



Gospel Mt 22:34-40

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

Reflection by Greg Sunter

Like last week's gospel, we again have an example of the Pharisees seeking to 'catch Jesus out' in his interpretation of scripture. The Pharisees were regarded as the great interpreters of the Torah – the Law. To them, ALL the commandments were vitally important, not just the Ten Commandments given to Moses with which we are perhaps most familiar, but the 613 *mitzvot* (commandments) contained within the Torah – the first five books of the Bible. These 613 *mitzvot* governed all aspects of Jewish life. For the Pharisees to ask Jesus about the 'greatest' commandment was a blatant challenge to him. Perhaps they expected Jesus to name one commandment and then they could challenge him with a whole series of 'What about ...?' questions.

Jesus' answer to the Pharisees highlights their preoccupation with the particulars of the Law contained within scripture. In their over-emphasis on the details of religious observance, they have forgotten about the most basic element of faith: to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind. Jesus reminds them that being faithful to God isn't about following precise rules but rather it is simply about loving God. With this one sentence, Jesus undermines the power position of the Pharisees. If the Law is as simple as 'Love God', what need is there of Pharisees to interpret the details of the Law? Having pulled the rug out from under them, Jesus follows up with his reminder that the second most important commandment is to love your neighbour as yourself. This is a call to compassion and justice that Jesus practised freely but was sadly lacking in the religious authorities of his time.

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The Living Word

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

29 October 2023

First Reading Ex 22:20-26

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R. v.2

(R.) I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my
stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. *(R.)*

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. *(R.)*

Second Reading 1 Thes 1:5-10

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

**All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we
will come to them.**

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
Website: <http://www.smgh.org.au>
Facebook: [fb.me/smgh2](https://www.facebook.com/smgh2)
Telephone: 9727 3759
Email: parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com
Streaming: <https://cutt.ly/StMarys>

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Georges Hall

God and us Together

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

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.

OCTOBER - MONTH OF MARY
During October a decade of the Rosary will be recited before every Mass and one Hail Mary after the Mass.

2023 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated at 11.30am on Sunday 5th and 12th November. Please keep the candidates and their families in you prayers.

NEW GUIDELINES for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMOHC) published by Sydney Archdiocese are available from the Sacristy. Could all the Ministers of Holy Communion (helping at Mass or taking to the sick and elderly) collect a copy and refresh your knowledge. Please note that EMOHC should approach the altar only after the Communion of the celebrant and should not take/place anything from/on the altar. Wait for the assistance from the celebrant or the acolyte. Thank you.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN NUMBER (WWCN) At recent safeguarding seminar it was clarified that it is compulsory for any person involved in any visible ministry in the church to have an active WWCN, as such people could be perceived by children as trustworthy people. Heavy penalties (\$5000 to individuals and \$11000 to parish) were already given in some parishes in our Archdiocese if people involved in visible ministries did not have a current WWCN. This includes also money collectors and money handlers (in the church). We appeal to any persons involved in a visible ministry and not possessing current WWCN to refrain from such ministry until they obtain WWCN, which is a simple and free process. Please contact the parish office if you need assistance. Thank you.

ALTAR LINEN AND CLEANING CHURCH ROSTERS Both of these

rosters run out at the end of November. If you can assist on either roster please provide your details on the sheets at the back of the church or email parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com

CHRISTMAS OLDIES LUNCH Our next bus outing will be held on Thursday 7 December - a leisurely drive down the south coast and lunch at the Illawarra Yacht Club. More details next week. Enquiries: Lorraine 9724 9519

MILK FOR MATES For the next 4 weeks, we are asking parishioners to help out the House of Welcome Food Bank by donating 1 litre long life milks. These will be shared amongst the many needy refugee families that visit the H.O.W. Please place your milk in the crates at the back of the church near the side door. Thank you for your kind donations.

BIBLE STUDY All young adults are invited to join us in the Church for Bible study! Next session on Thursday 9th November at 6:30pm. If you have any questions or for more information, please contact Grace at gracemokdassi@gmail.com

PARISH CENTRE Our Architect produced version 2 spatial design with our proposed changes. The Building Committee will meet on Monday to evaluate the amended design.

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS Wednesday 1st November. Mass at 9am and 6pm.

COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (All Souls' Day) Thursday 2nd November. Mass at 9am and 6pm. Parishioners are invited to bring photos of departed family members and place at the altar prior to Mass.

