



### Gospel Acclamation Ps 84:8

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.*

*Alleluia!*

### Gospel Mk 13:33-37

*Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

### Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today's readings contain several images: the faithfulness of those who suffer, even as they lament their predicament; the admonition to watch and wait; the expectation of the coming of the Day of the Lord. As trustees of the one who is coming, we live in the 'in between' time of ambiguity and hope. The placement of these readings at the beginning of Advent shapes the context for understanding the entire season. They fix our gaze on the world of human pain and then moves beyond it to the hope of a brighter future. Lamentation and expectation find fulfilment in the Day of the Lord.

Waiting is a prominent image this Sunday. Some people wait to be released from suffering, others await the second coming of Christ. Waiting saps our energies and stifles our enthusiasm. Yet wait we must, and as we wait, we wonder: 'What should I be doing?' The readings suggest that we should wait with patient expectation for the day of reconciliation and peace; we should wait in joyful hope that what is to come will come soon. While we wait, we should faithfully fulfil our responsibilities. We believe that we have a future worth waiting for, that there are promises that God will keep. And so we look expectantly to the Day of the Lord, that future day of ultimate fulfilment.

# The Living Word

**First Sunday of Advent, Year B**

**3 December 2023**

### First Reading Is 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8

*Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.*

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,  
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.  
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways  
and harden our hearts against fearing  
you?

Return, for the sake of your servants,  
the tribes of your inheritance.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens open  
and come down  
– at your Presence the mountains would  
melt.

No ear has heard,  
no eye has seen

any god but you act like this  
for those who trust him.

You guide those who act with integrity  
and keep your ways in mind.

You were angry when we were sinners;  
we had long been rebels against you.

We were all like men unclean,  
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.

We have all withered like leaves  
and our sins blew us away like the wind.

No one invoked your name  
or roused himself to catch hold of you.

For you hid your face from us  
and gave us up to the power of our sins.

And yet, Lord, you are our Father;  
we the clay, you the potter,

we are all the work of your hand.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4**

**R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see  
your face and we shall be saved.**

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted.  
(R.)

3. May your hand be on the man you have  
chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your  
name. (R.)

### Second Reading 1 Cor 1:3-9

*The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.*

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass ©1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc.(ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from *The Psalms, A New Translation*, ©1963 by The Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the *Jerusalem Bible*, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.

© 2017 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd  
All use must be in accordance with your user licensing agreement.





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

**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:  
 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

**Special Religious Education:**  
 Lorraine Corkeron

**Music Ministry:** Vivienne Mosely

**Youth Ministry:** Grace Mokdassi

**Children's Liturgy:** Nancy Khalil

# Catholic Parish of St Mary Queen of Heaven Georges Hall

**Parish Priest:** Rev. Peter Krigovsky  
**Secretary:** Mrs. Zenna Azar (Tues 9.30am—5.30pm)  
**Address:** 15 Georges Cres, Georges Hall NSW 2198  
**Website:** <http://www.smgh.org.au>  
**Facebook:** [fb.me/smgh2](https://fb.me/smgh2)  
**Telephone:** 9727 3759  
**Email:** [parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com](mailto: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:** 02 9727 0000  
**Website:** [www.stmgeorgheshall.syd.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmgeorgheshall.syd.catholic.edu.au)  
**School email:** [info@stmgeorgheshall.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stmgeorgheshall.catholic.edu.au)

**"And what I say  
 to you I say to all:  
 Stay awake!"**

Mark 13:37



**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 the additional bulletin at the back of the church.

**CHRISTMAS OLDIES LUNCH** Our next bus outing will be held this coming Thursday 7 December - a leisurely drive down the south coast. We'll stop for morning tea and then go on to enjoy lunch at the Illawarra Yacht Club - both at your own expense. Cost \$25 to cover the bus. Please collect an envelope from near the sacristy, complete your details and enclose money to secure your seat, put the envelope in the collection box near the sacristy. Enquiries: Lorraine 9724 9519

**CHOIR PRACTICE** There will be choir practice on Thursday 7 December at 7.15pm in preparation for the 10.00am Mass on Sunday 10 December. Practice for Christmas night Mass will be on Thursday 21 December at 7pm. New members are always welcome. Please ring Pat Falvy on 0425 219 660.

**FRIENDSHIP GROUP** Our final Friendship group gathering for the year will be next Tuesday 5th December in the Emmaus room. Come and join us for a chat, a game of cards, some fun and laughter. Join us between ten and one. Morning tea provided. For more information ring Pauline 97910098

**BIBLE STUDY** All young adults are invited to join us in the Church for Bible study! Our last session for 2023 will be on Thursday 7th December at 6:30pm. If you have any questions or for more information, please contact Grace on 0450 757 377.

**VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL** - St Vincent de Paul Society run the appeal from 25 Nov to 7 Dec. For more information, please take a flyer from the back of the church.

