

St Mary Queen of Heaven, Georges Hall



Ascension of the Lord | Year A | Sunday 24th May 2020

A Message from Fr Joseph

The Lord's Ascension into heaven marks the beginning of the church and is a new form of Jesus' presence among us. It calls us to keep our eyes and hearts open to encounter him, to serve him and bear witness to him to others. It is a matter of being men and women of the Ascension, that is, those who seek Christ along the paths of our time, bringing his word of salvation to the ends of the earth. On this journey we encounter Christ himself in our brothers and sisters, especially in the time of Covid-19; in those who suffer in their very flesh, the harsh and humiliating experience of old and new forms of poverty.

As at the beginning the Risen Christ sent his Apostles with the power of the Holy Spirit. So too does he send all of us today, with the same power, so as to establish concrete and visible signs of hope in our parish community.

Because Jesus gives us hope with this promise, "I am with you always; yes to the end of time". He went to heaven and opened the gates of heaven and we live in the hope that we will reach it.

The Feast of the Ascension tells us that the Church must be a community in mission, guided by God's Spirit and confident of God's protection even amid suffering and death to be "witnesses to the ends of the earth".



EACH WEEK IN OUR PARISH:

SATURDAY:

Vigil Mass (English) // 5pm;

SUNDAY:

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

MONDAY:

Mass // 8am

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

Rosary // 7.45am
Mass // 8am

THURSDAY

Rosary // 7.45am
Mass // 8am

FRIDAY XX

Rosary // 7.45am
Mass // 8am

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH:

Monday 25th:

Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians

Tuesday 26th Day

Feast of St Phillip Neri
National Sorry Day

Saturday 30th

Feast of St Joan of Arc

Sunday 31st:

Pentecost Sunday
Feast of the Visitation



"Out of difficulties grow miracles"
- Jean de la Bruyere



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
parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com

Safeguarding Officer/Secretary:

Veronica Denning
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



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Sick:

Barbara Kains,
Bronwyn Kolodziej,
Christina Apolinario,
Daniel Matesic, Daniel Clarke,
David Sanders, Denis King,
Eddie Marks, Eileen Ellery,
Eunice Davis, Heather Graham,
John Sanders, Kerry Gibbons,
Paul Roughley, Phillip Nehme,
Romela Onkowidjaja,
Rosa Agostino, Tamara Kalass,
Warren Clarke

Recently Deceased:

Patricia Merchant,
Angelina Pagura, Peter Baulman,
Joe Feletto, Filippo Scardullo,
Matthew Barrett, Sergio Spada,
Charlie Smith, Samira Hanna,
Zbigniew Janicki,
Mario Mercandelp, Mary Grec

Anniversaries:

Sergio Spada, Hans Studer
Kathleen Jessie Cunneen
Kathleen Burgess
Maxwell Boon (2012)
Antoun Sassine (2013)
Alfred John Evans
Stasys Satkauskas
Dibe Boukaram (2012)
Eric Milligan (2015)
Remigio D'Amico
George Gosling,
Magdalena Fidel
Eileen Williams

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.



Easing of Restrictions - Registration for Masses



The NSW Government has now eased some social restrictions. Under these eased restrictions, "religious gatherings and places of worship can have up to 10 worshippers."

Please continue to check the parish website for information about any permitted gatherings in our parish church, including Masses.

To register to attend Saturday 5pm Mass or Sunday Masses at 8am, 10am and 5pm please use the following link:

<https://cutt.ly/SMGH>

*Registration does not automatically confirm your place, a member of the parish council will confirm your position.

*Please assist people around you who may not be able to complete the form or do not have access to the internet.

St Mary's Primary School

On Monday 25 May we are all back to school. We thank parents who have been amazing teachers at home using the remote learning resources created by teachers.

We look forward to having all students with us as we enjoy learning together at school again.

We will retain extra cleaning and refrain from assemblies and whole school activities until further notice.

We are still open for 2021 Kindergarten enrolments, however, we have already offered letters of placement to Catholics in our parish area and siblings. If you fall into this category and have not handed in your enrolment form, it is essential that you visit our office as soon as possible.

God and us together.

Family & Faith

Did you know?

The Ascension. Today we celebrate Jesus' last bodily appearance on earth before he was taken up to heaven. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke as well as the Acts of the Apostles recount the event which occurred on the Mount of Olives near Bethany outside the walls of Jerusalem. Traditionally celebrated on the fortieth day after Easter (which for this year is Thursday, 21st May), the feast is commemorated on the following Sunday in Australia.



