

St Mary Queen of Heaven, Georges Hall



18th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Year A | Sunday 2nd August 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:

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Parish Website:

www.smgh.org.au

Parish Facebook:

Follow: fb.me/smgh2



Parish School:

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www.stmgeorgeshall.catholic.edu.au



A Message from Fr Joseph

We can imagine how lost we would feel, if we lost a family member, a small child or a close friend and how perhaps we would long to be alone in the presence of God to sort out our feelings and decide how to pick up the pieces and move on.

Perhaps it was like that for Jesus, when he learned that John the Baptist, the one who had recently baptized him, was beheaded on the order of a king, to satisfy the wish of a child. Think of the emotions Jesus must have felt: anguish, torment, and probably even guilt for not being there to stop it. Most likely, these emotions flooded his mind as "he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself."

Jesus didn't find the solitude because many people were looking for Him. A crowd of 5,000 waited for him, people who were there not to comfort him in his anguish, nor to mourn with him, but rather, to ask him to attend to their personal needs, to cure them, and to hear him speak.

What did Jesus do?

His heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick. Where did this resilience come from, that allowed Jesus to face the multitudes when all he really wanted to do was to be alone?

The people have faith and believe that through Him they share our living Kingdom of God. Jesus speaks to his need to be by himself in prayer with his Father, to nurture and deepen his relationship with God, so that in times of deep distress he would have the wellspring of love and compassion necessary to rise up to the occasion and deal with the hardship of his life on earth and so, it is with us.

For the last six months we have been under great pressure about how to deal with Covid-19. We pray for all those who are affected. Jesus gave food for us, healed the sick and showed us the way to the Father in prayer.

Let us pray this week for strength and courage to endure the hardships, and our love for each other.

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
Rosary // 8.45am

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH:

Saturday 1st:

Feast of St Alphonsus Ligouri

Monday 3rd:

Feast of St Peter Julian Eymard
and St Dominic Guzman

Tuesday 4th:

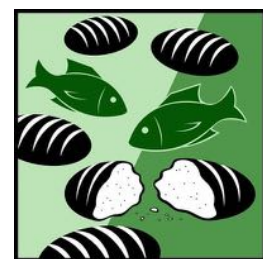
Feast of St John Vianney
1st Holy Communion Parents night // 7pm

Thursday 6th:

+ Feast of the Transfiguration +

Saturday 8th:

Feast of St Mary of the Cross, MacKillop



"There where you are, you will find God" - Mary MacKillop

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Sick:

Cole James, Bourke Gibbons
Christina Apolinario
Daniel Matesic, Daniel Clarke
David Sanders, Denis Kin
Eddie Marks, Eileen Ellery
Eunice Davis, Heather Graham
John Sanders, Kerry Gibbons
Marie Reich, Paul Roughley
Phillip Nehme
Romela Onkowitz
Rosa Agostino, Tamara Kalass
Vic Ryan, Warren Clarke

Recently Deceased:

Baby Luca,
Bronwyn Kolodziej,
Gyula George Kovacs
Lynne Mullins, Mary Zammit
Mary Ann Weir
Patricia Merchant
Angelina Pagura, Peter Baulma

Anniversaries:

Joan Jeffcoate, Kathline Isaacs,
James Isaacs, Filippa Zappala
Garth Robinson
Nassim Tannous,
William Tierney, Kathleen Collins
Alice Boyle (2018)
Eileen Neville, Lina Vella
Bill Tierney, Thomas Wilson
Antonio Ingenieri (2017)
Saviour Gili, Iginio Zenere
Gerard Lytton Nugara
Michael Vulcano
Sidney Milton Brady
Mary Schembri
Elena Cortes

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)

Thank you to all the teens who joined us on Zoom last Sunday to kick off our Faith and Arts Series!
Our next night will be on the 9th of August and we'll be looking at cinema and faith!
Please ensure your parents fill out the Google Form so you can join.
cutt.ly/ephesus-zoom



St Mary's Primary School

Thankyou Flowers For Hospital
Thanks to our students who created beautiful paper flowers to thank the Bankstown Hospital staff for their wonderful service to our local community. We thank Miss Chahoud and Miss Awad for leading the children through this kind initiative.



