

St Mary Queen of Heaven, Georges Hall



Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord | Year A | Sunday 12th 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."

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Fr Joseph Kolodziej

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A Message from Fr Joseph:

Dear Parishioners,

If I may share with you an Easter reflection offered by Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI: We have all experienced the desert of Lent, fasting from our everyday routines, praying for the recovery of our world from Coronavirus, and giving in new ways to our loved ones and communities during this time of Lent. How closely have you journeyed alongside Jesus on his way to Calvary, sacrificing your desires, preferences, schedules, energy, or even health, to respond to the call to love one another in service and charity? And, how keenly have you felt the agony of Good Friday and Holy Saturday, in which Mary and the disciples mourned the loss of Jesus' physical presence and experienced intense longing for his return?

On the morning of the Resurrection, some women went to Jesus' tomb to mourn a dead man. As I think about the state of our world right now, and the dramatic effects it has had on all of our lives, it appears that we, too, journey with the women to the tomb to mourn. With our churches standing empty this Easter, it appears that we have been defeated. But, my friends, hear the words spoken to the women by the angel who greeted them at the tomb, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."

While our churches are certainly not tombs, I ask you to consider how they are tremendous signs of faith in a world filled with fear. Our empty churches should remind us of the power of our faith, which is the power of the mercy and love of God. We may be physically distant from one another – and, how I long to see you at Mass – but we are not alone. Our God has come to save us. Jesus has truly risen and is alive! He lives within us, for we are members of His Body, and he has not abandoned us.



After seeing the empty tomb, the angel instructed the women to go tell the disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead. I invite you this Easter to consider how you will share that message of faith, hope and love with those in your lives who may need this message of hope. How will someone know that you have seen the empty tomb and that this joy may also be theirs? How will your interactions with others or decisions that you make reflect a heart that is full of gratitude and dedicated to service? How will your actions of self-sacrifice and self-denial be a witness to our community of your respect for life? How will you forgive others because you have experienced forgiveness and new life in the sacraments? How will your longings for heaven attract others to seek the kingdom of God before all else?

Let this Easter be a time of renewal for your faith. See the sign of the empty tomb and rejoice in Christ's victory over our sin and death. Resolve to return to him with your whole heart, trusting that he will provide for your every need. Live in the joy of the Resurrection and share that joy with those who have yet to experience it. I pray continually for all of you, that through this time of physical separation, your faith may be strengthened beyond measure and that your hearts may be opened to receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Happy Easter to all the friends and families of the St Mary's community.

***"This is the day the Lord has made. R Alleluia, alleluia!
God's love has no end. R. Alleluia, alleluia!
God has raised us up. R. Alleluia, alleluia!
And given us the gift of new life. R. Alleluia, alleluia!"***

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 Onkowidjaja,
Rosa Agostino, Tamara Kalass,
Warren Clarke, Eddie Marks

Recently Deceased:

Zbigniew Janicki,
Mario Mercandelp, 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
Sergio Spada

Anniversaries:

Sandra Eileen O'Neill, Mons
Alexander (Lex) Maxwell
Johnson Ron Clayton (2017),
Hermann Reinke (2011), Frantz
Ducasse, Isabel Nohra, Antonio
Parisi, Guisepppe Nesci, Patricia
Marindo, Stanislaw Kolodziej,
Fiona Hatty (2011), Ron West,
Nicolò Aloisio, Patricia Gibbons,
Katherine Mathieson

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.



HOPE... Passing the baton



O God, you alone are the hope and healer of your people. You have promised us the hope of a world where there will be no more sorrow, sickness, or dying. Comfort and heal, merciful Lord, all who are in sorrow, need, sickness, or any other trouble.

By Jesus' death and resurrection you have set your people free from sin and death. Give us a firm trust in your goodness, and bring us into the joy of the resurrection, and the fulfilment of all your precious promises. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



A Message of Hope ([YouTube Video](#))

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. We will continue to stream services on Facebook ([link](#)) or YouTube ([link](#)). **We sincerely apologise for the technical difficulties experienced last Sunday, but are confident they have been resolved.**
- **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.



