

St Mary Queen of Heaven, Georges Hall



Palm Sunday | Year A | Sunday 5th April 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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(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.stmgeorghall.catholic.edu.au



A Message from Fr Joseph:

I would like to thank all those who joined us for the live streaming of Mass on Facebook ([link](#)) or YouTube ([link](#)) last week. We will endeavour to continue streaming the Mass as a way to engage the St Mary's community.

I would like to thank all the parishioners for their continued support, as we continue to comply with Federal Government and Archdiocesan measures for the protection and well being of all people. At this stage, all gatherings at St Mary's continue to be suspended until further notice.

As we journey into Holy Week, consider the following ways to mark the occasion:

Palm Sunday - On Sunday, April 5, put a palm branch (or any green branch you can find) on your front door or in your window of your home. This will help you to be connected and united as the Body of Christ as we enter into the Holiest of Weeks. You are then invited to post your photos to our Facebook page.

Holy Thursday - At the Last Supper, Jesus washed the feet of His disciples. You are invited to wash the feet (or hands) of your family as Jesus did. *"I have just given you an example so that you should do as I have done..."* - Jn 13:14,17



To those isolated because of the coronavirus:
"United in Christ, we are never alone."
- Pope Francis

Sacraments

- **Eucharist:** 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 or watching Mass on television or online.
- **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. 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; the Sacrament of Reconciliation is currently not available to parishioners.
- **Anointing of the Sick:** Accordance with new Archdiocesan guidelines, please contact the parish office.
- **Sacramental Program:** Postponed until further notice and under advisement from the Archdiocese.

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,
Hayleu Murray,
Heather Graham,
John Sanders, 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:

Amy Roberts, Doris Akle,
Baby Georgia Grace Brown
(2011), Emma Ciallella (2013),
Alfred Grech (2013),
Barbara Anne Evans (2018),
Margaret Huckle, Hira
Andrews, Kerrie Lester (2016),
John Sofos, George Abel,
Alan Jones, Helen Alvarez,
Basilio Marindo,
Umberto Busuttill (1994),
James Frost, Lola Belford,
Terence Graf (2010),
June Milligan (2012),
Eva Faulkner, Rosina Sestito,
Lorraine Haren,
Vincent Toohey, Cec Bortolin

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.

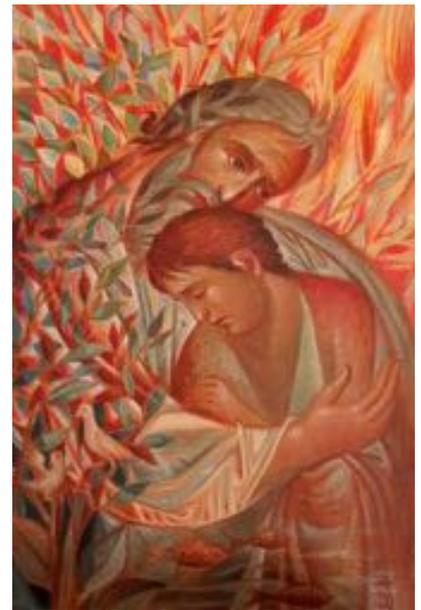


Take your Sorrow Direct to God

On March 20, Pope Francis said: People who cannot get to confession because of the coronavirus lockdown or another serious reason can go to God directly, be specific about their sins, request pardon and experience God's loving forgiveness.

"An act of contrition that is done well will render our souls to become white like the snow... Return to your father who is waiting for you," the Pope said. "The God of tenderness will heal us; he will heal us of the many, many wounds of life and the many ugly things we have done. Each of us has our own!"

God welcomes every repentant sinner with open arms, he said. "It's like going home." While the best place for this is the confessional, during this time "if you cannot find a priest to confess to, speak directly with God, your father, and tell him the truth. Say, 'Lord, I did this, this, this. Forgive me,' and ask for pardon with all your heart."



St Mary's Primary School

2021 Kindergarten Enrolment Process - The office is still open to take enrolment forms for Kindergarten 2021. Enrolment interviews have been highly modified to ensure social distancing and sanitising are key aspects of this process. Please see our school website: www.stmgeorgheshall.catholic.edu.au in 'news and events' for our modified interview process.

Family & Faith

Our Pews Are Filling Again!

Thank you to everyone who has emailed a photo to fill our pews. We have received almost 80 photos to put up on the pews for Fr. Joseph to see when he celebrates Mass. There is even a photo of Frank Abel singing in his usual spot!



It is not too late to send your photos through. Please email them to nataile.goetz@syd.catholic.edu.au



"Embracing His cross means finding the courage to embrace all the hardships of the present time, abandoning for a moment our eagerness for power and possessions in order to make room for the Holy Spirit."
Pope Francis



Sacred Space
www.sacredspace.ie
A daily prayer and reflection on the Gospel of the Day.

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.

