

# St Mary Queen of Heaven, Georges Hall



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Year A | Sunday 16th February 2020



## Mission Statement:

We the St Mary Queen of Heaven parish, are called to be a strong, loving, caring family united in faith. Guided by the Spirit of Jesus we desire to use our diverse talents to reach out and encourage others. We cherish the living tradition of our Catholic church and will seek to heal misunderstandings and hurt in our midst so that Jesus' prayer may be realised, "Father may they be one, as you and I are one."

## Parish Priest:

Fr Joseph Kolodziej

## Parish Office:

Monday - Friday ph: 9727 3759  
[parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com](mailto:parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com)

## Safeguarding Officer/Secretary:

Veronica Denning  
[veronicad.smgh@bigpond.com](mailto:veronicad.smgh@bigpond.com)  
(Please email to join our Bulletin mailing list)

## Parish Website:

Under Redevelopment

## Parish Facebook:

Follow: [fb.me/smggh2](https://www.facebook.com/smggh2)



## Parish School:

Ph: 9727 0000  
[www.stmgeorgeshall.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmgeorgeshall.catholic.edu.au)



## A Message from Fr Joseph

This Sunday's Gospel continues the "Sermon on the Mount": Jesus' first great preaching. Today's theme is Jesus' attitude toward the Jewish Law. Jesus did not want to do away with the Commandments that the Lord had given through Moses. Rather he wanted to bring them to fulfilment. But what does this "fulfilment" of the Law mean? What is this superior justice? Jesus himself answers this question with a few examples. Jesus was practical and he always used examples to make himself understood, comparing the old Law with his teachings. He begins with the fifth of the Ten Commandments: "You have heard that it was said to the men of old. 'You shalt not kill' ... But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be liable to council" (v. 21-22). In this way, Jesus reminds us that words can kill! When we say that a person has the tongue of a snake, what does that mean? That their words kill! Not only is it wrong to take the life of another, but it is also wrong to bestow the poison of anger upon him, strike him with slander, and speak ill of him.

Love of neighbour is a fundamental attitude that Jesus speaks of and he says that our relationship with God cannot be honest if we are not willing to make peace with our neighbour. He says: "So if you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother. To obtain good and honest conduct, legal rules are not enough. We need a deep motivation, an expression of a hidden wisdom, God's wisdom, which can be received through the Holy Spirit. Through faith in Christ, we can open ourselves to the action of the Spirit which enables us to experience divine love.

In the light of Christ's teaching, every precept reveals its full meaning as a requirement of love, and they all come together in the greatest commandment: to love God with all of your heart and to love your neighbour as yourself.

## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH:

### SATURDAY 15th

Mass // 9am  
Reconciliation // 4pm  
Mass (English) // 5pm  
Mass (Vietnamese) // 6.30pm

### SUNDAY 16th

Mass (English) // 8am, 10am, 5pm  
Mass (Vietnamese) // 3pm

### MONDAY 17th

Mass // 8am  
Prayer Group in Chapel // 5.00pm

### TUESDAY 18th

Holy Hour and Rosary // 5pm  
Mass // 6pm

### WEDNESDAY 19th

Rosary // 7.45am  
Mass // 8am  
Playtime // 8.45am

### THURSDAY 20th

(Bl. Jacinta and Francisco Marto)  
Rosary // 7.45am  
Mass // 8am

### FRIDAY 21st (St Peter Damian)

Rosary // 7.45am  
Mass // 8am

### SATURDAY 22nd (Chair of St Peter)

Vietnamese Funeral // 9am  
Reconciliation // 4pm  
Mass (English) // 5pm  
Mass (Vietnamese) // 6.30pm

### SUNDAY 23rd (St Polycarp)

Mass (English) // 8am, 10am, 5pm  
Mass (Vietnamese) // 3pm  
Ephesus Youth Group // 5.30pm

*Fun Fact: 2nd century martyr, St Polycarp is the patron Saint of Earaches!*



***"If you judge people, you have no time to love them."  
- Mother Teresa***

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

**Sick:**

Claudia Tabares, Christina Apolinario, Daniel Matesic, Bronwyn Kolodziej, Daniel Clarke, David Sanders, Eileen Ellery, Eunice Davis, Heather Graham, Joan Romeo, John Sanders, Pam Schmidt, Romela Onkowiedjaja, Tamara Kalass, Warren Clarke

