



ST MARY'S CONCORD – December 16, 2018

THE ADVENT WREATH

The **third** candle, called the *Shepherd's candle*, recalls the shepherds who came to worship the newborn Jesus. The rose color of the candle reflects the theme of joy on this Sunday as we prepare for Christ's coming in glory.

Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep.

Response: Come and lead us to the eternal life you promise.

Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who knows his flock and calls each one by name.

Response: Come and lead us to the eternal life you promise.

Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who searches for the lost sheep.

Response: Come and lead us to the eternal life you promise.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

CHRISTMAS EVE

(Monday 24 December)

6.00 pm Vigil Mass for Christmas

9.00 pm Mass during the Night

Please note there is NO MASS at 12.00 Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY

(Tuesday 25 December)

Masses at 7.30 am, 9.30 am and 11.00 am

NO EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION SERVICES

The parishes of the area combine to offer 2nd Rite celebrations of Reconciliation.

Tues 18 Dec 7.00 pm St Mark's Drummoyne

Wed 19 Dec 7.30 pm St Patrick's Mortlake

Individual Reconciliation

The last opportunity for the 1st Rite (individual) Reconciliation at St Marys Concord before Christmas is Saturday 22 December from 5.00 pm to 5.30 pm.

AN ADVENT REFLECTION

Advent remains a season of contrasts. It is a time of preparation for Christmas but it also coincides with the end of the school year and the beginning of the long summer holidays. It is always a hectic time and it is sometimes difficult to find space to stop and reflect.

The Advent Season began as a time of preparation for those who were to be baptized on the feast of the Epiphany. Since Lent was a time of preparation for Baptism at Easter, Advent was modelled on Lent.

In 6th Century France, Gregory of Tours mentions a penitential season lasting from 11 November, the feast of St Martin of Tours, to Christmas. It was later called "St Martin's Lent". In Rome the season lasted six weeks as it still does today in Milan.

When our liturgical calendar was revised in 1969 Advent was seen both as a time of preparation for Christmas and as a time to look forward to the second coming of Christ. It no longer is considered a penitential season like Lent but some of the old elements have continued such as the use of purple vestments.

At St Mary's we distinguish the two "purple seasons" by using a "red purple" vestment in Lent and a "blue purple" one in Advent.

The third Sunday of Advent has traditionally reflected the joy of preparing to celebrate the birth of Christ at Christmas. In Latin it was known as *Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday* from the words of the Entrance Antiphon: *Rejoice in the Lord always.*

The rose candle and the rose vestments recall the time when Advent was still seen as a penitential season. The change of colour still serves to reinforce the theme of rejoicing.

The figure of John the Baptist also continues to feature in Advent. Last Sunday's Gospel reminded us that John came to prepare the way of the Lord. Now we see in Luke's Gospel how John prepared the way by calling on various people to change their way of life. How do we prepare to celebrate Christmas?

Fr Paul Crowley

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY TABLEAU at the Vigil Mass, 6.00 pm on Monday 24 December. We are again inviting children to present a simple Nativity Tableau at the Christmas Vigil Mass. There will be a short rehearsal on Friday 21 December at 9.00 am in the Church. Only children who attend the rehearsal will be able to have an active role in the tableau.

LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS St Mary's Cathedral Square, College Street, until 25 December each night with carol singing from 7.30 pm on the Cathedral steps and the light show from 8.30 pm until midnight. It is a FREE Event see www.lightsofchristmas.com.au.

PARKING FOR SUNDAYS AND CHRISTMAS MASSES

Thank you to all who respect the needs of others and take the time to find parking on the streets near the church. The only parking available on the parish site is in the Church Forecourt via the Parramatta Road gates. **Please park rear to the buildings to avoid reversing after Mass.** The limited parking spaces behind the church are for visitors to St Mary's Villa; they may be used ONLY by those who have a genuine mobility problem. **Please note that on Christmas Day many relatives call to collect residents from St Mary's Villa. The entrance to the Villa from Burton Street must be kept clear at all times.**

DAILY MASS BOOK Copies of the 2019 *Daily Mass Book* from the Brisbane Liturgical Commission are available from the sacristy. Cost \$20.00. The book begins from the First Sunday of Advent, Please note that the *Daily Mass Book* is not a full Missal and does not contain the readings.

