



## Gospel Mk 1:21-28

*This is a new kind of teaching that speaks with authority.*

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

## Reflection by Greg Sunter

Although this week's gospel is a relatively short passage, there's a lot going on within it. Firstly, we are presented with Jesus going to the synagogue in Capernaum and teaching there. This immediately indicates that Jesus must have been quite well educated – he was obviously able to read from the Torah in Hebrew and then teach about it with an impressive level of authority. In fact at the end of the passage, the people seem more impressed with his teaching than with the act of casting out the unclean spirit! Secondly, in the interaction with the unclean spirit, it knows Jesus and identifies him as the 'Holy One of God'. Jesus sharply tells the spirit to 'Be quiet!' Jesus almost appears to want to silence the spirit before it says any more about who he really is. This is a feature of the gospel of Mark in which the identity of Jesus as the Messiah is kept under wraps but breaks out in unlikely places – known as the Messianic secret.

Whenever an exorcism miracle occurs in the gospels the emphasis is on the reaction to the miracle much more than the action itself. Here, the casting out of the unclean spirit appears to confirm for the people the authority that they sensed in the teaching of Jesus. Liberating the possessed man from the unclean spirit is an illustration of the way in which the people themselves were liberated by Jesus' teaching. It is the message, the teaching, of Jesus that frees people. It is in this way that his understanding of Messiah is revealed. Jesus wants people to come to that knowledge through understanding his message, rather than being impressed by miraculous actions.

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# The Living Word

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

28 January 2024

## First Reading Dt 18:15-20

*I will put my words into the prophet's mouth, and he will tell them all I command.*

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."'

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.9**

*(R.) If today, you hear his voice,  
harden not your hearts.*

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)
2. Come in, let us kneel and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us  
for he is our God and we  
the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)

3. O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw  
my work.' (R.)

## Second Reading 1 Cor 7:32-35

*The unmarried woman dedicates herself to the things of the Lord, that she might be holy.*

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

## Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:16

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**A people in darkness have seen a great light:**

**a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.**

**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  
**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)

**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 Pastoral Council:**  
 Michael Anderson, Veronica  
 Denning, Elaine Nehme, Zenna Azar,  
 Paul Abdul Ahad, Natalie Goetz,  
 Monica Palmer, Linh Bui, Jannette  
 Samawi, Grace Mokdassi

**Finance Committee:**  
 Michael Anderson, Ted Goetz, Ve-  
 ronica Denning, Eileen Stevenson

**Golden Oldies:**  
 Lorraine Impala

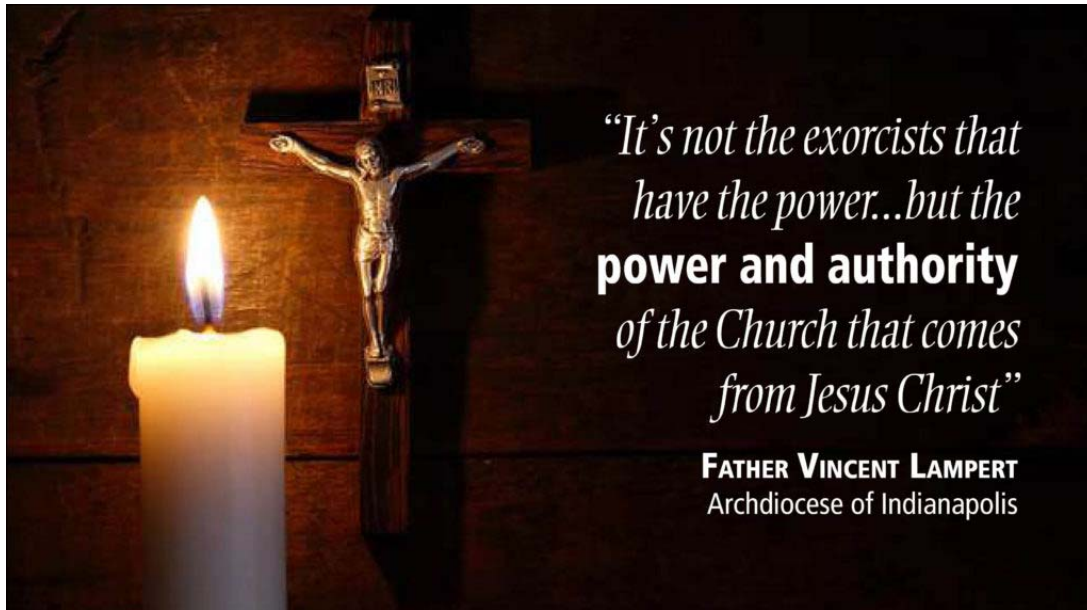
**St Vincent de Paul:** Mary Scott

**Special Religious Education  
 (SRE) Catechist Coordinator:**  
 Zenna Azar

**Music Ministry:** Vivienne Mosely

**Youth Ministry:** Grace Mokdassi

**Childrens Liturgy:** Nancy Khalil



*"It's not the exorcists that  
 have the power...but the  
 power and authority  
 of the Church that comes  
 from Jesus Christ"*

