

St Mary Queen of Heaven, Georges Hall



2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time | Year B | Sunday 17th 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

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A Message from Fr Joseph

Today's Old Testament lesson shares the story of a young Samuel. He is awakened several times in the night by a voice calling his name, but because he was not yet familiar with the Lord, he did not realise who it was that had been speaking. Eli, who had likewise been awakened because of Samuel's earnestness to respond on being called, realised that it must have been God who was speaking to Samuel, and encouraged him to respond to the voice the next time with the words "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening." Ultimately, Samuel again heard the voice calling to him, and did respond as directed, beginning a life-long relationship with his Lord.

This Sunday, therefore, Jesus asks us: "What are you looking for?" In other words, he wants to know why we are following him. This is a crucial question that has to be answered honestly in order to purify our motivations and intensify our commitment to follow Jesus. Peter accurately responded: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of everlasting life." If you desire progress in the life of the spirit, you must constantly ask "What am I really looking for? What are my deepest desires?"

People follow Jesus for various reasons, depending on one's idea about him. As Thomas Merton said, "Our idea of God tells us more about ourselves than about Him." This has been adequately shown in the Gospels. Many see him as the great Healer. And so they follow him in order to be healed of their various ailments. Others acknowledge him as the one who teaches with authority. They follow him because they like to listen to his teachings. Still others admire him as the Miracle Worker and they want to witness his miracles.

My first memory was of my mother, the one who sought to teach me as a young boy to read the Bible and strengthen my faith. She demonstrated God's love through her actions and her words, and I've always tried to emulate her example. Because of her, I pray the rosary regularly. I talk to God and listen to His voice. I have a conversation with God. God speaks to us this Sunday in the way that Samuel did. Like many of you, I suspect, I seek God and I regularly find God in a breeze on my face or in the laughter of a child. Maybe in an answered prayer, I understand that God has spoken to me through action. In those moments I construct an interpretation in my head of the grace or the lesson that God has sent to me.

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

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 17:

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wednesday 20:

Saint Sebastian

Thursday 21:

Saint Agnes

Saturday 23:

Saint Polycarp

Sunday 24:

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Let us, therefore, forsake the vanity of the crowd and their false teachings, and turn back to the word delivered to us from the beginning." - St Polycarp

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 Onkowitz
Rosa Agostino, Tamara Kalass
Tony Strambio, Vic Ryan
Warren Clarke

Recently Deceased:

Bishop Geoffrey Robinson
Samira Charbel, Dennis Graham
June Ryan, Eddie Marks
Luisa Ius

Remembrances:

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

Anniversaries:

Joseph Pham Manh Ngu
Hilary Joseph Lawler
Terry Richards
Margaret Davern
Arturo Nesci (2013)
John William James
Tony Kaumair, Alfred Vella
Kathleen May Evans
Max Brown, Elena Raymont
Francesco Antonio Di Giorgio
John Knight (2016)
Patricia Wilson
Leslie Raymont, Paul Broderick

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)

Are you looking for a way to serve the Church?

We are looking for enthusiastic and committed leaders to join the Ephesus Youth Group!
If this sounds like something you'd be interested in please contact Grace on 0450 757 377, or find one of the leaders at the 5pm Sunday Masses.



Go Make Disciples

This 'great commission' is given anew to every generation. As Pope Francis affirms, "In our day Jesus' command to 'go make' disciples' echoes in the changing scenarios and ever new challenges to the Church's mission of evangelisation, and all of us are called to take part in this new missionary 'going forth'. Like the first disciples some of us are worshippers, some doubters, some a bit of both. Like them we need to draw close to Jesus if our doubts are to be dispelled.
Like them, changed by that encounter and empowered by the Spirit, we can do great things. Jesus' parting mandate was not just to 'go and make disciples' but also to baptise and teach. By Baptism (and all the sacraments and worship that follow), we become witnesses to God's saving love - poured out in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

~ 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 if required.
- **Reconciliation:** Sat @ 4.00pm or by appointment, please contact Fr Joseph.

Family & Faith

LOOK CLOSER...

Listening.

The first reading is the story of Samuel being called by God. Eli taught Samuel to make himself ready for the Lord by saying, "Speak, your servant is listening". Often when we pray, we put all of our energy into telling God what we want and we forget to listen.

Try it: Listening prayer. After reading the scripture, close your eyes and breathe deeply. Listen and become aware of God's presence.

WHAT'S IN YOUR PRAYER SPACE?

An Ear.

Spirit of God,
You are always present to us.
Make our restless minds still that we may hear you speak to us.
Amen.



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



COVID Update

- Guidelines restrict the parish to 85 people indoors under the 4 sq metre rule, seating is available outside.
- Please ensure you have registered by using the Service NSW app or by signing at the front table.
- Masks are mandatory in places of worship, if possible please bring your own, though masks are available to those who require them.
- No congregational singing is allowed under the current guidelines.

Parish Notices

New Appointment

After 13.5 years of service at St Mary's Parish, Fr Joseph Kolodziej has been appointed by the Archbishop to be the new parish priest of All Hallows Parish, Five Dock. Fr Joseph will begin his appointment at the end of the month. We are very grateful for the service he has given, characterised by a love of work, generosity of spirit and a deep sense of family spirit. Fr. Lawrence Cauchi has been appointed as the new Parish Priest of St Mary's Parish, Georges Hall. Please pray for our priests so that they can be faithful servants for the people.



