

St Mary Queen of Heaven, Georges Hall



3rd Sunday of Advent | Year B | Sunday 13th December 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."

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Fr Joseph Kolodziej

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www.smgh.org.au

Parish Facebook:

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A Message from Fr Joseph

What wonderful, joyful readings we have today! Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice! On this day we light the Joy candle to share the message of our three readings. St. Paul reminds us, even commands us, to rejoice, to be filled with joy in our God. So we all rejoice! We can rejoice because our Messiah did come. God continues to evangelize and our community is filled with joy; it knows how to rejoice always. Together we celebrate every small victory, every step forward in the work of community in this holy season. The Word of God we share with joy and this becomes beauty in the liturgy. It is part of our daily concern to spread goodness. The Church evangelizes and is herself evangelized through the beauty of the liturgy, which is both a celebration of the task and the source of her renewed, self-giving promises. Rejoice! Like Isaiah, rejoice heartily in the Lord. Like Mary, let our soul proclaim the greatness of the Lord; let your spirit rejoice in God our Saviour.

A deeper look can allow us to prepare our heart for Jesus to come to us more intimately in the 2nd Rite of Reconciliation during this Sunday.

As John the Baptist prepared the way for the Lord and did so with joy; he is a saint of joy because he points always to Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world. We also can become people of joy when our lives point to Jesus our Lord. We don't have to be perfect but we do have to keep pointing to the Lord. Just as in the life of John the Baptist, the more we decrease, the more the Lord may increase. It is a challenge for us to live in such a way so that we are always witnesses to the presence of God and God's love.

Today we are called to rejoice for the imminent coming of our Redeemer; and we are called to share this joy with others, giving comfort and hope to the poor, the sick, and to people who are lonely and unhappy.

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
Prayer Group in the Chapel // 5.00pm

TUESDAY

School Final Mass 2020//9.00am
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 12:

Our Lady of Guadalupe
2nd Rite Reconciliation//5.00pm

Sunday 13:

3rd Sunday of Advent
2nd Rite Reconciliation//8am, 10am, 5pm

Monday 14:

St John of the Cross

Sunday 20:

4th Sunday of Advent



***"We cannot cure the world of sorrows, but we can choose to live in joy."
- Joseph Campbell***

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Sick:

Bourke Gibbons,
Christina Apolinari,
Daniel Matesic, Daniel Clarke
David Sanders, Eileen Ellery
Heather Graham, John Sanders
Kerry Gibbons, Margaret Ward
Marie Reich, Mary Strambio,
Paul Roughley Phillip Nehme
Romela Onkowitz,
Rosa Agostino, Tamara Kalass
Tony Strambio, Vic Ryan
Warren Clarke

Recently Deceased:

Eddie Marks, Luisa Ius
Peter McMartin
Dawn (Lawrence) McHugh
Franco Calligaro, Eunice Davis

Remembrances:

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

Anniversaries:

Gertrude Morrocu
Ron Williamson
Joseph Cecil Mulholland
Thomas Joseph Russell
Arthur John Francis Wilkin
Maria Sabella (2016)
Monica Fitch (2017)
Janja Kraljevic
Father Richard Hazlett (2012)
Sam McCormack
Frank Tripodina
John Barry Smith (2014)
Alessandro Condello
Lucy Attard
Allan Loder
Matthew Kable
Eleanor Fitch
Fioravante Fabbro
Nancy Mansi
Gordon King (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 week for a Christmas themed games and Rosary night!

We'll have plenty of games and fun as we finish off Ephesus for 2020 joyfully!
To finish off our night, we'll pray a Rosary together.
We hope to see you all there!

Stay tuned on our Instagram @smghephesus for further updates.



St Mary's Primary School

St Mary's School Band was initiated this year. We are proud that the band members from Year 3 to Year 6 persisted in their practice through COVID via Zoom Lessons. We are proud that the band have worked together to learn a new instrument and also to learn to play collaboratively. We hope our band grows throughout the years and starts to share their music at fetes, schools masses and special events in the future.
Below is a snippet of the school band playing Jingle Bells.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wU7mLZpSBry&feature=youtu.be>

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

LOOK CLOSER...

My Soul Rejoices!

Isaiah sings, "The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to heal broken hearts and proclaim liberty to captives." When life seems unfair, make a habit of thanking God for your blessings; it will lift your spirit and is a great prayer too!

Do it: Count your blessings, one by one. Share together with your family all the things in your life that bring you joy or comfort.

WHAT'S IN YOUR PRAYER SPACE?