**Recently Deceased:**

Karl Berner, Fay Frost, Dpminic Nam Nguyen, Dr. Li Wenliang Elizabeth (Liz) Smith, Piotr Januchta, Joan Pasa, Halina Donarska, Ryan Lynch, Elizabeth May Batley, Vincent Thai Nguyen, Doug Shedden

**Anniversaries:**

Rodney Lawler, Maria Nguyen, Joseph Vu, Dominic Dinh, Maria Dinh Lina Strambio, Monsignor Ian Harding Burns, Sapienza Fama, Walter Charlesworth, Dominic Doan Duc Tiem, Muriel Mary Rochester, Raymond Williamson (2012), Beryl Cohen, Robert Collier, Magdoi Morvai, Rosario DiGiorgio, Lamaa Sassine (2015)

**For the Souls of the Faithful Departed:**

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May all the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



**St Mary's Primary School**

**2021 Enrolment Tours**

**Tuesday 3 March**  
Starting 9.00am  
in the parish hall

Please let your family members know that our enrolment tours for the 2021 school year are approaching.



**Sacraments**

- **Baptism:** Any weekend at a Mass or at 11.00am on Sundays. Please contact the Parish Office to make a prior booking.
- **Marriage:** Couples need to provide at least six months' notice. A marriage preparation course is required.
- **Reconciliation:** Saturdays at 4.00pm or any other time by appointment, please contact Father Joseph.

**Sacramental Program 2020**

Enrolment forms are available at the back of the church. Any parent or guardian wishing for their children to make these sacraments must attend the enrollment night. Please bring your child's Baptism certificate and registration fee: \$80 (\$30 - Reconciliation and \$50 - First Holy Communion) to the enrollment night. Enquiries: Nadia Dore on 0414849569

First Reconciliation	First Holy Communion	Confirmation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Enrolment: 25 Feb 7.00pm</li> <li>● Commitment: 29 Feb &amp; 1 March</li> <li>● Sacrament: 28 March</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Information Night: 12th May 7.00pm</li> <li>● Retreats: 12 &amp; 19 June</li> <li>● Sacrament: 13 &amp; 14 June</li> <li>● Sacrament: 20 &amp; 21 June</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Enrolment: Tuesday 4th Aug 7.00pm</li> <li>● Retreat: 25 September</li> <li>● Sacrament: 26 September</li> </ul>

Parishioners who are interested in assisting with the sacraments are welcome. If you can assist there is always room in the following ministries: Lesson facilitators - Helpers at lessons; Church decorating and tidying; Help on registration night; Help on the Day of the Sacrament. Please contact: Nadia Dore on 0414849569

**Family & Faith**

**The 5 Finger Prayer**

**Thumb:** Those closest to you, your family.

**Pointer:** Those that point you in the right direction (teachers, doctors, priests) ask for wisdom & support.

**Index:** (tallest) Those that lead us, (Government) ask for guidance & wisdom.

**Ring:** (weakest) Those that are weak, in trouble, or in pain. We cannot pray too much for them.

**Pinkie:** (smallest) Our prayers for ourselves & our own needs.



Wednesday @ 8.45am in the school hall. Toys, books and puzzles are available for children; as well as an opportunity to listen to a bible story.

Coffee and tea is provided for adults. Please bring any food & drinks for your children.

# Parish Notices

## Ephesus Youth Group

Ephesus got washed out last Sunday - so our next youth gathering for high school students will be on Sunday 23rd February in the school hall at 5.30pm. All high schoolers welcome, as we look and engage at this year's theme for youth set by Pope Francis, "Young man, I say to you, Arise!" (7:14).

You can also now follow Ephesus Youth Group on Instagram @smghephesus



## Parish Council Meeting



Father Joseph is keen to expand the Parish Council to ensure more parishioners understand the role of the Council - what it does and how it operates. To this end, there is a 'no obligation' meeting planned for

**Tuesday 17th March at 7pm.** This will be an informal meeting with nibbles in the school staffroom. Come along if you would like to find out more.

