

+Please Remember in your prayers:

Sick: Warren Clarke, Eileen Ellery, Bourke Gibbons, Kerry Gibbons, Vic Ryan, David Sanders, John Sanders, Mary Strambio, Tony Strambio and for those infected with COVID-19.

Recently Deceased: Dick O'Reilly, Michael Smith, Jean Graham and all who have died from the Covid-19 infection.

Anniversary: All deceased dads, Johnny Ward, Oreste Azzopardi, Serge Nohra, Maria Fidel, Salvatore Dore, Emanuel Micallef, Kevin Prothero, Sandra Peresan, Loreto Cabigao, Thea Bos-Driessen, Tamam Nohra, Assunta Bett, Molly Tierney, Robert Marindo, Peter Lim, Peter Gosses, Brian Bishop, Eileen Byrne, Giuseppe Condello, Fr Tito Cecelia, Anna D'Cruz, Sr. Marie Harrison, Leonardo Martingano, Teresa Ravagnani

Updated Sick List

The sick list has been 'cleared' and only those names notified to the office have stayed on the list. To include the name of your loved one on the sick list, please email: parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com

Keeping in touch

If you can **drop the bulletin into other parishioners'** letter boxes when going for some exercise, please pick up some bulletins from the front of the church.

We will print extra ones if needed, just let us know.

Please remember not all parishioners have access to the internet.



Supporting our Parish -

The parish is incurring financial loss, yet the bills still need to be paid.

Please think about how you can help.

Special donations will be greatly appreciated.

Please click on this link to [Support Us](#) or ring the parish office for information re making a donation



Humanitarian crises in Afghanistan and Lebanon

Please donate to Caritas Australia so that they can respond to crises like these and others across the world. Visit caritas.org.au/lebanon or www.caritas.org.au/afghanistan or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support.



New parish office and new presbytery.

A few options are available to us. We value your opinion.

Please email: parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com if you would like to look at and comment on options. A copy of the options will be sent to you.

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

Email: safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police. **St Mary's Safeguarding Officer:** Veronica Dening - 0407 231 262



St Mary's Primary School

Ph: 9727 0000

Principal: Monica Palmer

www.stmgeorgeshall.catholic.edu.au

<https://www.facebook.com/stmgeorgeshall/>

Reflection

When you lose your joy and peace, check your believing!



Catholic Parish of St Mary Queen of Heaven, Georges Hall

Parish Priest: Fr. Lawrence Cauchi



15 Georges Cres, Georges Hall

Ph: 9727 3759

www.smgh.org.au

parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com

Office hours: Wed: 9.30am-4.00pm

Facebook: fb.me/smgh2

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

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil: 5pm

Sunday: 8 & 10am, 5pm

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday: 6pm

Preceded by Rosary/Novena - 5.30pm

Wednesday - Friday: 9am

Preceded by Rosary - 8.45am

Vietnamese Masses:

Sat. Vigil: 6.30pm

Sunday: 3pm



Reconciliation:

Saturday 4-4.30 pm
or by appointment

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

5 September 2021

**Happy Father's Day
to all our dads.**

Thank you and God bless you.



The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary - 8 September

This feast originated in Jerusalem about the sixth century, a development of the feast of the dedication of the church of Saint Anne, built in Jerusalem 'where Mary was born'. Because of her importance in salvation history, Mary's birthday is celebrated as well as those of her son Jesus the Lord and of Saint John the Baptist.



Covid Restrictions

Masses and other meetings are suspended during this time. The church is kept closed and no one should enter without permission.

Please think of those who may be very lonely.

Check out these [10 tips to manage lockdown fatigue](#)



This week's online addition of the Catholic Weekly is free due to COVID lockdown. Check out the [online Catholic Weekly](#)

Child Protection Week

6-12 September

Protecting children is everyone's responsibility.



Praying the Word

Week of the Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

First Reading Is 35:4-7

Then the ears of the deaf shall be opened and the tongues of the dumb speak.

Say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;

for water gushes in the desert,
streams in the wasteland,
the scorched earth becomes a lake,
the parched land springs of water.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:7-10. R. v.1

(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

or:

(R.) Alleluia!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. *(R.)*
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the
blind,
who raises up those who are
bound down,
the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger. *(R.)*

3. The Lord upholds the widow and
orphan,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. *(R.)*

Second Reading Jas 2:1-5

Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the kingdom?

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Jesus preached the Good News
of the kingdom*

and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!



Gospel Mk 7:31-37

He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

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Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

As we began to welcome the Gospel, we made the sign of the Cross on our foreheads, on our lips and over our hearts. It is meant to be accompanied by the thought: 'May the Gospel be in my mind, on my lips, and in my heart.' It wouldn't be enough to mentally recite that little prayer. We have to do something physical.

Jesus could not have been more physical than in the story of today's Gospel. He stuck his fingers in the man's ears and touched the man's tongue with spittle, saying the Aramaic word 'Ephphatha', 'Be opened'.

Our Lord could have healed this man with a simple prayer. But he acknowledged the sheer physicality of the person to be cured. We are not angels, but ensouled bodies and that is how our Lord particularly related to this man in need of healing.

It is in the sacrament of Baptism that we imitate the Ephphatha incident in today's Gospel. At one stage, the priest lightly touches the ears and then lightly touches the mouth of the person being baptised. This brings the baptised person into a community formed by hearing and speaking the Word in faith.

We could take a moment to recall the Ephphatha dimension of our baptism. Take your thumb and lightly touch your ears (a parent could do this for an infant) making a prayer along the lines of our baptism: 'The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the mute speak. May He again touch my ears to receive His Word and my mouth to proclaim His faith to the glory and praise of God the Father. Amen.'

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