

St Mary's Parish Concord

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

23 August 2020

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Year A

FIRST READING: Isaiah 22:15, 19-23

The keys of the House of David.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 138

Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

SECOND READING: Romans 11:33-36

All things are from Christ and through him and for him.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for Lorna Redolfi, Antonio Turchetto and all those who have died recently.

We pray for Italo Filippi, Jim Tudehope, Tom McLaughlin, Patrick White, Giovanni La Motta, Ernesto Rainaldi, Lydia Sereno and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

We remember and pray for 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.

1st HOLY COMMUNION will not take place in August. New dates are yet to be determined. Please continue to check the parish website.

SHOULD YOU WEAR A MASK IN CHURCH?

In view of the current spike in cases of COVID-19 including those in and around Catholic institutions and the fact that any of us might be infected and contagious without knowing it, the Archdiocese recommends that extra precautions should be taken to keep ourselves and each other safe.

Health authorities recommend use of a mask in situations where social distancing is difficult, e.g. on public transport and at religious gatherings. The Premier has asked (but not yet required) that churchgoers wear masks at church.

The present position of the Archdiocese is that in addition to all requirements around social distancing and hand hygiene, parishioners are encouraged to wear masks at Mass. However, you need to provide your own mask for hygiene reasons.

Particular care should be taken when greeting and talking to others before and after Mass. When entering the church, please keep social distancing requirements when signing in and please use the hand sanitizer that is provided.

CONFIRMATION: Two celebrations of the Sacrament of Confirmation have now been planned for 2020: 7.00 pm on Wednesday 16 September and 7.00 pm on Thursday 17 September. **Please note that 17 September is now fully booked.** Places are still available on Wednesday 16 September.

Under the current restrictions only 100 people can be in the church. Therefore, each Mass will be restricted to 25 candidates who can be accompanied by their sponsor and two family members. **To register for 16 September, please email the Parish Office parish@stmarysconcord.org.au** Further details will then be provided.

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

To help with any questions you may have around COVID-19 and its impact on the celebration of Sacraments such as Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage and funerals, you may find the FAQs page on the Archdiocese of Sydney website helpful. <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions/>

St Mary's Catholic Primary School ENROL NOW FOR 2021

St Mary's School is 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/>

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.

All churches are currently limited to a maximum of 100 people at a Mass.

Under the current restrictions and the "4 square metre rule" St Mary's Concord can accommodate 100.

The number of parishioners attending our Sunday Masses over the last two Sundays has been less than 100 at each Mass. However, if those attending a Mass reach 100, the doors of the church will be closed for that Mass. Physical distancing still applies

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.

The church is 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 (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.

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.

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.

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.

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. 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.

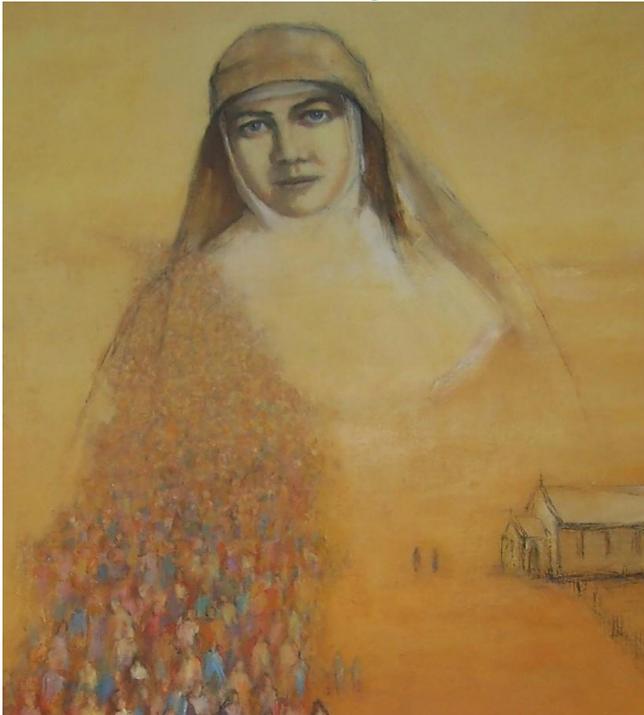
CLEANING AFTER EVERY MASS the church should be disinfected in accordance with Health Department guidelines. Five or six volunteers are needed to wipe down all surfaces after every Mass.

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2020-21

The ACBC Office for Social Justice have released the Social Justice Statement for 2020-21, entitled *To Live Life to the Full: Mental Health in Australia Today*. This year's Statement encourages faith communities, governments, and each one of us to make mental health a priority. It is a timely message in a year where we have experienced bushfires, floods and the pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has also influenced the way in which the Statement and associated materials are being distributed this year. Given that face-to-face gatherings are restricted, demand for physical copies of the statement has been difficult to predict. Therefore **the Social Justice Statement and prayer card for 2020-21 have been made available online as free downloads**. To download your copies now, please visit <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au> or visit the ACBC online shop at <https://www.catholic.org.au/shop/acbc-shop>. Files suitable for a commercial printer are also available on request. Please email publications.socialjustice@catholic.org.au if you are interested.

Please note that from this year, the date for Social Justice Sunday has shifted to the last Sunday in August. Consequently, Social Justice Sunday will this year be celebrated on 30 August 2020.

MARY MACKILLOP *today*



In the spirit of Mary MacKillop, we invite you to
“Take fresh courage.”

This year is the ten year anniversary of Mary’s canonisation. During the challenging times we all face, please pray and support ***Mary MacKillop Today***, so that we can continue to transform lives through our vitals works and carry on the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop of the Cross.

For more information please call 02 8912 2777 or visit marymackilloptoday.org.au

NEW ENVELOPES: Tax receipts for 2019 and 2020 and new sets of envelopes for 2020-2021 are available. They can now be collected from the Parish Office. Some contributors 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.

NEW PARISH HALL SERVERY: During the recent school holidays the former “kitchen” in the parish hall was refurbished to provide a new area for serving drinks and food. Extra storage spaces were also added to the hall. This project was assisted by a Federal Government grant under the Stronger Communities Programme. We appreciate the involvement of our local Federal Member for Reid, Dr Fiona Martin, who supported our application for this grant. Fiona Martin visited the parish and school on Friday 14 August.

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/>

HERITAGE SIGNS: St Mary’s Parish commissioned five heritage signs to mark the sesquicentenary of the parish.



The First Church 1845

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

VACANT UNITS MONSIGNOR JOHN PEOPLES UNITS, FIVE DOCK: The units provide Self-Care accommodation close to All Hallows Church, particularly for parishioners over 55 years. Both 1 and 2 bedroom units are vacant and are available for immediate occupation. These units have recently been refurbished and contain brand new whitegoods, modern kitchens and bathrooms. Inspection of the units is invited. Enquiries : Lola Tasende, Units Manager, on 0414 491 718

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.

Follow us on Twitter 
St Marys@ParishConcord

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.

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

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.

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 can 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.

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



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We offer care, empathy and compassion to nurture all to live their grief



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.



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?

