

St Mary Queen of Heaven, Georges Hall



7th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Year A | Sunday 23rd 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

Safeguarding Officer/Secretary:

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

Parish Website:

Under Redevelopment

Parish Facebook:

Follow: fb.me/smgh2



Parish School:

Ph: 9727 0000
www.stmgeorgesshall.catholic.edu.au



A Message from Fr Joseph

Last Sunday, in our Parish, we presented our new Kindergarten students before the Lord with our St. Mary's Community. The church was full with families and parishioners. It was a special occasion and so many commented how beautiful Mass was. St. Mary Queen of Heaven Parish, Georges Hall, once again, came together to worship God with authentic faith and great examples from the young parents and school staff. We are all deeply moved feeling the presence of the Lord. The hard work of our parents and teachers shone before the altar during Mass and afterwards where we shared food at morning tea. Our parish community has been invited to consider our school when enrolling their children for next year's Kindergarten. May God continue, through our commitment, to bless and support every family in our Parish. I would like to thank you for your commitment and worship.

For Catholics - There's nothing more attractive than Lent.

In the Gospel, Jesus said; go and wash yourself - so the blind man went and washed his face and his sight was restored. Do we hear this powerful calling from Jesus to submit our heart as the blind man did?

A Chinese proverb says: "If there is righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in the character. If there is beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home. If there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation. If there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world."

Lent is a special time for only 6 weeks where we mark ourselves with ashes and pray, fast and do not sin. It is a special invitation, as we, the followers of Jesus Christ, have the opportunity to look within ourselves and repent.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH:

SATURDAY 22nd (Chair of St Peter)

Mass // 9am
Reconciliation // 4pm
St Charbel's Mass (English) // 5pm
Mass (Vietnamese) // 6.30pm

SUNDAY 23rd (St Polycarp)

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

MONDAY 24th

Mass // 8am
Nursing Home Mass // 10.30am
Prayer Group in Chapel // 5.00pm

TUESDAY 25th (Shrove Tuesday)

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

WEDNESDAY 26th (Ash Wednesday)

Rosary // 7.45am
Mass // 8am, School Mass 9am
Vietnamese Mass 5pm, Mass 7.30pm

THURSDAY 27th

Rosary // 7.45am
Mass // 8am



FRIDAY 28th

Rosary // 7.45am
Mass // 8am
6.00pm Vietnamese
7.00pm Stations Of the Cross

SATURDAY 29th

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

SUNDAY 1st March

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

***"Do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends?"
- Abraham Lincoln***

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Sick:

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

Recently Deceased:

Ted Lachowicz
 Karl Berner, Fay Frost,
 Dominic Nam Nguyen,
 Dr. Li. Wienliang, Piotr Januchta,
 Joan Pasa, Halina Donarska,
 Ryan Lynch,
 Elizabeth May Batley,
 Vincent Thai Nguyen,
 Doug Shedden

Anniversaries:

Paul Vasello, Charles P Herne,
 Lisa Gross, Bernard Barlow,
 Neal John (Digger) Hancock,
 Infant: Jordan Brown (2012),
 Hazel Monica Faulkner,
 Denise Jakob, Marjorie Piper,
 Stanislaw Hruby,
 Jan-Tadeusz Lajch,
 Giovanni Serafino Biasi,
 Bill Burns (2006),
 Frank Howley, Barbara Gross,
 Steve Folkes (2018)

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 3rd
 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 Mass or Sundays at 11am; bookings via Parish office.
- **Marriage:** At least 6 months notice is needed, a preparation course if required.
- **Reconciliation:** Sat @ 4.00pm or by appointment, please contact Fr Joseph.

Sacramental Program 2020

Any parent or guardian wishing for their children to make the sacraments must attend the enrollment night on Tuesday 25th Feb. Please bring your child's Baptism certificate and registration fee: \$80 (\$30 - Reconciliation and \$50 - First Holy Communion); Enrolment forms are available at the back of the church. Enquiries: Nadia Dore on 0414849569

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

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 Sacraments. Please contact: Nadia Dore on 0414849569

Family & Faith

Simple Pancake Recipe for Shrove Tuesday

Ingredients:

- 2 eggs
- 1 3/4 cup milk
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- 2 cups self-raising flour
- 1/3 cup caster sugar
- Butter for frying & serving
- Maple syrup to serve



Method:

Step 1: Whisk eggs, milk and vanilla together in a jug. Sift flour into a large bowl. Stir in sugar. Make a well in the centre. Add milk mixture. Whisk until just combined.

