

St Mary Queen of Heaven, Georges Hall



1st Sunday of Lent | Year A | Sunday 1st March 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:

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Safeguarding Officer/Secretary:

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Parish Website:

www.smgh.org.au

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Parish School:

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A Message from Fr Joseph

Lent is a time to face our temptations and be converted by the Gospel, when Jesus is tempted by Satan in the desert for 40 days. Jesus goes into the desert to prepare for his mission on earth. While Jesus has no need of conversion himself, he must go to the desert out of obedience to God the Father and "for us, to give us the grace to overcome temptation.

For us, too, Lent is a time of spiritual 'training', of spiritual combat: we are called to face the Evil one through prayer, to be able, with God's help, to overcome him in our daily life. Immediately after he is tempted, Jesus goes out of the desert to preach the Gospel, which demands conversion from all who hear it. Jesus proclaims, 'Repent, and believe in the Gospel!' — believe, that is, in this Good News that the kingdom of God is at hand. In our life we always have need of conversion — every day! — and the Church has us pray for this.

In fact, we are never sufficiently oriented toward God, and we must continually direct our mind and our heart to Him. Lent is the time to have the courage to reject anything that leads us away from God and repent, "but it is not a sad time!"

"It is a joyful and serious duty to strip ourselves of our selfishness, of our 'old nature,' and to renew ourselves according to the grace of our Baptism. During Lent, we must listen to the call of Christ and be converted, recognizing that true happiness lies in God alone.

Let us conclude with an appeal to Mary Queen of Heaven: May Mary Most Holy help us to live this Lent with fidelity to the Word of God and with incessant prayer, as Jesus did in the desert. It is not impossible! It means living the days with the desire to welcome the love that comes from God, and that desires to transform our life, and our Parish Community together.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH:

SATURDAY 29th
Funeral Mass // 9am
Reconciliation // 4pm
Mass (English) // 5pm
Mass (Vietnamese) // 6.30pm

SUNDAY 1st
Mass (English) // 8am, 10am, 5pm
Commitment for Reconciliation
& Year 3 Family Mass // 10am
Mass (Vietnamese) // 3pm

MONDAY 2nd
Mass // 8am
Prayer Group in Chapel // 5.00pm
Reconciliation Lessons // 6.00pm

TUESDAY 3rd
Holy Hour and Rosary // 5pm
Mass // 6pm
Reconciliation Lessons // 7.00pm

WEDNESDAY 4th (St Casimir of Poland)
Rosary // 7.45am
Mass // 8am

THURSDAY 5th
Rosary // 7.45am
Mass // 8am
Sacrament of Reconciliation // 9.00am

FRIDAY 6th
Rosary // 7.45am
Mass // 8am
Stations of the Cross // 7.00pm

SATURDAY 7th (Sts Perpetua & Felicity)
Mass // 9am
Reconciliation // 4pm
Vigil Mass (English) // 5pm
Mass (Vietnamese) // 6.30pm

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

"Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy" - Pope Francis



Our Parish has a New Website: www.smgh.org.au
Includes: Details about the parish and ministries, copies of the Bulletin, Resources and Contact Details

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 Onkowitz, Tamara Kalass, Warren Clarke

Recently Deceased:

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:

Maria Pham Thi Tri,
Peter Beltrame' Fay Keegan,
Robert McAfee, Michael Hayek,
Ted Faulkner,
Francis Joseph Neville,
Mahala Hepples,
Elisabeth Laumann,
Lisa Anthony, Norm Karam,
Tom Atkins (2015),
Bruna Matosovic (2015),
Robyn Mathieson, John Neville,
John Lozinski, Rosa Cocolo
Jeanette Trevor (2018),
Edmond Ashkar (2018)

For the Souls of the Faithful Departed:

Joseph Tannous, Marina Sakr
Chalita, Christine Tannous, Nabil
Maroun, Bahia , Hassibe
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.



Youth Corner (Ephesus)

What does a burning bush, a well, a sycamore tree and the gentle breeze have in common? They are all places that people of Scripture have encountered God. At our next Ephesus night on Sunday March 8th, we will explore this theme of Encounter. All high schoolers are welcome from 5.30pm after Mass in the school hall.



