



St Mary's Parish Concord

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

20 September 2020

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Year A

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55 : 6-9
My thoughts are not your thoughts.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 145
The Lord is near to all who call on him.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1 : 20-24, 27
To me, living is Christ.

GOSPEL: Matthew 20 : 1-16
Are you envious because I am generous?

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray Kevin Horne, Sebastian Moll and all those who have died recently.

We pray for Giuseppina Messina, Carmela Vechhio, Jack Travers, Angelo Agueci and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

We pray for our deceased fathers and for all our deceased family members, friends and parishioners.

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.

Follow us on Twitter 
St Marys@ParishConcord

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2020

The celebration of 1st Holy Communion is an important step in their faith journey for the children of our parish community. Unfortunately, the COVID 19 restrictions did not allow us to hold our planned celebrations in August.

We are now planning to celebrate 1st Holy Communion at a special Mass at 11.00 am on three Sundays in November: 8, 15 and 22.

Because of the continuing restrictions, each Mass will be limited to 18 families and each family group can only have 5 people present, including the candidate.

Please contact the Parish Office via email parish@stmmarysconcord.org.au and nominate the Sunday you wish to attend.

A registration form for that Sunday and more information will then be sent to you.

Please note that a firm place will only be reserved for you once we have received the completed registration form. A particular Mass will be closed once we have received registration forms from 18 families.

Details about preparation will be provided when you request a registration form.

HOLY PLACES APPEAL This Appeal is usually held each year on Good Friday. It promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to the local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment and housing. Parishes, schools, orphanages and medical centres throughout the Holy Land rely on assistance from the Holy Places Appeal.

Because churches were closed for the Easter Triduum, Pope Francis has asked that the collection be help in September around the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross (14 September).

As we did for the Retired Priests' Appeal, this Sunday all cash (coins & notes) placed in the Second Collection (black buckets) will be directed to the appeal and all "tap & go" donations received will go to the Holy Places Appeal

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/>

The Season of Creation

The *Season of Creation*, originally launched by the Orthodox Patriarch of Constantinople in 1989, has been progressively joined by other Christian churches, with Pope Francis announcing the Roman Catholic Church's participation in 2016.

The *Season of Creation* is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through repenting, repairing, and rejoicing together. During the *Season of Creation*, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.



This year, amid crises that have shaken our world, we're awakened to the urgent need to heal our relationships with creation and each other. During the season this year, we enter a time of restoration and hope, a jubilee for our Earth, that requires radically new ways of living with creation.

The *Season of Creation* unites the world's 2.2 billion Christians around one shared purpose. With so much injustice all around us, now is the time for Christians everywhere to come together and show the world how to love each other and creation.

For more information about the *Season of Creation* go to <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

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.

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>

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/>

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.

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/>

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.

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.

MARY MACKILLOP
today



To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the canonisation of Saint Mary MacKillop, the Sisters of St Joseph invite you to order your free copy of

Encountering St Mary MacKillop in Prayer

The Sisters have created a commemorative prayer booklet to inspire us all to "take fresh courage..." as Mary did so often. These prayers share details of her personal journey, highlighting Mary's values and spirit, and offering prayers and blessings for our modern world.

To order your exclusive copy please go to: www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/prayer-book

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.

WEDDINGS: from 4 September the number attending a wedding in a church has been increased to 150 provided the church building can accommodate that number.

St Mary's Concord can accommodate 150 people under the "4 sq m" rule.

SUNDAY MASSES: The number of parishioners attending our Sunday Masses over the last four 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.

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

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.

A TIME OF GRACE WEBINAR for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees: The Nangami Peace and Justice Group of Our Lady of the Way Parish, the Justice and Peace Office and Jesuit Refugee Service Australia invite you to this webinar on World Refugee and Migrant Sunday as a panel of experts ask: Is this a Time for Grace within our public policy, our theology and our own actions? Is there reason to have hope for all of us? The speakers will be Bishop of Parramatta, Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv, Fr Frank Brennan SJ AO, Australian Jesuit Priest, Human Rights Lawyer, and Academic, Nishadh Rego, Policy, Advocacy and Communications Manager, JRS Australia, Julie Macken, Research and Project Officer, Justice and Peace Office, Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney and a Leader with lived experience, TBC
 Details: Sunday 27 September 2020 at 5:00-6:30pm via zoom. For more information please contact ruth.moraes@sydneycatholic.org or 0439 584 221 and please register at: <https://bit.ly/3lR8RDr>

except for Masses it is more difficult to donate food but we can still help.

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

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.

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/>

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>

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

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.

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



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. For more information and to register contact Leonie Duck 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.