

St Mary Queen of Heaven, Georges Hall



20th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Year A | Sunday 16th 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

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A Message from Fr Joseph

I believe that today's gospel is challenging us to look at our lives not only from our positions of privilege. We are challenged to ask ourselves how we can work together to bring The Kingdom of God to all people. Can we look beyond physical appearances to the nature of our humanity and be united with people and Jesus through our pain, our suffering, our faith, our hope, and our love?

The Canaanite woman in this Gospel reminds me of another resourceful and smart woman - St. Teresa of Avila who lived in the 16th century. She had a very special relationship with God, and she wrote a great deal, describing her experiences with God.

One of the famous stories about her is the time that she was riding in a donkey cart and it was overturned, throwing her into muddy water. She said to God, "If this is the way you treat your friends, then it's no wonder you have so few of them!"

In one of her books, Teresa gives us some advice about prayer:

'Remain in the Lord's presence continually, and speak to Him, pray to him in your necessities, and complain to him about your troubles; be merry with him in your joys... All this you can do without set prayers, but with words that fit your desires and needs. This is an excellent way to advance in prayer, and very quickly.'

This was exactly what the Canaanite woman from that district did, she started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil. Jesus eventually answers the woman in a personal way and this leads her to respond, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table. Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.'

In the same way, in our personal prayers, Jesus does not always respond immediately.

EACH WEEK IN OUR PARISH:

SATURDAY:

Mass // 9am&11am
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

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH:

Saturday 15th:

+ Solemnity of the Assumption +
Masses: 9am / 11am / 5pm

Wednesday 19th:

St John Eudes

Thursday 20th:

St Bernard

Friday 21st:

St Pius X

Saturday 22nd:

Queenship of Mary & Parish Feast Day



Sunday 23rd:

Feast of St Rome of Lima
Ephesus Zoom // 6pm

"For prayer is nothing else than being on terms of friendship with God"
- St Teresa of Avila

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Sick:

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:

Phyllis Totterdell, Cole James
Deidre Prentice
Salvatore Albane
Baby Luca, Dusanka Jurcevic
Bronwyn Kolodziej
Gyula George Kovacs
Lynne Mullins, Mary Zammit
Mary Ann Weir

Anniversaries:

Patricia Francis
Pauline Tumeth
Allen Tumeth
Ray Tumeth
Norma Winters
Beverley Ann Sciberras
Daphane Jones
Yolanda Sta Ana
Anthony James Howard
Ruth Pierce
Francis Simler (1986)
Marc Ocampo
Ella Stace
Jack Willoughby
Liberato Gobo
Catherine Keegan
Reginald Roy Small
Daphney Picton (2010)
Mario Zanella
Tom Stubbs
Sidney Armstrong
Carlo Gobo
Rosa Lombardi
Elaine Senar
Jan Lozinski
Emilio Youssef Nohra (2011)

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 NEXT SUNDAY ON ZOOM!

On the 23rd of August, we will continue our Faith and Arts Series. We'll be exploring the importance that music has in our faith and in shaping us!

Thank you to all the teens that have joined us online!

Ask your parents for permission to join us on Zoom cutt.ly/ephesus-zoom



St Mary's Primary School



Father Joseph visited the Stage Three Art Students this week. They are preparing for the Christmas Art Competition and need to understand the deeper meanings of the Nativity Story so as to express this meaning in word and image. Father Joseph has much wisdom and we thank him for supporting the students.

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

Have Faith. You are Not Alone.

In this week's Gospel, the woman believed in Jesus and would not give up even when Jesus tried to turn her away. Her faith was so persistent. Many people lose faith in God when things go badly in their life. Jesus does not promise that we will never suffer if we believe in Him, only that we will never suffer alone. He promises to walk beside us even in our darkest hour.



What does "Holy Day of Obligation" mean?

These are days in the Catholic Church where we are expected to go to mass. In Australia, our Holy Days of Obligation are The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15) and The Feast of the Nativity of the Lord Jesus Christ (Christmas). In these days of Covid, the Pope has given permission to be removed of the obligation to attend Mass. Perhaps think of a creative way to honour Mary instead - pray the Glorious Mysteries, read about Mary in the Gospels of Luke and John or place a flower at the feet of the statue of Our Lady.

