



Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel Mk 1:12-15

He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

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.'

Reflection by Greg Sunter

The First Reading, from Genesis, and the Gospel this week need to be looked at together. In the Genesis reading, God has just wiped clean the earth and is ready to re-establish the relationship with humanity through Noah and his family. In the short gospel passage, Jesus enters the wilderness as a time of preparation and renewal, ready to embark on his mission of re-establishing the relationship between God and humanity. In both readings there is a sense of a fresh start – a clean slate – for humankind. It is a clear indication of God's commitment to humanity, even when we have totally distanced ourselves from God and forgotten about keeping up our part of the relationship, God is willing to make a clean start of it all again. Both readings offer a reminder of God's constant desire for us to be in right relationship with God and with the world. The presence of Jesus in the world was as clear a signal as the rainbow in the sky that God was willing to give us another go – give us a chance to again see God with new eyes and new understanding.

In the gospel passage, we have a picture of Jesus preparing himself for his public ministry. He takes himself out into the wilderness, away from all that he has known until this time, to reflect on his life so far and this next vital stage that he is about to enter. In the wilderness, Jesus is tempted. He has to face his own doubts and demons before he sets off on the road of his public ministry. When he leaves the desert wilderness and enters back into Galilee he immediately begins to preach and, in the first words accredited to him in this gospel, Jesus announces that the kingdom of God is at hand and it's time to repent and believe. It's a call to open your eyes and get with the program!

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.

The Living Word

First Sunday of Lent, Year B

18 February 2024

First Reading Gn 9:8-15

I will recall the covenant between myself and you...the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10

(R.) Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

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 Pt 3:18-22

The water of the flood is a type of the baptism which saves you now.

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

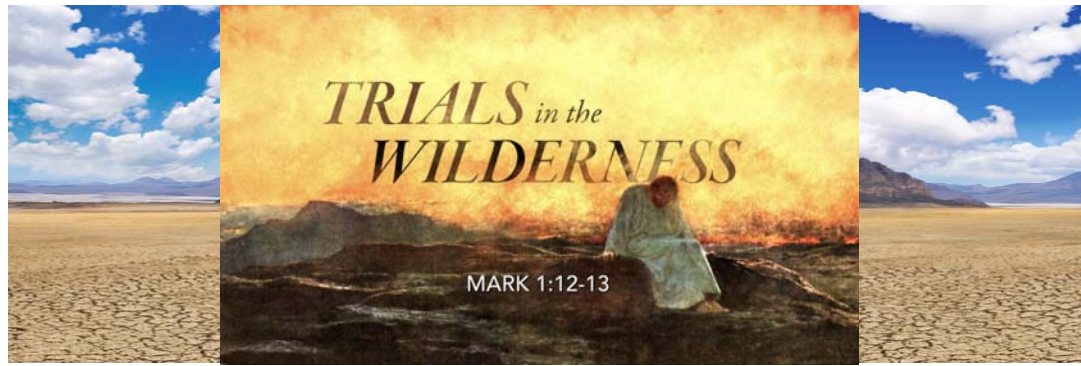


Catholic Parish of St Mary Queen of Heaven Georges Hall

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.stmgeorghall.syd.catholic.edu.au
School Tel: 02 9727 0000 **School email:** info@stmgeorghall.catholic.edu.au



MASS TIMES (English):
 Vigil Mass 5:00pm (Saturday)
 Sunday 8:00am & 10:00am
 Weekdays:
 Mon. Tue. Thu. Fri. Sat. 9:00am
 Wednesday 6:00pm
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

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, Veronica Denning, Eileen Stevenson

Children first Sacraments:
 Please contact Elaine Nehme:
nehme.elaine@yahoo.com.au

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

Childrens' Choir:
 Natalie Showah, Jicy Kasparian

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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Each Friday during Lent at 7.30pm

LENTEN COMPANION 2024 as the beautiful Season of Lent approaches, let us make the most of this precious time to gather in our parishes and communities to reflect on the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, using the Lenten companion **Repent and Believe**. This free booklet contains Gospel readings for the Sundays of Lent until Easter Sunday, and spiritual reflections on the Gospels. Designed for individual or group prayer, either in-person or online. Please collect your copy from the back of the church or download electronic copy from www.gomakedisciples.org.au.

LENTEN PRAYER GROUP If you'd like to be a member of a small group or consider hosting a small group to meet once a week, please let our Parish Office know and we'll endeavour to co-ordinate those who are interested.

PROJECT COMPASSION Please take home a Project Compassion box or set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and for all future generations. With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security,

education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction. Project Compassion 2024 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for all future generations. you can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING
 Training for children who wish to become Altar Servers is scheduled for the following date:
Monday 19th February at 4.30pm.
 Training will be held in the church and will run for approx. 1 hour. Children are required to have had their First Holy Communion. Please contact Bernie Freeburn or the Parish Office via email to complete the registration form. All children from the Parish are welcome to join.