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. We will continue to stream the 10am Mass on Facebook ([link](#)) and YouTube ([link](#)). You can register to attend Sunday Mass using the Form above.
- **Baptism:** Please contact the Parish Office to make prior booking. Subject to physical distancing and relevant directives.
- **Marriage:** Couples need to provide at least six months' notice and a preparation course is required. Subject to physical distancing and relevant 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 unless by prior appointment.
- **Anointing of the Sick:** Accordance with new Archdiocesan guidelines, please contact the



Parish Notices

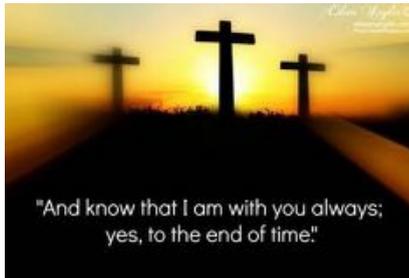
CyberSafety Survey

The Archdiocese of Sydney recognises the importance of online safety, and the Safeguarding Office has developed a 5 minute CyberSafety Survey for adults and children to complete. This will allow the Safeguarding Office to gain a better understanding about eSafety. All are invited to complete the survey and share with others:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TC7CYQ3>

Children's Liturgy

This Sunday would have ordinarily been Children's Liturgy Sunday. A huge hello to all of our parish children who regularly attend Children's Liturgy each month. Included in the bulletin email and [HERE](#) are a Children's Liturgy Activity sheet for this Sunday as well as discussion [questions](#). Parents are invited to read the Gospel and discuss its message with their children and assist them to complete the activity sheet. Have fun!



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

Children's Crossword - Ascension

Mary Help of Christians - 25 May

On Monday 25 May, we celebrate the feast of Mary under her title "Help of Christians" (The patroness of Australia). The Australian Catholic Bishops have urged the faithful to use the following prayer, "Seeking her intercession for the safety of all our people especially in this time of COVID-19 pandemic."

Entrusting Australia to Mary Help of Christians

O Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of heaven and earth, and tender Mother of humanity, at this time when a pandemic threatens all your children, we entrust to you our nation, Australia, and all who live in this country.

We commit to your intercession all the members of our community, beginning with the weakest ones, from the unborn to the sick, the disabled and the elderly.

We commit to you our families, our young and old, and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious. We entrust to your Immaculate Heart those who have lost their livelihood or employment, our pastors and other essential service workers, and our leaders at this time.

We implore your intercession especially for the protection of doctors and nurses and those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis. Reign over us, Mother of God, and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign and triumph in us and around us, as it has reigned and triumphed in you!

2nd Joyful Mystery: The Visitation

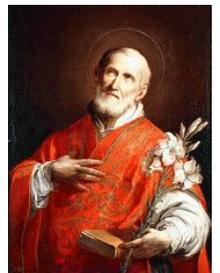


Newly pregnant, Mary walks several days to visit her cousin Elizabeth. She is greeted with great joy and exclaims her Magnificat. While knowing that all will call her blessed, she spends several months serving Elizabeth. I imagine her performing the tasks of life so that Elizabeth, in her Third trimester when the physical burden of pregnancy is greatest, can rest. Despite

her own possible exhaustion and morning sickness, she serves her cousin. I imagine them at the end of the day sitting together and sharing their feelings about these two miraculous babies. I pray that I can serve as Mary did.

St Phillip Neri

St Philip Neri was born in Florence in 1515. His mother died when he was young and he was educated at a Dominican convent. In 1533 he went to Rome and lived as a hermit for two years, then spent a further three years studying theology and philosophy. He gave up his studies and sold his books and encouraged his friends to join him in working for the sick and visiting the churches of Rome. St Philip was ordained a priest in 1551 and he spent many long hours hearing people's confessions. He founded the Congregation of the Oratory, which gave its name to the musical form 'Oratorio', which developed from



Crossword

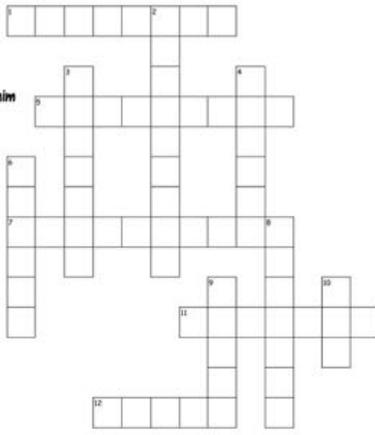


Across

- 1: the high place where Jesus told his disciples to meet him
 5: gave thanks and praise to God
 7: all things
 11: large groups of people that belong to different countries
 12: educate

Down

- 2: power over others
 3: didn't believe
 4: God's Kingdom
 6: the number of disciples who witnessed Jesus' ascension into heaven
 8: the name of the town where Jesus met his disciples
 9: our world
 10: finish



their services. St Philip was known as a happy man, who enjoyed playing the occasional practical joke, but was also regarded as a living saint by those who knew him.

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

- All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. (R.)
- God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. (R.)
- God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne. (R.)



Second Reading

Eph 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Next Week: Pentecost Sunday

1st Reading: Acts 2:1-11
 The Spirit comes to the Apostles as tongues of fire.
2nd Reading: 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13
 We are one body
Gospel: Jn 20:19-23 - Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit into the Apostles.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
 Go and teach all people my gospel.
 I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 28:16-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and



on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

Reflection by Greg Sunter

In both the Gospel passage from Matthew and the passage from the Book of Acts, Jesus commissioned his disciples to go out to the whole world. In Matthew, it is to 'all the nations' and in Acts it is 'to the ends of the earth'. Both writers make it abundantly clear that the message of Jesus is not exclusively for the people of Israel but for all people everywhere. Within only a very few years, early Christian communities had sprung up all around the Mediterranean. Once Christianity became the religion of Rome it spread to all the corners of the Roman Empire.