The Bible in a Year

If you've struggled to read the Bible, this podcast is for you. Ascension's Bible in a Year Podcast, hosted by Fr Mike Schmitz, guides Catholics through the Bible in 365 daily episodes. Each podcast includes a scripture reading, reflection and prayer. Listen on spotify or online here: <https://ascensionpress.com/bible>

Supporting our 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

Saint Agnes

St. Agnes of Rome was born in 291 AD and raised in a Christian family. Agnes was very beautiful and belonged to a wealthy family. Her hand in marriage was highly sought after, and she had many high-ranking men chasing after her. However, Agnes made a promise to God never to stain her purity. Her love for the Lord was great and she hated sin even more than death! Whenever a man wished to marry Agnes, she would always say, "Jesus Christ is my only Spouse." According to legend, the young men she turned away became so angry and insulted by her devotion to God and purity that they began to submit her name to authorities as a Christian follower. Saint Agnes died in Rome, she gave her life to preserve her virginity consecrated to Christ. She is remembered in Eucharistic Prayer 1 (The Roman Canon).



New Years Advice (from the Saints)

"During this new year I resolve to begin a new life. I do not know what will happen to me during this year. But I abandon myself entirely to you, my God. And my aspirations and all my affections will be for You. I feel so weak, dear Jesus, but with Your help I hope to live a life closer to You." – St. Gemma Galgani

"Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself. Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections but instantly set about remedying them—every day begin the task anew." – St. Francis de Sales

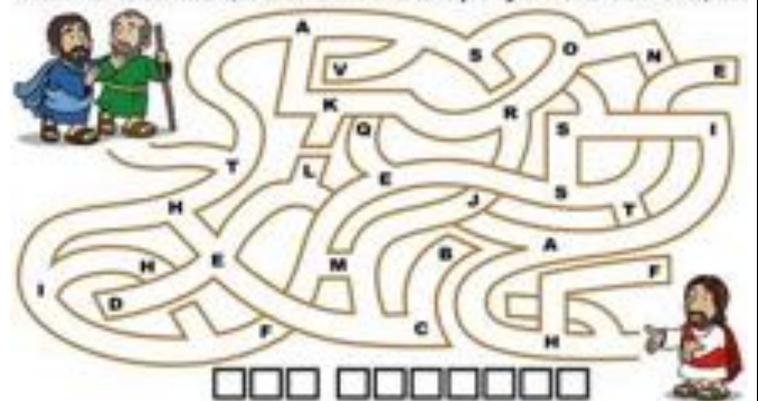
"Do something beautiful for God. Do it with your life. Do it everyday. Do it your own way. But do it." - Mother Teresa

"You aspire to do great things? Begin with little ones" - St Augustine

"Only if people change will the world change, and in order to change, people need the light that comes from God, the light which so unexpectedly [on the night of Christmas] entered into our night" - Pope Benedict XVI

Children's Corner

As Andrew leads Simon to Jesus, enter each letter into the corresponding box below to reveal who they find.



First Reading	Responsorial Psalm	Second Reading
<p>1 Sm 3:3-10.19 A reading from the first book of Samuel <i>Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening.</i></p> <p>Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am'. Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli said, 'I did not call. Go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.' Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.' Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.</p>	<p>(R.) Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.</p> <p>1. I waited, I waited for the Lord. and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. (R.)</p> <p>2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear. You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I. (R.)</p> <p>3. In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will. My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart. (R.)</p> <p>4. Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord. (R.)</p>	<p>1 Cor 6:13-15. 17-20 A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians <i>Your bodies are members of the body of Christ.</i></p> <p>The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too. You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him. Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is in you since you have received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.</p>
Next Week's Readings		Gospel Acclamation
<p>3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 1st Reading: Jon 3:1-5. 10 2nd Reading: 1 Cor 7:29-31 Gospel: Mk 1:14-20 - Jesus begins his ministry in Galilee, calls the Apostles.</p>		<p>Alleluia, alleluia! We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace. Alleluia!</p>

Gospel

Jn 1:35-42 - A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
They saw where Jesus lived and they stayed with him.

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' – which means Teacher – 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.

One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' which means the Christ and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' meaning Rock.



Reflection by Mary Coloe

The transfer of John's disciples to Jesus occurs in a scene that is at once very human and very divine. Sensing the two disciples following him, Jesus turns and asks them, 'What are you looking for?' In the circumstances, the question is natural but it is in effect the question that everyone desiring progress in the life of the spirit must constantly put to themselves: 'What am I really looking for? What are my deepest desires?' A vocation will not succeed unless and until it is seen to respond to a yearning in the depths of one's being.

The disciples are also asking more than they know when they say, 'Rabbi, ... where are you staying?' On the obvious level, Jesus is presumably 'staying' in some makeshift shelter, along with all the other people who have come to John for baptism. But, as we already know from the way Jesus has been introduced in the Prologue (1:1-18), the word translated 'stay' (Greek menein) has, in this gospel, a far more profound meaning. As Son of God, Jesus 'stays' or 'dwells' eternally with the Father. As Word incarnate he has also 'pitched his tent among us' (1:14), come to 'stay' with us so that God's power and presence ('glory'), once remotely and terrifyingly revealed to Israel on Sinai, might appear in human 'flesh' – in the life-giving words and actions of Jesus. Jesus' response, 'Come and see', is then at one level a simple invitation to spend the day with him. In the deeper meaning of the gospel it is an invitation to a life-long 'contemplation' of God in the human life of Jesus.