

St Mary Queen of Heaven, Georges Hall



4th Sunday of Advent | Year B | Sunday 20th 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."

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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A Message from Fr Joseph

Today, as we light the fourth candle on the Advent wreath and prepare for the joy of Christmas and the birth of our Saviour that is soon to be upon us, let us realize the gift we received even before the birth of Jesus through the words of Gabriel: the gift of our unlimited potential as Christians to change the world. Meditating on Gabriel's words of wisdom can give us hope and strengthen our faith to face each day anew, knowing that with our God, nothing is impossible.

As we focus on Gabriel's words, think back to when you were younger and someone you looked up to may have told you, "Well, that is just impossible. You better get that out of your head." But now, with our faith much stronger, we know better. We know that with God at our side, our potential is unlimited, and whatever we focus our attention on can become reality.

That reality is not limited to personal growth or gaining control over our lives, but includes our potential to love others and to serve those in need – two actions which know no bounds.

If we really want to do more for others and demonstrate our love and concern for them, we can, "For nothing will be impossible with God."

As we are now getting closer to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, we are all invited to reflect deeper on this Sunday of Advent as to how our yes brings a positive change into the world today.

However, following the example of Mary, in order for us to change the world in a positive way, we don't have to follow what the world sets before us. We can change the world by being who we are.

You might be searching for Christ in the things that you do, but all the while he's been there in your heart all this time. That's a moment of grace right there in your life. Without a doubt, you can change the world for the better, but you have to begin by recognizing the one who changed the world 2000 years ago. And Jesus is in your heart. Listen to your heart! Listen to Jesus in your heart! And once you hear the voice of Jesus in your heart, bring Good News to others.

Merry Christmas!

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:

Rosary // 7.45am; 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

FRIDAY

Rosary // 7.45am; Mass // 9am

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH:

Sunday 20:

4th Sunday of Advent

Monday 21:

Saint Peter Canisius

Wednesday 23:

Saint John of Kanty

Thursday 24:

Children's Vigil Mass // 5.00pm
Vigil Mass // 7.00pm
Vigil Mass (Vietnamese) // 8.00pm

Friday 25:

Christmas Day

Midnight Mass // 12.00am
Mass // 8.00am, 9.00am, 10.00am, 5.00pm
Mass (Vietnamese) // 3.00pm

Saturday 26:

St Stephen

Sunday 27:

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

"Christmas celebrations are often full of sound. It would be good for us to make room for silence, to hear the voice of Love."

-Pope Francis

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 Onkowiedjaja
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:

Attilio Colussi, Eric Seyfang
Ljubo Kraljevic
Maria Buongiorno (2016)
Jose Cabigao
James E Plummer (2010)
Veronica King (2016)
Maria Judeline D'Cruz
Peter Ayoub (2003)
Thomas Augustine Bugden (2011)
Cyril Davis
Maria Pepito Lapid
Betty Cassidy, Virginia St Ana
Catherine Ungar, Frieda Studer
Carlo Puntoriero
Afifeh Najm (2014)
Dorothy Belford, Ray Bencivenga
Andrew Ednie, Emilio Lungo
Bernard Hurworth, John Hilton
Richard Goodger
Agnes Charlesworth
Betty Boughton (2015)

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.



COVID Update

**CORONAVIRUS
(COVID-19) UPDATE**

It's great to see Mass numbers increasing as we approach this Christmas season. Consequently, we are trialling a new seating configuration so as to fit more

people into the church. We have added more pews and ask people to sit in a 'staggered' way. That is: Do not sit directly behind or in front of anyone. If unsure please ask one of the ushers. If you are in the back two rows of pews, please take communion with those outside to avoid congestion inside. There will also be seating outside. If you are outside could you please help by wiping down your chair before you leave after Mass? We will supply wipes. The choir will be singing at the Christmas Midnight Mass. They have developed a Covid Safe plan and members will be spaced out on the right hand side near the organ and will face forward. NSW Health strongly advises the wearing of masks if singing.

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...

Be it done to me.

In a world where we seek to control every aspect of our lives, the call to surrender to the will of God is especially difficult. To surrender means to trust in God's plan for our lives. It means allowing the Holy Spirit to influence and direct our decisions. Mary is the perfect example of this surrender.

Do it: Pray the Angelus at Midday this week.



