



St Mary's Parish Concord

12 July 2020

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Year A

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-11

The rain makes the earth bring forth and sprout.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 65

Your word, O Lord, brings forth life.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:18-23

Creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the Children of God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-23

Listen: a sower went out to sow.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for Felice Merlino, Noeleen Smith, Maria Fernandes and all those who have died recently. We remember Carmelo Rizzo, Stefano Brancatisano, Edmund Walsh, Ladding Alcantara, Roberto Sabio, Pacila Escano and all 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.

THE GIFT OF BREAD VOLUNTEERS' DINNER

To reconnect with each other, all volunteers are invited to share a simple dinner at **Massey Park Golf Club from 6.30pm on Friday 24 July**. Meals and drinks can be ordered individually at the bistro when you arrive. If you are interested in attending please contact Leanne Favotto by the 20 July at leanne.favotto@syd.catholic.edu.au

NSW Government Public Health Public Health (COVID-19) Order

St Mary's Parish is following the restrictions that have been set out by the latest NSW Government Public Health (COVID-19) Order.

The previous limit of 50 people at a Mass was lifted from 1 July. The physical distancing "4 square metre rule" still applies and the number of people in a church for any Mass is now limited by the size of the church.

For St Mary's Concord the number of people in the church for any Mass will be limited to 170.

All those entering the church must record their name and contact details (phone or email) on the forms at the church doors. It is important that anyone who is unwell remains at home.

Registration is not required but please note that once our limit is reached the church doors will be closed for that Mass.

MASSES IN ST MARY'S CHURCH HAVE NOW RESUMED.

For the moment, the normal Sunday Mass program applies. There are three **Sunday Masses**: Saturday 6.00 pm, Sunday 9.30 am and 6.00 pm. **Weekday Masses** (Monday-Friday) at 8.30 am will resume on Monday 6 July.

The church will be open for private prayer on Sunday after the 9.30 am Mass until 12 noon and on Monday to Friday from 9.00 am until 12 noon.

All those entering the church must record their name and contact details.

The church is fitted with CCTV and images are recorded for the purpose of preventing crime and public safety.

All other parish events and programs remain suspended. To help you to keep in touch with the latest parish news please regularly visit this website.

WHERE TO FROM HERE? Archbishop Fisher has written: "These latest regulations are expected to be in place for some time. The recent spike in cases in Victoria is a reminder that the virus is still with us and we must not be complacent. We must take all reasonable precautions to protect people's health and to observe public health directives. If there are more present in a church than the 4m2 rule allows, or if music ministers, acolytes or communicants fail to observe social distancing, this may well come to the attention of authorities and risk penalties and new restrictions. But if cases remain low in NSW and we demonstrate that we are operating responsibly, we can hope that larger celebrations will again be possible".

REQUIREMENTS FOR ATTENDING MASS AT ST MARY'S CONCORD

Any parishioners in the high risk categories or any who are unwell are encouraged to stay home. All Catholics are still dispensed from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass.

All those entering the church must record their name and contact details (phone number or email address of one adult in each family) on the forms at the church doors. Please use the hand sanitizer available at the doors.

SEATING: Spatial distancing and hygiene continue to apply; people should sit at least 1½m apart. Family groups and couples can sit together. Please note the signs on the pews that indicate positions where you are asked NOT TO SIT.

COMMUNION: stand 1½m from each other when queuing for Communion and Communion will only be given in the hand.

OTHER CHANGERS TO AVOID PHYSICAL CONTACT: Until further notice there is no holy water in the fonts at the doors. There are no cards with the Mass texts, no hymn books, no congregational singing and no procession of gifts. There will be no altar servers and acolytes.

BULLETIN: Printed bulletins are for single use only and must **not** be returned to the boxes. Please take them home or place them in the bin.

COLLECTIONS: The normal practice of passing the collection plates remains suspended. There are two containers at the back of the church and at the side door marked 1st and 2nd Collection. Your regular donations can be placed in the appropriate containers.

For your convenience **Tap and Go stations** are now available at the doors of the church. Tap once to donate \$5; tap twice to donate \$10. Please note that receipts cannot be issued for donations and the transactions cannot be reversed.

CLEANING AFTER EVERY MASS the church should be disinfected in accordance with Health Department guidelines. Five or six volunteers are needed to wipe down all surfaces after every Mass.

Those who cannot attend Mass should keep Sunday holy by setting aside some time for prayer at home, reading the Scriptures of the day, or watching Mass on television or online, asking God for the graces they would normally receive in Holy Communion.

PRIVATE PRAYER IN THE CHURCH: The church will be open for private prayer on Sunday after the 9.30 am Mass until 12 noon and on Monday to Friday from 9.00 am until 12 noon. All those entering the church must record their name and contact details. The church is fitted with CCTV and images are recorded for the purpose of preventing crime and public safety.

SUPPORTING THE PARISH - NEW ENVELOPES New sets of envelopes for 2019-2020 are available to be collected from the tables at the back of the church. They are arranged alphabetically in order of names. Some may find they have a new number.

In the coming financial year (2020-2021) the parish can provide a 50% tax deduction for contributions to the Planned Giving.

For further information and to register to receive a set of Parish Planned Giving envelopes, please contact the Parish Office. **Contributions can also be made electronically on our parish website.**

Tax Receipts for those who have requested them for various appeals are also available on the tables at the back of the Church.

PLENARY COUNCIL DISCERNMENT PAPERS RELEASED Due to the COVID 19 pandemic the National Plenary Council Assembly has been postponed to October 2021 (Adelaide) and April 2022 (Sydney). Importantly as part of the journey towards the national Assembly, the discernment papers foundational to the development of the working paper and ultimately the agenda for the Assembly are available on the National Plenary Council webpage under the Discernment tab: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/continuing-the-journey-of-discernment/>

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.

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 FIRST CHURCH: As well as celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of St Mary's Parish, this year also marks the 175th anniversary of the opening of the first church on 7 December 1845. The sign recalling the first church can be found next to the Parramatta Road gates.

The first church 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. Once the hall and classrooms were completed the original church was demolished.

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

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.



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/>

GIFT OF BREAD: Due to the current COVID-19 health restrictions many of the organisations who previously supported the *Gift of Bread* outreach program are no longer able to continue their support. The calls for assistance and support from *Gift of Bread* have significantly increased over the past three months which leaves the GOB program in need of financial assistance. The *Gift of Bread* program has created a donation page called "**Who gives a loaf? You can.**" The banner photo on the donate page is the team from St Mary's Concord in the parish hall.

The program needs cash donations to keep their outreach services operational. If you are able to support this program, please go to:

<https://www.givenow.com.au/givealoaf>

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.

Follow us on Twitter 
St Marys@ParishConcord

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.



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

JRS Winter Blanket Collection

Please support people seeking asylum this Winter by donating **NEW** blankets to JRS. See second image for drop off point information.

 **C o n t a c t:** 
Amelia Savage
amelia.savage@jrs.org.au 9098 9336



Can you help?

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES GRIEF CARE

Catholic Cemeteries is offering tailored Grief Care seminars hosted over Zoom. You'll find information in the attached flyers and should contact Leonie Duck to register via email: Leonied@catholiccemeteries.com.au

- Parent seminar - Supporting your child following the death of someone they love
- Seasons for Growth seminar for Young people - aged 18 - 30 (Understanding Change Loss and Grief)
- COVID-19 specific seminar (Understanding Change Loss and Grief)
- Seasons for Growth small group - we have a couple of people keen for this already and are ideally wanting 2 more in order for it to run well.