



## St Mary's Parish Concord

### The Baptism of the Lord

10 January 2021

#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 55:1-11

*Come to the waters, listen, so that you may live.*

**RESPONSORIAL CANTICLE** Is 12:2-3

*You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.*

**SECOND READING:** 1 John 5:1-9

*There are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood.*

**GOSPEL:** Mark 1:7-11

*You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.*

#### PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for all those who have died recently.

We pray for Joseph Sackar, Marianna & Giuseppe Livolsi, Fr Grove Johnson and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

We pray 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.

**LIVE STREAMING MASSES:** The 9.30 am Sunday Mass is now being live streamed to on the parish Facebook page (St Marys Parish Church Concord) and to the parish YouTube channel.

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL0awxfUmJ6XjHjZcqsR2\\_A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL0awxfUmJ6XjHjZcqsR2_A)

While we encourage all who can to join us on Sundays, we know that some older and frail parishioners are not able to come to the church.

#### CHURCH ATTENDANCE UPDATE

All are welcome to join us at our Sunday and weekday Masses. No bookings are required at present.

The latest restrictions (2.1.2021) now limit all churches to 100. At present our Vigil Mass and Sunday 6.00 pm Mass are under the cap. However, if the 9.30 am Mass reaches 100, we will need to close the doors. If that happens consistently, it will be necessary to introduce bookings for that Mass.

The QR Code for churches is now compulsory. To use the QR Code you first need to download the Services NSW App.

Those who do not have a smart phone must record their name and contact details (phone or email) on the forms provided at the church doors. Please write clearly. It is very important that your details are accurately recorded.

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

#### The Baptism of Jesus



The Baptism Window in St Mary's Church is located near the Baptism Font and forms the screen for the Reconciliation Room. The central scene shows the Baptism of Jesus by John. On the left Peter baptizes Cornelius, a Roman centurion (Acts 10:47-48). On the right Philip baptizes the Ethiopian (Acts 8:38).

#### ORDINARY TIME

The Liturgical Year of the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church is framed by the two great feasts: Easter and Christmas. The Liturgical Year begins with Advent, the season when we prepare for Christmas. Lent, which this year begins on 17 February (Ash Wednesday), will then lead us to the Easter Triduum and the Easter season.

In between the Advent-Christmas and Lent-Easter seasons are what we call the Ordinary Sundays or

Ordinary Time. It is a short-hand name for *Ordinary Time throughout the Year* (in Latin *tempus per annum*).

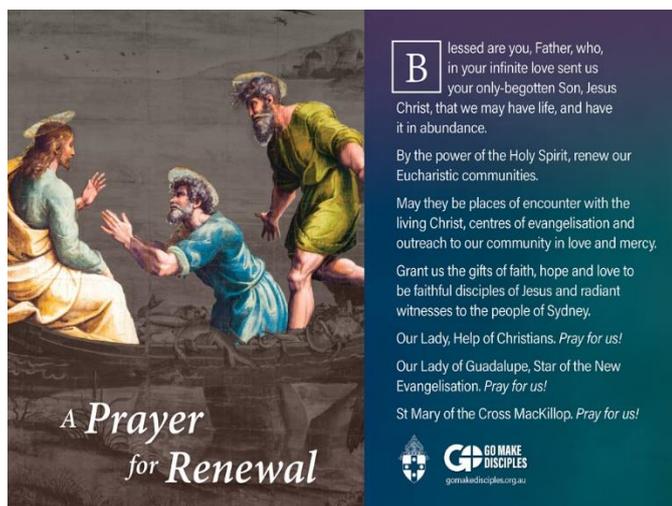
We have become familiar with the term *Ordinary Time* for these “in between” Sundays. Yet the English word “ordinary” can also give the impression that these Sundays are not important. One consequence has been a tendency to introduce theme Sundays such as “Social Justice Sunday” and “Marriage & Family Sunday” into the calendar.

While there are many important issues on which we need to reflect, the danger is that we lose sight of the essential meaning of Sunday.

Changes in society have already led many to see Sunday as just another day in the week. Then in 2020 the COVID pandemic made it more difficult for us to gather. For many months churches remained closed and last year we could not even celebrate Easter.

We hope that we can continue to gather as a community on Sundays to celebrate our relationship with God in Christ. As the feast of the Baptism of the Lord reminds us, we are called to live in union with Christ and we do that most fully when we gather to celebrate the Eucharist.

*Paul Crowley,  
Parish Priest*



**B**lessed are you, Father, who, in your infinite love sent us your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, that we may have life, and have it in abundance.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, renew our Eucharistic communities.

May they be places of encounter with the living Christ, centres of evangelisation and outreach to our community in love and mercy.

