself means to not be concerned about 'I' but to be concerned about 'You' – to put others before self. To be a follower of Jesus means to be selfless, not self-centred. In the ultimate example of this, Jesus tells his disciples that whoever wishes to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Jesus' sake will find it. To 'save' your life is to hold back from giving yourself fully to the message of Jesus – to be 'half-hearted' in your faith. But to 'lose' yourself in the message of Jesus is to fully give yourself over to living the reign of God and through 'losing' yourself in this way, Jesus tells us, is how to truly find life.

The Living Word

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 3 September 2023

First Reading Jer 20:7-9

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock,
everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl
and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me
insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, I will not think about him,
I will not speak in his name any more.

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in
my heart,

imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me,
I could not bear it.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 62:2-6. 8-9. R. v.2

*(R.) My soul is thirsting for you,
O Lord my God.*

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. (R.)
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. (R.)

3. So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. (R.)

4. For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 12:1-2

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

Gospel Acclamation See Eph 1:17-18

Alleluia, alleluia!

*May the Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ*

*enlighten the eyes of our heart,
that we might see how great
is the hope*

to which we are called.

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](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 Denning,
 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 Denning, Eileen
 Stevenson

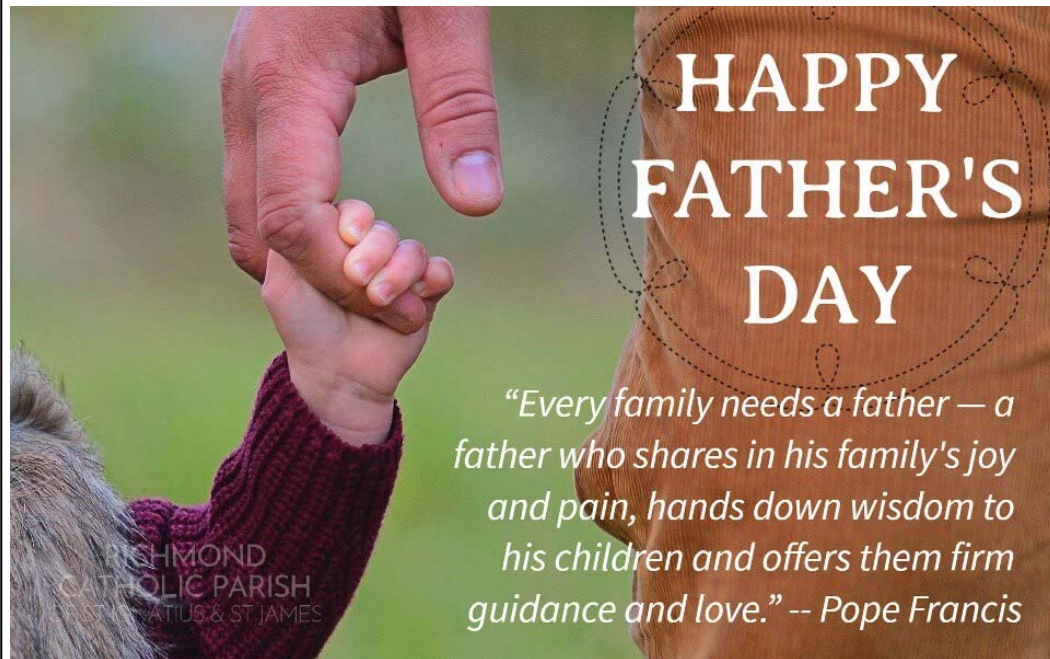
Golden oldies:
 Lorraine Impala

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.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! Children don't forget to collect a little gift for your dad at the end of the Mass.

GOLDEN OLDIES BUS TRIP
 our next bus trip will be held on Wednesday 20 September. We will leave from the church at 8.30am, enjoy a scenic drive, coffee stop, lunch at Camden Valley Inn. To secure your seat on the bus place \$20 in envelope and place in collection box near sacristy. Coffee and lunch extra. 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>

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.

CHILDREN'S MUSIC MINISTRY Our parish church is calling for children of all school ages K-12 who wish to be part of our parish music ministry and join our parish church choir. We encourage everyone who loves to sing, can read music and can play an instrument to join. This act of service is a wonderful opportunity to get involved in our mass and beautiful community. If you are interested and would like further information please message Jess on 0414 187 081 and Natalie on 0431 102 408 by Friday the 8th September.

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

FRIENDSHIP TUESDAY - The friendship group will be meeting in the Emmaus Room this Tuesday 5 September from 10am to 2pm. Entry via school office. Come along, we play games, cards, do a craft or simply sit and chat. All are welcome. Just bring a cup and your own lunch. Enquiries Pauline 0406 085 050

PARISH EMAILS - a recent upgrade to our parish webmail has resulted in our email distribution lists not carrying across correctly. If you want to receive email notifications from the parish re the bulletin and other matters please email parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com and request to be added to the distribution list. Apologies for any inconvenience.

BEWARE OF SCAMS One of our parishioners has received a scam email soliciting money in the name of Fr. Peter. Please note Fr. Peter will never ask you for money. If in doubt always check with Fr. Peter personally. Simply ignore any such requests without responding to them.

PARISH CENTRE Last week a survey of the construction site was undertaken by LTS Lockley. Survey data should be available within 10 days. The next step will be production of a spatial design by our architect in cooperation with the landscape designer.

MINISTRIES ROSTER is now also printed in the bulletin for the current and the following weekend. We can have up to 4 Altar Servers for each Mass. To get on the roster children need to have received their 1st Holy Communion and undertaken initial training. Please see Fr. Peter or Bernie Freeburn to organise a training.

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

| Date/Mass | Greeters | Commentator | Proclaimers | Extraordinary Ministers | Acolytes | Altar Servers | Altar Servers |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| September 2/3 5.00 pm Sat | Lorraine Impala | Brian Kurrle | 22nd Sunday A Irene Zenere | Barbara Kains Annette Simpson | Laurie Simpson | Gabriel Azar Anthony Torbay | |
| 8.00 am Sun | | Danuta Maka | Carmen Heredia | Nat Goetz Ted Goetz | Mike Anderson | Lucas Ross Joseph Ross | Nicholas Coorey |
| 10.00 am Sun | | Maurice Gili | Rosemary Lim | Gill Cramp Maurice Gili | | | |
| September 9/10 5.00 pm Sat | Chris Lockart | Zenna Azar | 23rd Sunday A Brian Kurrle | Pauline Tonkli Barbara Kains | Chaben Azar | Gabriel Azar Anthony Torbay | |
| 8.00 am Sun | | Carmen Heredia | Coorey Family | Jenny Freeburn Veronica Denning | Bernie Freeburn | Lucas Ross Joseph Ross | Nicholas Coorey |
| 10.00 am Sun | | Cramp Family | Alex Driessen | Maurice Gili Gill Cramp | Andrew Driessen | | |



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

Eugene Bugden, Marian Pientka, Trevor Newton, Claudia Tabares, Emilio Nohra, John Kolodziej, Giuseppe Versace, Tom Counihan, Josephine and Alojzy Pientka, Jamilie Zaouk, Eddie Counihan

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