



St Mary's Parish Concord

3rd Sunday of Lent

Year B

7 March 2021

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Exodus 20:1-17
The law was given through Moses.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps: 19
R: Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18, 22-25
We proclaim Christ crucified; to those who are the called, the wisdom of God.

GOSPEL: John 2:13-25
Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for Adelia Famularo, Antonia Siciliano, Frank Caridi, Reginald Edirmanasinghe (Sussex, UK), Robert Varnakulasingham and all those who have died recently.

We pray for Joe Feld, Domenico Gerace, Francesca Gentile, Ernesta Toscano 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 the children celebrating their First Reconciliation in the coming week.

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

CONFIRMATION: As noted on the parish website, the Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated over two sessions: 3.00 pm on Saturday 15 May and 11.00 am on Sunday 16 May. Registrations open on 8 March and close on 1 April 2021 or when both dates are fully booked. To register please email the Parish Office parish@stmarysconcord.org.au and nominate the session you wish your child to attend. A letter and registration form will then be emailed to you. Candidates will be accompanied by a sponsor and up to four other family members. Each celebration will be limited to 30 candidates.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE UPDATE

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

Although the Government has allowed churches to move to 2 sq m, it is still not possible to use every pew in the church.

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

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.

Acknowledgement of Country



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

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/>

PROJECT COMPASSION BE MORE



Oliva, a 22-year-old woman from Tanzania, didn't have the opportunity to go to school, and was embarrassed that she was unable to read, write or count. Her business was losing money because she couldn't add up. Then Oliva enrolled in Caritas Australia's literacy and numeracy classes. She also set up a home classroom to

teach her neighbours for free, because they were too shy to attend larger classes.

Oliva has now graduated. Attendance at her classes is growing and her kiosk is thriving. She is helping her children with their homework and aims to become a pastor and run for leadership in the next local election to help her community to 'Be More.'

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and support people like Oliva to gain access to education, to build a brighter future and live in communities that upholds everyone's dignity

You can donate through the parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

Project Compassion envelopes may be placed in the parish collection (black bucket). Donations are tax deductible. If you require a tax receipt please clearly fill in all the details and tick the box.

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

EASTER TRIDUUM 2021

HOLY THURSDAY 1 April

7.30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Please note there is no 8.30 am Mass

GOOD FRIDAY 2 April

10.00 am - Stations of the Cross

3.00 pm - Celebration of the Passion

HOLY SATURDAY 3 April

7.30 pm The Easter Vigil

Please note there is no 6.00 pm Vigil Mass

EASTER SUNDAY 4 April

Masses 7.30am, 9.30am & 6.00pm

Please note Daylight Saving ends on Easter Sunday

LENT IN THE GARDEN: Leeanne Favotto, the Family Educator for St Mary's School invites all parishioners to join her and school parents for **Lent in the Garden**, each Monday morning at 9.00 am on the seat near the Burton Street school gate. Mrs Favotto will lead the community in a short reflection based on the Sunday Gospel using the booklet **Look to Jesus**, as a guide. Booklets will be provided for all to share a short time of prayer. We would love for you to join us on any Monday during Lent.

LOOK TO JESUS: On Sunday 14 February the parish provided 150 copies of this attractive booklet from the Archdiocese of Brisbane. We are pleased to report that many parishioners have found the daily reflections to be a helpful resource for Lent.

Unfortunately, all the copies have been taken. For those who are seeking extra copies to share with family and friends Evangelisation Brisbane are providing a Podcast and a downloadable PDF copy. Go to their website at <https://evangelisationbrisbane.org.au/lenten-program/>

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Children's Liturgy is part of the parish 9.30 am Mass during the school terms. It will commence this Sunday (28 February). The Children's Liturgy of the Word is not a catechetical class or Sunday school; it is a celebration of the Word of God.

The children listen to the Gospel reading of the Sunday and share prayers and reflections. All children of primary school age are invited to attend. The children leave the church after the Opening Prayer for a celebration of the Word of God at a level appropriate for their age. They return to the church at the Preparation of the Gifts. The Children's Liturgy is held in the chapel of St Mary's Villa. The Children's Liturgy would not be possible without the help of the adult leaders. We are still in need of helpers; their role is to assist the leader.

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.

FASTING AND LENTEN PENANCE

Only Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are now set down as days for fasting and abstaining from eating meat. However, all Christians are called to do some form of penance on Fridays throughout the year and during the season of Lent.

The traditional penitential practices of prayer, fasting and alms-giving are still recommended. However, the form of penance that is practiced is left to each person.

We know that by the second century Christians were already preparing for Easter by a forty hour fast that began on Good Friday.

By the first Council of Nicaea in 325 the preparation for Easter had been extended to forty days. It was seen to be a way to imitate the 40 day fast of Jesus after his baptism. This extended period of preparation became the season of Lent.

The Lenten fast at that time meant that people had only one meal each day and it was eaten after sunset. Abstinence from meat and wine and the further restriction on all dairy products during Lent were only added in later centuries.

Fasting for medical reasons was not uncommon in ancient Greece and Rome. However, the essential feature of Christian fasting was its link to prayer. In modern times we call fasting without prayer dieting.

Christians also saw fasting as a preparation for the reception of the Spirit and so it was associated with preparing for Baptism and the Eucharist.

But against that background there were also many references in the early Church to the prophet Isaiah (Is 58:1-9) and to the teaching of Jesus (Mt 6:16-18) who both warned against fasting becoming only an external practice that did not touch the heart, the core of a person's being.

Penance is always about conversion and is summed up in the call to repent and believe in the Good News. It is linked therefore to prayer and reflecting on the Word of God.

Paul Crowley

This reflection draws on Adolf Adam's history of Lent in his book "The Liturgical Year" (Pueblo Publishing, New York 1981) which was originally published in Germany.

CARE SUPPORT WORKERS: CatholicCare are seeking applicants with a Certificate III in Aged Care (or similar) and relevant experience to join their team of Community Support Workers who provide home care to our clients across Sydney.

The role includes assisting Seniors with the following service requirements: accompanying clients on errands and appointments; domestic assistance; meal preparation; personal care; social support. They are also recruiting Greek and Italian speaking Care Support Workers. If you are a carer with the relevant qualifications and speak one or both of these languages, we encourage you to apply. Find out more by visiting www.catholiccare.org/jobs

Or call our CCareline team - 8am to 6pm weekdays on 13 18 19.

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/>

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>

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.

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.

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: 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



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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

197 The Trongate, Granville

Ph: 02 9727 9290

stfrancis.org.au/house-of-welcome