



St Mary's Parish Concord

The Ascension of the Lord (Seventh Sunday of Easter)

24 May 2020

In the Australian Church calendar The Ascension of the Lord is moved from the Thursday of the sixth week of Easter (forty days after Easter) to the following Sunday and therefore replaces the Seventh Sunday of Easter.

This year the Ascension falls on Sunday 24 May, the feast of Our Lady, Help of Christians. The Ascension takes precedence and therefore the feast of Our Lady, Help of Christians is transferred to Monday 25 May.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Year A

FIRST READING:

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

As the disciples were watching, Jesus was lifted up.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 47

God mounts the throne to shouts of joy.

SECOND READING:

Ephesians 1:17-23

God raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand.

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:16-20

I am with you always.

The feast of the Ascension captures the tension between our faith in the presence of the risen Jesus within the Church and our belief that Jesus returned to the Father to intercede for us. Luke begins his second volume, *The Acts of the Apostles*, with Jesus ascending into heaven. The Letter to the Ephesians presents Jesus at the right hand of the Father. Matthew concludes his Gospel with Jesus telling the eleven, "I am with you always", as he sends them on their mission.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

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

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 Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order (No 2) 2020 under the Public Health Act 2010 14 May 2020

This Order revises the previous Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order 2020 in order to ease certain restrictions.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES IN A CHURCH:

It allows up to ten people to gather at one time in a church for a Mass, a service or for private prayer.

However, the Parish Priest or his delegate must be present to supervise and to record the names and contact details of those who are present. The church must be cleaned after each service.

THE CHURCH MUST REMAIN CLOSED AT ALL OTHER TIMES:

It is not permitted to leave the doors of the church open unless someone is present who can supervise the movement of people. The parish regrets that it is not possible to use the church for private prayer outside of the supervised times

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED: It will only be possible to open the church for private prayer at set times with the help of volunteer supervisors.

If you can help, please contact the parish office and indicate when you are available.

It will then be possible to publish a program and invite people to register to visit the church.

When the required controls are in place, details will be published on the Parish website.

MASS: The restriction that only ten people may attend a Mass means that it is not possible to resume Sunday Masses at present.

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

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 other and share news.

Please note that there is also a Facebook page called *St Mary's Parish Church Concord*. As noted in last week's bulletin, it was an "unofficial page". The parish has now claimed that page as a general site for parish information and contact.

Please note that it has a different name to the Facebook Group as it included "Church" in its name.

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

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/>

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/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

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.

For more information, please contact amelia.savage@jrs.org.au and/or zoe.grant@jrs.org.au

Are you struggling in this time of crisis?

Depression. Anxiety. Loneliness. Conflict. Stress. CCareline 13 18 19 is a free and confidential helpline for counselling, relationships, parenting, ageing, disabilities, addictions and mental health. For help finding help, call CCareline on 13 18 19

For help finding help,
call CCareline
on 13 18 19



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