



ST MARY'S CONCORD – December 1, 2019

THE ADVENT WREATH

The *first* candle, called the *Prophet's candle*, reminds us that the people of Israel looked forward to the coming of the Messiah.

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world.

Response: Come and let your light shine forth in our lives.

Lord Jesus, you call us to live as children of the light.

Response:

Lord Jesus, you lead us to God's Kingdom of peace.

Response:.

PLENARY COUNCIL TWILIGHT RETREAT As we continue our journey to the first Plenary Council in October 2020 and with Advent approaching, you are invited to share in a prayer and formation experience. This is a wonderful opportunity to share in nurturing your faith and spirituality with Catholics from parishes across the Archdiocese of Sydney.

WHERE: St Patrick's Crypt, 20 Grosvenor St, Church Hill.

WHEN: Thurs 5 December 2019 5.30pm- 7pm. Entry to the crypt via courtyard gate. **FACILITATOR:** Fr Michael Whelan SM - "Recovering the Mystical Heart of our Faith"

All are welcome. You are then invited to attend the Archdiocese Christmas Lights at St Mary's Cathedral, at 7.30pm. **Please register your interest and attendance by email to: plenarycouncil@sydneycatholic.org or contact Barbara Perry 0438 012 964**

MORNING TEA: The monthly morning tea after the 9.30 am Mass will be held this Sunday, 1 December. The morning tea each month is hosted by the parish Family Groups. If you can, please bring a small plate of food to share.

JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICES supports struggling asylum seekers, both individuals & families, who rely on donations to survive. The JRS Foodbank supplies are often low; they are particularly in need of donations of coffee, tea bags, sugar, or salt. Over the coming weeks items can be placed in the box at the back of the Church. May you be blessed for your generosity! Thank you!

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 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 phone: 9747 4210.

LOURDES DAY MASS:The Annual Lourdes Day Mass of the Order of Malta will be celebrated by Archbishop Fisher and the Chaplains of the Order on Saturday 7 December at 10.00 am in St Mary's Cathedral.

LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS Celebrate the Lights of Christmas at St Mary's Cathedral with a special Opening Night Concert featuring Friar Alessandro, the Voice from Assisi, and internationally acclaimed Australian pianist Vivian Choi. Thursday, 5 December Concert from 7.30pm. A Sydney tradition, the Lights of Christmas runs every night until Christmas featuring a range of choirs.

THE GIFT OF BREAD program operates every Tuesday night in the Parish hall from 7.00 to 8.00 pm. All are welcome to join us. Please contact the Parish office for further details.

CARE SUPPORT WORKER The Sisters of the Good Samaritan are seeking a Personal Care Support Worker with experience in Aged or Community Care to assist a number of Sisters living independently in the community and Sisters living in Aged Care. Part time position 10-20 hrs per week Please contact Ms Marie Mohr, Health and Wellbeing Coordinator, Sisters of the Good Samaritan on 0409428211 or email mmohr@goodsams.org.au for further information in relation to the requirements for this role.

POPE FRANCIS PROGRAM is a community service program in Catholic schools that encourages students to become more involved in their parish community. Last week 32 students from St Mary's School celebrated their graduation from the *Pope Francis Program* with an award presentation within a Mass at St Brigid's Marrickville. The students were required to complete ten hours of school and parish service over six months. Many have been involved in many areas of our parish life this year such as visiting St Mary's Villa, providing welcome and hospitality at Mass. Many are actively involved in the *Gift of Bread* program on a Tuesday evening. We are proud of their commitment and contributions to parish life and our community.

PRAYER FOR RAIN: The Catholic Bishops of Australia have announced a National Prayer Campaign for Rain during November. People across the country are encouraged to

pray for the gift of rain, for people affected by the drought and to provide practical support, where possible. The Bishops note that large parts of the country are directly affected by the drought, but the impact is national and calls for a national response. Access resources and find out more at www.catholic.org.au/drought

Prayer for Rain

God Our Father, You created our earth to nourish us and give us life, and Jesus told us to ask and it will be given to us. We ask now in Faith, Hope and Love that you look with favour on our drought stricken land, our starving animals and our failing produce. Sustain, strengthen and give new heart to our farmers and all those affected by this drought. In your loving providence, send abundant rain soon and renew the faith of your people and the face of our land. We make this prayer with many, through Jesus Christ who gives new life to all living things. Amen.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help - Pray for us.
St Mary of the Cross Mackillop - Pray for us.

*Bishop Columba Macbeth-Green,
Bishop of Wilcannia – Forbes*

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER 
St Marys@ParishConcord

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office of the Archdiocese of Sydney at (02) 9390 5810 or

safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org.

