



Gospel Mk 1:14-20

Repent, and believe the Good News.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake - for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today we reflect on the first and most important responsibility of discipleship, namely, evangelisation, the goal of which is the proclamation of the reign of God. God seems to choose the most unlikely people to preach to others. It does not matter who *brings* the good news, but who *receives* it. Jonah the prophet was sent to outsiders, even enemies. The disciples were fishermen who spoke to the people of their own country. God's salvation is intended for all, and it seems to make little difference who brings this good news.

Today's readings call for repentance. The grace of God requires a new way of living, a life of faith and commitment. The gospel invites us into the age of fulfilment, a salvific reign of truth, compassion and kindness. It is a way of life that leads to justice.

There is an urgency in these readings. This world in its present form is passing away, and God's call demands a total response. Like the disciples, we must leave the familiarity of our former ways and follow the call that we have heard in the depths of our hearts. We are called first to enter the reign of God and then to spread it. As ambassadors of God, we bring the good news of salvation wherever we are and in whatever we do. Called by God, we now begin to live in a totally different way, guided by the values of the reign of God rather than those of the world that is passing away.

The Living Word

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

21 January 2024

First Reading Jon 3:1-5. 10

The Ninevites renounced their evil ways.

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4-9. R. v.4

(R.) Teach me your ways, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and
teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R.)

2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from
of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)
3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 7:29-31

The world as we know it is passing away.

Brothers, our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

Gospel Acclamation Mk 1:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

*The kingdom of God is near:
believe the Good News!*

Alleluia!

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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
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: 02 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. 9.00am

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 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

FOLLOW ME AND I WILL MAKE YOU INTO



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.

AUSTRALIA DAY Friday 26th January. Usual Friday Adoration after the Mass will take place before the Mass beginning at 8am. Let us give thanks for all the blessings we receive living in this wonderful country. Following Mass, everyone is welcome to stay for a cuppa & bite to eat. Please bring a plate of your favourite food to share. Thank you.

AUSTRALIA DAY PRAYER We pray for our country, that God continue to bless and guide us all so that we will always be united in love, friendship and respect for each other and gratitude for the blessings received living in this Great Southern Land. Amen

OUR LADY OF GRACE HOME VISITS The parish has purchased a new statue of Our Lady of Grace that will be available for weekly home visits beginning in February 2024. If you are interested in hosting the statue in your home for Rosary and prayer nights for one week, please contact the parish office by email: parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com

SRE CATECHISTS NEEDED We are blessed to have dedicated volunteers who share their faith with children in our local public primary school. Many of these volunteers are

getting on in years - we need more volunteers to step up. Can you assist? Training will be provided. Initially one can start as an assistant to an experienced catechist, once the course is completed, prior to becoming an independent catechist. If interested please talk to Fr Peter or Zenna Azar on 04221 45678.

BIBLE STUDY The next session will be Wednesday 24 January 2024. If you have any questions or for more information, please contact Grace on 0450 757 377.

PARISH CENTRE A second round of feedback with our Architect was completed and drawings submitted. Our Building Committee will meet on Tuesday to decide on further action.

FIRST RECONCILIATION The sacramental journey to prepare children in year 3 & above to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation will commence with an information evening for parents/guardians on Thursday, 15th February in the school hall at 6.30pm. For any enquiries: nehme.elaine@yahoo.com.au

HOW ARE YOUR DONATIONS USED? There are two collections every week. 1st collection goes towards utilities of the parish house (gas, water, electricity), housekeeping, priest's food and stipend (approx. \$18,000 pa), superannuation and stipends for supplying priests. There is no tax deduction on the 1st collection. Donations towards the expenses covered by the 1st collection are normally done by

cash on a weekly basis. 2nd collection goes towards the insurance, maintenance, utilities of the church, church supplies, secretary's and other parish staffs' wages, catechetical expenses, and any other general expenses with running a parish. This year we can claim 30% tax deduction on our 2nd collection (30% goes to Charitable Works Fund Trust [CWFT] which is Deductible Gift Recipient [DGR] entity; the Diocese then donates to the parish the same amount every 3 months) A Tax Receipt that enables you to claim 30% tax deduction is issued at the end of the financial year.