NATIONAL PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 Do you know that the 2020 Plenary Council is different to Parish 2020? Parish 2020 is an Archdiocese of Sydney project looking at how parishes can continue to operate and collaborate together. The 2020 Plenary Council is a national project providing a platform for a broad scale discussion among parishes and Catholics across the country concerning the future of the Church in Australia and what you think God is asking of us at this time. If you are interested in getting actively involved to discuss the 2020 Plenary Council, speak with your parish priest or contact us directly at plenarycouncil@sydneycatholic.org

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding Office provides support and training for parish communities to ensure that our communities offer a safe and caring environment. The Safeguarding Office also provides support for those who have suffered abuse.

If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Archdiocese of Sydney, the Safeguarding Office will listen to you respectfully, offer support and discuss the options you have available to you. Please contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office on phone: 9390 5812.

The full Archdiocesan Manual for safeguarding children in our parish communities is available on the Archdiocesan website at:

<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/safeguarding-and-child-protection/>

ALTAR SOCIETY and CHURCH CLEANING

Each week in the bulletin you can see listed the teams who are rostered for the Altar Society and the Church Cleaning. **We are very fortunate to have several teams of volunteers who ensure that our church is kept clean.**

Currently there are four groups/teams so that each is rostered once a month. Most prefer to do their cleaning tasks at 7.00 am on a Saturday morning, although the time can be flexible. Generally, their tasks are completed in less than one hour.

The **Altar Society** is responsible for the general cleaning of the terrazzo areas of the church, dusting and looking after the flowers. Most have four members but group 2 has three members and group 3 currently has only two members.

Last year Grazia Cataldo, Maria Cerone and Lucia Libro retired from Group 3. In recent months Maria Di Losa has retired from Group 2. We thank them for their many years of service to the parish community.

The **Church Cleaning** teams vacuum the carpet in the church. There are two people in each team as there are two vacuum systems.

Lisa Ma (team 2) has been faithfully vacuuming the church for many years but now needs to retire. We thank Lisa for her support.

We are now seeking new members for both the Altar Society and the Church Cleaning. As well as bringing our current groups/teams up to full strength, we want an extra team to cover those months when there is a fifth Sunday.

Can you give one hour on a Saturday morning once a month? If you can help please contact the Parish Office tel 9749 4210 or email parish@stmarysconcord.or.au

ST MARY'S PARISH 150th ANNIVERSARY

In 1970 St Mary's Parish celebrated its Centenary. We are now preparing to celebrate 150 years. Were you or a member of your family here for the Centenary celebrations in 1970? Do you remember the opening of the first St Mary's Villa in 1985? Were you part of the parish when a fire badly damaged the church in 1993?

Share your memories of growing up in St Mary's Parish. The parish committee would like to chat with older parishioners who have lived in the parish over the past 50 years. Do you have photos at home?

Family History has become a popular hobby for many people. Do you have information about members of your family who lived in Concord or Burwood?

A committee has begun to plan for the 150th anniversary. They are seeking historical photos and stories about families who have been part of the parish during the past 150 years. Please contact the Parish Office if you can help.

Follow us on Twitter 
St Marys@ParishConcord

SOCIAL JUSTICE

JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE JRS has been supporting thousands of people across Sydney in the last three years. Unfortunately, in that time the policies that affect the day-to-day lives of the people we serve have become more harsh and punitive. In the coming months, government funded income support for up to 7000 people seeking asylum nationwide will be cut. Individuals affected by this change will only have 7-10 days to transition and find work. We anticipate that the need for our assistance is going to increase rapidly over the coming months and we will certainly need your help to raise awareness and funds.

SPIRITUALITY RETREATS AND COURSES

DRAWING AND GIVING LIFE – NSW PASTORAL MINISTRY CONFERENCE 2019 How do we renew our pastoral structures to draw and give life in the post Royal Commission Church? In what ways are we called to move forward and strengthen our ministries to serve the mission of Jesus Christ?

The day includes networking with ministry leaders around NSW

and two opportunities to engage with a variety of workshops with on the ground practitioners who offer strategies for renewing and strengthening our pastoral mission.

Conference Rates: Early Bird \$65 (booking made prior to 17 December 2018).