Parish Feast day

Our parish feast day is next weekend. Due to the Covid pandemic our celebrations will need to be scaled back this year, however, we do want to acknowledge this important day. Parishioners are encouraged to bring a flower or two and place around the statue of Our Lady as a way to mark the occasion and honour Mary, Queen of Heaven. A prayer card will also be available for every parishioner. Please pray for our parish that it may continue to thrive and grow more and more into a Christ-centred community where each person is valued, appreciated and supported.



Parish Notices



Holy Communion and Confirmation

Thank you to the parents who attended the information nights over the last two weeks. Preparation lessons for First Holy Communion have commenced in preparation for the sacrament on 12 and 19 September.

Confirmation Commitment Mass will be held this weekend 15/16 August. Lessons for St Mary's children will be held at school and lessons for other students will commence on Monday 24 August at 4pm. The sacrament will be held on 26 September. If your child has not enrolled and would like to register please see Father Joseph after Mass or email veronicad.smgh@bigpond.com.

Should you have any other enquiries, please contact 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



Cashless donations

There are two tap donation devices at the entrance of the church for people who want to use Credit/Debit Cards. With a tap of your credit card you can help your parish meet its financial obligations. Donations of \$5 or \$10. Please note - donations are not tax deductible, can't be refunded and no receipts are issued.

Children's Liturgy

Children's liturgy is postponed until further notice. But, we want the children to continue experiencing the Gospel in a fun way. For this Sunday's Children's Liturgy activity please print the activities available [HERE](#) as well as the discussion questions. Parents are encouraged 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 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 Safe

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 and 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. If you have been to a COVID hotspot or are feeling unwell, please get tested, stay at home and follow the advice from NSW Health.



Feast of the Assumption

Celebrated every year on 15 August, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary commemorates the death of Mary and her bodily assumption into Heaven, before her body could begin to decay - a foretaste of our own bodily resurrection at the end of time. Because it signifies the Blessed Virgin's passing into eternal life, it is the most important of all Marian feasts as well as being a Holy Day of Obligation, although the Pope has removed the obligation to attend Mass during the pandemic.



3rd Glorious Mystery: Assumption of Mary

Mary is taken to heaven to her rightful place with Jesus where she intercedes for us in prayer. I imagine her excitement at being with her son again, and her pleasure at being in heaven with God. I pray for her intercession and help in growing closer to Jesus, while asking her to help me love him more. She will keep pointing the way toward her son.



Children's Corner

The Canaanite woman persisted because of her strong belief that Jesus would cure her daughter. Use the words below to find out what Jesus said.



-----, you have

--- your -----
be -----.

granted wish
faith Woman
Let great

First Reading	Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading
<p>Is 56:1.6-7 A reading from the prophet Isaiah <i>I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.</i></p> <p>Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest. Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.</p> 	<p>(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!</p> <p>1. O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help (R)</p> <p>2. Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. (R.)</p> <p>3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. (R.)</p> 	<p>Rom 11:13-15. 29-32 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans <i>The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.</i></p> <p>Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice. Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.</p>
Next Week's Readings		Gospel Acclamation
<p>21st Sunday in Ordinary Time 1st Reading: Is 22:19-23 2nd Reading: Rom 11:33-36 Gospel: Mt 16:13-20 Jesus asks, "Who do people say I am?"</p>		<p>Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!</p>

Gospel

Mt 15:21-28
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Woman, you have great faith.

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.



Reflection by Barbara Kay Lundblad

Matthew dares to give us a very human Jesus and he paints a specific picture of this woman. She is a Canaanite woman and is not one of Jesus' people. Matthew's choice of the word "Canaanite" seems a bit strange. By the time of Jesus, people were no longer called "Canaanites." This name was no longer on the map — a bit like calling Tasmania — Van Diemen's Land. Matthew chooses "Canaanite" on purpose: to remember Rahab (one of the few women mentioned in Jesus' genealogy in Matthew 1). Rahab was a prostitute and she too was a Canaanite. What's a Canaanite prostitute doing in Jesus' family tree? The disciples don't want to think about such questions. They want nothing to do with her: "Send her away!" they tell Jesus. That's what they tried to do not long ago when faced with more than 5,000 hungry people. "Send the crowds away," the disciples said. "You give them something to eat," said Jesus. This Canaanite woman isn't going anywhere. She may not be Jewish but she calls out to Jesus in language of the Jewish prayer: "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David."