

## First Reading

2 Chr 36:14-16. 19-23

A reading from the second book of Chronicles  
*The mercy of the Lord is revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.*

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy. Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.' And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

## Responsorial Psalm

**R. Let my tongue be silenced if ever I forget you!**

1. By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung our harps. (R.)
2. For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy. 'Sing to us,' they said, 'one of Zion's songs.' (R.)
3. O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! (R.)
4. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys! (R.)

## Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians Eph 2:4-10

*When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.*

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus. This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

## Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

## Gospel

Jn 3:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.*

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'



## Reflection by Greg Sunter

God's desire for us is life not condemnation, salvation not destruction. Jesus came to reveal this love of God to free people from fears and ignorance and lead them to accept such unconditional love in joy and thanksgiving. Human guilt and self-doubt try to deny the potency of God's love so Jesus' death is a terrible sign of the extent he was prepared to go to say – 'See, God loves you this much and I am prepared to die so you will believe this.'

God's love will ultimately lead Jesus to the cross where he will be lifted up. The evangelist recalls a similar 'lifting up' moment in Israel's history which was also a moment of life and salvation. When we look at the cross we are challenged to see the life and love of God given for us.



## Feast of St Joseph (Mar 19th)

St Joseph, the husband of the Virgin Mary and adoptive father of Jesus, was a descendant of King David and a carpenter by trade. During his betrothal to Mary he became distressed when he heard that she was with child, but an angelic vision reassured him that this was all part of God's plan. After Jesus' birth he was warned in a dream to flee with his family to Egypt, in order to escape from King Herod. Joseph showed great faith in his willingness to do whatever God asked of him. St Joseph is the patron saint of many causes including families, expectant mothers, workers and people in doubt.

### 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](mailto: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 Apolinari, 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 Onkowitz, Rosa Agostino Tamara Kalass, Tony Strambio, Vic Ryan Warren Clarke.

**Recently Deceased:** Antonia Simeone, Bishop Bede Heather, George Voss

**Anniversaries:** Michael Grimes Costello Hanah May King, Robert Tozer, Maria Azzopardi, Joe Condello, John David Mayo Purita Marindo, Vincent Mendez Dean Howarth, Joan Patricia Costello Donald Jeffcoate, Malcom Gibbons Cardinal James Freeman, Melva Baker, Mick Baker, Molly Duff, Stasya Koualiauskas Stan Kavaliauskas, Yvonne Beale, Lumia Dayha Ronnie Boukaram, Luigina Fabbro George Stevenson, Ivy Dickson Bishop Patrick Murphy, Peter Anthony Hunt Eric Willoughby

*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.*

## 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.

Please note that children in **Years 3** or above will be eligible after proper preparation.

### 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. This weekend, we will be taking up a collection to help this family in need.

### Choir Practice

There will be choir practice on Thursday 18 March at 7.00pm in preparation for the 10.00am Mass on Sunday 21 March 2021. New members are always welcome. Please ring Pat Falvy on 0425 219 660

### Youth Group: Ephesus

Sunday fortnight 6pm - 7.30pm  
Instagram: @smghephesus  
Contact: Grace Mokdassi  
[gracemokdassi@gmail.com](mailto:gracemokdassi@gmail.com)

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us last Sunday! Our next night will be the last of our Lenten Series. We'll be discussing the Resurrection and how we know it's true! Bring a friend!

### St Mary's Primary School

Ph: 9727 0000  
[www.stmgeorgeshall.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmgeorgeshall.catholic.edu.au)

2022 Enrolments are now open for our school. Families are welcome to come to the school office to collect an enrolment pack and book a tour of the school. Tours are held fortnightly, on Tuesdays. Bookings are essential.

# St Mary Queen of Heaven, Georges Hall



4th Sunday of Lent | Year B | Sun 14th March 2021



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Website: [www.smgh.org.au](http://www.smgh.org.au)

**Parish Priest:** Fr Lawrence Cauchi

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**Secretary:** Veronica Denning

E: [veronicad.smgh@bigpond.com](mailto:veronicad.smgh@bigpond.com)

**Facebook:** [fb.me/smgh2](https://fb.me/smgh2)

**Mass Streaming:** <https://cutt.ly/StMarys>

### 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

**Feast of St. Patrick - Wed. 17th March**

**Feast of St. Joseph - Fri. 19th March**

Join us to celebrate at 9am Mass.

### 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.



### Lenten Reflections

The Archdiocese's Go Make Disciples Lenten Companion hosts a weekly online Lenten group and provides a Lenten Companion resource to accompany you through your Lenten Journey, to access both: [www.gomakedisciples.org.au](http://www.gomakedisciples.org.au). Or, collect a Lenten Companion Resource from 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 at Easter.

### 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, March 26, and place them in the chapel. You are welcome to bring some for personal use on Passion Sunday. Thank you.



### Rosters

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

### Communion to the Sick

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