Normal rate \$75 (bookings after 17 December 2018).

Dooleys Catholic Club Lidcombe. Tuesday 26th February 2019 / 9.30am To 4.30pm

BEREAVEMENT: The Catholic Cemeteries offer *Support Reflection Mornings* on the third Wednesday of every month 10.00am to 1.00pm. The sessions are for family and friends who are grieving. They provide understanding and help for those managing life's changes due to loss, grief and bereavement. Morning tea provided. For further information please contact Bereavement Support Ph: (02) 9646 6908 or email bereavementsupport@catholiccemeteries.com.au

CATHOLIC MEN: Sydney Catholic Men's Ministry Network Meeting Calling all Men! We all need the supportive brotherhood of other good men. Come and find out more about men's ministry in Sydney archdiocese. Find out how you can start or join a local men's group in your area with support from us. Hosted by Bishop Richard Umbers, hear from Tristan Ross, former lieutenant in the army on his experience of Catholic brotherhood. Ben Galea from Young Men of God will facilitate a discussion on growing new men's groups. Friday night November 23, 6.30pm

Mass, 7.30pm Dinner, 8.30pm Presentations. St. Paul of the Cross Parish, 532 New Canterbury Rd, Dulwich Hill. Register: www.trybooking.com/431767 More Info: christopher.gordon@sydneycatholic.org

HOW DO I BECOME A CATHOLIC? Adults who have not been baptized and wish to become part of the community of the Catholic Church receive the sacraments of Christian Initiation in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (RCIA). The RCIA presumes that there is an extended period of formation and preparation, usually leading to the celebration of Baptism at Easter. Baptised members of other Christian Churches who wish to be become members of the Catholic Church do so through *Reception into Full Communion*. If you are interested, or if you know of someone who may be interested in becoming a Catholic, please contact Fr Paul or the Parish Office tel 9747 4210.

AQUINAS ACADEMY February 2019 Courses

◆ **READING GRACIOUSLY: *Mercy and the Heart in St Paul and Pope Francis***

Presenter: Robert Tilley, PhD

3 Wednesday mornings, 10am – 12noon, February 6, 13, 20.

Level 5, 141 Harrington Street, Sydney

Cost: \$120/person (Including class notes)

DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL JUSTICE and GLOBALISATION: *An Experiential and Reflective Approach*

Presenter: Joffre Balce, MSc Industrial Economics

4 Friday evenings, 6pm – 8pm, Feb 8, 15, 22, Mar 1

Level 5, 141 Harrington Street, Sydney

Cost: \$150/person (including class notes)

◆ **DEALING with ADDICTIONS: *Introduction to the Twelve Steps Programme***

Presenter: James and John

3 Friday mornings, 10am – 12noon, Feb 8, 15, 22

Level 5, 141 Harrington Street, Sydney

Cost: \$120/person (including class notes)

MARRIAGE PREPARATION Are you planning to celebrate your Marriage in 2018 or 2019? Many couples begin their planning by booking a venue for the reception. If you are hoping to celebrate your marriage in a church, it is also important to confirm your date with the church and with a priest before committing yourself to a reception or any other booking. For information about celebrating your Marriage in St Mary's Church, please contact the parish office.

A Marriage Course is an essential part of your preparation for your wedding. Various groups and organisations offer courses. *CatholicCare* is the official welfare agency of the Catholic Church in Sydney and it offers Marriage and Relationship Education programs at centres across the Sydney region. Marriage education is not counselling and does not focus on specific issues. It does, however, help each couple to reflect on their relationship as they plan not only for their wedding but for a life together. Several

programs are offered. For more details Ph: 9509 1234 or visit www.catholiccare.org

OF LIFE AND LOVE PRE-MARRIAGE COURSE IN OCTOBER

This excellent course for engaged couples gives particular emphasis to the spiritual and sacramental dimensions of marriage, while also paying due attention to the practical elements as well. It highlights the importance of God's grace and human love in building a happy relationship, and it suggests ways in which married love can grow over the years. Topics include the beauty of Christian marriage, openness to life, family of origin, communication and the nuptial paradigm. An approved course for marriage preparation in the Catholic Church.

COURAGE IN SYDNEY Courage is a movement for those with same-sex attraction who desire to live chaste lives in accordance with the Church's teachings. Any interested person can call the Sydney chaplain on 0418 136 785.