Step 2: Heat a large non-stick frying pan over medium heat. Grease pan with butter or spray with cooking oil. Using 1/4 cup mixture per pancake, cook 2 pancakes for 2 minutes or until bubbles appear on the surface. Turn and cook for a further 1-2 minutes or until cooked through. Repeat with remaining mixture

Step 3: Serve with maple syrup, ice cream or fruit..



Our Playgroup families are welcome to join our school in the church for Ash Wednesday at 9am.

Parish Notices



Ephesus Youth Group

Ephesus 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



Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy will take place this 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 0407 413 376 OR Veronica 0407 231 262

Hospitality next weekend

Something to eat? Something to drink? Yes! Refreshments will be served after most Masses next weekend, so plan to stay a while after Mass and catch up with each other. **Everyone is invited to bring a plate of food to share.** Every bit helps! Thank you to those who are hosting Hospitality next weekend.



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.



Altar Service

Altar Servers in Year 6 or older are invited to receive Training for Thurible. Training will take place on Friday 27 March at 3.30pm. This is to be parred for Holy Thursday and Easter vigil. Parental approval is required to do the training. Parents to confirm availability for training by Friday 20th March. Enquiries: Michael Smith 9790 5156

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: Veronica on 0407231262 or email: veronicad.smgh@bigpond.com

Ash Wednesday

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.

Project Compassion Boxes-End Poverty-uphold dignity 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

Bushfire Appeal



Last week, Natalie and Ted Goetz delivered items donated to the parish and school bushfire appeal to St Bernard's Primary School in Batemans Bay, who were very grateful for the items received. Thank you to all who contributed in prayers and support.

Hope...



We are in the final week of Ordinary Time before starting the Season of Lent. Ordinary Time is symbolised by green, because it is a time of growth. In our bushfire stricken areas, life is slowly reviving - it is an amazing symbol and reminder of HOPE!

First Reading	Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading
<p>Lv 19:1-2. 17-18 A reading from the book of Leviticus <i>You must love your neighbour, as yourself.</i></p> <p>The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy. "You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."'</p>	<p>(R) The Lord is kind and merciful.</p> <p>1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. (R.)</p> <p>2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)</p> <p>3. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)</p> <p>4. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him. (R.)</p>	<p>1 Cor 3:16-23 A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians <i>All things are yours, but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.</i></p> <p>Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple. Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.</p>
<p>Gospel Acclamation</p>	<p>Next Week: First Sunday of Lent</p>	
<p>Alleluia, alleluia! Whoever keeps the word of Christ, grows perfect in the love of God. Alleluia!</p>	<p>First Reading: Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7 Second Reading: Rom 5:12-19 Gospel: Mt 4:1-11 (Jesus is tempted by the devil in the desert.)</p>	

Gospel

Mt 5:38-48
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Love your enemies.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'



Reflection by Greg Sunter

In the first century, a master would discipline a slave by striking them with the back of his hand. Assuming the master is right handed, a back-handed strike would be delivered to the right cheek of the person he faced. If the servant were to then present his left cheek to the master, it becomes impossible for the master to strike with the back of his hand and forces him into using an open-hand slap - not much of an improvement you might think. However, servants were disciplined with the back of the hand and only equals fought in such a way that would deliver blows to the left side. What Jesus is saying to those who are oppressed is to offer no resistance but at the same time stand up for yourself and make your oppressor recognise you and treat you as an equal, not an inferior. In the same way military laws required any person to carry a soldier's pack for a mile, any longer, the soldier himself would be subject to discipline. Jesus says, 'If anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him.' Like turning the other cheek, it is turning the tables on the one who would oppress you and bringing shame upon them. The Gospel suggests a way of life: be courageous, be merciful, be forgiving, be loving, be counter-cultural, love your enemies.