

Gospel Mk 9:2-10

This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

St Thomas Aquinas famously said: 'If only my soul is saved, I am not saved.' And yet many Christians do think that our ultimate goal is, by the grace of God, to end up as souls in Heaven.

No, I am a human being, bodysoul. If I am to be saved, then this stardust, this fraction of material creation, this earthling, needs to be immersed into Divine energy and light.

The Transfiguration of Jesus Christ, especially as recounted in the other gospels, shows what happens when human nature is in total communion with God. Every molecule of his body was evidently pulsing with Divine energy and light. The amazing truth is that God ardently desires that each one of us should share in the transfigured life of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

For this to occur, we must play our part, accepting that Jesus of Nazareth is indeed the Beloved Son of God, listen to him, and put into practice what we hear.

We could take a moment to pray that after the "repose of the soul" after death, we may participate as bodysouls in the transfigured humanity of the Risen Lord.

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The Living Word

Second Sunday of Lent, Year B

25 February 2024

First Reading Gn 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called.' Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self - it is the Lord who speaks - because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 115:10. 15-19. R. 114:9

(R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

1. I trusted, even when I said: 'I am sorely afflicted.' O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful. (R.)
2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened my bonds. A thanksgiving sacrifice I make: I will call on the Lord's name. (R.)
3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 8:31-34

God did not spare his own Son.

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard:

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

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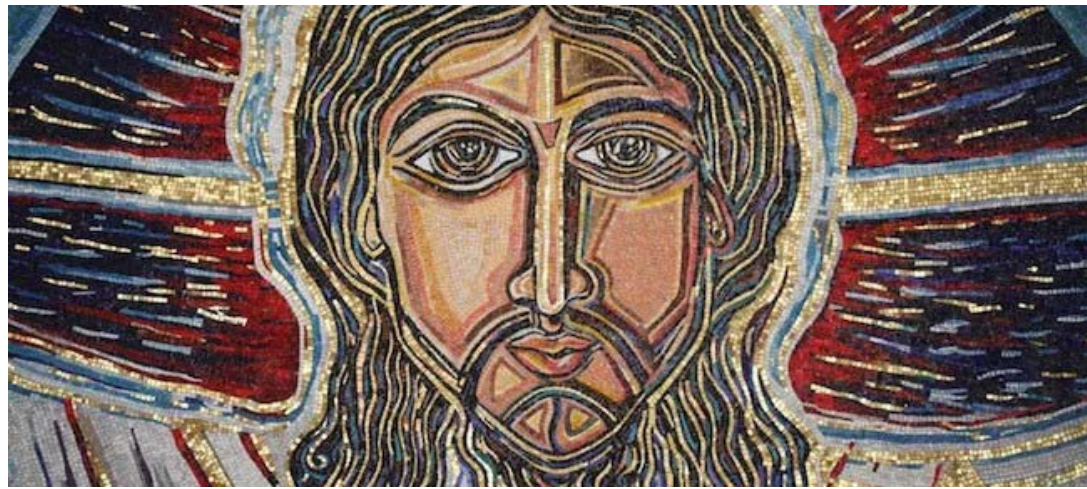


Catholic Parish of St Mary Queen of Heaven Georges Hall

Parish Priest: Rev. Peter Krigovsky
Secretary: Mrs. Zenna Azar (Tues 9.30am—5.30pm)
Address: 15 Georges Cres, Georges Hall NSW 2198 **Telephone:** 9727 3759
Website: <http://www.smgh.org.au> **Email:** parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com
Facebook: 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
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 Pauline Tonkli has graciously offered to host a prayer group during the season of Lent. Available times are: Tues 1:30-2:30pm, Wed mornings (TBC) and Sat mornings (TBC). If you would like to join, please contact Pauline on 0406 085 050.

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.

KINDERGARTEN WELCOME MASS It was lovely to see Kindergarten students last Sunday to celebrate Mass with these children and their families. We pray for God's blessing on the children as they commence their schooling at St Mary's Primary School. Thank you to all who contributed to hospitality after Mass and stayed to mingle amongst each other. A wonderful way to welcome these new families to our parish!

ALTAR SERVER ROSTER Thank you to all the children who attended training with Bernie over the last two

weeks. The new altar servers will begin serving at Mass with the roster finalized next week.

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 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 VINCENT DE PAUL CLOTHING BIN The bin has been removed from the grounds due to the dumping of rubbish and other goods. It became too cumbersome for the driver to clean up the area. Please do not leave bags of clothing or other goods where the bin was situated. This is now a parking space. For clothing donations, the nearest Vinnies is located at 114 Waldron Road, Chester Hill.

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

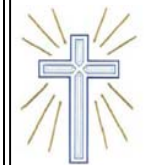
BIBLE STUDY The next session will be Wednesday 6

Date/Mass	Greeters	Commentator	Proclaimers	Extraordinary Ministers	Acolytes	Altar Servers	Altar Servers
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
March 2/3 - 3rd Sunday in Lent, Year B							
5.00 pm Sat	Lorraine Impala	Elaine Nehme	Tony Re	Barbara Kains Zenna Azar	Laurie Simpson	Gabriel Azar	Anthony Torbay
8.00 am Sun		Goetz Family	Jenny Freeburn	Veronica Denning Karen Worley	Mike Anderson	Lucas Ross Harry Ross	Nicholas Coorey Gabriel Serratore
10.00 am Sun		Cramp Family	Alex Driessen	Maurice Gili Gill Cramp		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

Max Graham, 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.*

March 2024. If you have any questions or for more information, please contact Grace on 0450 757 377.

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

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.

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUP Thursday mornings during the school term, from 8:45am-10:15am, in the School Hall. Meet at 8.45am at the front of the church near Our Lady's statue. Enquiries: Natalie Goetz natalie.goetz@syd.catholic.edu.au or the school office.

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**