

St Mary Queen of Heaven, Georges Hall



Baptism of the Lord | Year B | Sunday 10th January 2021



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:

Veronica Denning
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(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

By Baptism all sins are forgiven, Original Sin and all personal sins, and temporal punishment due to sin is removed. After one has been reborn in Christ, there is nothing to prevent one's entry into God's Kingdom. However, though all sins are removed, there remains, an effect of Original Sin. The effects of Original Sin need not harm us so long as we seek strength to resist them through the Sacrament of Penance, the Sacrament of the Eucharist, prayer, a deepening spirituality, growth in virtue, and a wholehearted dependence on God. Baptism also gives us new life as adopted children of God. We become sharers of divine life and temples of the Holy Spirit. Our permanence in the state of grace is called sanctifying grace because God "sanctifies" us, that is, makes us his holy people by giving us his life. God continues to assist us in many ways that are actually called graces. Thus, we have the ability to live and act under the guidance and light of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This helps us mature in goodness through the practice of virtues, such as the Cardinal Virtues: prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude.

By Baptism we become members of the Church, the Body of Christ. We share in the priesthood of Christ as well as his prophetic and royal mission. "You are 'a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises' of him who called you out of darkness into his light" (1 Pt 2:9). We enjoy the community we find in the Church, share our talents and gifts with its members, respond willingly to its teachings and requirements, and assume the responsibilities that our membership implies.

Baptism provides a common foundation among all Christians, including those not yet in full communion with the Catholic Church. The Church recognizes the validity of Baptism in other Christian Churches as long as the rite included the pouring of or immersion in water, a Trinitarian formula, and the intention to baptize. Those who have been baptized have been saved by their faith in Christ and the grace of Baptism. "They therefore have a right to be called Christians and with good reason are accepted as brothers and sisters by the children of the Catholic Church".

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 // 5pm

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 // 8am

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH:

Sunday 10:

The Baptism of the Lord



Wednesday 13:

Saint Hilary

Friday 15:

Saint Ita

Saturday 16: XX

Sunday 17:

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Original sin? What about original grace? "Original grace costs a bit in terms of sacrifice, openness to change, and a preparedness to create change for love's sake."

- Fr Kevin Bates sm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Sick:

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

Recently Deceased:

Bishop Geoffrey Robinson
Dennis Graham, June Ryan
Eddie Marks, Luisa Ius
Peter McMartin
Dawn (Lawrence) McHugh

Remembrances:

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

Anniversaries:

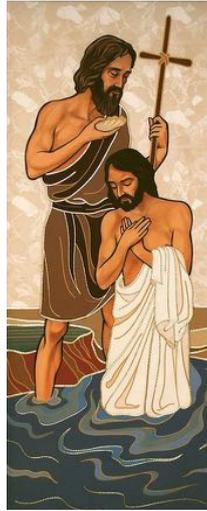
Roy Rimmer, Celanin Celeste
Giovanni Cozzi
Paul Nguyen van Kien
Edgar St John
Niamh (2013— aged 4 yrs)
Brian Shakeshaft
Rudolf Peters, Edna King
Marie Dillon
Ida Elizabeth Hepples

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.



A Call for Discipleship



'A disciple is one who has encountered Jesus personally in the midst of the Church, who has surrendered his or her life to His way, and has made the decision to live by His teaching in all aspects of life. A disciple is intentional and active, committed to the lifelong process of learning from Jesus and, inflamed by this encounter, to sharing His way, truth and life with others for the sake of the world.

It is this vision of fruitful discipleship that Go Make Disciples has been designed to support. We honour and celebrate the rich faith and good works that are already present and active in our parishes, and at the same time hear the Gospel's call to ongoing conversion and constant spiritual renewal. It is this renewal of culture for discipleship and mission to which all parishes and communities of the Archdiocese are invited.'

-- from Go Make Disciples; A Mission Plan for the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney

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

Did you know?

- Jesus was baptised as an adult (scholars guess at around 30 years old).
- St. John the Baptist baptised him.
- The baptism is often depicted with the pouring of water by a shell.
- He was baptised in the River Jordan.
- The heavens opened and the Holy Spirit descended like a dove.
- A voice came from heaven saying "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."
- Jesus' baptism is considered the beginning of his public ministry.
- Directly following his baptism, Jesus was led by the Spirit to the desert where he was tempted for 40 days (what our season of Lent is based on).
- Common symbols of baptism: water, dove, shell, candle.

WHAT'S IN YOUR PRAYER SPACE?



Your Baptismal Candle.

Almighty God,
You anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit, and revealed him as your beloved Son; grant that we who are baptised into his name may give up our lives to your service, and be found worthy of our calling. Amen.



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



COVID Update

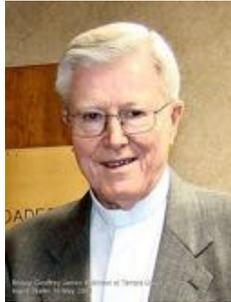
The newly introduced restrictions have required us to make a few changes to our Covid Safe Plan.

- Under the 4 sq metre rule, the maximum number of people allowed indoors in our church is 85 provided they are also socially distanced. Chairs are available outside.
- Please download the Service NSW app and sign in using the QR code system. You only need to use the QR code to check in and show the completed check in it to one of the ushers. If you do not wish to use the QR code or do not have your phone with you, we will continue to mark your presence manually.
- As masks are mandatory in places of worship, it would assist the parish if parishioners brought their own masks. However, masks will still be available to those who require them. Please make sure that your mask covers your nose and mouth.

