



## St Mary's Parish Concord

### The Third Sunday of Easter

26 April 2020

#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Year A

##### FIRST READING:

**Acts of the Apostles 4:14, 22-28**

*It was impossible for Christ to be held in the power of death*

##### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 16

*Lord, you will show us the path of life.*

##### SECOND READING:

**First Letter of Peter 1:17-21**

*You were ransomed by the precious blood of Christ.*

##### GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35

*The disciples recognised the Lord when he broke bread with them.*

#### PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for parishioners, family members and friends who have died recently: Norma Mancuso, Wilma Selvakumaraswamy, Lionel Kearney, Anthony Angelis.

We pray for those in many places who have died as a result of the COVID-19 virus, for their families and all who mourn for them.

We pray for all those who are sick and for the health workers who care for the sick.

We pray for those who struggle with the need to remain isolated from family and friends: the elderly, those in Aged Care facilities and those who live alone.

NSW Government Public Health  
23 March 2020  
(COVID-19 Places of Social Gathering)

**All churches must remain closed.**

The parish regrets that it is not possible to use the church for private prayer.

#### ST MARY'S PARISH 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

We had planned to begin our parish celebrations for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next Sunday 3 May. Obviously, that is now impossible, but we hope to mark this important anniversary with other celebrations later in the year.

Unfortunately, no documents can be found that allow us to establish a precise date for the foundation of the parish. The archives of the Archdiocese of Sydney have few details, but they do report that Fr Callaghan McCarthy was appointed to Concord in April 1870. Therefore, the significance of 3 May was the Sunday closest to the arrival of Fr McCarthy as the first parish priest.

The Baptism Register for 1870 records that Fr Callaghan McCarthy baptized Stephen Francis John, the son of George and Elizabeth Ireland on 30 April. That entry is the first time that Fr McCarthy is mentioned in the parish records.

However, we also know that there was a church on the parish site for 25 years before St Mary's Parish was formally established. **This year therefore also marks the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the first church on the parish site.**

The parish site was acquired for a church and school in 1844 and in June 1845 Archbishop Polding, the first Archbishop of Sydney, blessed the foundation stone for the first church. The church was opened by Archbishop Polding on 7 December 1845. It stood near Parramatta Road in front of the present parish hall. Hopefully, we will be able to gather to celebrate that anniversary.

In the 1840s the priests who cared for the local community came from Parramatta. 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 one of the priests from Petersham parish was residing in a rented house on Parramatta Road at Concord. The house was located where the present kindergarten building stands on the western side of the hall.

In the coming weeks heritage signs will be erected in the Church Forecourt to recall some of the important stages in the development of the parish over the past 175 years. That is one of several parish projects that will mark our sesquicentenary.

*Paul Crowley, Parish Priest*

**ANZAC DAY:** This weekend we join with our fellow Australians in communities throughout this land and beyond, as we give thanks for the men and women who have served in the Australian Defence Forces. We recall those who died in various wars and the many who returned home with injuries that changed not only their lives but also the lives of their families. Unfortunately, we cannot gather this year to celebrate a Mass for those who have died but we can pray for them. Lest we forget.

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** It is still possible to contribute to Project Compassion. Envelopes and boxes can be left at the Parish Office. You can also donate by phoning 1800 024 413 or visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion)

**FACEBOOK:** If you are on Facebook, you may wish to join our new parish group, *St Mary's Parish Concord*. It has been created as a private group so that only those who join can see the posts. **Search for us and ask to join.** Only members can add posts. It is one opportunity to interact with each and share news.

Follow us on Twitter   
St Marys@ParishConcord

## CELEBRATING AT HOME

We can be united with each other in prayer by setting aside a time when we can pause and read the Word of God and share our reflections. Many find it helpful to create a "prayer space" that helps us to focus.

We can also find those places where the Mass is being televised or live streamed.

For those who have access to the Internet there are many places that offer prayers and resources to help us.

Those listed below are some examples.

