

St Mary Queen of Heaven, Georges Hall



5th Sunday of Lent | Year A | Sunday 29th 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:

Monday - Friday ph: 9727 3759
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Safeguarding Officer/Secretary:

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

Parish Website:

www.smgh.org.au

Parish Facebook:

Follow: fb.me/smgh2



Parish School:

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



Dear Parishioners and friends,

First and foremost, be assured of my prayers. These are troubling times, and I am saddened by the necessary changes we have had to make to protect our parishioners. I ask Mary, our Mother and Queen, to accompany us on this unprecedented journey to the Cross. Remember, in the words of St Augustine, "We are Easter People and Alleluia is our song." We must continue to be people of hope. We must continue to be the Face of Jesus. We must continue to be Resurrection-People.

Further to recent Federal Government announcements regarding COVID-19 and directives issued by the Archdiocese of Sydney, we advise that all places of worship will not be available for masses or private prayer. Therefore all masses and gatherings such as Stations of the Cross, prayer groups, Holy Hour, Rosary sessions and other communal devotions, inside or outside, have been suspended until further notice.

During this time, you are welcome to make an act of Spiritual Communion:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already here, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

In addition, I am seeking to live stream the Mass on Facebook ([link](#)) and YouTube ([link](#)). Alternatively you can watch Mass online or on Channel 10 on Sundays at 6am or later in the day on 10Play (see details in the Parish Notices below on Page 3 as well as other links to prayers, music, stations of the Cross and ideas for a sacred space).

Details regarding Sacraments are found on Page 2 of the Bulletin. Funerals can still be held with a maximum of 10 people in attendance seated according to the places marked on the pews and subject to physical distancing, hygiene and related directives.

THESE CHANGES ARE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

Important notice: All laypeople are dispensed from attending Sunday Mass: the faithful can keep Sunday holy by setting aside some time for prayer at home, reading the Scriptures of the day (found on Page 4 of the Bulletin), watching Mass on television or online, and/or asking God for the graces they would normally receive in Holy Communion. Though our priests can no longer celebrate Mass *with* their people, they can and should celebrate Mass *for* their people on their behalf.

Your cooperation and understanding is appreciated. ~ Father Joseph

"Remember friends, you are the Church, and with your hearts open, the Church will always stay open."

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Sick:

Barbara Kains,
Bronwyn Kolodziej,
Christina Apolinario,
Claudia Tabares, Daniel Matesic,
Daniel Clarke, David Sanders,
Denis King, Eileen Ellery,
Eunice Davis, Heather Graham,
John Sanders, Pam Schmidt,
Paul Roughley,
Romela Onkowiedjaja,
Rosa Agostino, Tamara Kalass,
Warren Clarke

Recently Deceased:

Anastazja Laniewska Weige,
Mary Grech, Claudia Tabares,
Karl Berner, Fay Frost,
Dominic Nam Nguyen,
Dr. Li. Wienliang, Piotr Januchta,
Joan Pasa, Halina Donarska,
Ryan Lynch,
Elizabeth May Batley

Anniversaries:

Jim Waldron, Bert Tankard,
Evelyn Eldridge,
Elizabeth Mellyard,
James Donehue,
Georgette Buttie, Eric Ball,
Pope John Paul II,
Emma Falconer (2018),
Santo D'Allura

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

Last Wednesday some of our Maths students competed in the Maths Olympiad Competition. This is a competition for students in years 5 and 6 of primary schools in Australia and New Zealand. It is aimed at challenging participants' maths problem solving abilities. The Maths Olympiad has been a great format for our high achieving students to work in a competitive environment with challenging questions to hone their skills.



Sacraments

- **Baptism:** To be postponed if prudent, unless in the case of an emergency. Please contact the Parish Office to make prior booking. Subject to physical distancing, hygiene and related directives.
- **Marriage:** Couples need to provide at least six months' notice and a preparation course is required. During this time, only the couple and 2 witnesses are able to attend and subject to physical distancing, hygiene and related directives.
- **Reconciliation:** The faithful are advised on the continuing importance of examination of conscience and making an act of contrition; though the Sacrament of Reconciliation is currently not available to parishioners.

Sacramental Program 2020

The Sacramental Program for all sacraments has been postponed. No alternative scheduling is possible at this stage for First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion or Confirmation. We will endeavour to update you as direction is received from the Archdiocese. Thank you for your commitment to your children's faith journeys and for your patience with this situation facing us all.

Family & Faith

An article online showed a priest in Robbiano, Italy; who upon the suspension of Masses, requested all of his parishioners to send in photos of themselves so he could still see their faces each day as he celebrated Mass.



We invite you to email photos of you and your family to

natalie.goetz@syd.catholic.edu.au

We will print them off and place them on the pews for Fr. Joseph.

Do you, or anyone you know need assistance?

Are you, or anyone you know, finding it hard to come across the essentials like toilet paper, bread, milk? During this difficult time, we need to help one another.

