

First Reading

Ex 20:1-3. 7-8. 12-17

A reading from the book of Exodus
The Law was given through Moses.

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. 'You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.)

2. The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. (R.)

3. The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding forever. The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. (R.)

4. They are more to be desired than gold than the purest of gold and sweeter are they than honey, than honey from the comb. (R.)

Second Reading

1 Cor 1:22-25

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

We are preaching a crucified Christ, a scandal to many, but to those who have been called, the wisdom of God.

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!



Gospel

Jn 2:13-25

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said. During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

Reflection by Peter Holmes

Jesus is angry. So angry He turns over tables, makes a whip and chases certain people out of the House of God. This part of Jesus' life may seem hard to reconcile with the loving God we are taught about elsewhere in Scripture. If we take a closer look at the details of the story, it starts to make more sense. Jesus is upset at the dove sellers and money changers. While a normal family could have brought a lamb for sacrifice, extremely poor families were allowed to bring two small doves. The dove sellers were exploiting this need and making a profit out of the poorest people who wanted to worship God. This is why Jesus is angry. God has given His gifts freely, and He calls us all to worship Him, to receive the amazing gifts of grace and fellowship from His holy altar. Jesus does not permit people to put barriers between God's gifts and those who need and ask for them. Jesus calls all people to Himself in worship. To those who come with humble hearts to ask, God freely gives forgiveness. To those who ask for help in their earnest struggle to live and love as God does, God freely gives His grace in the sacraments. To those who seek to know and love God more closely and dearly, Jesus gives Himself, body, soul and divinity in the Mass. He gives Himself freely, and calls us to give ourselves to Him in return.



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 Office at 93905810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Supporting our Parish: (1) Offering envelopes or the Planned Giving Program (2) Online Donations via the website (3) Cashless tap devices (4) Collection - the 1st collection is for Archdiocesan priests and the 2nd collection is for parish expenses.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Sick: Bourke Gibbons, Christina A Polinari, Daniel Matesic, Daniel Clarke David Sanders, Eileen Ellery, Heather Graham Irma Buoro, John Sanders, Kerry Gibbons Margaret Ward, Marie Reic, Mary Strambio Phillip Nehme, Romela Onkowiedjaja Rosa Agostino, Tamara Kalass, Tony Strambio Vic Ryan, Warren Clarke.

Recently Deceased: Antonia Simeone Bishop Bede Heather George Voss Fr Isidip Wilson, Arthur Hodson

Anniversaries: Desmond James Armbruster Gabor Morvar, Peter Tosi, Antonio Sherlock Barbara Stephans, Paul Burke, Zofia Wziqtek Terry King, Bradley Michael Kerin, Hope Bullen, Lisa May Kains, Barbara Stephans Sandra Valencic

*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.*

Quote of the Week

'During Lent, let us find concrete ways to overcome our indifference.' ~ Pope Francis

Lenten Companion (Continued from the Gospel reflection)

Reflection Questions

1. Which word or phrase of the Gospel and the spiritual reflection spoke to me, and what might God be saying to me?
2. Can I think of a time when I have received God's grace, mercy, salvation and fellowship? How do I show gratitude for the gifts God has freely given me?
3. How can I lead others to be sensitive to God's gifts and to be grateful for them?

Prayer

What do you want to thank God for? What do you want to ask God for? Speak honestly to God about these things, trusting in His help. Finish by slowly praying the Lord's Prayer.

The reflection, questions and prayer have been taken from the Archdiocese's Go Make Disciples Lenten Companion available from: www.gomakedisciples.org.au.

Youth Group: Ephesus

Sunday fortnight 6pm - 7.30pm
Instagram: @smghephesus
Contact: Grace Mokdassi
gracemokdassi@gmail.com
We're back this week for another night in our Lenten Series! Join us as we look at a passage in the Bible and link it to our journey through Lent! Bring a friend or two!

St Mary's Primary School

Ph: 9727 0000
Principal: Monica Palmer
www.stmgeorgheshall.catholic.edu.au

This week the Executive Director of Sydney Catholic Schools, Tony Farley, came by to visit our students.



St Mary Queen of Heaven, Georges Hall



3rd Sunday of Lent | Year B | Sun 7th March 2021



15 Georges Cres, Georges Hall
☎ Phone: 9727 3759
Website: www.smgh.org.au

Parish Priest: Fr Lawrence Cauchi
E: parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com

Secretary: Veronica Denning
E: veronicad.smgh@bigpond.com

Facebook: fb.me/smg2
Mass Streaming:
<https://cutt.ly/StMarvs>

SUNDAY MASSES
Saturday Vigil: 5pm
Sunday: 8am, 10am, 5pm

Vietnamese Masses:
Sat. Vigil: 6.30pm & Sunday: 3pm

Weekday Masses:
Tuesday: 6pm
(Preceded by Holy Hour at 5pm)
Wednesday - Friday: 9am
(Preceded by the Rosary at 8.45am)

Reconciliation:
Saturday 4pm or by appointment

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross, a traditional Lenten prayer form, will be prayed each Friday of Lent at 7pm in the Church.



2021 Sacrament of First Reconciliation

An information session will be held on **Tuesday 4 May at 7pm** in the Church for parents/guardians wanting to enrol their children in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Rosters

Acolytes, Commentators, Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion - if you are available to assist at any Mass on Palm or Easter Sunday please write your details on the sheets at the back of the church.

Project Compassion

This year, the theme of Project Compassion is "Be More." It challenges us to venture into a new experience of compassion, to "Aspire not to have more, but to be more." Please collect Project Compassion boxes or envelopes and return them to the back of the Church

Palms and Olive Branches

Palms and olive branches are needed for Passion Sunday. If you can donate some please bring them to the church on Friday 26 March and place them in the chapel. Thank you.



Communion to the Sick

Anyone intending to take Holy Communion to the sick, please speak to Father Laurie prior to Mass.

Fire in Georges Hall

Sadly, there was a house fire recently in Georges Hall, the occupier of the house, a parishioner (who wishes to remain anonymous) needs our help. Next weekend, we will be taking up a collection to help this family in need.