A men's group meets monthly in Sydney, privately, for fellowship, discussion & prayer, guided by the priest chaplain. Confidentiality assured.

ENCOURAGE IN SYDNEY Linked to Courage is the movement Encourage, for family members of those with same-sex attraction, who pray together for their loved ones and discuss the issues involved in confidentiality, in the presence of the priest chaplain. Encourage is committed to chastity as taught by the Catholic Church.

If you have a family member with same-sex attraction, email encouragesydney@hotmail.com and give your phone number & say you are interested in Encourage. Confidentiality assured. The co-ordinator of the group will call you and invite you to the next meeting, which takes place on the first Monday of the month 10:45am. The meetings go for one hour, guided by the priest chaplain, and involve prayer, discussion, mutual support & fellowship, along with spiritual guidance.

VOLUNTEERING

FAMILY SPIRIT (by CatholicCare Sydney and Marist180)

Could you provide short-term help for long-term memories? As a new agency combining the strengths of Marist180 and CatholicCare Sydney, **Family Spirit** urgently need compassionate people to provide short-term foster care. To learn more, come to our information night: Tuesday 11 December 2018, 5.30-8.00 pm. Marist180, 36 First Avenue, Blacktown NSW 2148. Call CCareline on 13 18 19 to secure your place

VOLUNTEERING WITH CATHOLICCARE Volunteering with CatholicCare brings many benefits for the volunteer as well as for our clients and the organisation as a whole. Our Mission and Guiding principles guide us to care for individuals, families and communities from all backgrounds and cultures. We care for the wellbeing of

staff and volunteers as we do for the vulnerable families and individuals who seek help from us. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the CCareline on 13 18 19.

ST BAKHITA SUDANESE CENTRE at Homebush West is looking for volunteers to mind babies & preschool children. The centre teaches English to migrants at this Centre three mornings a week. To enable the women to attend English classes volunteers are needed to assist with childminding. Hours are from 9.30 to 12.30 on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ST JOHN OF GOD HOSPITAL

BURWOOD: St John of God is a private mental hospital in Burwood. There are many activities that will allow volunteers to assist patients. Please see the parish notice board for details or contact Maria Speissegger on 9715 9248 or email maria.speissegger@sjog.org.au

ST VINCENT DE PAUL The St Mary's Concord Conference of the SVdP Society needs new members.

Volunteers attend a fortnightly meeting on a Tuesday at 6.30 pm in St Mary's Villa. They also are available for home visits with another conference member to assist those in need.

If you can help, please contact Poppy Beccera:

poppy@archb.com.au or Leeanne Favotto:

leeanne.favotto@syd.catholic.edu.au.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED CONCORD HOSPITAL:

Retired? Wanting to help others in need by bringing Christ's Presence to the Sick? Would you consider joining Concord Hospital's Pastoral Care Department making initial contact with patients and staff as a Catholic Pastoral Care Visitor. Volunteers are trained as Extraordinary Ministers of the Communion to visit patients and distribute Communion on behalf of Concord's full-time Catholic Chaplain, Fr Graeme Malone SSS. Currently Fr Graeme is seeking helpers for approx. 1 hour on a Wednesday or Sunday morning from 10.00 am on either a weekly, fortnightly or monthly flexible roster. For more information please contact Fr Graeme Malone at the Chaplain's Office phone 9767 6228.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Children's Liturgy of the Word recommences this Sunday during 9.30am Mass. All children of primary school age are invited to attend. We ask that pre-school children remain in the church with their parents.

The Children's Liturgy is not a catechetical class nor Sunday school; it is a celebration of the Word of God at a level appropriate for young children. They listen to the Gospel reading of the Sunday and share prayers and reflections. The children leave the church after the Opening Prayer and return at the Preparation of the Gifts. The Children's Liturgy is held in the chapel of St Mary's Villa. **The Children's Liturgy would not be possible without the help of the adult leaders. We thank the leaders and helpers.** If anyone would like to be a leader or helper, please contact the parish office.