**FATHER VINCENT LAMPERT**  
 Archdiocese of Indianapolis

**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** Thank you to all  
 who helped with the celebration of the  
 Mass on Australia day, the musicians  
 and all who contributed to setting up  
 decorations and prepared morning tea.  
 We have inherited a great country and it  
 is only right and just that we  
 acknowledge all those who walked  
 before us and contributed to our  
 inheritance.

**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](mailto: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.

**HOSPITALITY NEXT WEEKEND**  
 Hospitality Sunday is a great way to  
 catch up with others - hospitality will  
 be served after 8am and 10am Masses  
 next weekend. All are invited to stay  
 after Mass for a cuppa and a bite to eat.  
 If you can bring a plate of food to share  
 it would be greatly appreciated.

**THANK YOU JOHN IMPALA**  
 John has worked as a grounds-man in  
 our parish for over 20 years - mowing  
 the grass, pruning trees and bushes,  
 clearing drains, and many other duties

that perhaps have gone unnoticed. John has retired and  
 finished up during this past week. A sincere THANK  
 YOU John for the dedicated years of service. In  
 acknowledgement of this service next Sunday - the 10am  
 Mass will be offered in thanksgiving for John - all are  
 welcome to come along, a chance to personally thank  
 John for his service to our parish. God bless you John.

**BIBLE STUDY** The next session will be Wednesday 7  
 February 2024. If you have any questions or for more  
 information, please contact Grace on 0450 757 377.

**PARISH CENTRE** After the Christmas and New Year  
 break, our Building Committee resumed their meetings.  
 On Tuesday they reviewed the last set of drawings and  
 proposed few changes. This should bring the spatial  
 design of our center, the presbytery and the new church  
 foyer to completion. The committee has asked for a  
 holistic approach to the carpark modification, so that it  
 offers an easy and safe "kiss and ride" for dropping off  
 and collecting children, while providing maximum  
 carpark capacity with easy access for funeral hearses and  
 wedding limousines at the church. This may involve a  
 specialised landscape design architect who was included  
 in providing quotation but is yet to be invited to make  
 initial contact by our current architect. The whole  
 building project therefore consists of three sub projects:  
 the parish centre with the presbytery, the church foyer  
 and the carpark. Depending on our financial situation and  
 the size of a bank loan we can service, these three  
 projects may be done one after another without any delay  
 or there may be some delay, most probably in years  
 between them.

**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](mailto:nehme.elaine@yahoo.com.au)

**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL** Term  
 1 resumes this coming Thursday 1 February 2024. We  
 welcome the children, families and staff back to a new  
 school year. We pray that our Father pours out His  
 blessings upon our whole school community so that  
 everyone may grow in the knowledge of His truth, love,  
 wisdom and peace.

**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)

**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.

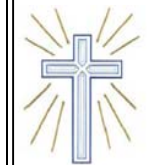
**Our parish** has a folder with Safeguarding information in the  
 church for parishioners to view. Check out the latest  
 safeguarding newsletter. A link to the Archdiocese's Child  
 Safeguarding Policy is available from the homepage of our  
 parish website and on display in the folder. Enquiries:  
 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>January 27/28 - 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B</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
<b>February 3/4 - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B</b>							
5.00 pm Sat	Lorraine Impala	Abraham Family	Zenna Azar	Eileen Stevenson Pauline Tonkli	Chaben Azar	Gabriel Azar	Anthony Torbay
8.00 am Sun		Coorey Family	Goetz Family	Carmen Heredia Veronica Denning	Mike Anderson	Lucas Ross Harry Ross	Nicholas Coorey Gabriel Serratore
10.00 am Sun		Alex Driessen	Cramp Family	Alex Driessen Karen Worley		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, Robert Sanders, John Smallwood, Tony Strambio, Cornelius Van Baardwyk



*Rest In Peace*

*Let us Pray For All Those Who Have Died*

The Pientka fml., Kathleen Gibson, Claudia & Nora Tabares, Giuseppina Bombara, Bernard & Ivy Hurworth,  
 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.*