



St Mary's Parish Concord

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year B

14 February 2021

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Leviticus 13:2, 45-46

As long as they are unclean they shall live alone.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps: 32

R: You are my refuge, O Lord,
and the joy of my salvation.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:23 – 11:1

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:40-45

Jesus touched the man with leprosy
and he was cured.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for Sr Amy Caldwell osu, Archie Mottee
and all those who have died recently.

We pray for 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 have been affected by
natural disasters.

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

ASH WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2021

Parish Masses: 8.30 am and 7.30 pm.

There will be a school Mass but due to COVID
restrictions only students and teachers are able to
attend the school Mass.

ASHES WILL NOT BE DISTRIBUTED THIS YEAR ON ASH WEDNESDAY

In keeping with other COVID health restrictions it
is not possible to have the ashes applied to the
forehead of individuals. The Ash Wednesday Mass
will still be an opportunity to recall the spirit of
Lent even without receiving the traditional ashes.

PENANCE FOR LENT: Ash Wednesday and
Good Friday are days of fasting and abstinence from
meat. All those who have turned 18 and have not as
yet turned 60 are bound to fast on those two days
unless health reasons prevent them. All those who
have celebrated their 14th birthday are bound to
abstain from eating meat on those days. Please see the
Notice Board for a fuller description of Penance for
Lent

PROJECT COMPASSION: Today is Project
Compassion Sunday, marking the beginning of *Caritas
Australia's* annual Lenten appeal. Please take home a
Project Compassion box and/or a set of donation
envelopes and support *Caritas Australia*. The theme
for this Lenten season is "**Be More**". It is taken from
the words of Saint Oscar Romero, "*Aspire not to have
more, but to be more.*"

Your generosity will assist some of the world's most
vulnerable communities to lift themselves out of
poverty.

LOOK TO JESUS: The Archdiocese of Brisbane
has produced this attractive booklet that presents a
daily reflection for Lent and Easter. The reflections
are based on the Scripture readings for Mass each day.
The parish is providing a FREE copy for your personal
and family use. Copies are available from the tables
near the church doors. If you wish to make a donation
to the parish collection (black bucket) to help cover
the cost, the normal cost of the booklet \$4.00.

Acknowledgement of Country



We acknowledge the Wangal people of the Eora
nation as the traditional custodians of this land.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

First Reconciliation is a parish celebration for children from the parish who are preparing for First Holy Communion this year. The children who will celebrate First Holy Communion in August 2021 will celebrate their First Reconciliation in March.

It is celebrated in the church at 7.00 pm to allow parents and other family members to participate. **There will be two sessions: Tuesday 9 March and Wednesday 10 March.** Each session will be limited to 30 children. That will allow each child to be accompanied by up to four family members. It is presumed COVID 19 restrictions will still apply.

PLEASE NOTE Registrations open on Monday 15 February and close on 26 February 2021. Registrations can only be made via email to parish@stmarysconcord.org.au

In your email, please nominate the date on which you wish your child to celebrate his/her Reconciliation. An information letter and enrolment form will then be sent to you.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE UPDATE

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

Although the Government has allowed churches to move from the 4 sq m rule to 2 sq m, it is still not possible to use every pew in the church. However, the change does allow more people to sit in each available pew. Please leave space at the end of the pew for others to join you.

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.

DO I STILL NEED A MASK IN CHURCH?

Health authorities no longer require the wearing of a face mask in churches. However, social distancing is still important.

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.

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/>

ONLINE MARRIAGE SEMINAR: The Marriage Kit – Online Seminar is a six week workshop series for married couples wanting a lasting, passionate relationship. Facilitated through the SmartLoving learning platform, from the privacy of your home, the course includes self-directed learning with your spouse that you complete together.

Four facilitated Zoom meetings will provide you with opportunities to ask questions, share your insights and connect with other couples in the course. For more information go to:

<https://members.smartloving.org/rockhampton-marriage-kit-seminar/>

Servant of God, Eileen O'Connor

Eileen O'Connor died in Coogee on 10 January 1921. In 1913, together with Fr Edward McGrath msc, she had founded Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor (popularly called the Brown Nurses). Her cause for canonization was accepted in 2018 and she was declared a Servant of God.

Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor is opening up its home at 35 Dudley Street, Coogee to visitors for monthly open days throughout 2021 to allow Sydneysiders to pray at the tomb of Eileen O'Connor and learn more about this 'saint in waiting'.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, numbers will be limited to 12 visitors at any one time. For more information about visiting see the website: <https://eileenconnor.com.au/open-days>.

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.

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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR 2021

This year is *Year B* of the three-year cycle of Sunday readings. On the Ordinary Sundays we will read from Mark's Gospel, although on occasions we will turn to John's Gospel. We will follow what is called a semi-continuous reading, that is, one Sunday usually begins where the previous Sunday's Gospel concluded.

St Mark's Gospel

Most scholars accept that Mark's Gospel was the first of the four Gospels to be written and it is dated between the years 65 and 75. It is also accepted that Mark was not an eyewitness to the ministry of Jesus. He represents the second generation of disciples who had received various oral accounts from those who were eyewitnesses. Mark then wrote his Gospel for a particular community.

All the New Testament books were written in Greek. From his writing style we believe that Mark was a native Greek-speaker and was probably a member of the early Christian community in Rome.

His Gospel was written for a community that had undergone persecution and in many ways was struggling to hold on to the message of Jesus.

The Lectionary

The Lectionary is the book containing the Scripture readings selected to be read at Mass. On Ordinary Sundays the first reading is taken from the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and is chosen to reflect on the Gospel reading of that particular Sunday. The Responsorial Psalm has been chosen to respond to the message of the first reading.

The second reading is not connected with the first reading or the Gospel. It is an opportunity for us to read from the other books of the New Testament, particularly the Letters of St Paul. For the next four Sundays (until Lent begins) we will read from the **First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians**. St Paul was writing from Ephesus in late 56 or very early in 57. Therefore, his letter to the Corinthians was written about ten years before Mark wrote his Gospel.

*Paul Crowley,
Parish Priest*

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>

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. 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 OPENED IN 1845

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.

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

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

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/>

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.

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
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