Sacraments

- **Baptism:** Any weekend Mass or Sundays at 11am; bookings via Parish office.
- **Marriage:** At least 6 months notice is needed, a preparation course if required.
- **Reconciliation:** Sat @ 4.00pm or by appointment, please contact Fr Joseph.

Family & Faith - Feast of Mary MacKillop (August 8th)

Mary Helen MacKillop is Australia's first Saint and cofounder of the Sisters of St Joseph. Together, the Sisters have vastly impacted the education of children in Australia, particularly in rural and poor communities.



From the pen of Mary MacKillop she wrote in 1900: "If choice be given, seek the most neglected places to which He calls us. Let us never forget that, in the spirit of our Rule, it is to those we should desire to go... Do all the good you can and never see an evil without trying to remedy it... this is our mission, to make charity all-embracing."

May the abiding presence of God encourage us

*May the abundance of God's love enliven us
May the vision of Mary MacKillop inspire us
May our love for one another support us
May God bless us – Provident, Overflowing Generosity, and Ground of our Hope. Amen.*



Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, Playgroup is not running at this time.

A CATHOLIC GUIDE TO TALKING TO YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT COVID-19

Talking to your children about COVID-19, regardless of their age, can feel like a daunting task for parents who are in the process of trying to understand it themselves. Roofing ourselves in the truth allows us to communicate peacefully and effectively to our children as questions arise for them. This guide is meant to assist parents in answering questions through the Catholic lens. This is not comprehensive and language should be adapted to age appropriate levels.

Consider analogies that might help your children understand. This is a great opportunity to talk about how sin makes us sick and Reconciliation (confession) is like washing our hands.

Give children the space to come to you and ask questions and be careful not to project our adult fears on them.

Ask your children questions such as "Where can we see God working?" or "How is God blessing us right now?"

Remind them that God does not stay in His perfect world in Heaven, but enters into our world to help us now.

Explain that just because we are not going to the Church (building) does not mean we do not have Church. We, the people are also the Church!

Children have immense dignity and personal capacity for prayer. Honour their concerns and anxieties, even if it's presenting itself as poor behaviour.



Parish Notices

COVID Safe

Our Parish is now a COVID Safe business and has a COVID Safe Plan in place. St Mary's Covid Safety Plan is available on the parish website ([Link](#)). We request that upon entering the church that you:



- Sanitise your hands
- Register your attendance
- Maintain social distancing

We also recommend that you download the COVID Safe app on your mobile phones to assist with contact tracing.

We are being urged to be vigilant during this pandemic especially at the moment as cases are identified that are in nearby **hotspots** (including St Brendan's Church, Bankstown and Georges River Grammar).

If you are feeling unwell, please follow all the rules by ensuring social distancing, get tested, go home and isolate until you receive the results. There are many opportunities to worship and pray on line or at home.

First Holy Communion

Will be celebrated in Term 3 on Saturday 12 and 19 September. Parents and guardians are advised that an information night will be held on **Tuesday 4 August** at 7.00pm in the church. One parent only is to attend this information night. Children are not to attend. Enquiries: Nadia 0414849569.



Confirmation

Will be celebrated in Term 3 on Saturday 26 September. Parents and guardians are advised that an information night will be held on **Tuesday 11 August** at 7.00pm in the church. One parent only is to attend this information night. Children are not to attend. Enquiries: Nadia 0414849569.

Planned Giving

Tax receipts for 2019-2020 and new sets of planned giving envelopes for 2020-2021 are both available for collection from the church. We all have an obligation to assist meet the parish's financial commitments - if you would like to assist by contributing to the planned giving please complete the [ATTACHED FORM](#) and add to collection plate or contact Michael on 0414 889 731



The Charitable Works Fund

Appeal - 1-2 August: The CWF is a centralised fund that supports the charitable and pastoral activities of the Archdiocese of Sydney (including ministries: CatholicCare, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD), Ephpheta Centre, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Seminaries and Chaplaincies), You can support the CWF Online: www.donatesydneycatholic.org. Phone 1800 753 959 for enquiries.

