



St Mary's Parish Concord

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

10 May 2020

LITURGY OF THE WORD Year A

FIRST READING:

Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

Select from among yourselves men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 33

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

SECOND READING:

First Letter of Peter 2:4-9

You are called to be a chosen race.

GOSPEL: John 14:1-12

I am the way, and the truth, and the life.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

On this Mother's Day we pray for all mothers, especially those who are struggling to provide food and shelter for their children.

We pray for those who have died: Susan Brown and all who have died recently, those whose anniversaries occur about this time, parishioners, family members and friends and especially for our deceased mothers.

We pray for those in many places who have died 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.

Happy Mother's Day

Throughout history there have been many traditional celebrations that have honored mothers and motherhood.

An example is *Mothering Sunday* that is celebrated in the United Kingdom, Ireland and some other countries. It was celebrated on 4th Sunday of Lent, *Laetare Sunday*, when people would return to their "mother church" where they had been baptised. It is now commonly also called "Mother's Day" but is still celebrated during Lent.

The modern Mother's Day we celebrate began in the United States at the initiative of Anna Jarvis in 1908. Her campaign to make Mother's Day a recognized holiday in the United States had begun in 1905, the year her own mother had died. It was adopted in many places and in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating that Mother's Day be held on the second Sunday in May as a national holiday to honor mothers.

A Mother's Day Blessing

Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so you watch over your Church.

Bless and protect all mothers as they continue to care for their families. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honour them always with a spirit of profound respect.

Grant this through Christ our Lord

St Mary's Catholic Primary School ENROL NOW FOR 2021

St Mary's Catholic Primary School Concord is a welcoming, diverse community that ensures every child is nurtured to achieve their potential. The collective spirit of our students, parents and staff makes St Mary's an excellent choice for parents looking for a school that can prepare their children for a successful and thriving future.

For an enrolment form or to organize a personal tour of the school, contact the school by email: info@stmconcord.catholic.edu.au or call the school office tel 02 97440260. Download an enrolment application online via the school website <https://www.stmconcord.catholic.edu.au/>

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.

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](https://twitter.com/StMarys@ParishConcord)

MOMENTS IN HISTORY

Last Sunday was the 200th anniversary of the arrival of John Joseph Therry and Philip Conolly in the colony of New South Wales. They were the first official Catholic chaplains sent to minister to the mainly convict Catholic community.

They arrived on the convict ship *Janus* that had sailed from Cork, Ireland, on 5 December 1819. After making a stop in Rio de Janeiro, the ship arrived in Sydney on 3 May 1820.

The *Janus* carried 105 female prisoners and 26 children and free passengers who included Therry and Conolly. In 1821 Conolly moved to Hobart.

Therry continued to care for communities in the Sydney region and in Tasmania for the next 44 years. He was parish priest of Balmain when he died on 25 May 1864.

HERITAGE SIGNS: St Mary's Parish commissioned five heritage signs to mark the sesquicentenary of the parish. They have now been installed in the Church Forecourt and recall historical parish buildings that once existed on the parish site: the first church (1845), the second church (1874), the presbytery (1882), the first school building (1894) and the convent (1898). They have been placed close to the original locations of the buildings.



The sign recalling the first church can be found next to the Parramatta Road gates. As noted last week, this year marks the 175th anniversary of the opening of the first church on 7 December 1845.

It was located near Parramatta Road in front of the present parish hall. The photo used for the sign was taken in 1917 when the hall was under construction.

A second church had been built in 1874 and the original building continued to be used as a hall and for the school. Once the hall and classrooms were completed the original church was demolished.

The 1917 hall was rebuilt after a fire in 1970. The present Parramatta Road façade reflects the original building and the foundation stone can still be seen from Parramatta Road.

It is possible to view all the signs via the Burton Street entrance to the parish site.

SUPPORTING SEAFARERS Can we help?

Donations of personal hygiene products are urgently sought for Care Packages being put together for the thousands of seafarers trapped on ships coming into Sydney waters.

Chaplain to the Seafarers, Sr Mary Leahy, said donations of shampoo, body wash, toothpaste, deodorant, razors, knitted beanies and chocolates are desperately needed for the thousands of seamen currently stranded on ships on our waterfront due to the Coronavirus.

Sr Mary has spent the past 20 years helping those who earn a living on the seas and said she has never seen conditions so dire.

In our area St Charles Borromeo Ryde has agreed to be a drop-off point for the donations. However, if you would like to support the appeal and collect donations please contact journalist Debbie Cramsie at the Sydney Archdiocese on debbie.cramsie@sydneycatholic.org

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

HOPE CAMPAIGN: St Martha's Parish Strathfield is asking for help promoting its *Hope Campaign* to encourage everyone to spread and carry hope in these uncertain times.



The prayer card that accompanies the *Hope* keepsake was designed and printed by St Martha's Parish Office. It can be downloaded from the homepage of the parish www.stmarthas.org.au as a Word doc for easy editing and adaptation.

Alternatively, you are welcome to contact the parish office on 9746 6131 should you require any further information or assistance

Below is a link to the *Catholic Weekly* story about what St Martha's Parish is trying to achieve <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/even-in-lockdown-st-marthas-keeps-busy/>

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 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

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/prepare/sunday-readings-and-family-prayer/>

SUNDAY READINGS READ AT HOME

The Brisbane Liturgy website gives the Sunday readings with associated commentaries and prayers. It is suggested that families gather to read the Scriptures aloud together.

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 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