Grant us the gifts of faith, hope and love to be faithful disciples of Jesus and radiant witnesses to the people of Sydney.

Our Lady, Help of Christians. *Pray for us!*

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelisation. *Pray for us!*

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. *Pray for us!*

**GO MAKE DISCIPLES**  
gomakedisciples.org.au

*A Prayer for Renewal*

## GO MAKE DISCIPLES

Archbishop Anthony Fisher has launched a new Archdiocesan Mission Plan *Go Make Disciples*. The new plan is aimed at renewing parishes as places of encounter with the living Christ and centres of outreach to our community in love and mercy.

**To find out more about the Mission Plan go to <https://www.gomakedisciples.org.au/>**

In the weeks and months ahead we are invited to join in an Archdiocesan-wide prayer campaign, calling on the Holy Spirit to prepare the hearts of each of us and of all our parishes and Eucharistic communities to receive anew the fire of God’s love and the desire to be ever more faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ.

## Australians' Spiritual Practices in a year of crises

NCLS Research is a world leader in research focused on connecting churches and their communities. Decades of rigorous and thoughtful research has examined wellbeing, spirituality and church health. The most well known five-yearly project is called the **National Church Life Survey**, which has had millions of participants. Cooperating denominations, including Catholics, Anglicans and Protestants, are a network for sharing practical resources to help churches and communities.

Life changed significantly for Australians in 2020, with bushfires, floods and then the COVID-19 pandemic. Many church services went online, people stayed home and zoom meetings became commonplace.



In this context, we asked Australians about their experiences of stress, wellbeing, spirituality and church, in the 2020 Australian Community Survey. Nearly seven in 10 Australians say that spirituality is important in personal wellbeing, in the context of events including bushfires and COVID-19. The greatest stressors listed are family relationships and social isolation.

Just under half of Australians report personally drawing on spiritual practices during the year, with 15% of those people increasing the level of their practice in 2020. While fewer Australians participated in religious services after March 2020 than before, a moderate proportion of Australians engaged in other spiritual practices.

Spending time in nature or outdoors; listening to music; and praying and meditating are the spiritual practices of most appeal.

As we approach Christmas, around four in ten Australians say they are open to being invited to church by family and friends.

**For more information about the work of NCLS go to <http://www.ncls.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>

**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.

**Follow us on Twitter**   
**St Marys@ParishConcord**

## SHOULD YOU WEAR A MASK IN CHURCH?

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.

## 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/>

## FIRST CHURCH 175<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The first church built of the St Mary's Parish site was blessed and opened by Archbishop Polding on 7 December 1845. The painting that now hangs in the parish hall is based on a photograph taken in 1917 when the hall was under construction.

Prior to European settlement, the Burwood-Concord district was occupied by the Wangal clan. They called themselves the Eora, meaning 'the people' and they had been living in the Sydney area for at least 10,000 years.

The British colony of New South Wales had been established in January 1788 with the arrival of the First Fleet under the command of Captain Arthur Phillip.

In late 1788 a small settlement was established at Parramatta and by 1791 a bush track had been built between Sydney and Parramatta that became what is now Parramatta Road. In 1793 some free settlers received grants in the area then named Liberty Plains. In that same year, land grants were made to six non-commissioned officers in the district that came to be known as Concord.



The Concord-Burwood district continued to grow and in 1844 land was purchased by the Catholic Church on Parramatta Road at Concord for the site of a church and school. The first church stood in the present Church Forecourt in front of the parish hall. It was blessed by Archbishop Polding on 7 December 1845.

At that time there was no resident priest. A priest came from Parramatta, where the parish of St Patrick's had been established in 1827. When the parish of Petersham (now Lewisham) was established in 1851, the church at Concord became part of Petersham parish. St Mary's Concord became a parish in 1870.

The first church was also used as a hall and a school. A Catholic School, operating with Government funds, had begun operating on the parish site in 1846.

## 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.



**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](mailto:amelia.savage@jrs.org.au) and/or [zoe.grant@jrs.org.au](mailto:zoe.grant@jrs.org.au)

**MEALS ON WHEELS:** Volunteers are needed to assist with the delivery and/or packing of meals. If you can help or need more information, please contact: 9747-1135 or [delivery@bcw.org.au](mailto:delivery@bcw.org.au)

**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.

**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 my 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



## **HOUSE OF WELCOME FOODBANK APPEAL**



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](mailto:office@houseofwelcome.com.au)  
197 The Trongate, Granville  
Ph: 02 9727 9290  
[stfrancis.org.au/house-of-welcome](http://stfrancis.org.au/house-of-welcome)**