Parish Notices

Vale Bishop Geogery Robinson

Bishop Geoffrey Robinson, a former auxiliary bishop of Sydney, died on 29 December after a long battle with terminal illness. He was 83. Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP paid tribute to the late Bishop, who recently marked 60 years of priesthood and had been a bishop for 36 years. "I saw Bishop Robinson before his death and he was impressively peaceful, prayerful and looking forward to going to the Father," Archbishop Fisher said in a statement issued after Bishop Robinson's death. Read more [here](#).



Supporting your parish

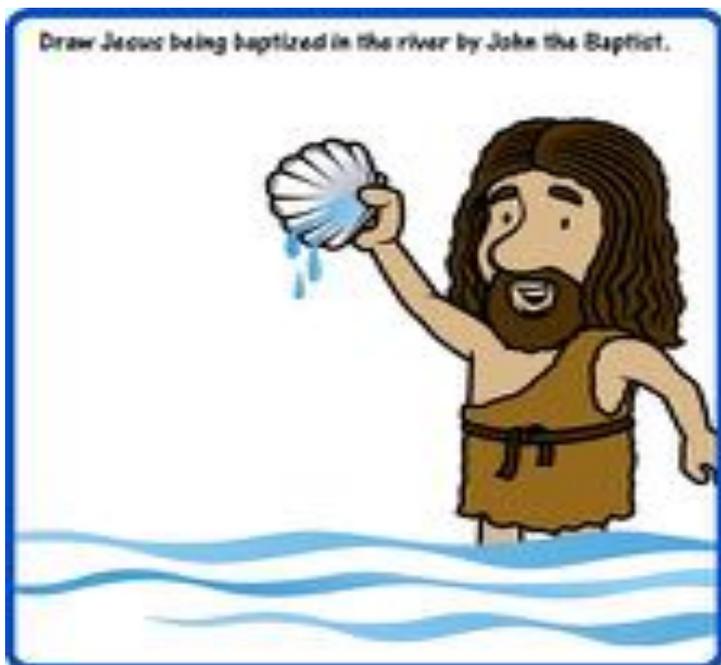
It is possible to support your parish by:

- 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 devices 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

Children's Corner



The Baptism of the Lord



This Sunday the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Baptism of Our Lord. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the River Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes. In the Eastern Church this feast is called Theophany because at the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan God appeared in three persons. The baptism of John was a sort of sacramental preparatory for the Baptism of Christ. It moved men to sentiments of repentance and induced them to confess their sins. Christ did not need the baptism of John. Although He appeared in the "substance of our flesh" and was recognized "outwardly like unto ourselves," He was absolutely sinless and impeccable. He conferred upon the water the power of the true Baptism which would remove all the sins of the world: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sin of the world." Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin.

— Excerpted from Msgr. Rudolph G. Bandas

THE FIVE EFFECTS OF BAPTISM

- We are granted justification or sanctifying grace**
When we're baptised, our original sin is forgiven and, in the case of adults, personal sins.
- We receive the three theological virtues**
Faith, hope and charity, the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the other virtues are received.
- We receive the sacramental grace**
It offers the necessary help to live a Christian life. It makes us capable of believing in God, of waiting on Him and loving Him.
- A sacramental character is imprinted in us**
It is an indelible spiritual mark that is imprinted during Baptism. It makes us part of the Church, Body of Christ.
- It makes us part of the common priesthood of the faithful**
Participation is in two forms: active, through evangelization and sanctifying all temporal realities and passive, by receiving the other sacraments.

First Reading	Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading
<p>Is 42:1-4. 6-7 A reading from the prophet Isaiah <i>Here is my servant, my chosen one in whom I am well pleased.</i></p> <p>Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations. He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame. Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth for the islands are awaiting his law. I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.</p>	<p>(R.) The Lord will bless his people with peace.</p> <p>1. O give the Lord you sons of God, give the Lord glory and power; give the Lord the glory of his name. Adore the Lord in his holy court. (R.)</p> <p>2. The Lord's voice resounding on the waters, the Lord on the immensity of waters; the voice of the Lord, full of power, the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. (R.)</p> <p>3. The God of glory thunders. In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!' The Lord sat enthroned over the flood: the Lord sits as king for ever. (R.)</p> 	<p>Acts 10:34-38 A reading from the Acts of the Apostles <i>God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power.</i></p> <p>Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him. 'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ - but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'</p>
	<p>Next Week's Readings</p> <p>2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 1st Reading: 1 Sm 3:3-10.19 2nd Reading: 1 Cor 6:13-15. 17-20 Gospel: Jn 1:35-42 - John identifies the Messiah, Peter responds.</p>	<p>Gospel Acclamation</p> <p>Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Alleluia!</p>

Gospel
<p>Mk 1:7-11 A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark <i>You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.</i></p> <p>In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.' It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'</p> 

Reflection by Greg Sunter
<p>The baptism of Jesus in the gospel of Mark serves as a revelation of the identity of Jesus. Throughout this gospel there is secrecy about who Jesus really is. Whenever a person's faith reveals that Jesus is the Messiah or the Son of God, Jesus commands them to remain silent and not tell anyone else about him. However, through the baptism event, the reader is let in to the secret from the outset. Unlike the public announcements of Jesus as the beloved Son of God that occurs in other gospels, in the gospel of Mark, the voice is addressed to Jesus himself and there is no indication that anyone else hears it. The words used are, 'You are my Son' not, 'This is my Son.' But the reader is placed in the privileged position of knowing the truth about Jesus from the very beginning of the gospel. As they read further, they observe the disciples' growing yet imperfect understanding of this truth.</p>