**LITURGY BRISBANE** offers a range of resources that are updated each week. They can be found on the Liturgy Brisbane website at <https://www.liturgybrisbane.net.au/preparation/sunday-readings-and-family-prayer/>

## SUNDAY READINGS READ AT HOME

The first document contains the Sunday readings with associated commentaries and prayers. It is suggested that families gather to read the Scriptures aloud together. This week features the readings of the Third Sunday of Easter.

## FAMILY PRAYER WEEK BY WEEK

The second resource is designed for families with young children. An extract from the Sunday gospel is provided, along with some reflection questions, a family activity and a worksheet for children.

We invite you to share these resources with anyone who may find them useful.

**THE MASS** Watch Mass online if you have a computer or a TV that allows you to search the Internet. There are many places now streaming the Mass.

**GO TO THE WEBSITE of The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney** [www.sydneycatholic.org](http://www.sydneycatholic.org) On the Home page there is a WATCH HERE button that gives links to parishes that are live-streaming Sunday Mass and in some cases weekday Masses and other devotions.

**SACRED SCRIPTURE** Set aside a time each day to read the Bible by taking a book, such as one of the Gospels or the Psalms, and working your way through it together. Pause and reflect on the passage. Use *Lectio Divina* when reading a bible text – this is explained in **Universalis** (see below) and also on the Jamberoo Abbey website.

**THE ROSARY** is a prayer that a family can easily recite together or can be said by those living alone.

**APPS and PODCASTS:** For those with access to a smart phone or a computer, the following Apps and Podcasts may help families and individuals to set aside time for prayer.

**The Examen** is a daily reflection that aims to help us to review how God is present in the ordinary moments of life. It is done at the end of the day and is inspired by the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola.

Search iTunes or other platforms for the following podcasts:

**The Examen with Fr James Martin SJ** This 18 minute Podcast offers a guided reflection from the American Jesuits

**We Wonder Lent** is a 12 minute Podcast offering a daily reflection suitable for children. The one limitation is that it is from America and has references to the American seasons.

**PRAYER:** There are many different websites and apps that offer prayer and reflections. Some are Australian and there many others are from various English speaking countries:

**Universalis** is an app that will give you the texts of the Mass of the day and the Liturgy of the Hours (Morning and Evening Prayer). It is available for Apple, Android and Windows. There is a small once only cost to buy the app.

**Jamberoo Abbey, Benedictine Nuns in NSW** - <https://www.jamberooabbey.org.au/prayer>

**Pray as you Go** - <https://pray-as-you-go.org/> (also an App) offers a daily Scripture reading and prayer

**The God Minute** - <https://www.thegodminute.org/> (also an App) invites us to pause for a minute during the day.

**Sacred Space** - <https://www.sacredspace.ie/> (also an App) comes from Ireland and offers a daily reflection and prayer in a range of languages.

**FOODBANK DONATIONS:** earlier this year a bin was placed at the back of the church and parishioners regularly donated food items to assist the Jesuit Refugee Service. With the church closed we can no longer donate food but we can still help.



### Emergency Cash Appeal.

During COVID-19, many refugees and people seeking asylum need help to prevent homelessness and entering into new heights of destitution and hunger. For many, JRS Australia is the only safety-net. Many cannot access Medicare. Our clients include children, women and men living in Sydney.

Donating to our Emergency Cash Appeal will help us replenish our foodbank, pay for urgent medication, rent, support women out of domestic violence situations and assist people who have lost their jobs.

It's hard for everyone right now, but together, we can make it through COVID-19.

- \$40 feeds a single adult for one week
- \$70 feeds one family for a week
- \$350-\$500 pays for a week's rent

To help, please call (02)9356 3888 or email: [jrsreception@jrs.org.au](mailto:jrsreception@jrs.org.au) or click the link above this post.



*Pictured: a donation to our foodbank. This food will be delivered to people seeking asylum and refugees.*

LIKE IT. SHARE IT. AND FINALLY, THANK YOU FOR STANDING WITH PEOPLE SEEKING ASYLUM AND REFUGEES