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 this week.

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 - First Reconciliation

Commitment Mass: Will take place this Sunday at the 10.00am Mass which is also Family Mass for children in Year 3

Sacramental Lessons: Monday 6.00pm and Tuesday 7.00pm

All children enrolled in the program and one parent must attend a lesson each week.

Enquiries: Nadia Dore on 0414 849 569



Family & Faith

Love in the Laundry - Finding the Sacred in the Ordinary.

At the Last Supper, Jesus washed his disciples' feet and He said, "Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them." John 13:16-17

How blessed are we to have clean water, a washing machine, electricity and washing powder to be able to wash the clothes of the people we love?

This kind of spirituality demands of us is awareness. We find it easy to be open to God in life's big moments, but the real challenge for us as Christians, is to find Him in a pile of laundry.



This Lent, we ask you to find love in your laundry and in your hearts by donating **laundry powder** to go to our mates at the House of Welcome.

Please place your donations in the laundry basket near the door to the church. You are also invited every Friday at 9am, during Lent, to join our school parents in the hall to prepare the laundry powder to be ready for distribution.



Playgroup returns on Wednesday 4th March, as our school has their athletics carnival this week.

Parish Notices



Hospitality this weekend

Something to eat? Something to drink? Yes! Refreshments will be served after most Masses this weekend, so plan to stay awhile 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 will host 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

Prayer Garden

We are looking to create a beautiful prayer garden outside the church within the present garden on the Georges Crescent side of the church. Three beautiful statues of the Holy Family, St Charbel and St Francis will be placed there. To be able to do this we are relying on the generosity of our amazing parishioners. If you would like to contribute, please place a donation in an envelope and write: 'For our Prayer Garden' and place in one of the collection plates at Mass. Or donate directly to Sandrella Ters - contact her on 0415812324. Thank you for your generosity.

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

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 daily Mass and Station of the Cross on Fridays.

Individual Reconciliation together with the Vietnamese community will take place on Wednesday 25th March at 7pm. Alternatively, please see Fr Joseph before or after each Mass. The 2nd Rite of Reconciliation will be practiced on 29th March before every Mass. The Season of Lent is the most appropriate time to celebrate Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Quarantine Station

Great Day at Quarantine Station! Thank you to all for coming. We are looking forward to our next outing. Regards Loraine Impala.

CARITAS - Project Compassion

Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness raising appeal. Caritas is a Catholic agency for international aid and development, working to alleviate poverty and bring hope and justice to marginalised communities throughout the world. Please collect your Project Compassion donation box from the back of the church. Please be generous.



For the Children

Fill in the missing words from the list below to see what Jesus said to Satan in the desert.

L O R D S E R V E G O D W O R S H I P



THE
YOUR
AND ONLY HIM.

First Reading	Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading
<p>Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7 A reading from the book of Genesis <i>Creation of our first parents, and sin.</i></p> <p>The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being. The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.</p> <p>The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.</p>	<p>(R.) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.</p> <p>1. Have mercy on me, 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.)</p> <p>2. My offences truly I know them; my sin is always before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done. (R.)</p> <p>3. 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.)</p> <p>4. Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise. (R.)</p> <p>Gospel Acclamation</p> <p>Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory</p> <p>Next Week: 2nd Sunday of Lent First Reading: Gen 12:1-4 Second Reading: 2 Tm 1:8-10 Gospel: Mt 17:1-9 (Jesus is transfigured)</p>	<p>Rom 5:12-19 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans <i>Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.</i></p> <p>Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law. Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.</p>

Gospel

Mt 4:1-11
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.



Reflection by Greg Sunter

The Greek word translated as 'sin' in the New Testament literally means 'miss the mark'. Its origin may lie in archery where the object was always to hit the mark; to miss the mark was to not achieve at one's best. Jesus set about trying to redefine the Jewish notion of sin from being a transgression against God that deserves punishment to the more compassionate idea that sin is a wandering off course that can be rectified – a missing of the mark. When he encountered someone who was missing the mark, Jesus called them back into right relationship. This is after all the invitation of this season. It is an invitation to step into the desert with Jesus; to confront our own purpose and ministry and to renew our trust in God's vision for us and the world.