You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

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/>

We understand how difficult it can be for people who have experienced abuse to make a complaint. We have developed a *Listening to You* card, which is available in all our parishes to provide guidance for those wishing to make a complaint. We want to support you in this process and we can provide counselling and support services if needed. For assistance, please contact safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org or visit www.sydneycatholic.org/safeguarding-and-child-protection/ All cards from the Safeguarding office can be found on the table at the back of the church.

REFLECTIONS ON PORT MORESBY - 4 Dec at 8/133 Liverpool St, Sydney, 5:30pm for a 6pm start A panel discussion from the Catholic delegation that visited the men of Manus Island in November 2019. The panellists include The Most Reverend Bishop of Parramatta Vincent Long van Nguyen, Fr. Peter Smith Justice and Peace Promoter of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, Carolina Gottardo, Director of Jesuit Refugee Service and Co-Convenor of the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum and Behrouz Boochani (via Skype), author, journalist and human rights leader. Free. Places are limited. Register by ringing Ruth at the Justice and Peace Office on 02 9307 8462 or register online: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/public-forum-catholic-reflection-on-port-moresby-offshore-detention-tickets-83109840771>

YOUTH LEADERS EVANGELISATION SCHOOL 2020 From 25 January to 1 February, 2020, a week long live-in experience for youth leaders and young adults between 18 and 35 years old. The school will allow leaders to explore their call to discipleship through community life, daily prayer and through building a culture of responsibility for themselves and others in their daily lives. The program is developed to encourage leaders to exercise their call to evangelisation within the many contexts of their lives, including ministry. For more information, contact Elizabeth Pasion on (02) 9307 8152 or elizabeth.pasion@sydneycatholicyouth.org

CAMPION COLLEGE SUMMER PROGRAM 5-9 JAN 2020 Young people aged 16-20 interested in history, literature, philosophy and theology are invited to register for Campion College's five-day Summer Program and get a taste of a Catholic tertiary education in the liberal arts. Free to attend thanks to Campion's generous donors (including meals, activities and accommodation on campus in Toongabbie) but spaces are limited! Find out more and register at: www.campion.edu.au/summer-program

ST MARY'S PARISH 150th ANNIVERSARY The present parish site was acquired for a church and school in 1844 and in June 1845 Archbishop Polding blessed the foundation stone for the first church. The first church opened on 7 December 1846 and stood in the present Church Forecourt in front of the present hall. At first priests came from Parramatta to celebrate Sunday Mass. When the parish of St Thomas Becket was established at Petersham (now Lewisham) in 1851, the Burwood-Concord area became part of Petersham parish. By the mid-1860s a priest was residing in a rented house on Parramatta Road Concord. It was located where the present Kindergarten building stands. St Mary's Concord became a separate parish in 1870 and Fr Callaghan McCarthy was appointed the first Parish Priest.

RECOVERING FROM TRAUMA: Trauma affects us all differently. If you have been affected by trauma either recently or in the past, our counsellors have specialist experience working through loss. Call Catholic Care's Careline on 13 18 19 to be connected to our free counselling service today.

SPIRITUALITY RETREATS AND COURSES

WOMEN'S ADVENT RETREAT DAY – 2019 Notre Dame Chaplaincy warmly invites women of all ages to join us for our annual Women's Advent Retreat Day on Tuesday, December 3, 09am to 4:30pm.

The day will include three inspiring spiritual talks, Holy Mass, time for reflection, opportunity for Reconciliation, and Holy Hour. Morning tea and lunch are provided. The retreat day is free of charge, but registration is essential. Please visit www.trybooking.com/563903 call 02 8204 4189 or e-mail sydney.chaplaincy@nd.edu.au

LOCATION: The University of Notre Dame Australia 104 Broadway, Corner Abercrombie Street and Broadway, Chippendale, NSW 2008

CAN I GET A MARRIAGE ANNULMENT? The Tribunal of the Catholic Church offers advice to all of those who have experienced a marriage breakdown and question the validity of their first marriage as understood by the Church. Inquiries: 9307 8300 or email: admin@sydneytribunal.org.au

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT Reflection Mornings are held on the third Wednesday of every month 10.00 am to 1.00 pm. For family and friends who grieve and for their companions. Morning tea provided. For further information please contact Bereavement Support: phone (02) 9646 6908 or email: bereavementsupport@catholiccemeteries.com.au

BEREAVED PARENTS GROUP Every first Monday of the Month at the Banksia Room, Dooleys Catholic Club 11 Church Street, Lidcombe, 10am - 12 noon. This is a space for your grief and a chance to connect with other bereaved parents. Morning tea is provided. The group is facilitated by the Bereavement Care Team. Please contact Patricia 0438 263 036 or Sigrid on 0412 811 206

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

MARRIAGE: Are you planning to celebrate your Marriage in 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.

