



St Mary's Parish Concord

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8 November 2020

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Year A

FIRST READING: Wisdom: 6:12-16
Wisdom is found by those who seek her.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 63
My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13
Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for Kevin Smith, Rita McAllister (Ire), Patrick McKenna, Elizabeth Hoole, Antonio Gentile, Sergio Fiori and all those who have died recently.

We pray for Elena Pulciani, Marguerite May O'Connor and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

We pray for all our deceased family members, friends and parishioners and those for whom November Masses have been requested.

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

CHURCH ATTENDANCE UPDATE

On 23 October the NSW Government lifted the cap for churches. However, the social distancing 4 square metre rule still applies.

Under the 4 square metre St Mary's Concord can now accommodate up to 190.

The cap for a Funeral remains at 100 and for a Wedding at 150.

Social distancing still applies. The precise number at any parish Mass will be determined by the relationships of those attending. Members of the same household can sit closer together. Therefore, couples and members of the same family do not need to be 1.5m apart.

All those entering the church must record their name and contact details (phone or email) on the forms at the church doors.

Based on current attendance records, you do not need to register and all who wish to attend are welcome.

If you are unwell, please do not come to the church. Any parishioners in the high risk categories are encouraged to stay home. All Catholics are still dispensed from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ATTENDING MASS AT ST MARY'S CONCORD

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.

CHARITABLE WORKS FUND (CWF) APPEAL

The first appeal for the 2020-2021 financial year is now being held. The August appeal was not held. The funds raised by the CWF appeals support agencies of the Archdiocese of Sydney. Envelopes are available on the pews and may be placed in the buckets for the parish second collection. Your contribution to the CWF is 100% tax deductible. If you wish to claim a deduction, please print your name and address on the envelope. If you wish to donate by credit card please include the current expiry date - without that date your contribution cannot be processed.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The three special Mass will be celebrated at 11.00 am on Sundays 8, 15 and 22 November. They are fully booked. Registrations have now closed.

NOVEMBER MASSES: November is traditionally the month of prayer for the Holy Souls. Praying for those who have died is an ancient custom in the Church. It is also a long-established custom that all parish Masses during November are offered for those who have died.

November Mass envelopes are available on the table at the back and in the side porch of the Church for those who wish to have their deceased relatives and friends included in the November Masses.

The envelopes may be placed in the basket that remains at the front of the altar during November. The offerings that are made for November Masses are combined to determine the number of Masses to be offered. Because there are more Masses than can be celebrated at St Mary's, November Mass offerings are also sent to priests working in the Missions who will offer Masses for the deceased members of our parish community.

In recent years many of the November Mass offerings given by parishioners have been sent to the Bishop of Iquitos, Peru. Fr John Andersen, a Sydney priest, has been working in Iquitos for more than 25 years. Our Mass offerings are distributed to the local priests working in poorer communities. Those priests pray for our deceased family and friends in their Masses.

FACEBOOK: If you are on Facebook, you may wish to join our 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.

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.

RESEARCH PROJECT: A research study is being conducted on worship practices during COVID19 pandemic. Monash University is inviting practicing Catholics aged over 18 across Australia to participate in a research study on religious practice before and after COVID-19 lockdowns. The anonymous study is exploring possible relationships between religious orientation, worship choices and post-pandemic spiritual wellbeing. If you'd like to participate in the study, you'll find more information at: https://monash.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_43f3xmKU1xa0S1Y

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/>

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/>

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>

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/>

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 except for Masses it is more difficult to donate food but we can still help. There are drop off points including St Columba's Parish at 213 Elswick St North Leichhardt on Tues. Wed or Thurs. between 10am and 2pm. For more information, please contact amelia.savage@jrs.org.au and/or zoe.grant@jrs.org.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.



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/>

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

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Foodbank provides household necessities for people seeking asylum who have limited or no income. People can access groceries on a weekly basis

to alleviate the cost of living. The Foodbank program is largely stocked through the generosity of people in the community. No contribution is too small.

**Contact: office@houseofwelcome.com.au
197 The Trongate, Granville
Ph: 02 9727 9290
stfrancis.org.au/house-of-welcome**

HOUSE OF WELCOME FOODBANK APPEAL



Great food items to donate include:

- Cooking Oil (750ml)
- Long Life Milk (1L)
- Sugar
- Flour
- Canned Fish (Tuna)
- Canned Tomatoes
- Canned Chick Peas
- Basmati Rice
- Canned corn (not creamed)
- Canned peas and carrot
- Biscuits (sweet and savoury)
- Canned fruit (peaches, pears, pineapple, apricot)
- Tea & Coffee
- Honey, Jam
- Instant Noodles
- Salt, Pepper & Cooking Spices
- Packets of dry lentils (orange/brown)

Non-Food Items:

- Nappies (larger sizes—walker/junior)
- Toothpaste/Toothbrushes
- Laundry detergent
- Dishwashing Liquid
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Soaps
- Cleaning Products & Cloths
- Deodorant (men's and women's)
- Sanitary Pads (not tampons)
- Razors & Shaving Cream
- Toilet Paper
- Aldi/Woolworths/Coles vouchers

(Please no soup, baked beans or tinned spaghetti)

To run a food drive or to enquire what the current food shortages are; Please contact the office on: office@houseofwelcome.com.au or phone: 02 97279290