

St Mary Queen of Heaven, Georges Hall



19th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Year A | Sunday 9th 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

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Parish School:

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A Message from Fr Joseph

On this nineteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time, the Church joyfully reminds us that Jesus our Saviour is always close to us. He calms the storms of our life. Peter was sinking right in front of Jesus, due to fear, his lack of faith and courage. Peter experiences a similar call amidst chaos. We know the story well. The disciples are sent by Jesus in a boat "to the other side." The sea was a dangerous place containing any number of monsters and maniacal manifestations lurking in the deep. They kept to the shallows for safety. Jesus sends them into deeper waters. In the darkest hour of the night's fourth watch, sometime between 3:00-6:00am, a storm swamps the disciples' boat and they are in disarray. It is at that very point, the point when all feels lost and desperate, that Jesus appears, walking on the water. The disciples are so disturbed by their terror that they don't even recognize him -- they are blinded by their fear. It is at that very point, the point when dark spirits have dispelled the light, that Jesus speaks: "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid...Come."

Peter is so moved by this comforting call that he springs out of the safety and stability of the boat onto the unstable and watery terrain of the sea in order to draw near to Jesus.

I imagine Elijah and Peter would have something to say to us today. Here we are, experiencing the storm of this global pandemic that has caused a deep disruption in our lives, especially those who are most heavily impacted by the virus. They may even have something to say to us in the fear that the virus has forced us out of the world as we knew it, into an unknown future. Fear that the dismantling policy, systems, and structures will force many of us out of our boats of privilege and onto an unfamiliar landscape of equity. Fear that our country will continue to provide help for others. But notice when God and Jesus show up and where they stand: amidst the chaos, within moments of confusion.

**Jesus calls out to us today- 'Courage!
It is I! Do not be afraid.'**

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 8th:

Feast of St Mary of the Cross, MacKillop

Sunday 9th:

Ephesus Youth Group on ZOOM // 6.00pm



Monday 10th:

Feast of St Lawrence

Tuesday 11th:

Feast of St Clare of Assisi

Friday 14th:

St Maximilian Kolbe

Saturday 15th:

+ Solemnity of the Assumption +

***"I would advise all to trust more to God, and of course,
prayerfully to seek God's guidance."***

- 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
Margaret Ward, Marie Reich,
Paul Roughley Phillip Nehme
Romela Onkowitz
Rosa Agostino, Tamara Kalass
Vic Ryan, Warren Clarke

Recently Deceased:

Salvatore Albanes, Baby Luca
Dusanka Jurcevic
Bronwyn Kolodziej
Gyula George Kovacs
Lynne Mullins, Mary Zammit
Mary Ann Weir
Patricia Merchant
Angelina Pagura, Peter Baulman

Anniversaries:

Giuseppe & Severina Zamai
Mary Schembri
Elena Cortes
Mario De Angelis
Margaret Devlin
Catherine Hardie
George Kains (2018)
Jennifer Baker
Ray Roberts
Frances Jvancich
George Faulkner (2017)
Charles Ellul
Shirley Barlow (2018)
Elfie Walsler
Stacey Keyzer
Ross Wignell
Porzia Fania
Maria Nguyen Thi Mong Diep
Catherine Kleinman (2014)
Georgette Layoun (2017)

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)

JOIN US THIS SUNDAY!

We'll be continuing our Faith and Arts Series on Zoom! This week we'll be looking at film and faith!
Meeting ID: 828 9262 6665
Ask your parents to give you permission to join
cutt.ly/ephesus-zoom



EPHESUS ONLINE | THE FAITH AND ARTS SERIES



St Mary's Primary School

This week we celebrate the feast of Mary of the Cross MacKillop. We thank Mary MacKillop for her vision and compassionate leadership. Today we share with you Kindergarten's Liturgy they prepared in honour of Mary Mackillop.

[link](#)

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

REACH!

In that bleak, doubt filled moment as Peter sank into the dark water, with fierce winds blowing and waves crashing around him he would have felt fear, panic, desperation, an overwhelming helplessness.

Amongst those feelings, in those split seconds of starting to sink, his intuitive response was to reach up for what he needed, to be helped, to be rescued, for Jesus to save him...and saved he was by the reaching hand of Christ.

This is a beautiful image for us to remember.



We all have moments in our lives when we feel like we are sinking. We can feel overwhelmed by things at home or work. We can feel anxious about finances/bills/money

or the project or expectations at work. We can feel worried about our loved ones when issues arise or altarcations occur. Maybe even fear that things can't be fixed and they won't get better.