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.

DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE – MONTHLY RETREAT SCHEDULES Divine Retreat Centre is the spiritual arm of the Vincentian Missionaries. The Diocese of Broken Bay invited the Vincentian Missionaries to establish the Divine Retreat Centre in April 2013 in Somersby, NSW. Every month, for the last six years, they have been conducting spiritual retreats and outreach ministries around Australia. This Retreat Centre is a Catholic entity run by Vincentian Priests.

These retreats are conducted by Fr. Roni George (Director) & Fr. Joby George (Assistant Director). For November schedule and further information see www.divineretreatcentre.org.au

VOLUNTEERING

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

COUNTRY CARE LINK: VOLUNTEER DRIVERS Would you like to help Open Support to provide increased accessibility to health care services to our clients from regional NSW? Our Country Care Link Program does just that by providing free transport to health care services in Sydney. Country Care Link is a no-cost service provided by a team of volunteers to clients travelling to Sydney from rural NSW.

Open Support responds to community needs by providing greater access to healthcare services through our Country Care Link transport program.

For more information or to receive a volunteer information pack, please email

volunteer@opensupport.org.au or call 02 8382 6437

We are really excited to welcome new drivers to our friendly team, we look forward to hearing from you soon.

GIFT OF BREAD is a volunteer group that picks up unsold bread from bakeries and stores and redistributes the bread to those in need. A group has recently started in St Mary's Concord. They gather in the parish hall on Tuesdays from 7.00 pm for about one hour to repack the bread and distribute it. If you can help, please contact the parish office for further details: phone 9747 4210 email parish@stmarysconcord.org.au

PASTORAL CARE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CONCORD

HOSPITAL Fr Graeme Malone SSS, Chaplain to Concord Hospital, is seeking new volunteers for the Catholic Pastoral Care team. Have you recently retired, or have some time available? The aim is that a Pastoral Care Visitor will make an initial visit to Catholic patients on behalf of the Chaplain within 24 hours of their admission. Pastoral Visitation is offered Monday to Friday.

For those with no regular parish contact a time of illness can be a real challenge to one's Faith. As a caring volunteer, you bring greatly needed comfort and a deep reassurance. If you, or someone you know, is in a position to assist as a member of the Catholic Pastoral Visitation team (Mon - Fri from 10am for a 1-1.5 hour period) please contact Fr Graeme Malone tel 9767 6228.

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.

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 VINCENT DE PAUL Volunteers are needed to join the Concord Conference. Our SVdP members offer emergency assistance to those in need. **Members are asked to attend a fortnightly meeting on a Wednesday evening.** Meetings usually take about an hour. Volunteers also visit, always in a team of two, to provide those in need with emergency assistance. Training is available. If you can spare about an hour per week to help the poor and disadvantaged in our community, send an email to poppy@archb.com.au or call Poppy on 0438 430 347. Note meetings are held in the St Mary's Villa Caritas meeting room adjacent to the Bell Tower.

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

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

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL IS RECRUITING FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS

If you have a love of history and architecture, these passions can be brought to life by becoming a St Mary's Cathedral Volunteer Tour Guide. St Mary's Cathedral welcomes thousands of visitors on a daily basis, and Volunteer Tour Guides play an important role in helping visitor groups and tourists to explore the largest Cathedral in the Southern hemisphere. All are welcome to apply, as previous experience is not required. Tour guide training and induction will be provided. If you are interested, please contact the Special Liturgies Officer via email jennifer.foo@stmaryscathedral.org.au or phone 02 9220 0453.

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

DO YOU CARE FOR A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND? We are seeking volunteers who are carers in their personal lives and enjoy spending time online to participate in a pilot, online community providing peer support for carers and provide feedback on their experience. Call CCareline on 13 18 19 to find out more.

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.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL At the recent meeting of the Pastoral Council we welcomed Monica Darlow as a new member. It has been the policy of the Pastoral Council that the roles of chairperson and secretary change every year. We thank Vince Fragomeli and Jessica Di Bartolo who have stepped down from those roles after generously serving for an extended term of two years. We thank Ivo Favotto who has accepted the role of chairperson and Katia Naim who has accepted the role of secretary. 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 Parish 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 on the first Tuesday of every second month from February to December. Any parishioner 18 years of age or older may be nominated or may nominate his/herself. If you are interested, please contact Fr Paul.

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.

