



## St Mary's Parish Concord

11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

13 June 2021

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

**FIRST READING:** Ezekiel:17:22-24

*I will high the low tree.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Ps: 92

**R:** Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

**SECOND READING:** 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

*Whether in the body or away from it  
we make it our aim to please the Lord.*

**GOSPEL:** Mark 4:26-34

*The smallest seed becomes the greatest of all shrubs.*

### PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for Mary Doran, Margaret Coulson, Judith Deeham and all those who have died recently.

We pray for Michael Boumelham, Augustus (John) Coulson and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

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

We pray for those 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.

**FR PAUL ANNUAL LEAVE:** Fr Paul is currently away on his annual leave. We welcome **Monsignor Vince Redden** who will be presiding at the Vigil and 9.30 am Sunday Masses while Fr Paul is away. Parish ministers are leading a Communion Service at 8.30 am Monday to Friday until 18 June. **For an urgent sick call, please contact one of the neighbouring parishes.**

### TAX RECEIPT FOR PLANNED GIVING

Thank you to all those who have been able to support the Mission of the parish through your contributions.

With the impact of Covid-19, many parishioners have switched to electronic giving or have dropped their envelopes into the Parish Office. *If you would like further information on electronic giving, visit our website or contact the parish office.*

Because of changes made by the NSW Government regarding school funding, *in May 2017 all parishioners were asked to register with the parish if they required a tax receipt* for their donation to the parish Planned Giving envelopes.

While all who contribute through the parish envelopes receive a receipt, *only those who have registered receive tax receipt.*

Those who have registered will receive a tax receipt for contributions *received by 30 June 2021.*

**Any contributor who has not previously requested a tax receipt, may do so for the new financial year (2021-2022) by contacting the parish office, but we must receive your request by Friday 25 June 2021.**

For 2021-2022, St Mary's Parish Concord will be able to offer 50% tax deductibility for contributions to the Parish Planned Giving.

**LIVE STREAMING MASS:** The 9.30 am Sunday Mass is being live streamed to the parish YouTube channel. See our website for details. It is also possible to view the Mass on the parish Facebook page: St Mary's Parish Church Concord.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** Thank you to those who have volunteered at 9.30 am Mass to assist with the livestreaming and the projection of the words of prayers and hymns. Training is available and the aim is to create a roster to share these new roles within the parish community. Please email [parish@stmarysconcord.org.au](mailto:parish@stmarysconcord.org.au)

### CHURCH ATTENDANCE

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

The most recent changes to the Government restrictions still require churches to observe the 2 sq m rule.

**All those attending must still register using the QR Code.** 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.

**WOMEN ALIVE (Indian, Pakistani and Sri Lankan Catholic women's prayer group)** - a Canberra - based initiative that predominantly serves Indian, Pakistani and Sri Lankan women but all women are welcome. How to get involved: We have a WhatsApp group (Women Alive Canberra). You can also join us by Zoom for the reflection at the end of our monthly Rosary. We are also beginning a nightly novena to Mother Mary from Sat Aug 29th to Mary's birthday Thu Sept 8th. **Contact the parish office for more details.**

### **Tri-Diocesan Social Justice Twilight Reflection Evening – 30 June 2021, 6:00-8:00pm, Pennant Hills:**

Join keynote speakers Bishop Anthony Randazzo, Dr. Robbie Lloyd and Ms Ashleigh Donnelly together with Catholics from the Archdiocese of Sydney, Parramatta Diocese and the Diocese of Broken Bay for a prayerful dinner event to celebrate our social justice work and reflect on the themes of this year's Social Justice Statement "To Live Life to the Full: Mental Health in Australia Today." For more details please see the attached flyer.

Date: Wednesday 30th June 2021

Time: 6.00pm – 8.30pm

Venue: Pennant Hills Bowling Club, 52 Yarrara Rd, Pennant Hills.

Please register your attendance here: <https://form.jotform.com/211228078037048> or by emailing [ruth.moraes@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:ruth.moraes@sydneycatholic.org) or 0439 584 221.

**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/>**

## **Acknowledgement of Country**



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

## **PARISH COMMUNITY AFTER COVID**

The Parish Pastoral Council is currently reflecting on ***Go Make Disciples***, the Mission Plan for the Archdiocese of Sydney. Their aim is to set our goals for the future. One of the foundation areas of the Mission Plan is Community.

As we slowly emerge from the COVID pandemic lockdown, one of the challenges we face is the rebuilding of our parish community.

