



Catholic Parish of St Mary Queen of Heaven, Georges Hall

Parish Priest: Fr. Lawrence Cauchi



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Office hours: Wed: 9.30am-4.00pm

Facebook: fb.me/smgh2

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

Sunday Masses:
Saturday Vigil: 5pm
Sunday: 8 & 10am

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: 5.30pm



Reconciliation:
Saturday 4-4.30 pm
or by appointment

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

23 January 2022



Australia Day 26 January

Celebrating the arrival in 1788 of the first European settlers in Australia. The liturgy marks Australia's national day with prayers seeking God's blessing on all its peoples and commending its destiny into God's hands.

We pray for our country,
that God continue to bless and guide us all
so that we will always be united in love,
friendship and respect for each other
and gratitude for the blessings received
living in this Great Southern Land. Amen

Join us for Australia Day Mass: 9am Wednesday 26 January

Become a Catechist or Helper in 2022

"Being a catechist is the most spiritually fulfilling thing I've done"- Rose. Half of Catholic children in Sydney are in public primary and high schools. Share the hope and joy that Jesus brings with them and become a catechist or helper, ready to start in Term 1, 2022. Starting off as a helper, you'll receive easy step-by-step lessons and hand out activity books in primary schools. Find out more about the work catechists do here, whether at primary or secondary level: <https://ccd.sydneycatholic.org/>. Talk with Fr Laurie.

AMAZING
CATECHISTS

'Go make Disciples' is the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan

*They say courtesy is contagious.
So why not start an epidemic?*

Covid-19 is still spreading.

QR or signing in, mask wearing, and sanitizing hands and social distancing are still mandatory.

Please think of others and get vaccinated if you have not already done so.

We do have a moral responsibility towards others.

Feast of Saint Thomas Aquinas - 28 January

Born near Aquino, Italy, about 1225 he died in 1274. Educated in Monte Cassino, Naples, Paris, and Cologne, he became a Dominican in 1244. Regarded as one of the greatest theologians in the history of the Church. Despite ecclesiastical opposition at the time, the substance of his life's work has endured as an authentic exposition of Christian teaching and carries unique official approval. Remembered for his modesty, the prayerfulness of his personal life, and the abiding influence of his thought.



Ministry Rosters

Lay Ministry Roster - the new roster (Jan-June 2022) has been emailed to our volunteers and copies are available in the church - if you didn't receive an electronic copy, but want one, please email: parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com

Supporting our Parish -

Please consider joining the **planned giving program** -email parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com or click on the **Support Us** link on the website: www.smgh.org.au

+Please Remember in your prayers:

Sick: Irma Buoro, Daniel Clarke, Warren Clarke, Eileen Ellery, Bourke Gibbons, Kerry Gibbons, Marcel Götz, Rose-Tariaz Haddad, Daniel Matesic, Phillip Nehme, Vic Ryan, David Sanders, Mary Strambio, Tony Strambio, Cornelius Van Baardwyk, Margaret Ward and all infected with COVID-19.

Recently Deceased: John Sanders, Frank Kovacevic, Barry Hishion, Ken Durnford, Ian Urquhart, John Ball and all who have died from Covid-19.

Anniversary: Olive Boyle, Hilary Lawler, Kathleen Evans, Elena Raymont, John Knight, Leslie Raymont

Sick List - To include your loved one's name in the sick list, email: parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com

Anniversary List - To include your loved one's name in the anniversary list, please email name and date/year of passing to: parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com

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.

Our parish has a folder with Safeguarding information in the church - parishioners are welcome to view.

Enquiries: Veronica via parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com





Gospel Acclamation See Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners.

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21

The scriptures were fulfilled on this day.

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

The prophet Isaiah had drafted a manifesto for divine action in the world. Jesus of Nazareth is divine action in the world, and no doubt his fellow villagers in Nazara would have been thrilled that one of theirs would 'set the downtrodden free'.

But, in proclaiming 'the Lord's Year of Acceptance', Jesus inaugurated a revolutionary phase within the Jewish tradition. He invited people to *relax*!! Holiness is not a matter of our *striving*, but of *accepting* that we are *accepted* by the All Merciful God. Good works should follow in response, but good works don't gain our acceptance by God.

How does one best show acceptance of someone, forgiveness of someone, friendship with someone? One relaxes over a meal together. This was Jesus' characteristic way of embodying Divine Acceptance in our world. It still is.

We might pause for a moment to relax into the saving fact that we exist in 'the Lord's Year of Acceptance', that this acceptance is signified and effected by our sharing in the Bread of Life and the Spiritual Drink of Holy Communion which gives us the energy to help make Divine Acceptance a reality for others.

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The Living Word

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

23 January 2022

First Reading Neh 8:2-6, 8-10

They read from the book of Law and they understood what was read.

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people - since he stood higher than all the people - Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered Amen! Amen! then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah - His Excellency - and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep'. For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18:8-10. 15. R. See Jn 6:63

(R.) Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

- 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.)*
- 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.)*
- The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. *(R.)*

- May the spoken words of my mouth, the thoughts of my heart, win favour in your sight, O Lord, my rescuer, my rock! *(R.)*

Second Reading 1 Cor 12:12-30 or 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27 (shorter form)

Together you are Christ's body, but each of you is a different part of it.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. If the foot were to say, 'I am not a hand and so I do not belong to the body', would that mean that it stopped being part of the body? If the ear were to say, 'I am not an eye, and so I do not belong to the body', would that mean that it is not a part of the body? If your whole body was just one eye, how would you hear anything? If it was just one ear, how would you smell anything?

Instead of that, God put all the separate parts into the body on purpose. If all the parts were the same, how could it be a body? As it is, the parts are many but the body is one. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I do not need you,' nor can the head say to the feet, 'I do not need you.'

What is more, it is precisely the parts of the body that seem to be the weakest which are the indispensable ones; and it is the least honourable parts of the body that we clothe with the greatest care. So our more improper parts get decorated in a way that our more proper parts do not need. God has arranged the body so that more dignity is given to the parts which are without it, and so that there may not be disagreements inside the body, but that each part may be equally concerned for all the others. If one part is hurt, all parts are hurt with it. If one part is given special honour, all parts enjoy it.

Now you together are Christ's body, but each of you is a different part of it. In the Church, God has given the first place to apostles, the second to prophets, the third to teachers; after them, miracles, and after them the gift of healing; helpers, good leaders, those with many languages. Are all of them apostles, or all of them prophets, or all of them teachers? Do they all have the gift of miracles, or all have the gift of healing? Do all speak strange languages, and all interpret them?