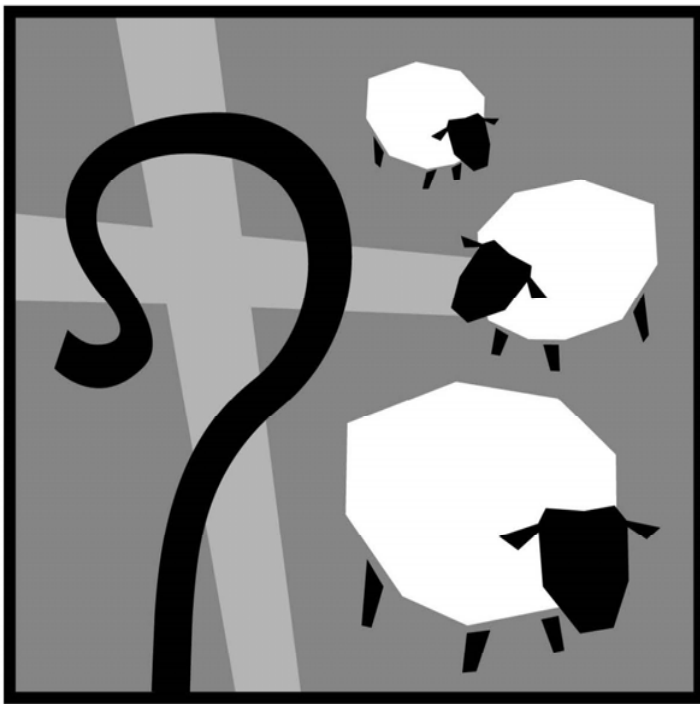


The Living Word

Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year B

21 April 2024



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

This Sunday is traditionally known as Good Shepherd Sunday. Two major themes emerge from the readings: an image of the one who saves; and the power of salvation itself. The one who saves is not a mighty warrior who comes in military array. In fact, he is the one who was rejected, who was hunted down, humiliated, tortured and hung naked on a tree, there to die in shame. The one who saves is the cornerstone of the building, holding it together, forming a firm foundation so that the structure will not collapse. The one who saves is a lowly shepherd, entrusted with sheep, not with the affairs of state. The one who saves is an unlikely saviour. This characterisation should give us pause. Is it possible that we have been looking for a saviour in the wrong places?

God's saving power flows from steadfast covenant love. It broke open the world in the death and resurrection of Jesus and it overflows as healing grace. The saving power in the name of Jesus, a name that itself means 'saviour' (cf. Matt 1:21), is for all people, even for those sheep who do not yet belong to this fold. Furthermore, it is for all time; God's mercy endures forever. Through our baptism we can bring the saving grace of God to a world in desperate need of healing. We can do this in our families, in our local communities, in the workplace, in so many situations of our lives.

The hired man, since he is not the shepherd
and the sheep do not belong to him,
abandons the sheep and runs away
as soon as he sees a wolf coming,
and then the wolf attacks and scatters
the sheep;
this is because he is only a hired man
and has no concern for the sheep.
I am the good shepherd;
I know my own
and my own know me,
just as the Father knows me
and I know the Father;
and I lay down my life for my sheep.
And there are other sheep I have
that are not of this fold,
and these I have to lead as well.
They too will listen to my voice,
and there will be only one flock
and one shepherd.
The Father loves me,
because I lay down my life
in order to take it up again.
No one takes it from me;
I lay it down of my own free will,
and as it is in my power to lay it down,
so it is in my power to take it up again;
and this is the command I have been
given by my Father.'

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First Reading Acts 4:8-12

This is the only name by which we can be saved.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:1. 8-9. 21-23. 26. 28-29. R. v.22

(R.) The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

or:

(R.) Alleluia.

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.
It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in men:
it is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in princes. (R.)
2. I will thank you for you have given
answer
and you are my saviour.
The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. (R.)

3. Blessed in the name of the Lord
is he who comes.
We bless you from the house of the
Lord;
I will thank you for you have given
answer
and you are my saviour.
Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;
for his love has no end. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Jn 3:1-2

We shall see God as he is.

Think of the love that the Father has
lavished on us,
by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are.
Because the world refused to acknowledge
him,
therefore it does not acknowledge us.
My dear people, we are already the
children of God
but what we are to be in the future has not
yet been revealed;
all we know is, that when it is revealed
we shall be like him
because we shall see him as he really is.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

**I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.
Alleluia!**

Gospel Jn 10:11-18

The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd:
the good shepherd is one who lays down
his life for his sheep.'



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

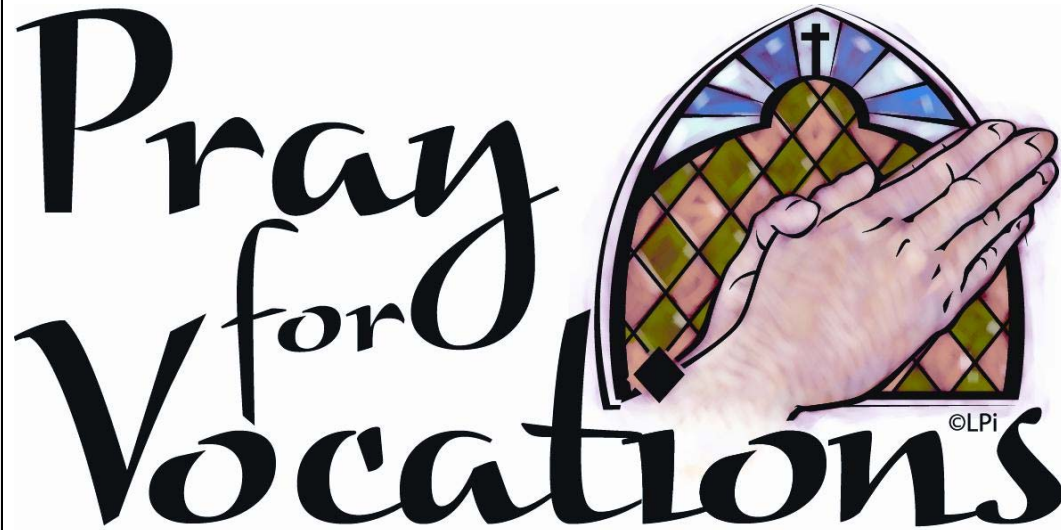
Special Religious Education (SRE) Catechist Coordinator:
 Zenna Azar