VISITING A CHURCH ON ALL SOULS DAY A plenary indulgence which is applicable only to the souls in purgatory is granted the Christian faithful who devoutly visit a church or an oratory on All Souls Day.

VISITING A CEMETERY An indulgence is granted to the Christian

faithful who devoutly visit a cemetery and pray, if only mentally, for the dead. This indulgence is applicable only to the souls in purgatory. This indulgence is a plenary one from November 1 through November 8 and can be gained on each one of these days. On the other days of the year this indulgence is a partial one.

WHAT IS AN INDULGENCE "An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints." "An indulgence is partial or plenary according as it removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin." The faithful can gain indulgences for themselves or apply them to the dead.

NOVEMBER – MONTH OF PRAYER FOR THE DEAD
The Holy Mother Church, like a good mother, consecrates the whole month of November to the memory of the dead. This pious practice of praying through an entire month for the dead takes rise from the earliest ages of the Church and was preached with zeal by all the great Church Fathers and Doctors. Praying for the dead is clearly shown in Scripture. The custom of mourning thirty days existed among the Jews. People mourned for Moses for thirty days. Pope St. Gregory the Great established the practice of saying thirty Masses on thirty consecutive days, and they are called Gregorian Masses.

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS Try to pray for the holy souls often. Perhaps include the prayer for the holy souls in your daily prayers: Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.
• Remember deceased family members on their anniversary by requesting a Mass to be said for them.
• Include all your deceased friends and relatives in the altar list of the dead in your parish church during November.

- Make little sacrifices for the holy souls during the month of November. Perhaps encourage your children to eat a meal or food they do not particularly like without complaining.
- If it is possible, visit the grave of a friend or relative on their anniversary or during the month of November. If not, perhaps light a candle or say a decade of the Rosary for them.
- If you hear of a tragic accident, pray for the souls of those who have died.
- Pray often to go straight to heaven when you die.

NOVEMBER BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE - will be located at the back of the church. Please write the names of your deceased loved ones in this book. In each Mass during the month of November we will pray in the Prayers of the Faithful for all those listed in this book.

NOVEMBER MASS ENVELOPES If you'd like to have a Mass offered for the deceased members of your family, please fill in the November Mass Offering envelope located either in the pews or at the back of the church. It is sufficient to write "Deceased members of Smith's family" instead of listing names of individuals. The Masses will be offered on first come first serve basis. You can request a Mass by placing Mass offering envelope on any of the collection plates. Once recorded in the parish bulletin, the envelopes will be placed on the altar during the month of November.

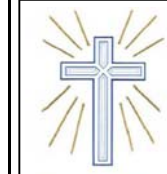
SAFEGUARDING OUR PARISH - Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding Office at 02 9390 5810 or Email: safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. 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
October 28/29 - 30th Sunday A							
5.00 pm Sat	Lorraine Impala	Elaine Nehme	Yvette Nehme	Barbara Kains Zenna Azar	Chaben Azar	Gabriel Azar Charlie Delfino	Anthony Torbay
8.00 am Sun		Goetz Family	Jenny Freeburn	Veronica Dening Carmen Heredia	Bernie Freeburn	Lucas Ross Harry Ross	Nicholas Coorey
10.00 am Sun		Rosemary Lim	Maurice Gili	Gill Cramp Alex Driessen	Andrew Driessen	James Ghanem	
November 4/5 - 31st Sunday A							
5.00 pm Sat	Chris Lockart	Pauline Tonkli	Tony Re	Annette Simpson Zenna Azar	Laurie Simpson	Gabriel Azar Charlie Delfino	Anthony Torbay
8.00 am Sun		Jenny Freeburn	Danuta Maka	Ted Goetz Natalie Goetz	Bernie Freeburn	Lucas Ross Harry Ross	Nicholas Coorey
10.00 am Sun		Cramp Family	Ghanem Family	Alex Driessen Maurice Gili	Andrew Driessen	James Ghanem	



Please Remember In Your Prayers Our Sick

Lucia Zenere, Joseph Akkary, 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

Mousa Jubrail Haddad, Claudia Tabares, Concetta Denaro, Heather Dening, Joanna Sestito, Ivy Christina Hurworth, Peter Hurworth, Trevor Newton, George Smith, Eddie Counihan, Nina Gattoni, Mary Chapman

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