Family & Faith

Some photos from Palm Sunday...



Thank you to families for giving public witness and to those who shared palms with others.

Parish Notices

Divine Mercy Sunday

Next Sunday we will celebrate [Divine Mercy Sunday](#), we will pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet before our streamed service and further resources will be provided in the Bulletin.



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.

Postponed Until Further Notice:

- Parish Sacramental Program
- Rosary and Prayer Group
- Eucharistic Adoration and Novena
- Ephesus Youth Group - [Please stay up to date on Instagram @smghephesus](#)
- Choir Practices
- Children's Liturgy Group
- Play Group
- Golden Oldies



Project Compassion

We know that many of you may not be able to hand in your PC Boxes at this time. Thank you for supporting Project Compassion - your kindness and solidarity is appreciated. You can safely donate online at: <https://lent.caritas.org.au>

Smart Loving

While many people are enjoying working from home and seeing more of their family, experts are warning that there may be an increase of stress, domestic violence and frustration now that familiar routines are disappearing. Smart Loving Breakthrough is a three hour online course that can offer support: see <https://smartloving.org/breakthrough/>.

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.

Easter Prayers

Renewal of Baptismal Promises:

Through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life. And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church. And so, I ask you:

Do you renounce Satan? **R. I do**

And all his works? **R. I do**

And all his empty promises? **R. I do**

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth? **R. I do**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father? **R. I do**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting? **R. I do**

And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life. **R. Amen**

Blessing of the Family Home During Easter

Lord, we rejoice in the victory of your Son over death: by rising from the tomb to new life he gives us new hope and promise. Bless all the members of this household and surround them with your protection, that they may find comfort and peace in Jesus Christ, the paschal lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. All: Amen.

Blessing of Family Easter Food

God of glory, the eyes of all turn to you as we celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death. Bless us and this food of our first Easter meal. May we who gather at the Lord's table continue to celebrate the joy of his resurrection and be admitted finally to his heavenly banquet. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Easter Worship Songs:

- Because He Lives (Amen) - Matt Maher ([Link](#))
- Christ is Risen - Matt Maher ([link](#))
- Resurrecting - Elevation Worship ([link](#))
- Death where is your sting? - Cory Ashbury ([link](#))
- On the Darkest Day - Matt Osgood ([link](#))

Children's Corner



First Reading

Acts 10:34. 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – & he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

Responsorial Psalm

(R) This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.' (R.)
2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds. (R.)
3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. (R.)

Second Reading

Col 3:1-4

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord.

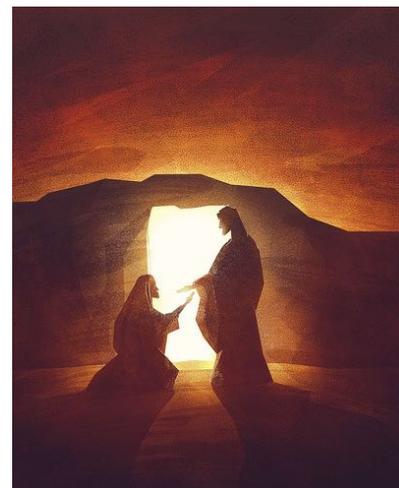
Alleluia!

Next Week: Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Second Reading: 1 Pt 1:3-9

Gospel: Jn 20:19-31 (Doubting Thomas)



Gospel

Jn 20:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The teaching of scripture is that he must rise from the dead.

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.



Reflection by Greg Sunter

The discovery of the empty tomb – although so simply told – is an astounding event that completes the Paschal Mystery: the passion, death AND resurrection of Jesus. Whilst Christ's willingness to go to his death on the cross was an extraordinary statement of God's love for humankind, it is his rising again from death that offers all Christian people HOPE. That is why on this day 1,600 years ago St John Chrysostom could say on behalf of us all: O death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is Risen, and you, O death, are destroyed! Christ is Risen, and evil is cast down! Christ is Risen, and the angels rejoice! Christ is Risen, and new life is set free! Christ, having risen from the dead, becomes the first-fruit of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be Glory and Power forever and ever. Amen!