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 and Ministerial Integrity Office at 93905810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

The Transfiguration

This feast had its origin in the East in the fourth century after a Church was dedicated on top of Mt. Tabor. The feast celebrates the divine radiance shining in Christ's human flesh and God's glory shining forth in the lives of Christians.

"God places us in the world as his fellow workers-agents of transfiguration. We work with God so that injustice is transfigured into justice, so there will be more compassion and caring, that there will be more laughter and joy, that there will be more togetherness in God's world." - Desmond Tutu



4th Luminous Mystery - Transfiguration

Peter, James and John accompany Jesus up Mount Tabor where Jesus is transformed before them in Glorious light and Moses and Elijah appear. Peter desires to build tents for them so they may stay. God again proclaims pleasure in Jesus, his beloved Son and tells them to listen to him. I imagine the disciples seeing Jesus with the prophets of the past and hearing God's voice. I pray for the desire to spend time with Christ thinking about his message and striving for holiness.

What is the meaning of Jesus for us today?

Christians believe that by living like Jesus, they can live fully themselves, beyond the threshold of death. The resurrection of Jesus means that ordinary people can also rise. What is possible for one person – Jesus – is also possible for another. The first name Christians gave themselves was 'people of the road'. That way is Jesus. He is the way to perfect happiness and eternal life.


This explains why Christians are people of hope. Not a naïve hope, but a realistic hope. Hope that believes that a loving life – that does not run away from suffering and that strives for a better world – is definitive and therefore indelible. You can discover what true love is by looking at the example of Jesus every day. His life story is the inexhaustible textbook for becoming more and more human.

~ Excerpted from Did Jesus Really Exist? and 51 other questions by Nikolaas Sintobin SJ

Children's Corner

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

Baskets | Boat | Crowd | Disciples | Fish | Galilee | Late | Loaves | Sick | Thousand | Towns | Twelve

First Reading	Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading
<p>Is 55:1-3 A reading from the prophet Isaiah <i>Hasten and eat.</i></p> <p>Thus says the Lord: Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David.</p> 	<p>(R.) The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs.</p> <p>1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)</p> <p>2. The eyes of all creatures look to you and you give them their food in due time. You open wide your hand, grant the desires of all who live. (R.)</p> <p>3. The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, call on him from their hearts. (R.)</p>	<p>Rom 8:35. 37-39 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans <i>No creature can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ.</i></p> <p>Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.</p> <p>For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.</p>
	<p>Next Week's Readings</p> <p>19th Sunday in Ordinary Time 1st Reading: 1 Kgs 19:9.11-13 2nd Reading: Rom 9:1-5 Gospel: Mt 14:22-33 Jesus walks on the water</p>	<p>Gospel Acclamation</p> <p>Alleluia, alleluia! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Alleluia!</p>

Gospel

Mt 14:13-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
They all ate and were satisfied.

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.



Reflection by Greg Sunter

This miraculous feeding is the first of two such accounts in the gospel of Matthew. In this account, there are twelve baskets of leftovers. These baskets represent the twelve tribes of Israel. It is a metaphor for Jesus as the one who provides nourishment and satisfaction for the entire Jewish population. The imagery in the second story (Mt 15:32-39) emphasises that Jesus also feeds and satisfies the gentile people. Between them, the two accounts present Jesus as the one who provides spiritual food for all.

This story connects the old and the new by recalling how the God of Exodus fed the people in the wilderness, but it also points to the Eucharist, which continues to feed us on our journey. The words and actions of Jesus in this miraculous feeding event foreshadow the events of the Last Supper: he *took* the bread and fish, *gave thanks*, *broke* the bread, and *gave* it to the disciples to distribute. This event is a Eucharistic one just as much as the Last Supper.