SISTERS OF CHARITY OUTREACH, based at St Vincent's Hospital, is seeking casual drivers for its Country Care Link program. Drivers must have their own fully comprehensively insured vehicle and volunteers can receive a kilometre allowance for trips undertaken. For enquiries phone 8382 6430 or Jo Moore at jmoore@outreach.net.au

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Do you have time to help people in your community? We need volunteers to provide much needed companionship to elderly people who feel lonely and isolated in South West and Inner West Sydney. If you have time to spend with someone who would truly appreciate it, please call CatholicCare on 13 18 19 and become a volunteer today. Visit their website: www.catholiccare.org

PASTORAL COUNCIL: New members are needed for 2019
The Parish Pastoral Council is a consultative body entrusted with the task of reflecting on the parish's vision and mission. In a spirit of service to the community, the Pastoral Council works with the parish priest to foster and support appropriate pastoral actions. Members serve a four-year term with half the Council changing every two years. The Pastoral Council meets once a month. Any parishioner 18 years of age or older may be nominated or may nominate his/herself. If you are nominating another person, that person must accept the nomination. If you are interested, please talk to Fr Paul or to any of the current members. See the parish website for the list of current members.

SHORT TERM FOSTER CARE: *Family Spirit* is a program of CatholicCare Sydney and Marist180. As a new agency combining the strengths of Marist180 and CatholicCare Sydney, ***Family Spirit*** urgently need compassionate people to provide short-term foster care. To learn more, come to our information night: Tuesday 16 October 2018, 5.30-8.00 pm, *Family Spirit*, Level 3, 2-14 Meredith St Bankstown NSW 2200. Call CCareline on 13 18 19 to secure your place

ST CANICE'S KITCHEN, ELIZABETH BAY - Sunday Volunteer Teams Needed: St Canice's Kitchen has been an integral part of the Kings Cross community for the past 30 years. The kitchen is open 7 days a week for lunch and 1 night for dinner thanks to the generosity of its numerous volunteers and donors. For many years we have had a tradition where the Sunday lunch for the poor and homeless is provided by groups from other parishes throughout Sydney. It has proved to be a highly rewarding experience for them. The kitchen is currently in need of some new Sunday teams of volunteers (approximately 7 people) to run a shift providing around 120 lunches and desserts and be available from 9am to 1.30pm (the kitchen is open from 11am to 1pm). If your parish would be able to provide a team of volunteers (and meals) for a Sunday shift or if you would like further information would

you please contact Lynelle Lembryk on 0403 795 381 to discuss.

VOLUNTEERING WITH CATHOLICCARE *Wellbeing callers*
Interested in volunteering to help seniors? Based at our Liverpool office, we need callers to phone people waiting for government funded home care to check on their wellbeing.

HOPE helpers Interested in volunteering to help children? Based at our Lewisham office, we need people to help at playgroups for young vulnerable mothers and their babies.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL – REDFERN Over the last 20 years, St Vincent de Paul Society has been running the Sharing of the Meal at SVDP Catholic Church in Redfern - 117 Redfern St Redfern. Every Tuesday from 8.45am to 10.45am. We are looking for volunteers. If anyone is interested we would love to hear from you. It could be a once a month support or every week. Please call Jenny Carter on 0407 977 180 if you are interested. It is a gathering place for the homeless and disadvantaged in the community of Redfern.

FUNDRAISING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED The Archdiocese value the contribution that our volunteers make but more are needed to assist us from time to time. Our volunteers help us with the mailing of appeals and notices about our pilgrimages and special events as well as other duties. Please phone Amanda on 1800 753 959 or, for more information email: fundraising@sydneycatholic.org

PARISH LIFE FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH A DISABILITY
Storytellers wanted! Have you or someone you care about ever lived, or are currently living, with a disability of any kind? The Archdiocesan Justice and Peace Office is doing a research project exploring people's experiences of living with disability in our parishes. It will explore the stories of people with disability, their families, carers, friends, pastors and fellow parishioners. We are looking for people who want to share their stories so that we can listen deeply to how our people are travelling in their journeys and how our parish communities are walking alongside them. Participation simply involves telling your story and having it recorded and used for research publications anonymously. This is a wonderful opportunity to help us reflect on our strengths and weaknesses and learn how we can grow together into more hopeful, connected and love-filled communities. For more information or to participate please call or email Dr Kimberley Doyle. 02 9307 8461; kimberley.doyle@sydneycatholic.org.

