



Gospel Jn 3:14-21

God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost

but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world,

but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,

because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light

because their deeds were evil.

And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it,

for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth

comes out into the light,

so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Each reading provides us with an example of divine mercy. God's use of Cyrus to deliver the Israelites, even though he was not a believer, shows that every circumstance and any person can demonstrate the scope of God's love. In fact, it is often the situation or the individual that we least expect that has been chosen to manifest God's mercy to us. This same mercy is seen as God brings us to life with Christ even when we were dead in sin.

Mercy means that strict justice is set aside in favour of compassion. Dispossessed people are raised out of defeat and given another chance. Sinners condemned to severe punishment are raised out of despair and offered a reprieve. The whole world is raised up out of darkness when God's own Son is sent into that world as saviour rather than as judge. God's mercy raises us out of loss and hopelessness, out of darkness and sin, so that we might enjoy the blessings of life.

We too have been raised up so that we might live in truth and might become the visible sign of God's mercy in the world. We have been made a new people, free from the restraints of the past. Joined with Christ we become God's handiwork, creations that bear the seal of the great creator. We are the very sacrament of God's mercy. The forgiveness that we have experienced and the new life within us shine forth as witness to the mercy of God.

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The Living Word

Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year B

10 March 2024

First Reading 2 Chr 36:14-16. 19-23

The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke: through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its Sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep Sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 136. R. v.6

*(R.) Let my tongue be silenced,
if ever I forget you!*

1. By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion;

on the poplars that grew there we hung our harps. (R.)

2. For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy. 'Sing to us,' they said, 'one of Zion's songs.' (R.)
3. O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! (R.)
4. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys! (R.)

Second Reading Eph 2:4-10

When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ - it is through grace that you have been saved - and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 3:16

*Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!*



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
School Tel: 02 9727 0000
Website: www.stmgeorghall.syd.catholic.edu.au
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.

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.

EASTER ROSTERS Any parishioners interested in serving at any of the Palm Sunday and Holy Week Liturgies, please write your details in the sheets at the back of the church. We ask that anyone who puts their name down has provided the parish with verified Working with Children Checks and Safeguarding Certificates.

PALMS AND OLIVE BRANCHES Palms and olive branches will be needed for Passion Sunday. Are you able to donate some? Please bring them to the church on Friday 22 March/ Saturday 23 March and place in the baskets in the chapel. Setting up the church from 9.30am on Saturday - if you can help, thank you.

PREPARING THE CHURCH FOR EASTER SUNDAY Saturday 30 March from 9.30am - if you can come along to help set up church for Easter, all volunteers welcome and greatly appreciated.

YEAR 1 FAMILY MASS Sunday 17 March at 10am – Next Sunday, Year 1 and their families and teachers will join us for the 10am Mass. Hospitality will be served after Mass. We welcome you to bring a plate to share.

2024 FAMILY MASSES Date cards for the remaining family masses have been printed and can be collected from the back of the church.

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

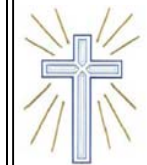
ALTAR SERVER ROSTER The new altar servers will begin serving at Weekend Masses this weekend. The roster will be shared with all parents via email and a copy

Date/Mass	Greeters	Commentator	Proclaimers	Extraordinary Ministers	Acolytes	Altar Servers	Altar Servers
March 9/10 - 4th Sunday in Lent, Year B							
5.00 pm Sat	Chris Lockart	Pauline Tonkli	Mary Gibbons	Annette Simpson Pauline Tonkli	Chaben Azar	Gabriel Azar Charlie Delfino	Anthony Torbay Zoe Azar
8.00 am Sun		Jenny Freeburn	Danuta Maka	Getz Family Jenny Freeburn	Bernie Freeburn	Nicholas Coorey Gabriel Serratore	Daniela Lukunic Elizabeth Tobaji
10.00 am Sun		Alex Driessen	Cramp Family	Alex Driessen Maurice Gili	Andrew Driessen	James Ghanem Isabella Maamari	William Amicucci Marcus Kasparian
March 16/17 - 5th Sunday in Lent, Year B							
5.00 pm Sat	Lorraine Impala	Abraham Family	Pauline Tonkli	Eileen Stevenson Annette Simpson	Laurie Simpson	Charlie Delfino Braedon Thymakis	Anthony Torbay Jakob Thymakis
8.00 am Sun		Coorey Family	Goetz Family	Carmen Heredia Karen Worley	Mike Anderson	Nicholas Coorey Lucas Ross	Daniela Lukunic Harry Ross
10.00 am Sun		Ghanem Family	Maurice Gili	Gill Cramp Alex Driessen	Andrew Driessen	William Amicucci Tiana Daou	Eliana Mardini Brandon Daou



Please Remember In Your Prayers Our Sick

Judith Van Baardwyk, Cornelius Van Baardwyk, 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



Let us Pray For All Those Who Have Died

Trevor Newton, Ross Graham, Lise Goetz, 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

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

can be found on the noticeboard near the sacristy. We welcome these children and look forward to watching them grow in confidence and service to the parish.

CHOIR PRACTICE There will be choir practice at 7.00pm on Thursday 14 March 2024 to prepare for the 8.00am Mass on Sunday 17 March 2024, and also to prepare for the Easter Vigil. New members are always welcome. Please ring Pat Falvy on 0425-219-660.

PLANNED GIVING & CREDIT CARD DONATION forms are now at the back of the church for any parishioners who wish to join the donation program.

BIBLE STUDY The next session will be Wednesday 20 March 2024. If you have any questions or for more information, please contact Grace on 0450 757 377.

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**