Palm Sunday Prayer

Dear God, thank you for sending your Son and paving the way for our lives to be set free through Jesus' death on the cross. Thank you for what this day stands for - the beginning of Holy Week, the start of the journey towards the power of the cross, the victory of the Resurrection, and the rich truth that Jesus truly is our King of Kings. "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord..."

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:

branches	donkey	Jerusalem
clothes	excited	road
crowd	followed	shouted
disciples	Hosanna	village

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

Praying the Stations of the Cross

As we enter into Holy Week, we hope that the following guide to praying the Stations of the Cross will be helpful to you and your families.

1. **Begin with a hymn**, you may like to consider one of the following:

- Were you there? Andrea Tomas ([link](#))
- Above All - Michael W. Smith ([link](#))
- At the Foot of the Cross - Fr Rob Galea ([link](#))
- At the Cross - Chris Tomlin ([link](#))



2. **Opening prayer**, simply ask those gathered to share their intentions and why you have gathered together. For younger children consider these colouring pages ([link](#)) or other Palm Sunday activities ([link](#)).

3. You can download **Stations of Cross** reflections ([link](#)), or simply consider the following 1 sentence reflections:

- I. Jesus is condemned: *Help us Lord trust in your promise that we will never be without your presence.*
- II. Jesus accepts the cross: *Give us the grace to carry our crosses: sickness, anxiety, guilt and loss.*
- III. Jesus falls the first time: *Bless us Lord that we may let go of the things that separate us from you.*
- IV. Jesus meets His mother: *Help us Lord be your face to our family and friends.*
- V. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus: *Be with us as we strive to reach out to those in need in our world.*
- VI. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus: *May we strive to show your love in deeds of kindness.*
- VII. Jesus falls the second time: *Give us the courage to move forward, assured of your faithfulness.*
- VIII. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem: *Help us Lord to look outward & be open to the pain of others.*
- IX. Jesus falls a third time: *Teach us how to draw strength from you when life seems too much for us.*
- X. Jesus is stripped: *Help us to have poverty of spirit and a purity of heart so that we may see your love everywhere.*
- XI. Jesus is crucified: *Nailed to the cross, Jesus freely offered his life for us and for the whole human race.*
- XII. Jesus dies on the cross: *Give us great hope and trust that nothing can separate us from your love, not even death itself.*
- XIII. Jesus is taken down from the cross: *May Mary gather us and form us into your faithful disciples, ready to witness.*
- XIV. Jesus is laid in the tomb: *Help us make time and space to recognise You in the beauty and people around us.*



We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

4. Consider an **online reflection** in lieu of a homily:

- Praying the Stations - Fr Clifford Hennings ([link](#))
- The Meaning of the Cross - Fr Mike Schmitz ([link](#))

First Reading	Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading
<p>Is 50:4-7 A reading from the prophet Isaiah <i>I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.</i></p> <p>The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.</p>	<p>(R) (R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?</p> <p>1. All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads. 'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend.' (R.)</p> <p>2. Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me. They tear holes in my hands and my feet. I can count every one of my bones. (R.)</p> <p>3. They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe. O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me! (R.)</p> <p>4. I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled. 'You who fear the Lord give him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory. Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.)</p>	<p>Phil 2:6-11 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians <i>He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.</i></p> <p>His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.</p>
<p>Gospel Acclamation</p>	<p>Next Week: Easter Sunday</p>	
<p>Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!</p>	<p>First Reading: Acts 10:34. 37-43 Second Reading: Col 3:1-4 Gospel: Jn 20:1-9 Mary Magdalene finds the tomb empty, Peter sees and believes.</p>	

Gospel Reflection



The Passion narrative, as described in the Gospel of Matthew, is keen to drive home Jesus as fulfilling the prophecy of scripture. As we prepare to enter the sacred time of Holy Week, we look again at the significance of Christ in our lives. Though he was really in the form of God, Jesus came in the form of a slave. We have a saviour who was crushed for our iniquities, nailed to a cross as a convicted felon, and there endured the sense of abandonment. We have a saviour who was finally lifted up and exalted precisely because he emptied himself of his divine privileges. Unlike conquerors who triumph by putting down their opponents, Jesus was raised up because he himself was first willing to be put down. We have a saviour who first offered himself *for* us and then continues to offer himself *to* us as an example to follow. As he was willing to empty himself for our sake, so we must be willing to empty ourselves for the sake of others.



Holy Week in 2020 will be like none other. With the "Church" (building) closed we are each forced to be creative and reflective in our own way. To "be the Church" has never been more of a critical reality. Contemporary author Andy Crouch tweeted "Honestly hadn't planned on giving up quite this much for Lent." Between the comedy, we are forced to truly be grateful for the things we have and the people around us. With the pandemic around us, our Lent has really taken on a new meaning. The whole crisis prompted Pope Francis' reflection in his recent Urbi et Orbi message, "the crisis exposes our vulnerability and uncovers those false and superfluous certainties around which we have constructed our daily schedules, our project, our habits and priorities. It shows us how we have allowed to become dull and feeble at the very things that nourish, sustain and strengthen our lives and our communities."