CATHOLIC CARE

CATHOLICCARE provides services for people managing mental health issues that promote confidence and independence and help connect people to their community. We provide disability services, counselling and support for children, young people and families and deliver ageing services in the home. We can assist you to navigate the new world of the NDIS and My Aged Care. To find out more call **13 18 19**, email connect@catholiccare.org or visit www.catholiccare.org

CATHOLICCARE's NDIS Therapy Team We help children 0-18 years living with a disability to access the therapy they need to reach their potential. We offer speech therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy at locations across Sydney. For more information, contact our friendly **CCareline** team on **13 18 19**.

Email: connect@catholiccare.org

Are you leaving school with 'School Leaver Employment Support' or 'Finding and Keeping a Job' in your NDIS plan? Our team can help you make a successful transition from school to a career. For more information call our friendly **CCareline** team on **13 18 19** or email us: connect@catholiccare.org

CATHOLICCARE CatholicCare's family-oriented disability Day Program. If you are seeking a small, person-centred disability day program for adults, then our family-orientated site in Lakemba may fit the bill. We pride ourselves in providing connections to community and fun activities for our participants. Contact our **CCareline** Team on 13 18 19 to find out more.

CATHOLICCARE is the social services agency of the Catholic Church in Sydney. CatholicCare provides a range of services that offer support for families, children and young people, and older people. **A brochure outlining all their services is available from the table at the back of the church and in the side porch.** To find out more call 13 18 19, email connect@catholiccare.org or visit www.catholiccare.org.

CATHOLICCARE PARENTING RESOURCES If you're looking for resources to help with parenting, try our online resource. It provides tips and strategies to help you build positive parent-child relationships. Visit catholiccare.org and look for the Parenting Hub icon or call our friendly **CCareline** team on 13 18 19.

CATHOLICCARE SYDNEY IS HELPING FAMILIES: Parenting Education groups can help parents develop positive strategies to manage their concerns in a friendly environment with other parents. Call our friendly **CCareline** team on 13 18 19 to find out more or email connect@catholiccare.org.

CATHOLICCARE Sydney There are almost 20,000 children and young people living in Out-of-Home-Care in NSW. We

urgently need short or long-term foster carers who can provide safe and loving homes for children and young people. To find out more call our **CCareline** team on 13 18 19 or drop us an email connect@catholiccare.org

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITES

DIRECT EMPLOYMENT: Having a job builds a person's dignity and wellbeing. It is empowering being in the workforce and contributing to society but for some people there are barriers. Direct Employment is a fee-free recruitment agency, helping people with disabilities overcome these barriers to find meaningful and sustainable work. It is the not-for-profit disability employment agency of the Archdiocese. Employers are only introduced to candidates who have the right availability, skills and ambitions. Candidates like Direct Employment because employment opportunities are tailored to each person's skills, individual goals and the needs of employers. Call us on 13 18 19 for more information.

SYDNEY MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY SERVICES - CARE WORKERS NEEDED - Casual Positions. **Sydney Multicultural Community Services** specialises in the provision of support services to members of our multicultural communities. We currently have a number of casual positions available for **Care Workers** who speak a second language to provide support services to older people in their own homes who come from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds (CALD). For more information please phone: (02) 9663 3922 or email info@sydneymcs.org.au

PILGRIMAGES

THE EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE: the journey of the Magi. Are you looking for a different way to start the 2019 new year? Maybe to meet some new people, get fit and conclude the Christmas season on a spiritual high? The Epiphany Pilgrimage is a not-for-profit, 7-day, 110 km Catholic pilgrimage through the Blue Mountains which coincides with the Feast of the Epiphany. The pilgrimage begins at Emu Plains on 2 January, 2019 and finishes at Bell on 8 January, 2019. For further information and to register see www.epiphanypilgrimage.org or for general information and current news see <https://www.facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage/>. *journey in faith - encounter the Christ-Child - live for Him.*

WALK THE CAMINO PORTUGUÉS. Catholic Mission 17-day Pilgrimage: Lisbon, Fatima, Porto, Santiago de Compostela. Two pilgrimages: May 2019 and June 2019. Small group led by Sr Veronica, O.P., (0451 387 906). **See** <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/get-involved/immersions/camino-portugues>

VISITATIONS OF MARY St Mel's Campsie Pilgrimage accompanied by Fr Anthony Mifsud – 11 nights, 15 days. Departs October 9, 2019. Lisbon (1) • Fatima Anniversary (3) • Alba de Tormes • Avila (2) • Segovia • Caleruega • Santo Domingo de Silos (1) • Loyola • Lourdes (3) • Manresa • Montserrat (1)

Be truly uplifted on this gently paced journey combining the two great Marian Shrines of Fatima and Lourdes as we follow a Sainly path through quaint Spanish villages rich in the history of their holy men and women who have gone before.

