

St Mary Queen of Heaven, Georges Hall



3rd Sunday of Lent | Year A | Sunday 15th 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:

Veronica Denning
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Parish Website:

www.smgh.org.au

Parish Facebook:

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A Message from Fr Joseph

Today's Gospel presents Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman in Sicar, near an old well where the woman went to draw water daily. That day, she found Jesus seated, "wearied as he was with his journey" (Jn 4:6). He immediately says to her: "Give me a drink". In this way he overcomes the barriers of hostility that existed between Jews and Samaritans and breaks the mould of prejudice against women. This simple request from Jesus is the start of a frank dialogue, through which he enters with great delicacy into the interior world of a person to whom, according to social norms, he should not have spoken. But Jesus does! Jesus is not afraid. When Jesus sees a person he goes ahead, because he loves. He loves us all. He never hesitates before a person out of prejudice. Jesus sets her own situation before her, not by judging her but by making her feel worthy, acknowledged, and thus arousing in her the desire to go beyond the daily routine.

Jesus needed to encounter the Samaritan woman in order to open her heart: he asks for a drink so as to bring to light her own thirst. The woman is moved by this encounter: she asks Jesus several profound questions that we all carry within but often ignore. We, too, have many questions to ask, but we don't have the courage to ask Jesus! Lent, dear brothers and sisters is the opportune time to look within ourselves, to understand our truest spiritual needs, and to ask the Lord's help in prayer. The example of the Samaritan woman invites us to exclaim: "Jesus, give me a drink that will quench my thirst forever". I ask you, and myself: "What is your interior water jar, the one that weighs you down, that distances you from God?". Let us hear the voice of Jesus offering us another kind of water, another water that brings us close to the Lord. We are called to rediscover the importance and the sense of our Christian life, initiated in Baptism and, like the Samaritan woman, to witness to our brothers and sisters.

EACH WEEK IN OUR PARISH:

SATURDAY:

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

SUNDAY:

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

MONDAY:

Mass // 8am
Nursing Home Mass // 10.30am (fortnightly)
Prayer Group in the Chapel // 5.00pm

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

Rosary // 7.45am; Mass // 8am

THURSDAY

Rosary // 7.45am; Mass // 8am
Nursing Home Mass // 10.00am (fortnightly)

FRIDAY

Rosary // 7.45am; Mass // 8am

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH:

Sunday 15th:

Children's Liturgy // 10am
First Reconciliation Mosaic Cross Decorating // 10:45am

Monday 16th:

First Reconciliation Lesson // 6pm

Tuesday 17th:

Feast of St Patrick
First Reconciliation Lesson // 7pm
Parish Council Meeting // 7pm

Thursday 19th:

Feast of St Joseph

Friday 20th:

Stations of the Cross // 7pm
24 Hour Adoration // From 9am

Saturday 21st:

24 Hour Adoration // Concludes 9am

Sunday 23rd:

Ephesus Youth Group // 5.30pm

"You don't know how to pray? Put yourself in the presence of God, and as soon as you have said, 'Lord, I don't know how to pray!' you can be sure you've already begun." -Saint Josemaría Escrivá

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, Denis King,
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:

Michalina Greczek, Joseph, Maria
Azzopardi, Joe Condello, John
David Mayo, Purita Marindo,
Vincent Mendez,
Dean Howarth (2012),
Joan Patricia Costello (2014),
Cardinal James Freeman,
Melva Baker, Mick Baker,
Molly Duff, Stasya Koualiauskas,
Stan Kavaliauskas, Yvonne Beale,
Lumia Dayha, Ronnie Boukaram,
Luigina Fabbro,
George Stevenson (2011),
Ivy Dickson, Imelda Bush,
Bishop Patrick Murphy,
Peter Anthony Hunt,
Eric Willoughby (2015),
Joachim Nguyen Xuan Hang,
Robert Lawler, Connor Biskin,
Vera Jean Maher,
Elizabeth Sullik,
Paul Oscar Wilson,
Eileen Regan (2015),
Heather Bellach (2015),
Patricia Mulholland, Joe Martin,
John David Mayo, Colin Mills

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.



Youth Corner (Ephesus)



Last week, we shared and discussed scriptural stories of encounters with God (such as the Transfiguration and the Burning Bush). During our next Ephesus Youth Night on Sunday 23rd; youth leaders will share their own personal encounters with God with the hope of creating space for each young person to articulate (or create) their own encounter.

