

St Mary Queen of Heaven, Georges Hall



1st Sunday of Advent | Year B | Sunday 29th November 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:

Monday - Friday ph: 9727 3759
parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com

Safeguarding Officer/Secretary:

Veronica Dening
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



A Message from Fr Joseph

The Advent season is the greatest opportunity for our authentic conversation with God. The Old Testament lessons reveal a great deal of uncertainty, helping us to understand our personal situation during the last year. Isaiah acknowledges that God is our father and our redeemer, but he is anxious about how God works in our hearts.

Why do we easily wander from God's ways? Why do we harden our hearts? God has left us to our own devices and then we become angry with Him, enough so we turn our face from Him when God sees what a mess we make of our lives? Do we then turn away from seeking the God who has made us because we feel we aren't loved anymore? Isaiah seems to be desperate to convince us to re-establish our relationship with God. We will cry when we have done wrong, and so we have to try harder. To try harder is not always easy without the strength of the Holy Spirit. The Psalmist has a similar conversation with God.



Like Isaiah, the Psalmist is also calling on God to keep up his end of the bargain in caring for us and protecting us. We hear the plea from the Psalmist for the coming of the Son of Man who will give us new life when we call upon God.

The Psalmist says here that if we can find a very exemplary son of man, the man of God's right hand, we won't feel so lost and confused in our relationship with God. This man will bring us back to God, will let us see God's face and gain God's favour once again. This man will be our salvation.

Jesus tells us clearly that we need to keep watch over our faith. Advent is a perfect time to practise our vigilance. We are not just awaiting the coming of the Saviour in the celebration of Christmas in Christ's birth. We should be learning to better focus our faith on the enrichment of spiritual gifts that come to us in Jesus. This Advent season, as we plan our gift giving, I pray that we can think of ways that we can better share our spiritual gifts with others. During this very difficult time, I think our loved ones really need our gifts of faith, hope, charity, love, forgiveness, and encouragement much more than they need chocolates. I give thanks for Advent as the time to enrich ourselves in all these ways through the grace of God.

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

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH:

Sunday 29:

1st Sunday of Advent

Monday 30:

Saint Andrew

Thursday 3:

Saint Francis Xavier

Friday 4:

Saint John Damascene

Sunday 6:

2nd Sunday of Advent

"At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving with others with God's own love and concern" - Mother Teresa



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Sick:

Bourke Gibbons
Christina Apolinario
Daniel Matesic, Daniel Clarke
David Sanders, Eddie Marks,
Eileen Ellery, Heather Graham
John Sanders, Kerry Gibbons
Margaret Ward, Marie Reich
Paul Roughley, Phillip Nehme
Romela Onkowiedjaja
Rosa Agostino, Tamara Kalass
Vic Ryan, Warren Clarke

Recently Deceased:

Luisa Ius, Peter McMartin
Dawn (Lawrence) McHugh
Franco Calligaro
Eunice Davis, Giuseppe Versace

Remembrances:

Joseph Wehbe
Paul Loc Van Phan
Maria Thi Tuu Nguyen
Rosario Ivan Kucic (2017)
Sylwester Szatan (2019)

Anniversaries:

Patrick Galea
Siobhan O'Connor (2015)
Jill Newton
Maria Petrak
Anthony Yamin
Lily Scinler (2012)
Anna Maria Montgomery
Emanuela Simler
Gerald Caruana
Harry Belford
Len Tomsen
Pasqualino Giannetta (2011)
Antonio Impala
Giuseppe Strambio
Linda Hoken
Gregory Semionou
Mary Ann Connor
Peter Bahri
Giovanni Fabbro
Jack Wright (2014)
Thomas King
Patrick John English

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.