DIFFERENT WAYS OF MAKING A DONATION
CASH—simply place on the collection plate. First plate goes towards the 1st collection expenses and 2nd plate towards the second collection expenses. Disadvantage of this way of making a donation is that the parish doesn't know who donated the money and therefore cannot offer a Tax Donation Receipt.
TAP DEVICES—at the entrance of the church. Simply place your credit or debit card or any configured device with Near Field Communication (NFC) technology such as your mobile phone or your watch to the vicinity of these Tap Device (approximately 1cm) and wait for a beep and a green tick symbol. If a red X signal is displayed, the transaction was unsuccessful and you need to try again. These devices are set to \$10. If you'd like to donate more than \$10 swipe again after the first donation was acknowledged. The advantage of Tap Devices is that it offers a contactless way of making a donation with no need to handle money. The disadvantage is the same as with Cash donation, it is an anonymous donation and the Parish will not be able to issue a Tax Donation Receipt.
MONTHLY CREDIT/DEBIT CARD—once a month your donation is processed directly via your credit/debit card. Please bear in mind that this is a donation for the full month, so if your intention is to make \$10 donation each week, you

need to configure your monthly donation to 10x52/12 (\$43.33). The advantage of this form of making a donation is that once setup, you do not need to worry to bring cash or card to the church, there is no handling of money and you will be issued a Tax Donation Receipt at the end of the year. Also if you are away from the parish you still continue to support your parish. Please contact our secretary to register. **PLAN GIVING**—a set of 52 of dated envelopes is issued at the beginning of the financial year. You place your donation in cash inside the envelope and place it on the 2nd collection plate. The advantage is that you will be issued a Tax Deductible Receipt. Of course if you are away from the parish you can place multiple envelopes on the plate once you return. Please contact our secretary to register. There is no set amount for donations. Each of us contributes according to our personal financial means. A rule of thumb for those who work is one hour wage. From the counting and recording point of view the most convenient form of donation is the monthly credit/debit card donation. If you have a choice please avoid coin donations as these can add up to a considerable weight which is difficult and dangerous to handle.

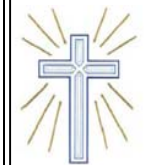
SAFEGUARDING OUR PARISH - Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding Office at 02 9390 5810 or Email: safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. 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
Check out the latest Safeguarding newsletter-in the folder

Date/Mass	Greeters	Commentator	Proclaimers	Extraordinary Ministers	Acolytes	Altar Servers	Altar Servers
January 20/21 - 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B							
5.00 pm Sat	Lorraine Impala	Elaine Nehme	Yvette Nehme	Eileen Stevenson Zenna Azar	Laurie Simpson	Gabriel Azar	Anthony Torbay
8.00 am Sun		Coorey Family	Goetz Famiy	Veronica Dening Carmen Heredia	Mike Anderson	Lucas Ross Harry Ross	Nicholas Coorey Gabriel Serratore
10.00 am Sun		Maurice Gili	Rosemary Lim	Gill Cramp Maurice Gili		James Ghanem	William Amicucci
January 27/28 - 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B							
5.00 pm Sat	Chris Lockart	Pauline Tonkli	Tony Re	Annette Simpson Barbara Kains	Chaben Azar	Gabriel Azar	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		Cramp Family	Alex Driessen	Maurice Gili 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, Christine Hughes, Sue James, Barbara Kains, Daniel Matesic, Phillip Nehme, John Smallwood, Tony Strambio, Cornelius Van Baardwyk



Let us Pray For All Those Who Have Died

The Pientka fml., Kathleen Gibson, Claudia & Nora Tabares, Giuseppina Bombara, Bernard & Ivy Hurworth, Josephine and Thomas Pientka, Jennifer Falvy, David Anthony Sanders, 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

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

Rest In Peace