These are the moments we become Peter. We take our eyes off Christ and we lose faith and we start to sink. But how wonderful is it that we know, all we need to do is REACH... reach out for the saving hand of Jesus, to pull us out of the waves of worry and anxiety. We will never know how long Peter was left reaching up before Jesus reached back but we do know that He never let anything happen to him.

And so it is with us, we won't know how long before Jesus grabs us but we know that He eventually will, if **psychologically, spirituality and prayerfully, we just - keep - reaching.**

WHAT'S IN YOUR PRAYER SPACE?

A Boat

Lord Jesus,
When we cry to you for help, you are always ready to respond.
Teach us to trust in you.
Amen.



Parish Notices

First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion will be celebrated in Term 3 on Saturday 12 and 19 September. Thank you to the parents who attended the information night held last Tuesday. We welcome the children enrolled in the sacramental program and their parents who will be attending Mass this weekend. Please keep these children in your prayers. For enquiries please contact Nadia 0414849569.



Confirmation

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.

Enrolment forms are available in the church, please bring the following to the information night:

- Completed enrolment form
- Your child's baptism certificate (if not baptised at St Mary's)
- \$50 registration fee

For enquiries please contact Nadia on 0414 849 569

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

Our parish has an annual commitment to support the CWF, a centralised fund that supports the charitable and pastoral activities of the Archdiocese of Sydney (including: CatholicCare, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Ephpheta Centre, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Seminaries and Chaplaincies). You can support the CWF by donating through the parish, envelopes are available at the back of the church or you can donate online: www.donatesydneycatholic.org.

Thank you

A sincere thank you to the Toubia family for organising for the installation of the statues of the Holy Family, Saint Charbel and Saint Francis and thank you to the parishioners whose donations assisted to meet the cost of the statues. It is a beautiful gift for our parish.



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. Safeguarding resources are available in the sacristy. Enquiries: veronicad.smgh@bigpond.com

Covid Safety

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
- **The NSW Government 'highly recommends the wearing of masks in...places of worship.'**



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 as positive cases have been identified in nearby areas. 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 online or at home.

2nd Glorious Mystery: Ascension

As Jesus ascends to heaven he tells his followers to go and make disciples. He sends them to the world to share his story and he promises he will always be with them. I imagine their surprise to see him lifted up and away to the clouds and their wonderment as all that occurred. I imagine them considering what will happen next and how they will do as he told them. They are filled with hope and maybe fear. I pray for hope when I don't know the way forward or when times seem dark.



Prayer for Lebanon



Father of all mercies,
We pray for the families who have been affected by the recent explosion in Beirut. You are the God who heals, please bring your comfort and healing to those who are hurting. Cast your hand over Lebanon that peace may reign and that leaders respond with wisdom.
Amen

Children's Corner

Help Jesus find his way across the water and onto the boat. Be sure to pick up St Peter along the way!



First Reading	Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading
<p>1 Kgs 19:9.11-13 A reading from the first book of the Kings <i>Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord God.</i></p> <p>When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.</p>	<p>(R.) Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.</p> <p>1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)</p> <p>2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. (R.)</p> <p>3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)</p> 	<p>Rom 9:1-5 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans <i>I would willingly be condemned if it could help my people.</i></p> <p>What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.</p>
	<p>Next Week's Readings</p> <p>20th Sunday in Ordinary Time 1st Reading: Is 56:1.6-7 2nd Reading: Rom 11:13-15. 29-32 Gospel: Mt 15:21-28 - A Canaanite woman asks Jesus to heal her daughter.</p>	<p>Gospel Acclamation</p> <p>Alleluia, alleluia! I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word. Alleluia!</p>

Gospel

Mt 14:22-33 - A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Command me to come to you over the water.

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'



Reflection by Greg Sunter

The cry of Peter is one that each of us feels the need to cry out at some stage in our life. Jesus trusted Peter's ability to walk to him on the water; otherwise he would not have called Peter to do so. It is Peter who doubts himself. In this moment of realising that he can't do it alone, he calls out to Jesus. One of the enduring images of Jesus is as the one who saves – the Saviour. When the realisation eventually comes to each of us that we can't do it all alone, we need only call on the one who saves. Now consider the post-Resurrection encounter of Jesus and the disciples at the Sea of Galilee: Jesus is at the shore, preparing breakfast, and calls out to the disciples. John's Gospel then recounts: *Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water (John 21:7).* Have you ever wondered why Peter puts on his clothes *before* going into the water? Well, when read side by side with today's Gospel, one could assume that on this occasion Peter had faith, and perhaps expected to walk on water when he "jumped in."