## Children's Liturgy

Our next Children's Liturgy will take place on Sunday 23rd February during the 10am Mass. Children will have the opportunity to reflect on the Gospel message and do an activity. All children are welcome. Enquiries: Gill 0407413376 or Veronica 0407231262



## Social Outing - 19th February

Immerse yourself in history by visiting the North Head Quarantine Station. Date: 19th February; departing 9am from the Church

Cost: \$40 (bus and tour)

Payment: Envelopes are available near the sacristy – write your details and put exact money in envelope by Sun 9 Feb. Enquiries: Lorraine 97249519



## 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 93905810. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police. Enquiries: please contact Veronica on 0407231262 or email: [veronicad.smgh@bigpond.com](mailto:veronicad.smgh@bigpond.com)



## Parish Council News

Ted Goetz has announced that he is stepping down as Parish Council President. Ted has been on the Council for 7 years, 5 as President. He is acknowledged for his contribution to a parish culture of welcome and support, something he has been clearly committed to. Complementing this, he has been very active with practical matters such as coordinating or assisting with parish events as well as in areas of maintenance. Ted has indicated he will still 'be around' helping in any way he can. Our thanks Ted, for your years of service in this role.



## Lenten Preparation & Reflection

### Ash Wednesday - 26 February:

- 8.00am - Mass
- 9.00am - School Mass
- 5.30pm - Vietnamese Mass
- 7.30 pm - English Mass

Parishioners are invited to take blessed ashes for those who are sick or not able to attend Mass.



### Lenten Reflection Program

Lent is a great opportunity for Catholics to prepare themselves, through prayer, reflection and discussion, to experience Christ's Passion. You are invited to participate in a Lenten Reflection Program - small groups meet once a week to pray, consider the Gospel of the week and rediscover what God is saying.

The Grace Lenten Program is available for parishioners to use personally or as part of a Lenten Group. It contains short daily reflections (from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday) in addition to longer-form Sunday gospel reflections and spiritual direction. Sheets are available at the back of the church for anyone who wants to lead a group, host a group or participate in a Lenten group. Enquiries: [veronicad.smgh@bigpond.com](mailto:veronicad.smgh@bigpond.com)

## A Feast for a Chair?

The Feast of the Chair of St Peter (Feb 22nd) commemorates his role in founding the Church of Antioch, as well as his role as the first bishop of Rome. The portable chair used by St Peter is preserved at the Vatican, above the altar of St Peter's Basilica. In ancient times it was customary for teachers to sit while teaching their students, who would stand around them. Even in the early church, bishops would give the homily seated, with the congregation standing as they listened. And so it is that the celebration of St Peter's Chair is a remembrance of his role as both teacher and bishop.



First Reading	Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading
<p><b>Sir 15:15-20</b> A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus <i>He never commanded anyone to be godless.</i></p> <p>If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.</p>	<p><b>(R) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!</b></p> <p>1. They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law! They are happy those who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts. (R.)</p> <p>2. You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care. May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. (R.)</p> <p>3. Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word. Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law. (R.)</p> <p>4. Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end. Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart. (R.)</p>	<p><b>1 Cor 2:6-10</b> A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians <i>God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.</i></p> <p>We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him. These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.</p> <div data-bbox="1193 949 1423 1173" data-label="Image"> </div>
<p><b>Gospel Acclamation</b></p>	<p><b>Next Week: 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b></p>	
<p>Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!</p>	<p><b>First Reading:</b> Lv 19:1-2. 17-18 <b>Second Reading:</b> 1 Cor 3:16-23 <b>Gospel:</b> Mt 5:38-48 (Turn the other cheek)</p>	

**Gospel (Shorter Form)**

**Mt 5:20-22. 27-28. 33-34. 37**  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
*Such was said to your ancestors; but I am speaking to you.*

Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven. 'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court. 'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

**Reflection by Greg Sunter**

It is easy for us today to look at something like the Ten Commandments and interpret them literally. This would provide a fairly limited application to our modern lives. In a broader context these ancient codes of behaviour can take on new significance. Jesus points us towards the importance of looking beyond the surface and searching out the truth of such statements. His reinterpretations are designed to challenge people to think about the law in a broader context and to take the law into their heart rather than looking for ways to get around it. Laws are often viewed negatively because of the restrictions they seem to place on lives. The psalmist disagrees: *happy are those who follow the law*. The Commandment "you must not kill" has far more broader application than avoiding murder. It is about respecting life, being compassionate and generous. Likewise, "You must not commit adultery" is an invitation to fidelity, treating one's body and others as temples of the Holy Spirit, and being pure in thought, word and action. Following the law ought to bring happiness. A true understanding of following the law is to see it not as an end in itself but rather as a way of being in a right relationship with God and one another.