Many of the things that we took for granted in the past still cannot happen. In preparation for Confirmation, we would normally invite our candidates and their families to join us on this Sunday for an enrollment ceremony within the 9.30 am Mass. Unfortunately, that cannot happen at present.

We then would have gathered for a morning tea. Our monthly morning teas remain suspended.

We also need to rebuild our teams of volunteers who regularly took Holy Communion to the Sick. Many of our older parishioners are still not confident to come back to Mass.

They are a few examples of the challenges we face. If you are interested in being part of this important reflection, come and join the Pastoral Council. New members are welcome. Speak to Fr Paul or contact the Parish Office for more details.

**SAVE OUR GRAVES PETITION** Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP has asked for your support in signing an e-petition on this issue to be presented to the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, since the government's decision amounts to an attack on religious freedom in NSW.

For more than 150 years in NSW, Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust has been trusted not only by Catholics, but by the Islamic and Jewish communities and other people of faith to bury the dead, maintain their graves respectfully and comfort grieving families.

The NSW Government wants to exclude faith groups from this precious ministry and replace them with a new and costly Government bureaucracy which has no understanding of religious customs around burials, including the importance of leaving graves undisturbed by future generations.

Sign the petition here:

<https://saveourgraves.com.au/> You can also write to your local State MP to voice your concern about this proposal. Please also share the attached tile on your parish social media platforms.

## **CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**The Children's Liturgy is part of the 9.30 am Mass on Sunday.** The children go aside to listen to the Gospel reading of the Sunday and share prayers and reflections. All children of primary school age are invited to attend.

**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>

**PLAYGROUP:** A Playgroup for pre-school aged children began in September 2019 and like many other activities it was forced to close in March 2020 due to COVID. The Playgroup is an initiative of St Mary's School and is organized by Leeanne Favotto, the Family Educator at the school.

**The playgroup meets in the Parish/School Hall on Fridays from 9.30 to 10.45 am and is held each Friday during the school term.**

If you wish to attend with your child, please contact the school office 9744 0260 or email [leeanne.favotto@syd.catholic.edu.au](mailto:leeanne.favotto@syd.catholic.edu.au)

**RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREATS:** offer healing and hope to women and men hurt by an abortion experience. The next retreat will be held 5-7 Nov 2021. For more information phone their confidential phone line (0400092555) or see the parish notice board or go to [rachelsaus.blogspot.com](http://rachelsaus.blogspot.com). If you have any questions, please email [jpoinfo@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:jpoinfo@sydneycatholic.org).

**PRIVATE PRAYER IN THE CHURCH:** The church will be open for private prayer on Sunday after the 9.30 am Mass after the 6.00 pm Mass and on Monday to Friday from 9.00 am until 12 noon. All those entering the church must record their name and contact details.

**PARISH COLLECTIONS:** We are still not able to pass around the plates for the traditional parish collections. If you are able to continue your support of the parish's Mission through the collections, buckets are available on the table at the back of the church and near the side entrance. They are marked 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection. Your regular donations can be placed in the appropriate containers.

For your convenience Tap and Go stations are available at the doors of the church. The station inside the main entrance is set for \$10 and the side entrance for \$5. Please note that receipts cannot be issued for donations and the transactions cannot be reversed.

**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)

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL - MEMBERS NEEDED:** The St Mary's Concord SVdP Conference is seeking new members. If you are interested in joining or in hearing more about their important ministry, please call or text Poppy on 0438430347 or email [poppy@archb.com.au](mailto:poppy@archb.com.au) to express your interest.

The Concord Conference meets in the parish hall once a fortnight on Wednesday evening for about an hour. Between meetings members also help to distribute emergency assistance in the local area.

### **JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE FOODBANK**

Right now, JRS is feeding 1000 people a week and the demand for help keeps growing. COVID-19 has disproportionately affected the lives of people seeking asylum and temporary migrants in Australia, as they remain excluded from all forms of Federal government support. People who were once working and self-sufficient have had to rely on charities, like JRS, for rent, medication, bills and food. To help keep everyone fed, we are asking those who can to donate one item a week (1 or 2 Kg bags of Basmati Rice, Tuna in oil, Cooking Oil (750ml/1L/2L bottles), tinned tomatoes, tinned lentils, chickpeas, red kidney beans, pasta (spaghetti, penne, spiral) but please not tinned spaghetti.

Donations can be placed in the blue bin on the table at the back of the church.

**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/>

**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 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.

## 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.

## 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](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)**

**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.