Angels

We praise you Lord, for your goodness. We exalt you and worship you.
Amen.



WHAT'S WITH THE PINK CANDLE?

The 3rd Sunday of Advent is known as a special Sunday in Advent called Gaudete Sunday and like Laetare Sunday (the 4th Sunday in Lent), it also takes its name from the antiphon of the day "Rejoice in the Lord always." It is a welcome break from the penitential practices of Advent and a chance to get excited for Jesus' coming at Christmas. The rose Advent candle is lit on this day and Fr. Joseph may wear pink vestments.

DON'T FORGET THE VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Please don't forget to drop your Christmas donations into the Poor boxes at the back of the church.
Vinnie's thank you for your continuous support.



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



Parish Notices



COVID-19 UPDATE



The latest easing of COVID restrictions will have limited impact on the numbers who can attend Mass. This is

due to the small size of our (physical) church. It is expected there will be a small increase in the numbers who can sit inside. Additional numbers may be able to be accommodated outside. Father Joseph and the members of the Parish Council are looking at options to celebrate Christmas meaningfully and within the guidelines. Please be prepared to be flexible as registering contact details and social distancing are still required.

Christmas Rosters

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

2nd Rite of Reconciliation

The 2nd Rite of Reconciliation will be held before every Mass this weekend.

Promote the cause for the sainthood of Eileen O'Connor

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney has launched a new website, Facebook and Instagram pages, aimed at promoting the pathway to sainthood for the Co-Founder of Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor, Servant of God, Eileen O'Connor. Eileen's great courage in serving the sick poor, despite enduring great personal illness herself is a truly remarkable example to us all. Visit:

Website: www.eileenconnor.com.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SoGEileenOConnor> or

Instagram: www.instagram.com/theeileenconnor/

The new website features prayers through the intercession of Eileen O'Connor, details on upcoming events to honour her memory, videos and photo galleries. As we approach the centenary of Eileen's death in January, let us unite in a prayer that the Little Mother, as she was affectionately known, may soon be counted amongst the saints in heaven.

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

3rd Advent Candle

3rd CANDLE – (Pink) THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY



The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent. The angels sang a message of JOY! *"An angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord" ... Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests.'*" (c. Lk 2:7-15)

Christmas Masses



Christmas Eve

5.00pm - Children's Mass
7.00pm - Vigil Mass
8.00pm - Vietnamese Mass

Christmas Day

12.00am - Midnight Mass
8.00am, 10.00am 5.00pm
3.00pm - Vietnamese Mass

Children's Corner



The third Sunday in Advent is called Gaudete Sunday; the Sunday of Joy! How can we share our joy for the arrival of Jesus at Christmas?

First Reading	Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading
<p>Is 61:1-2. 10-11 A reading from the prophet Isaiah <i>I exult for joy in the Lord.</i></p> <p>The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'</p>	<p>(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.</p> <p>1. My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. (R.)</p> <p>2. The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. (R.)</p> <p>3. He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. (R.)</p>	<p>1 Thes 5:16-24 A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians <i>May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.</i></p> <p>Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.</p>
	Next Week's Readings	
	<p>4th Sunday of Advent 1st Reading: 2 Sm 7:1-5 2nd Reading: Rom 16:25-27 Gospel: Lk 1:26-38 - Annunciation</p>	Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

<p>Jn 1:6-8. 19-28 A reading from the holy Gospel according to John <i>There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.</i></p> <p>A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.</p>	
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Reflection by Greg Sunter

The Gospel recalls the ministry of John the Baptist who is presented as a 'witness'. This is perhaps more typical of the John gospel emphasis on personal encounter with Jesus. Rather than acting as something of a herald, as in last week's account, here John the Baptist is witnessing 'to speak for the light'. He makes a very clear distinction between himself and the Christ, his mission is simply to point towards the light; the Christ.

Our common understanding of the word 'witness' tends to be related to legal situations: providing a witness statement or acting as a witness to a fact in court. The use of witness in this gospel carries a different connotation: to provide witness through action and lifestyle that draws others to wonder about and perhaps come to accept the motivating belief. It is this understanding of witness that all Christians are called to provide. We are called to witness to our beliefs in the way that we live our lives, engage with others and hold to certain truths. Of course, there are some Christians who believe that their witness needs to be more obvious and more clearly stated. They feel that providing witness, or testimony, to their faith through spoken proclamation has a greater potential to change lives. Whether we choose to witness through our words or through our actions it is essential that both words and actions have integrity; that there is no clash between what we proclaim and the way we live.