Sunday 23rd from 5.30-7.30pm, includes hospitality, prayer, games and discussion groups. Enquires: Grace 0449505222
Follow on Instagram: @smghephesus

St Mary's Primary School



This week the Stewardship Team and Student Council worked with Miss Fieni to learn about sustainable gardening. They planted beetroot, eggplant and lettuce seedlings. They also scattered lots of parsley seeds so that we can make tabouli late in the year.

Sacraments

- **Baptism:** Any weekend at a Mass or at 11.00am on Sundays. Please contact the Parish Office to make 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 - First Reconciliation
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

Family Kindness and Sharing this Lent.

On slips of paper, write random acts of kindness, such as give a compliment, say hi to an old friend, carry someone's heavy load. Present each family member with a slip of paper as he or she leaves in the morning. Invite each family member to perform the kindness without seeking recognition. Afterward, talk together about what happened. Pray with one another that your kindness will be passed on throughout Lent & beyond.



Will return on Wednesday, 25th March as school photos are being held in the hall.

Love in the Laundry Washing Powder Drive For the House of Welcome



Thank you to those who have donated. So far we have prepared 229 serves of laundry powder totalling 134kgs.

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

Parish Notices

Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy will take place this Sunday 15 March 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



24 Hour Eucharistic Adoration

All members of our parish and school community are encouraged to attend Eucharistic Adoration on Friday 20 March - Saturday 21 March from 9.00am - 9.00am. There are sheets at the back of the church to write your details for the time slot that you are available to be present in the church.



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.



Golden Oldies Outing

This report is on the parish website (www.smgh.org.au) now under Parish News. Check it out! Great photos too!

Project Compassion Boxes

Caritas' annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal, that supports social justice and sustainability projects in Australia and all over the world. Please collect your Project Compassion box from the back of the Church.



Altar Service Training

Altar Servers in Year 6 or older are invited to receive Training for the thurible (incense burner). Training will take place on Friday 27 March at 3.45pm. This is to be prepared for Holy Thursday and the 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 (Georges Cres side) with three beautiful statues of the Holy Family, St Charbel and St Francis. 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 (0415812324). Thank you for your generosity.

Lenten Reflection Program

Lent is a great opportunity for Catholics to prepare themselves, through prayer, reflection and discussion, to experience Christ's Passion. 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, host or participate in a group, or who would like a copy of the Grace Lenten Booklet. Enquiries: veronicad.smgh@bigpond.com



4th Station: Jesus meets His Mother

Mary, your mother was always there for you. Help us to be there for our friends and families in all difficult times, And to show them your compassion. Foster in us a loving, grateful and humble heart, ready to listen and grow.



Prayer of Pope Francis: *Lord Jesus, in our families we too experience sufferings. Grant in these difficult times your enduring presence, so that our sufferings may be turned to joy. Make our families oases of love and peace in the image of the Holy Family. Amen.*

Message from the Archdiocese: COVID-19

While the risk remains low, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference would like to take a proactive measure to protect those who are most vulnerable:

- Do not use the Holy Water stoups (you can continue to take Holy Water home).
- Wash your hands before and after attending Mass.
- Consider making the sign of peace without shaking hands (a smile, nod, wave or bow).
- Receive Holy Communion reverently in the hands.
- If unwell (coronavirus or other condition, or at a particular risk of contracting a virus) you can honour your Sunday obligation at home in prayer and reading the Scriptures (or watching a televised Mass).

Full Correspondence: [Click here](#)

Children's Corner

Draw Jesus sitting by the well as he asks the Samaritan woman for a drink.



First Reading	Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading
<p>Ex 17:3-7 A reading from the book of Exodus <i>Give us water to drink.</i></p> <p>Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'</p>	<p>(R.) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.</p> <p>1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)</p> <p>2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)</p> <p>3. O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' (R.)</p>	<p>Rom 5:1-2. 5-8 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans <i>The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.</i></p> <p>Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.</p>
<p>Next Week: Fourth Sunday of Lent</p>		
<p>First Reading: 1 Sm 16:1, 6-7, 10-13 Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 22 Second Reading: Eph 5:8-14 Gospel: Jn 9:1-41 (Jesus cures a blind man)</p>		

Gospel (Shorter Form)

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Jn 4:5-15. 19-26. 39-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'



'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again: but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'



'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.' Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'