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.

ANZAC DAY MASS

Thursday 25 April 9am - remembrance and prayer for our veteran family members, our defence force and peace in Australia. Parishioners are invited to bring photos of loved ones who were veterans and to place them in the reflection area on the sanctuary; and bring a plate of food to share and stay after Mass for a cuppa and a bite to eat.

NEW TAP DEVICES are now installed at both entrances to the church. You can now select donation amount according to your preference. Making donations through monthly Credit Card withdrawal or weekly plan-giving envelopes will enable you to receive a 30% Tax Deductible Receipt.

CONFIRMATION Our next parish sacramental journey will be the sacrament of Confirmation. The information/registration evening for parents will be held in the school hall on Wednesday 1st May at 6.30pm. The commitment weekend for children & their families will be at any weekend

Mass 4th/5th May.

2024 FAMILY MASSES - YEAR 6

The next family mass will be held at the 10am mass on **Sunday 5th May 2024**. This will coincide with the Year 6 Confirmation candidates' commitment mass. We invite all parishioners to bring a plate to share at hospitality after mass.

GOLDEN OLDIES - BUS TRIP - 1 MAY

Belgenny Farm is worth a visit - the 'Home Farm' of the Macarthur dynasty, granted to John Macarthur in 1805, holds the oldest set of intact farm buildings in Australia. **Cost \$40** per person, includes morning tea and guided tour and bus. **Lunch:** at own expense at a venue TBC. To reserve your booking please provide your contact details on an envelope (collect from near the sacristy) along with \$40 per person and place in the collection box near the sacristy. No verbal bookings. Any enquiries to Lorraine 9724 9519.

PROJECT COMPASSION ENVELOPES AND BOXES Please bring them as soon as possible and place them on the weekly collection plates together with your weekly offering. The money donated will be used by Caritas Australia for a variety of their charitable projects. Thank you.

YOUTH GROUP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED We'd like to restart the youth group at St Mary's. Youth leaders are needed! Must be 18+ and have a WWCC. If you're interested or have any questions, please contact Grace on 0450 757 377.

ST MARY QUEEN OF HEAVEN'S ANNIVERSARIES

We are so blessed to be a part of this beautiful community and it is fitting that we celebrate our milestones. We are planning to celebrate the anniversary of the appointment of the first parish priest and dedication of the church together on Sunday 16 June 2024 - 10am Mass followed by feast

Memories - Parishioners are invited to share their memories - a template is available at the back of the church with suggestions of the type of information you might like to provide.

Photos - we are hoping to collate historical photos—do you have any sacramental (or other) group photos that you can share with the parish?

Please forward any memories or photos to:
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 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.

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

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.

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

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

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.

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

Date/Mass	Greeters	Commentator	Proclaimers	Extraordinary Ministers	Acolytes	Altar Servers	Altar Servers
April 20/21 - Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year B							
5.00 pm Sat	Lorraine Impala	Elaine Nehme	Yvette Nehme	Pauline Tonkli Zenna Azar	Chaben Azar	Gabriel Azar Braedon Thymakis	Anthony Torbay Jakob Thymakis
8.00 am Sun		Danuta Maka	Carmen Heredia	Veronica Denning Karen Worley	Mike Anderson	Lucas Ross Nicholas Coorey	Harry Ross Daniela Lukunic
10.00 am Sun		Alex Driessen	Cramp Family	Alex Driessen Maurice Gili	Andrew Driessen	William Amicucci Tiana Daou	Eliane Mardini Brandon Daou
April 27/28 - Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year B							
5.00 pm Sat	Chris Lockart	Pauline Tonkli	Tony Re	Annette Simpson Eileen Stevenson	Laurie Simpson	Charlie Delfino Jack Colley	Gabriel Azar Harry Colley
8.00 am Sun		Jenny Freeburn	Danuta Maka	Goetz Family Karen Worley	Bernie Freeburn	Gabriel Serratore Harry Ross	Lucas Ross Elizabeth Tobaji
10.00 am Sun		Ghanem Family	Maurice Gili	Gill Cramp Alex Driessen	Andrew Driessen	James Ghanem Marcus Kasparian	Isabella Maamary Abie Khalil



Please Remember In Your Prayers Our Sick

Judith Van Baardwyk, Cornelius Van Baardwyk, Diane Small, Jayden Turk, Joseph Akkary, 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

Van Haotu & Ancestors, Josephine and Alojzy Pientka, Herman Reinke, Nilda & Roberto, Filomena Auditore, Teresa, Maria, John the Baptist1, John the Baptist2, Eddie Counihan, Tom Counihan, 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 Tannous

Rest In Peace

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