CATHOLIC CARE

DO YOU NEED HELP WITH YOUR NDIS PLAN?

NDIS plans can be confusing, so we will work with you to help you understand and implement the services and supports in your plan.

Call CCareline on 13 18 19 to find out more.

COUNSELLING AVAILABLE Several highly qualified relationship counselling professionals have recently joined the CatholicCare team in Fairfield, Liverpool, Bankstown, Lewisham and Sydney CBD. **Counselling available with no waitlist.** They offer services in family law, post-separation, parenting, domestic and family violence. Call CatholicCare Careline on 13 18 19 for further information.

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.

CATHOLIC CARE can assist families to navigate the world of the NDIS for their children with a disability. Our expert Customer Service Advisors can remove some of the complexity, working with people, their families and carers to put in place the support that is best for them. Contacting **CatholicCare** is as simple as emailing connect@catholiccare.org or phoning **13 18 19**

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-oriented 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

SENIORS: Do you know any seniors in your community who could use a little help at home? Our home care services help seniors to enjoy living independently in their own home with comfort and confidence. Call CCareline on 13 18 19 to find out more.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PILGRIMAGES

WALK THE CAMINO! Two Catholic Mission Pilgrimages 2020. Small group led by an experienced guide. Sr Veronica Rosier OP (0451 387 906) www.catholicmission.org.au/camino2020

GERMAN CATHEDRALS AND OBERAMMERGAU PILGRIMAGE 2020 Fr Chris Dixon, from the Diocese of Parramatta, is leading a pilgrimage focussing on "German Cathedral Pilgrimage and the Passion Play at

Oberammergau", for 13 days leaving 25th August 2020 and returning 6th September 2020. For more information and further details, contact Fr Chris at annangrove@hotmail.com.

THE EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE: Journey through the Blue Mountains this January The Epiphany Pilgrimage is a not-for-profit event of the Diocese of Parramatta and outreach of the Blue Mountains Deanery. Beginning at Emu Plains on 2 January and finishing 7 days later at Bell, pilgrims walk 110km through the beautiful Blue Mountains bushland, celebrating the Christmas season with each parish along the way.

To register for all or part of the pilgrimage walk or join in the parish festivities, visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org. To follow the journey see <https://www.facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage/>.

MAGI PILGRIMAGES Take a walk through history as this pilgrimage unfolds experiences, stirring faith with the little gems studded across **Germany & Austria in this 14-day pilgrimage** for an All-inclusive Price of AUD \$7,700. This pilgrimage features Cologne, Mainz, Heidelberg, Munich, Vienna and more. Witness the famous Passion Play 2020 which takes place once-a-decade in the village of Oberammergau that has been creating history for over 400 years. Limited Seats Only! Book Now with \$1500 Deposit. Contact Magi Pilgrimages 03 8839 6615 for further details. Email info@magiholidays.com.au for day-by-day itinerary.

FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL Journey with St. Paul as you relive the Acts of the Apostles and the famous letters of the New Testament. Explore Greece and Greek islands in this 10N pilgrimage led by Catholic Priests that features Athens, Corinth, Mykonos, Kusadasi, Crete, Santorini, Hosios Loukas, Delphi, Thessaloniki, Philippi and Kavala for an all-inclusive Land Package price of \$4490 + Tips. The fare includes Entrances & Sites as per itinerary + Local Transfers in Deluxe coaches + Stay in Premium Hotels + 3N Cruise with Lunch + All Breakfast & Dinners + Catholic Priest + English speaking professional guides. 2020 Departures Available: **12th May 2020** and **20th Oct 2020**. For inquiries & bookings call **03 8839 6615** or **1300721561** or email us info@magiholidays.com.au

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE FOR CATECHISTS The CCD is organizing a pilgrimage with Fr Michael McLean to the Holy Land in May 2020. Optional extension to Rome available and Mass with Pope Francis. For bookings and itinerary details, contact Harvest Pilgrimages on 9390 5460 by December 6.

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

CATHOLIC BUSHWALKING CLUB. The club offers a choice of graded walks, abseiling, canyoning and camping for a variety of fitness levels. The club is seeking to welcome new members, in particular younger members. If you have a youth leader in the parish, we would appreciate their contact details.

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](tel:0293905407). We'd love to hear your story.

CATHOLIC WEEKLY: Want to know what is happening in the Catholic Church here in Sydney, around the country and abroad? Then log on to the <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au>

The website has daily updates of breaking news, features, commentary and video from Australia and the world. The Catholic Weekly online has built a proud reputation as a news-breaking brand that sets the agenda on Catholic discussion. It is also mobile compliant so can be read anywhere, anytime at your convenience.