



Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 1:1-8

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;

he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

John immersed, baptised, his followers in water, symbolising the washing away of the sins of the past. But he could not empower people by drenching them in the dynamic life of God. John anticipates 'Someone' (not named!) who *does* have the power to inundate, baptise, people with the Holy Spirit.

From the heading of St Mark's Gospel, we know that that 'Someone' is 'Jesus Christ, Son of God' who came to flood our lives with that Divine Power which can effect a completely new *future* for humanity.

That is why St Mark took the term 'gospel' (good news) which was used on inscriptions announcing an Emperor's birth or victory, and used it to describe his inspired rendering of the mission of Jesus Christ, which was to inaugurate the 'Kingdom of God', overcoming the pretensions of all Emperors of any kind throughout history.

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the Good News of our being baptised with *water* in the 'Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'

mtate@bigpond.com

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The Living Word

Second Sunday of Advent, Year B

10 December 2023

First Reading Is 40:1-5. 9-11

Prepare the way for the Lord.

'Console my people, console them' says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her

that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,

that she has received from the hand of the Lord

double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,

let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;

then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain,

joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice,

joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear,

say to the towns of Judah,

'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power,

his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him,

his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,

gathering lambs in his arms,

holding them against his breast

and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm

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

*(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness,
and grant us your salvation.*

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
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 2 Pt 3:8-14

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.



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 **Telephone:** 9727 3759
Website: <http://www.smgh.org.au> **Email:** parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com
Facebook: [fb.me/smg2](https://www.facebook.com/smg2) **Streaming:** <https://cutt.ly/StMarys>

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Georges Hall
God and Us Together

Principal: Mrs Monica Palmer **Website:** www.stmgeorgheshall.syd.catholic.edu.au
School Tel: 02 9727 0000 **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. 9.00am

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

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 RECONCILIATION this
 year we will join the Vietnamese
 community on Wednesday 13th December
 at 7pm. There will be a number of visiting
 priests and the reconciliation should take
 not more than half an hour.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES
 This year the Christmas falls on Monday
 25th December, which means that the
 Christmas Vigil and the Christmas Mass of
 the Night will take place on Sunday 24th
 December. Please note that to fulfill the
 Sunday Mass Obligation and the Holy Day
 of Obligation (Christmas) one needs to
 attend the proper 4th Sunday of Advent
 Mass and the proper Christmas Mass. The
 4th Sunday of Advent Mass times will be
 as usual: the Saturday Vigil at 5pm and
 Sunday morning at 8.00am and 10.00am.
 The Christmas Mass times will be as
 follows. Christmas Vigil Sunday 24
 December at 5.00pm, this will be
 Children's Mass. The Christmas Mass of
 the Night (also colloquially known as the
 Midnight Mass) will take place at 8.00pm.
 The Christmas Dawn and Christmas Day
 Mass will take place on Monday 25
 December at 8.00am and 10.00am
 respectively. One fulfills the Christmas
 Holy Day of Obligation by attending any
 one of the four Christmas Masses. Of
 course if you attend 2 Masses on one day,
 you can receive Holy Communion at both
 Masses.

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.

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. The next rehearsal will be after
 mass this Saturday 9 December at 9:30am.

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.
 Rehearsals occur each Friday afternoon at
 3:30pm - 4:30pm in the school hall.

CHRISTMAS OLDIES LUNCH at
 Illawarra Yacht Club took place on
 Thursday 7 December. The participants
 (pictured on the top right) enjoyed - a
 beautiful weather, a leisurely drive down
 the south coast, a morning tea at
 McDonalds and plenty of opportunities to
 catch up with one another. A huge thank
 you to Lorraine Impala and all the helpers
 and especially to Frank Abel for safe
 driving. See you at the next Parish Bus
 Trip!!

PARISH AUDIT for 2023 financial year
 took place last week, making sure that all
 income and expenditure is properly
 recorded and accounted for. We have
 balanced with flying colours. The Parish
 Finance Committee will produce a
 Financial Report in near future.

**LATEST UPDATE ON PARISH
 ROLES THAT DO NOT REQUIRE
 WWCN (Working with children
 number)**

• Cleaners, Gardener, Choir members,
 Musicians, Finance Committee1, Parish
 Pastoral Council1, Counters, Audio Visual
 Coordinators, Piety Stall, Flower Arranger,
 Offertory, Hospitality Workers, Ministers
 of the Homebound, Welcoming/greeting
 Ministry, Ministers of the Word/Readers/
 Lectors, Parish Collectors (AKA Wardens)



CHOIR 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.

PARISH CENTRE A meeting with our architect and
 members of our Building Committee took place last week.
 External side views were presented and additional changes
 were suggested. It is estimated that all the changes should be
 implemented within 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.

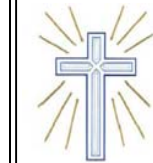
SAFEGUARDING OUR PARISH - Child sexual abuse is a
 crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the
 police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please
 contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the
 Safeguarding Office at 02 9390 5810 or Email:
safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. 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 safe-
 guarding newsletter. A link to the Archdiocese's Child Safe-
 guarding Policy is available from the homepage of our parish
 website and on display in the folder. Enquiries: Veronica via
 email: 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
December 9/10 - 2nd Sunday of Advent, Year 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		Lucas Ross Harry Ross	Nicholas Coorey Gabriel Serratore
10.00 am Sun		Ghanem Family	Cramp Family	Maurice Gili Gill Cramp	Chaben Azar	James Ghanem	
December 16/17 - 3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B							
5.00 pm Sat	Chris Lockart	Pauline Tonkli	Mary Gibbons	Annette Simpson Eileen Stevenson	Laurie Simpson	Gabriel Azar Charlie Delfino	Anthony Torbay
8.00 am Sun		Jenny Freeburn	Danuta Maka	Goetz Family	Bernie Freeburn	Lucas Ross Harry Ross	Nicholas Coorey Gabriel Serratore
10.00 am Sun		Maurice Gili	Rosemary Lim	Gill Cramp Maurice Gili	Andrew Driessen	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



Rest In Peace

Let us Pray For All Those Who Have Died

Ian Urquhart, 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

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