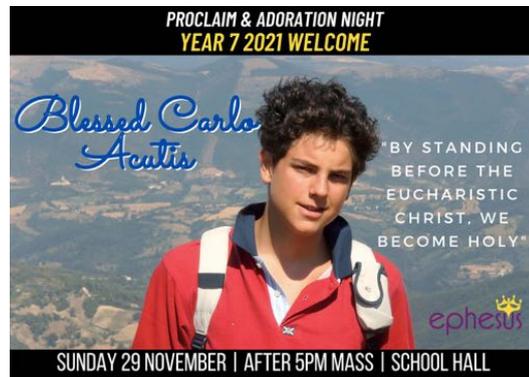
Youth Corner (Ephesus)

JOIN US THIS SUNDAY!

Blessed Carlo Acutis was beatified just last month by the Catholic Church. He is known for being a computer whiz and is now on his way to becoming the Church's first ever millennial Saint!

Join us this Sunday as we look at the ministry of Bl. Carlo Acutis. We'll finish off the night with some time in the presence of our Lord, in Eucharistic Adoration.

A warm welcome to Year 7, 2021 to join us for this amazing night!



St Mary's Primary School

At St Mary's School we engage in daily fluency lessons to improve our automaticity and accuracy in Mathematics.

Year 4 have been using their whiteboard tables to work on problems using their times tables. We are blessed to have great learning for excellence and expertise in Maths at our school.



Sacraments

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

Family & Faith

MILK FOR MATES

It is with a heart full of gratitude, to let you know that our awesome, generous school and parish community have collected 1,650 litres of milk to be donated to our mates at The House of Welcome Food Bank Service.

We smashed our original goal of 1,600 litres. Together, as a community, we can achieve anything.

Thank you for supporting this outreach project and for being the face of Jesus to those in need.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL



This year our Vinnie's Christmas Appeal will be run a little differently. Due to COVID-19, we are unable to collect food and gifts for our Conference to deliver to people in our local area in need.

To assist our Conference, this year we are asking you to donate gift cards from Aldi, Woolworths, IGA or Coles (or money so that our members can purchase gift cards) and pop them into the decorated boxes at the back of the church. They will then be distributed to local families in the week of Christmas for them to purchase what they will need to have a joyous Christmas.

To kick off our Vinnie's Christmas Appeal, our school has held a Christmas-themed Mufti Day on Friday.



Our lived streamed masses are available from <https://cutt.ly/StMarys>



Parish Notices

Christmas Rosters

Greeters, Commentators, Readers, Acolytes and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are invited to put their names down on the Christmas Roster at the back of the Church.

2nd Rite of Reconciliation

The 2nd Rite of Reconciliation will be held before every Mass on 12/13 December. Advent is a wonderful time to celebrate the reconciling love and the healing graces our Lord offers us. Reconciliation is what God does. We prepare for it by opening ourselves up, by reflecting upon the areas of darkness in our lives into which God so deeply desires to shine a light.

Altar Linen, Cleaning, Counting - Rosters

NEW ROSTERS start this weekend. Copies of the Altar Linen, Cleaning and Counting Rosters for Dec 2020 - Nov 2021 are available for collection from the sacristy. If you would like an electronic copy please email veronicad.smgh@bigpond.com

Advent Presentations

Everyone is welcome to join a series of Friday night presentations on the Sunday Mass readings will take place during Advent led by Dr. Ken Brimaud from the Catholic Institute of Sydney. They will take place on Friday nights (December 4, 11 and 18) from 6-7pm at St Peter's Parish, Surry Hills (235-241 Devonshire St, Surry Hills).

Supporting your parish

It is possible to support your parish by:

- making an online donation from the [website](#) - click on the Support Us link and follow the prompts.
- Using the cashless tap available in the church
- Joining the Planned Giving Program - application forms are available in the church

Safeguarding resources

Follow the links to the Archdiocese's website for electronic copies of the following resources which provide a list of age-appropriate support services for children and young people.

- [Child-Friendly Support Services](#)
- [Support Services for Young People](#)

Both are great support resources for people in the community to be aware of.