If you require assistance or if you would like to help, please email

natalie.goetz@syd.catholic.edu.au

Professional care is available at

CCareline.

131819

www.CatholicCare.org

Pope Francis' Prayer to Mary during the coronavirus pandemic

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.



Parish Notices



Weekly Bulletin

Do you know of anyone in our parish who would like a copy of the bulletin placed in their letterbox each week? Please email hoganmargaret446@gmail.com with details and I will drop one off. A reminder that the parish bulletin can be accessed via our Parish website: www.smgh.org.au.

Project Compassion Boxes

Please hold onto Project Compassion boxes, further advise to come.

Postponed Until Further Notice:

- Rosary and Prayer Group
- Stations of the Cross
- Eucharistic Adoration & Novena
- Ephesus Youth Group
- Choir Practice
- Children's Liturgy Group
- Play Group
- Golden Oldies

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. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Children's Corner



Wordsearch

Try to find these words:

Bethany	face	Mary	sister
cloth	Lazarus	out	stone
cry	Martha	sick	tomb

P H M A R Y J R S E L Y G Y F T F
 Z T C W S B B D D P R V T J P L G
 T M C U Z O W M A R T H A M Y C H
 D C M H J M H R T G C R B G R Q A
 R E T S I S T R G S D M F H C O V
 D L D F A C J U H S M B O Q U A Q
 G C I A D D W V O T Y L D J Q N G
 A Z U L K K I X B H O O V J B J K
 G I N S E Q E C Y P N L M A N W F
 U J W U M R B X C S V Y C P E U B
 K X T R B H C Y Y V Q D S E Z J E
 C K B A K D W N S T O N E I J T O
 Y C M Z F P A E T B V F F Q C J K
 O L J A Z H N K M M A L X W V K W
 I Q C L T T I Y F O E S I T V D D
 D E H E Q M T L B T M I S N D S C
 O X B V S F B J V V F R X D V Y L

Faith in a COVID-19 World

A reminder that the parish bulletin and links below can be accessed via our Parish website: www.smgh.org.au.

Prayer Resources

- Live steamed daily and Sunday Mass ([link](#))
- N.B. Channel 10 airs "Mass for You at Home" at 6am on Sundays, and can also be found on 10Play later in the day.
- Lenten Reflections (Ascension Present: [link](#))
- The Angelus ([link](#))
- Stations of the Cross ([link](#)) - Short
- Stations of the Cross ([link](#)) - Video
- Gospel of the Day ([link](#))
- 3 Minute Retreat ([link](#))
- Spiritual Communion ([link](#))
- Lectio Divina ([link](#))
- Rosary Resource ([link](#))
- Prayers in a time of Pandemic ([link](#))



Mobile Phone Applications (Free)

- Laudate ([link](#)) - #1 Catholic app. includes daily readings, prayers and other Catholic media
- Word on Fire ([link](#))
- EWTN ([link](#))



Christian Music

- Matt Maher ([link](#))
- Chris Tomlin ([link](#))
- Hillsong Worship ([link](#))
- Music Meets Heaven ([link](#))
- Fr Rob Galea ([link](#))



Sacred Space - while places of worship are closed, consider setting up a sacred space in your home, some ideas of what to include:


- Crucifix
- The Bible
- A candle
- A holy picture or icon
- Pictures of family members



The Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to you do I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me. Amen.



First Reading	Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading
<p>Ez 37:12-14 A reading from the prophet Ezekiel <i>I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.</i></p> <p>The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.</p>	<p>(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.</p> <p>1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice! O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. (R.)</p> <p>2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. (R.)</p> <p>3. My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word. My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. (Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.) (R.)</p> <p>4. Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. (R.)</p>	<p>Rom 8:8-11 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans <i>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.</i></p> <p>People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.</p> 
<p>Gospel Acclamation</p>	<p>Next Week: Passion Sunday</p>	
<p>Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!</p>	<p>First Reading: Is 50:4-7 Second Reading: Phil 2:6-11 Gospel: Mt 26:14 – 27:66 (The Passion)</p>	

Gospel (Shorter Form)

Jn 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
I am the resurrection and the life

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.' Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

Upon arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.'

Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.



Reflection by Diane Bergent

'Jesus wept' is the shortest verse in the New Testament. Just two little words carry a world of emotion and speak volumes about Jesus. Pope Leo I used this verse to highlight the two natures of Jesus, pointing out that in his humanity, Jesus wept for the death of his friend, but in his divinity Jesus raised Lazarus to life. All three readings for this Sunday, as well as the psalm response, point out our inability to raise ourselves out of the deaths that afflict us. Acknowledging human propensity to sin, Paul credits the Spirit of God with transforming death into life. Finally, it is Jesus who calls Lazarus out of the grave and returns him to his life. We can see that God does not leave us to languish in our various deaths. Instead, God offers us new life out of the tombs. All of this is accomplished through the mercy and compassion of God.