Book through Harvest Pilgrimages 1800 819 156.

MAGI PILGRIMAGES: FOOTPRINTS OF JESUS Trace the journey of Jesus from the land where he was born, through to the way he carried his cross and gave the eternal sacrifice. See places mentioned in the Old and New Testaments as the Bible comes alive in this 14-day pilgrimage that features Petra, Mt. Nebo, Bethlehem, Jericho, Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, Dead Sea, Masada, Nazareth, Caesarea Philippi for an all-inclusive price of \$5690. The fare includes Return Economy Airfares + Local Transfers in Deluxe coaches + Stay in Premium Hotels + All Breakfast & Dinners + Catholic Priest + English speaking professional guides. For enquiries & bookings call 03 03 8839 6615 or 1300721561 or email us pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au.

Departures Dates: Fr. Sebastian (24 March), Fr. Kenneth (26 May 19), Fr. Colin (31 May 19). Get \$200 discount for bookings before 15 Dec 19 for all departures till June 2019. Get special discount of \$200 additional for 24 March departure. Other Departure Dates available : 18 Aug 19, 8 Sep 19, 17 Sep 19, 13 Oct 19, 10 Nov 19.

VISITING ROME? Stay at Domus Australia.

Domus Australia is a 32 room guest house established by the Australian Catholic Church, welcoming travellers to Rome seeking comfortable accommodation and an ideal base from which to explore historical and cultural sites of the Eternal City. Centrally located with a magnificently restored Chapel featuring daily Mass in English, Domus Australia is the perfect oasis in the heart of Rome for Aussie pilgrims. See www.domusaustralia.org
Enquiries: reservations@domusaustralia.org

OTHER

ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY APP: The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney had released a Smartphone App (for iPhones and Androids only) for parishioners in the Archdiocese, featuring parish Mass times, the latest news from the Archdiocese of Sydney and the Catholic Church in Australia, information about upcoming Archdiocese events, as well as announcements from the Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP, Archbishop of Sydney. The App is available to download for free – search for “Archdiocese of Sydney” in the Google Play and App stores.

CHECK OUT THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY'S NEW WEBSITE The Archdiocese has launched a fresh new-look website with all the latest news and information from across the archdiocese and the Church in Australia.

The new site incorporates a number of new features and has been designed with the user experience firmly in mind to provide a more intuitive and efficient navigation.

From video to podcasts to links to social media where you can have your say on Catholic issues and share richer online content with friends and family, the new site also promotes major events across the archdiocese, regular updates from Archbishop Anthony Fisher as well as providing practical information for Catholics on Mass times, the sacraments and locating clergy and Catholic schools. Visit the new-look site at <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/>

PARKING BEHIND THE CHURCH The limited spaces behind the church, including the disabled space, are for short-term visitors to the Villa who are picking up or returning a resident and need to accompany the person to their room. A few parishioners coming to Mass who have genuine mobility problems have been given permission to park behind the church. **All others are asked to respect the parking restrictions.**

CAR ACCESS FROM BURTON STREET No parking is available in the area between the church and the Villa for Sunday Masses, Weddings or Funerals. The Burton Street entrance is the only access to St Mary's Villa for an ambulance and must be kept clear at all times. The driveway can only be used as a drop-off area for the Church. It is important that all car drivers respect the parking restrictions.

TELL YOUR STORY IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY: Do you have a local parish news story which would be of interest to the many readers of the Catholic Weekly? The Catholic Weekly is always looking for human interest, inspirational and faith-based stories for our weekly publication. If you have a story please send it to: cweditor@catholicweekly.com.au or call (02) 9390 5407. We'd love to hear your story.