



ST MARY'S CONCORD 2019

As we come to the end of another year, it is always good to pause and to give thanks for the blessings we have shared.

The work of the parish continues seven days a week but we are most clearly a faith community when we gather each Sunday to celebrate the Eucharist. Our Sunday Masses depend on many people: the altar society who clean the church, the musicians and singers, the readers, acolytes, altar servers, special ministers of Communion and the wardens.

In September we thanked and acknowledged Ailsa & Greg Quinn who retired from the music ministry after playing and singing at various parish Masses for almost 50 years.

During the year we commended to God's care Guy Dimech, Lisa Ma and Antonino (Tony) Marchetta. For many years Guy organized the parish wardens and did many other practical things behind the scenes. Lisa quietly assisted as a catechist, on the Social Committee and as a member of the choir. Tony was one of the wardens at 9.30 am Mass and helped in many other ways.

As a parish we welcome families as they present a child for Baptism and we support parents as they hand on their faith to their children. The teachers and staff of St Mary's School not only provide our children with an excellent education, they also support the Mission of the parish as do the catechists and those who lead the Children's Liturgy of the Word on Sundays. They all share in our Mission to bring Christ's love to the children and young people of our parish.

A small team of committed parishioners regularly take Holy Communion to the sick in their homes and to those in various other Aged Care Facilities in the parish. Their ministry is very much appreciated. The members of the St Vincent de Paul Society are also the face of the compassionate Christ to our sisters and brothers who are struggling to find the basic necessities of life.

St Mary's Villa continues to be an important part of the parish community and is an expression of our care for the frail aged members of our community. The staff and volunteers work with the residents to make St Mary's Villa an exceptional place of care and compassion.

As a community there are many ways that we reach out to those who are in need. Many families and individuals generously support the work of *Caritas Australia* through Project Compassion and respond generously to various special appeals held during the year including: *Catholic Mission* and *St Vincent de Paul*. As a parish community, we continue to help the Catholic community of Sacred Heart Parish, Serabu in Sierra Leone, West Africa.

The parish itself also depends on your practical and financial support. Without your support the parish would not be able to function. We have several part-time staff who assist with the parish administration: the parish

ST MARY'S CONCORD – December 29, 2019

CHRISTMAS 2019

Our parish celebrations of Christmas were well attended. The church was full at the 6.00 pm and the 9.00 pm Vigil Masses and at 9.30 am Mass on Christmas Day were both well attended.

Special thanks to all who assisted at our Masses: our musicians and singers, wardens, Communion ministers, readers, servers, acolytes. Thank you to the children and those who organized the tableaux at the 6.00 pm Vigil Mass.

On a more personal note, I thank you for your Christmas greetings, and for the cards and gifts I received.

Paul Crowley, Parish Priest

NEW YEAR'S DAY: Wednesday 1 January 2020 is the feast of Mary, Mother of God. There is only one Mass on 1 January at 8.30 am, the normal weekday Mass time. **It is not a holy day of obligation.**

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS: Each Christmas donations made in the Christmas Offering envelopes supplement your contributions to the Sunday the first collection. As noted on the back of the envelope, your donation goes to the fund that provides an income to sick priests and priests working in special ministries.

An example is Fr John Andersen, a Sydney priest who has been working in Peru for the past 30 years. The Sydney Priests' Fund pays John a salary that enables him to continue his ministry in Iquitos, Peru. John stays with us at St Mary's when he returns to visit family and friends.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS: Every Christmas Day the second collection is taken up to assist us as a parish community to reach out to others. This year in the face of the continuing drought and the devastating bush fires, we nominated to help those communities. **Thank you for your generous response. \$3,880 was collected.** The funds will be directed to the St Vincent de Paul Drought Appeal to assist families and communities in western NSW struggling because of the drought.

secretaries, Jenni and Agnes, and the parish business manager, Monica.

The parish also depends on other volunteers who give their time to assist in various roles: the Parish Pastoral Council, the Parish Finance Committee, those who count the collections each week, the Family Groups who provide the monthly morning teas, the Social Committee and others who have helped with special events.

It is important that we remember that St Mary's parish is first and foremost about people. We come together every Sunday to support each other on our journey of faith and to reach out to others.

My thanks to all in the parish community; without you there would be no St Mary's parish. I thank you sincerely for your support during 2019. I wish you every blessing for the New Year.

Paul Crowley, Parish Priest

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!

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

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.

ST MARY'S PARISH 150th ANNIVERSARY Next year, 2020, will mark the 150th anniversary of the establishment of St Mary's Parish Concord. The launch of the parish celebrations will be held on **Sunday 3 May 2020**. More information will be available later in the year.

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

GOVERNMENT-FUNDED HOME CARE PACKAGES Catholic Healthcare's local Care Advisors can work with you to create a customised support plan. Their in-home services include gardening, shopping, meal preparation, transport and nursing. **Get a quote on 1300 734 350**

IS YOUR FAMILY FACING FINANCIAL STRESS? Connect with financial counsellors who can offer information, guidance and advocacy for people in financial distress who are at risk of or not able to pay bills or make repayments. Contact CCareline 13 18 19.

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.

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER 

St Marys@ParishConcord

SPIRITUALITY RETREATS AND COURSES

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL 2020 RETREAT 18-19 January at 9am to 4:30pm
St Agatha's Catholic Primary School Hall

Entry and parking at 7 Trebor Road, Pennant Hills

Cost: \$50

International speaker Michelle Moran

All meals provided.

Eucharist Celebrant Fr Hugh Thomas CSsR

Registrations close Friday January 11 2020. Please see form attached.

Phone 9810 2499 or email email@ccrnsw.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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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 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'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 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.

CATHOLICARE 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.

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.

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/>

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.

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.