WHAT'S IN YOUR PRAYER SPACE?

Mary and Joseph

Lord God,
You love us and only desire good for us.
Give us the grace to surrender to your will. Amen.

THANK YOU FROM ST VINCENT DE PAUL

This weekend our SVdP members delivered the gift cards that were purchased with the donations given this Advent Season to the local families in need of assistance. The recipients were blown away with our Community's generosity.

Also on the last 3 days of the school year, our school families dug deep again and brought in snacks for the Vinnie's Liverpool Night Patrol. They had an urgent need for snacks to go with the sandwiches that they hand out every night to the homeless.

Thank you to everyone for bringing the spirit of Christmas and for being the face of Christ to our locals in need.



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



Parish Notices



Christmas Nativity Play.

Our traditional children's nativity play will not be held this year. Children are still welcome to dress up as angels and shepherds.



Christmas Rosters

Thank you to our volunteers. The roster for Christmas Masses is available in the church. There are extra Masses - 9am and 5pm on Christmas Day so there are some ministries that still need volunteers, if you can assist, and if you have your working with children check clearance please email veronica.smgh@bigpond.com

Christmas Dinner Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

*Love brought Jesus to the earth,
and love brings us to this Christmas table.*

*Today as we share this holiday feast, may
our Christmas dinner be filled with kindness.*

*And may the memories of today warm our hearts
for years to come. Amen.*



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www.ShareCatholic.com

Supporting your parish

It is possible to support your parish by:

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

Safeguarding our Parish

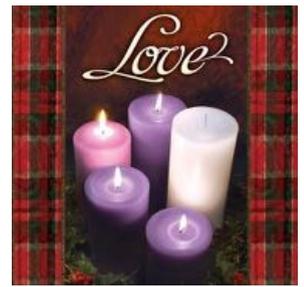
Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at 93905810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org You 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

4th Advent Candle

4th CANDLE – (purple) THE ANGEL CANDLE or THE CANDLE

OF LOVE – The angels announced the good news of a Saviour. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."* (John 3:16-17)



Christmas Masses



Christmas Eve

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

Christmas Day

12.00am - Midnight Mass
8.00, 9.00, 10.00am 5.00pm
3.00pm - Vietnamese Mass

Christmas Prayer for Families

Christmas Prayer for Families

Loving God,

During this holy season of Christmas, we ask for your blessing on all families.

Let Mary's openness to your wondrous ways be an inspiration to place all trust in you.

Let Joseph's courage provide hope during times of anxiety and uncertainty.

Let Jesus' life ignite all families with a spirit of light and love.

May the grace that encircled the Holy Family widen to embrace all families.

For this we pray.

Amen.

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Children's Corner

In the story of the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel tells Mary that God has chosen her to bring his Son into the world. Draw the angel Gabriel talking to Mary.



First Reading	Responsorial Psalm	Gospel Acclamation
<p>2 Sm 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16 A reading from the second book of Samuel <i>The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.</i></p> <p>Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'</p> <p>But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."'</p>	<p>(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.</p> <p>1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)</p> <p>2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.' (R.)</p> <p>3. He will say to me: 'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.' I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure. (R.)</p>	<p>Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!</p>
	Second Reading	Gospel
	<p>Rom 16:25-27 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans <i>The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.</i></p> <p>Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.</p>	<p>Lk 1:26-38 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke <i>You will conceive and bear a son.</i></p> <p>The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.</p>

Reflection by Greg Sunter

God is entering our history by becoming one of us. This is the quite extraordinary claim of Christianity. The great divine mystery behind and beyond our world has become a human being. No other religion dares to make so bold a claim.

Gabriel's announcement in today's Gospel brings heaven and earth together in the womb of a young girl, Mary. The little village of Nazareth is suddenly filled with wondrous titles, Son of the Most High, ruler of the house of Jacob, the power of the Most High, the Holy Spirit, and the Son of God. All heaven's hopes are focused on this not-yet woman, awaiting her reply. Mary's response enables the impossible to happen, 'Let what you have said to done'. Life comes even to the barren womb of Elizabeth. What would happen if Mary's words became my words? What hopes might heaven have, still unfulfilled, awaiting my readiness to say, 'Let what you want be done to me'? Mary said these words and Christmas happened. Jesus said them and Easter happened. What might happen if I said them?