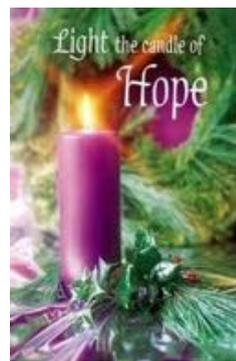
Safeguarding our Parish

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

First Advent Candle

The first Advent candle is the candle of hope. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

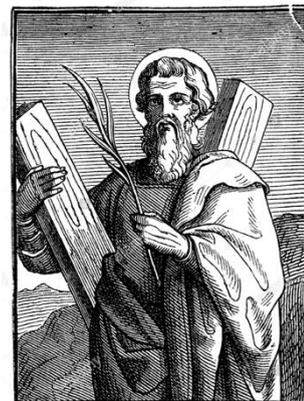
We can hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)



Father will be blessing special candles at all masses this weekend. Families are encouraged to take one to use each evening at 6pm for prayer during Advent.

Saint Andrew - 30 November

Born at Bethsaida (Galilee). A fisherman and perhaps a disciple of John the Baptist, he introduced his brother, Simon Peter, to Jesus and became one of the first to follow Christ. Mentioned a number of times in the gospels, for example, in introducing some Gentiles to Jesus (John 12:20ff). Widely venerated since ancient times and remembered as one of the twelve who bore witness to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.



Go Make Disciples

Sydney parishes are being invited to participate in a prayer campaign ahead of the launch of Sydney's new Archdiocesan Mission Plan 'Go Make Disciples', to be launched by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe 12 December. 'Go Make Disciples'



seeks renewal of all of Sydney's parishes as places of encounter with the living Christ - especially in the Eucharist. Website:

<https://www.gomakedisciples.org.au/>

Prayer Cards have been distributed to all parishes, inviting all to pray for the success of the Mission Plan and can be collected at the back of the Church.

Children's Corner

Help the sheep find its way to Jesus.



First Reading	Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading
<p>Is 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8 A reading from the prophet Isaiah <i>Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.</i></p> <p>You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.</p>	<p>(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.</p> <p>1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. (R.)</p> <p>2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)</p> <p>3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)</p> <div data-bbox="719 712 868 853" data-label="Image"> </div>	<p>1 Cor 1:3-9 A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians <i>The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.</i></p> <p>May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.</p>
Next Week's Readings		Gospel Acclamation
<p>2nd Sunday of Advent 1st Reading: Is 40:1-5. 9-11 2nd Reading: 2 Pt 3:8-14 Gospel: Mk 1:1-8 - John the Baptist</p>		<p>Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!</p>

Gospel
<div data-bbox="44 1205 252 1518" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Mk 13:33-37 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark <i>Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.</i></p> <p>Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'</p>

Reflection by Mary Coloe
<p>The vestments change, the Gospel changes as the Church moves into a new cycle recalling and celebrating God's coming to our world in Jesus. This (liturgical) year we will hear the earliest written Gospel, that of Mark, written around the year 70 CE. These were years of conflict for the early Christians. Emperor Nero had begun to persecute Christians and things were no better in Palestine, where the temple of Jerusalem was destroyed. Mark's community was under threat and besides all these external factors, Jesus had not returned to them as they were expecting.</p> <p>The Gospel speaks into this situation. Be alert. Stay awake. The Master will return. Mark uses popular images associated with the end of time according to first-century Jewish imagination. There was an expectation that the Messiah would return and would lead a war against the Kingdom of evil; this moral struggle would be felt by the whole cosmos with earthquakes and famine. Mark also points to the reality that Christians were experiencing; no longer welcome within Judaism because they were saying the Messiah had come in Jesus; being brought to trial before Roman courts for not worshipping Caesar. This was the life and death struggle for Mark's community.</p> <p>Living now, so many centuries distant from the Gospel events, Mark's words take on a special urgency. Complacency and routine can replace alertness and watchfulness. After such a long time perhaps we run the risk of failing to recognise the Master. Last week's Gospel revealed this difficulty. 'When did we see you hungry and thirsty, sick or naked?' We might say in response, 'Of course we would have welcomed you – but we didn't know it was you.' This is the alertness that we are called to; to recognise God's coming in the most unlikely ways.</p>