KINDERGARTEN WELCOME MASS This Sunday we will WELCOME Kindergarten children, their families and teachers to 10.00am Mass. Our parish welcomes the opportunity to celebrate Mass with these children and their families and we pray for God's blessing on the children as they commence their schooling at St Mary's Primary School. Parents and Parishioners are invited to bring a plate of food to share so that after Mass, hospitality can be served and everyone is welcome to stay after Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY 3 MARCH Children's Liturgy is back for 2024! The next Children's Liturgy will be held next Sunday during the 10am Sunday Mass. We encourage all primary school-aged children to attend. Pre-school children who attend must be accompanied by a parent. For more information, please contact Nancy Khalil nancy.gnk@protonmail.com.

ST MARY QUEEN OF HEAVEN'S ANNIVERSARIES
 Did you know that In November 1973 Cardinal Freeman appointed Father John O'Keefe as the first resident Parish Priest. Did you know that the present church was blessed and opened by Archbishop Clancy on 27 May 1984. We are so blessed to be a part of this beautiful community and it is fitting that we celebrate these milestones. We are planning to celebrate both anniversaries together on Sunday 16 June 2024. Parishioners are invited to share their memories – if you have a captivating memory or photograph please write about the memory and forward it and/or photos to parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com We are also looking for a small group of parishioners to coordinate the celebration. If you can offer your time and energy to this project, please speak to Father Peter or email parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com

CATECHIST NEWS This Saturday at the Vigil Mass, we remember and pray for the Catechists who teach the children in our Public Schools. It is a privilege to help the parents pass on their faith to their children and help them grow in God's love. Our Parish SRE Catechists are: Lorraine Corkeron, Lorna Basha, Anna Sestito, Brian Kurrle and myself, Zenna Azar. Please keep us in your prayers and we begin the new school year.

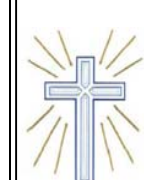
BIBLE STUDY The next session will be Wednesday 21 February 2024. If you have any questions or for more information, please contact Grace on 0450 757 377.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2024 KEY DATES

Date/Mass	Greeters	Commentator	Proclaimers	Extraordinary Ministers	Acolytes	Altar Servers	Altar Servers
February 17/18 - 1st Sunday in Lent, Year B							
5.00 pm Sat	Lorraine Impala	Brian Kurrle	Irene Zenere	Barbara Kains Annette Simpson	Laurie Simpson	Gabriel Azar	Anthony Torbay
8.00 am Sun		Danuta Maka	Carmen Heredia	Goetz Family	Mike Anderson	Lucas Ross Harry Ross	Nicholas Coorey Gabriel Serratore
10.00 am Sun		Rosemary Lim	Ghanem Family	Maurice Gili Gill Cramp		James Ghanem	William Amicucci
February 24/25 - 2nd Sunday in Lent, Year B							
5.00 pm Sat	Chris Lockart	Zenna Azar	Brian Kurrle	Pauline Tonkli Eileen Stevenson	Laurie Simpson	Gabriel Azar	Anthony Torbay
8.00 am Sun		Carmen Heredia	Coorey Family	Jenny Freeburn Carmen Heredia	Bernie Freeburn	Lucas Ross Harry Ross	Nicholas Coorey Gabriel Serratore
10.00 am Sun		Maurice Gili	Rosemary Lim	Gill Cramp Alex Driessen	Andrew Driessen	James Ghanem	William Amicucci



Please Remember In Your Prayers Our Sick
 Diane Small, Jayden Turk, Joseph Akkary, Paul Tonkli, Daniel Clarke, Warren Clarke, Azelia Donati, Eileen Ellery, Paul Evans, Kerry Gibbons, Christine Hughes, Sue James, 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
 Hillary + Rita + their sons, Nabill + Bahia + Elias + Eilie Maroun, Norma Younane, Raemanos + Wadia Nehme, Youssef + Martha + Chalitta + Issetteye Tannous, Marina Safer, Halina Donarska, Ennio Fattore, Elizabeth Gieseman, Ryan Lynch, The Pientka fml., Kathleen Gibson, Claudia & Nora Tabares, Giuseppina, Bombara, Bernard & Ivy Hurworth, Jennifer Falvy, David Anthony Sanders, Attilio Colussi, Eddy & Tom Counihan

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

RECONCILIATION: (for children in Year 3 & above)
 Wednesday, 3rd April 2024
 Thursday, 4th April 2024
 Friday, 5th April 2024

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: (for children Year 3 & up)
 Saturday, 14th September 2024 (3 Blue & surrounding)
 Saturday, 21st September 2024 (3White & surrounding)

CONFIRMATION: (for children in Year 6 & above)
 Saturday, 1st June 2024

CHILDREN'S CHOIR The newly formed St Mary's Childrens' Choir will lead the 10:00am Mass on the last Sunday of each month, beginning 25th February 2024. All children from the Parish are invited to join the choir. Please contact Natalie 0431 102 408 or Jicy 0414 187 081.

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:

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