



## Gospel Lk 1:26-38

*You will conceive and bear a son.*

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

## Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

St Luke's account of the Annunciation draws on the Jewish tradition describing creation: 'There was darkness over the deep and God's Spirit hovered over the water. God said: "Let there be light", and there was light.' (Genesis 1:2-3) St Luke depicts Mary hearing in the depths of her soul: 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow.'

The Holy Spirit hovers over this young Jewish woman so that the most stupendously creative act in human history can take place. With her consent, God assumes human nature to be gradually enfleshed, embodied, in Mary's womb.

A naturally bewildered young woman was able to respond to God's will because she understood the imagery and the symbolism of the Genesis Story. We, in turn, need to read the Gospels in all their Jewishness so that we can understand when God's Holy Spirit hovers over our lives, asking us to fulfil some particular role in the Divine Plan.

We could pause for a moment to ask whether *now* is the time for a Marian response: 'Be it done unto me according to your word.'

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# The Living Word

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B

24 December 2023

## First Reading 2 Sm 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

*The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.*

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2

(R.) *For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.*

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.  
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,  
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)
2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
I will establish your dynasty for ever  
and set up your throne through all ages.' (R.)
3. He will say to me: 'You are my father,  
my God, the rock who saves me.'  
I will keep my love for him always;  
or him my covenant shall endure. (R.)

## Second Reading Rom 16:25-27

*The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.*

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

## Gospel Acclamation Lk 1:38

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.*

*Alleluia!*



# 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](mailto:parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com)  
**Facebook:** [fb.me/smgh2](https://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](http://www.stmgeorghall.syd.catholic.edu.au)  
**School Tel:** 02 9727 0000 **School email:** [info@stmgeorghall.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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. 9.00am

**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](mailto: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

**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.

**THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE** - The fourth candle of Advent is called the "Angel Candle" and symbolizes peace. This name comes from the fact that the angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace (Luke 2:14). This week we are reminded that Jesus came to bring peace to our hearts and to our world!

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**  
 This year 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 CAROLS** will be sung from 7.30pm on Christmas Eve.

**CHRISTMAS ROSTERS** - Thank you to those parishioners who have graciously added their names to the rosters for the Christmas Mass celebrations. The roster is up on the church doors.

**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.

**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.

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

• Cleaners, Gardener, Choir members, Musicians, Finance Committee, Parish Pastoral Council, 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)

**PARISH CENTRE** A second round of feedback with our Architect was completed and drawings submitted. Our Building Committee is expected to meet after Christmas break to decide on further action.

**PARISH WEBSITE** - is updated on a weekly basis, if you have any feedback on content please email: [gracemokdassi@gmail.com](mailto:gracemokdassi@gmail.com)

**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.

**BIBLE STUDY** will resume Wednesday 10 January 2024. If you have any questions or for more information, please contact Grace on 0450 757 377.

**BEWARE OF SCAMS** Number of our parishioners have received a scam email or SMS soliciting money/gift cards 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 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](mailto:parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com) and request to be added to the distribution list.

**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.

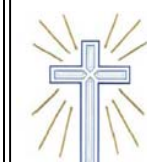
**SAFEGUARDING OUR PARISH** - Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding Office at 02 9390 5810 or Email: [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org). 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 23/24 - 4th Sunday of Advent, Year B</b>							
5.00 pm Sat	Lorraine Impala	Abraham Family	Pauline Tonkli	Eileen Stevenson Barbara Kains	Laurie Simpson	Charlie Delfino	Anthony Torbay
8.00 am Sun		Coorey Family	Goetz Family	Carmen Heredia Karen Worley	Mike Anderson	Lucas Ross Harry Ross	Nicholas Coorey Gabriel Serratore
10.00 am Sun		Cramp Family	Alex Driessen	Maurice Gili Gill Cramp	Chaben Azar	James Ghanem Gabriel Azar	William Amicucci
<b>December 30/31 - The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Year B</b>							
5.00 pm Sat	Chris Lockart	Yvette Nehme	Elaine Nehme	Zenna Azar Pauline Tonkli	Chaben Azar	Gabriel Azar	Anthony Torbay
8.00 am Sun		Goetz Family	Jenny Freeburn	Veronica Denning Carmen Heredia	Bernie Freeburn	Lucas Ross Harry Ross	Nicholas Coorey Gabriel Serratore
10.00 am Sun		Alex Driessen	Cramp Family	Alex Driessen	Andrew Driessen	James Ghanem	William Amicucci



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, John Smallwood, Tony Strambio, Cornelius Van Baardwyk



Rest In Peace

Let us Pray For All Those Who Have Died

Bernard Hurworth, Attilio Colussi, Eddy & Tom Counihan, Sr. Rita Yammine, Barry Sligar, Carmelina Calcagni, Trevor + Colin + Eileen Newton, James Barrett, Wilson + Ursula Barrett, Sara + Michael Dolahenty, Elizabeth + Philomena Dolahenty, George + Jenny + Mary Goure, Ian Urquhart, Louis & Mary Grech, Wood Fml, Janet & John & Debbie Wood, Mary Strambio, John & David Huskinson, Jan & Jozefa & Bernard & John, John Lozinski

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