



## Reflection by Greg Sunter

This week's first reading from Jeremiah is a very powerful image and a foreshadowing of the message and ministry of Jesus. In the Jeremiah reading, the Lord announces that (yet again) a new covenant will be made between the people and their God. This time, however, the covenant will not be a collection of rules written in stone as was the case with the covenant of the Ten Commandments after the people had been led out of slavery in Egypt. The people have demonstrated that they are not able to uphold that covenant. This time, God declares that the covenant will be 'planted deep within them' and 'written on their hearts'. This is a wonderful image: I will write my covenant on your heart! It is the message that Jesus tried to convey over and over again – the Law of God is not to be found in a multitude of rules and regulations but it is a Law of the heart, calling for compassion and love.

This message is no better demonstrated than in this week's gospel passage. Jesus declares that, 'unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.' He is speaking of course about his own life, but he is speaking also to those around him and those of us who read the words today. Unless we are prepared to let go of our ego, our status, our 'reputation', for the sake of others and respond to them from the heart then we can never experience the breadth and depth of what it means to belong to a community. When we are prepared to let go of our hang-ups and reservations to make a difference in the lives of others then the 'harvest' that will be gathered from those actions will be great indeed!

unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,  
it remains only a single grain;  
but if it dies,  
it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves his life loses it;  
anyone who hates his life in this world  
will keep it for the eternal life.  
If a man serves me, he must follow me,  
wherever I am, my servant will be there too.  
If anyone serves me, my Father will honour  
him.

Now my soul is troubled.  
What shall I say:  
Father, save me from this hour?  
But it was for this very reason that I have  
come to this hour.  
Father, glorify your name!

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it,  
and I will glorify it again.'

People standing by, who heard this, said it  
was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an  
angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It  
was not for my sake that this voice came, but  
for yours.'

'Now sentence is being passed on this  
world;  
now the prince of this world is to be  
overthrown.

And when I am lifted up from the earth,  
I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death  
he would die.

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# The Living Word

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year B

17 March 2024

## First Reading Jer 31:31-34

*The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.*

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive - it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest - it is the Lord who speaks - since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 50:3-4. 12-15. R. v.12

(R.) *Create a clean heart in me, O God.*

1. Have mercy on my, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt.  
and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)
2. A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)

3. Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,  
that I may teach transgressors your ways  
and sinners may return to you. (R.)

## Second Reading Heb 5:7-9

*He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.*

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

## Gospel Acclamation Jn 12:26

*Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord;  
and where I am, my servant will also be.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!*

## Gospel Jn 12:20-33

*If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.*

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus.

Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come  
for the Son of Man to be glorified.  
I tell you most solemnly,



# 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 **Website:** [www.stmgeorgheshall.syd.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmgeorgheshall.syd.catholic.edu.au)  
**School Tel:** 02 9727 0000 **School email:** [info@stmgeorgheshall.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stmgeorgheshall.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  
 Dening, Elaine Nehme, Zenna Azar,  
 Paul Abdul Ahad, Natalie Goetz,  
 Monica Palmer, Linh Bui, Jannette  
 Samawi, Grace Mokdassi

**Finance Committee:**  
 Michael Anderson, Ted Goetz,  
 Veronica Dening, Eileen Stevenson

**Children first Sacraments:**  
 Please contact Elaine Nehme:  
[nehme.elaine@yahoo.com.au](mailto: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.

**2ND RITE EASTER  
 RECONCILIATION** Wednesday  
 20th March at 7pm. This is a combined  
 reconciliation with the Vietnamese  
 community and some half a dozen  
 priests. The difference between the  
 2nd rite and the 1st rite is in communal  
 aspect of the 2nd rite with readings,  
 reflection and a common Act of  
 Contrition. Individual confession is  
 part of both rites. Since the prayers will  
 be in Vietnamese please say the Act of  
 Contrition privately either prior or after  
 the confession (if not prompted to say  
 it during the confession).

It is Jesus himself who asked us to  
 confess our sins (John 20:23; James  
 5:16) and to receive him in the  
 Eucharist (Luke 22:19). The Church  
 explains through the Precepts of the  
 Church that we should confess our sins  
 minimally once a year and receive the  
 Eucharist minimally once a year in the  
 Easter season. The confession helps us  
 to achieve the State of Grace necessary  
 for worthy reception of the Eucharist.

**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](http://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](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)  
 or by calling 1800 024 413.

**YEAR 1 FAMILY MASS** Sunday 17 March at 10am –  
 This 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.

**CHOIR PRACTICE** There will be choir practice at  
 7.00pm on Thursday 21 March 2024 to prepare for the  
 7.30pm Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday 30 March 2024.  
 New members are always welcome. Please ring Pat  
 Falvy on 0425-219-660.

**EASTER ROSTERS** Anyone interested in serving at  
 any of the Palm Sunday and Holy Week Liturgies, (who  
 has completed and provided their Working with Children  
 Check details to the parish) please write your contact  
 details on the sheets at the back of the church or email  
[parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com](mailto:parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com)

**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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com)

**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.

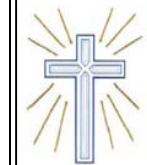
**Our parish** has a folder with Safeguarding information in the  
 church for parishioners to view. Check out the latest  
 safeguarding newsletter. A link to the Archdiocese's Child  
 Safeguarding Policy is available from the homepage of our  
 parish website and on display in the folder. Enquiries:  
 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>March 16/17 - 5th Sunday in Lent, Year B</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
<b>March 23/24 - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Year B</b>							
5.00 pm Sat	Chris Lockart	Yvette Nehme	Elaine Nehme	Zenna Azar Annette Simpson	Chaben Azar	Gabriel Azar Jack Colley	Anthony Torbay Harry Colley
8.00 am Sun		Danuta Maka	Jenny Freeburn	Goetz Family	Bernie Freeburn	Gabriele Serratore Harry Ross	Lucas Ross Elizabeth Tobaji
10.00 am Sun		Rosemary Lim	Ghanem Family	Alex Driessen Maurice Gili	Andrew Driessen	James Ghanem Marcus Kasparian	Isabella Maamari Abie Khalil



*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*

George Stevenson, Robert Lawler, Ancrea, 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

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

*Rest In Peace*