**ALTAR LINEN AND CLEANING CHURCH ROSTERS** - Thank you to those who have volunteered to serve on the Altar Linen and Church Cleaning Rosters. Printed copies are available at the back of the church. Please remember, if you cannot serve on a date you are rostered, please contact someone else on the roster and arrange to swap.

**PARISH CENTRE** A meeting with our architect and members of our Building Committee took place on Monday. External side views were presented and additional changes were suggested. It is estimated that all the changes should be implemented in two weeks.

**LISTEN TO THE WORD: Prepare for His Birth** - The 2023 Advent Companion is designed to support parishes and individuals in fostering conversion and renewal in preparation for the Birth of Christ. Please take a copy from the back of the church.

**THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE** - The First Advent Candle is the candle of Hope. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah. We can hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**  
 Sunday 24 December - 5.00pm Children's Mass and 8.00pm Vigil Mass  
 Monday 25 December - 8.00am and 10.00am

**CHILDREN'S NATIVITY PLAY** - The Children's Liturgy team are looking for more children to join the Nativity play which will be performed on Christmas Eve during the 5:00pm Children's mass. If your child would like to join, please contact [nancy.gnk@protonmail.com](mailto:nancy.gnk@protonmail.com). Rehearsals occur each Friday afternoon at 3:30pm - 4:30pm in the school hall.

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR** The Children's Choir will be leading the hymns at the Christmas Eve Children's Mass at 5pm. We invite all parishioners to attend. If your child is interested in joining and would like further information please message Jess on 0414 187 081 or Natalie on 0431 102 408. Rehearsals occur every Saturday in the church at 11am.

**CHRISTMAS ROSTERS** - Greeters, Commentators, Proclaimers, Acolytes, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Altar Servers wanting to serve at Christmas Masses are invited to provide their details on the sheets at the back of the church.

**SETTING UP NATIVITY AND CHRISTMAS TREES** - Parishioners are invited to assist in setting up the Nativity and Christmas trees on Friday 15 December at 6pm. All volunteers welcome.

**DAILY MASS BOOK 2024** - Copies of the Daily Mass books are at the back of the church. Please return them at the end of mass.

**BREAK OPEN THE WORD** - This beautiful resource is available to assist Proclaimers prepare for Sunday liturgy. Proclaimers are all invited to collect a copy of the 2024 Break Open the Word book from the sacristy - one copy per family.

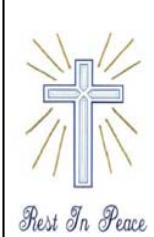
**ALTAR SERVER ROSTER** Our altar servers are growing in number and a roster will be created for those who wish to serve at weekend masses. Altar servers can begin once they have had their First Holy Communion and attended training with Bernie Freeburn. Please contact the parish office if your child would like to join the roster. Training will be provided.

**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](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](mailto:parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com)  
**Check out the latest Safeguarding newsletter-in the folder**

Date/Mass	Greeters	Commentator	Proclaimers	Extraordinary Ministers	Acolytes	Altar Servers	Altar Servers
<b>December 2/3 - 1st Sunday of Advent, Year B</b>							
5.00 pm Sat	Chris Lockart	Zenna Azar	Brian Kurrle	Eileen Stevenson Pauline Tonkli	Chaben Azar	Gabriel Azar Charlie Delfino	Anthony Torbay
8.00 am Sun		Carmen Heredia	Coorey Family	Jenny Freeburn Karen Worley	Bernie Freeburn	Lucas Ross Harry Ross	Nicholas Coorey Gabriel Serratore
10.00 am Sun		Rosemary Lim	Maurice Gili	Gill Cramp Alex Driessen	Andrew Driessen	James Ghanem	
<b>December 9/10 - 2nd Sunday of Advent, Year B</b>							
5.00 pm Sat	Lorraine Impala	Elaine Nehme	Gina Wheeler	Pauline Tonkli Zenna Azar	Laurie Simpson	Gabriel Azar Charlie Delfino	Anthony Torbay
8.00 am Sun		Danuta Maka	Carmen Heredia	Veronica Dening Jenny Freeburn	Mike Anderson	Lucas Ross Harry Ross	Nicholas Coorey Gabriel Serratore
10.00 am Sun		Ghanem Family	Cramp Family	Maurice Gili Gill Cramp	Chaben Azar	James Ghanem	



*Please Remember In Your Prayers Our Sick*  
 Jayden Turk, 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, Tony Strambio, Cornelius Van Baardwyk



*Let us Pray For All Those Who Have Died*  
 Louis & Mary Grech, Wood Fml, Janet & John & Debbie Wood, Mary Strambio, John & David Huskinson, Jan & Jozefa & Bernard & John, John & Joe & Bruno Lozinski, Jaduiga & Maria Kazob, Hayat Busuleiman, Pientka fml, Dening & Sanders fmls, Norma Younane, Elias & Elie & Bahia & Nabih Maroun, Wadia & Roumanos Nehme, Martha & Youseph & Chalita & Msseehiye Tannous, Marina Nassar, Newton fml, Ernie & Mavis Primmer, Karen Isreal  
*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
 May they rest in peace. Amen.*