



St Mary's Parish Concord
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year B

25 July 2021

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 4:42-44
They shall eat and have some left.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 145
R: You open your hand to feed us, Lord;
You answer all our needs.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 4:1-6
There is one body and one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

GOSPEL: John 6:1-15
Jesus distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for Marielle Marchetta and all those who have died recently.

We pray for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time and for all our deceased family members, friends and parishioners.

We pray for those in many other places who have died of the COVID-19 virus, for their families and all who mourn for them.

We pray for all grandparents and the elderly members of our community.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Due to the current NSW COVID

Health Restrictions

all churches must remain closed until the lockdown is lifted.

See the parish website for details.

LIVE STREAMING MASS: During the current COVID lockdown the 9.30 am Sunday Mass is still 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.

Acknowledgement of Country



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

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS' AND THE ELDERLY

On 26 July each year we celebrate the Memorial of Sts Joachim & Anne, the parents of Mary and the grandparents of Jesus. In recent years it has become popular for parishes and schools to celebrate Grandparents' Day in July.

It is not surprising therefore that Pope Francis has chosen to make the fourth Sunday of July (this year 25 July) the **World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**.

Pope Francis has expanded "Grandparents' Day" to include all the elderly members of our community. Some younger grandparents, who may be in their 50s, do not see themselves as "elderly".

In many ways our society continues to promote the image of youth and as a result the elderly are pushed more and more into the background.

That has become even more apparent during the pandemic when the elderly members of our community have been encouraged to stay at home. We may want to protect them, but they can become isolated, and we can easily forget them.

To view the message of Pope Francis delivered in Italian with English subtitles go to:

<https://youtu.be/bFUSwj3fjLA>

To see some resources produced by the Australian Catholic Marriage & Family Council go to:

https://cathfamily.org/world-day-for-grandparents/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=cathfamily-grandparents-world-day

THE BREAD OF LIFE

This Sunday the Gospel reading takes up Chapter 6 of John's Gospel and we will continue reading from this section of John's Gospel for the next four Sundays.

The chapter is often called the *Bread of Life Discourse* and as we will hear next Sunday, Jesus declares "I am the Bread of Life".

When we hear those words, we often immediately think of the Eucharist and receiving the Body of Christ in Holy Communion. But as we will also hear in the coming weeks, this part of John's Gospel is an invitation to explore more deeply what it means for us to share in the Bread of Life.

The chapter begins with John's account of the miracle of the loaves and fish. The miracle is followed by a discourse which is full of allusions to the Passover. In fact, John gives us an important clue when in the opening verses he writes, "It was shortly before the Jewish feast of the Passover."

To understand John's Gospel we need to recall that each year the feast of the Passover celebrated the liberation of the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt. The journey began with the killing of the Passover Lamb.

Later, as Moses led the people into the wilderness, they were sustained on their journey with manna from heaven.

The Passover feast is also the context of the opening scene of John's Gospel when John the Baptist sees Jesus approaching and declares "Behold the Lamb of God."

At the end of John's Gospel, the Last Supper and the death of Jesus on the cross also happen at the time of the Passover.

In fact, John gives a very particular focus to the death of Jesus by placing the crucifixion of Jesus on the preparation day for the Passover. Jesus dies on the cross at the time when the lambs are being slaughtered for the Passover meal that will take place that evening.

Over the coming weeks we will explore how Jesus leads the people to a deeper understanding of their own needs.

We too are called to look beyond our immediate needs and to discover what God is offering us whenever we are called to share the Bread of Life.

Paul Crowley
Parish Priest

CELEBRATING AT HOME

St Mary's Concord has been live-streaming the 9.30 am Mass each Sunday since December 2020.

Parishioners, including families with young children, who are not able to join us in the church have found it helpful to join us via the live-streaming (see the notice above for details).

We can also 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.

A free resource for children can be found at [Holy Heroes- Children's Liturgy Activities and Gospel Story](#) It provides a short YouTube presentation of the Gospel reading and a worksheet that can be printed.

1st HOLY COMMUNION: Due to the ongoing lockdown the second Parent Information meeting planned for Tuesday 27 July has also been cancelled. Please go to the parish website for up-to-date information.

SUPPORTING THE PARISH

Thank you to all who have continued to support the parish in these difficult times. Because the church must remain closed, the traditional way of contributing to the parish collections is not available. Even the more recent Tap & Go stations cannot be accessed.

Some parishioners have already opted to make a regular donation electronically. For more details please email the parish office.

Donations can also be made via the parish website. Go to the "Support Us" button at the top right of the Home Page. A drop-down menu offers various options.

Planned Giving Envelopes 2021-2022: New sets of envelopes were placed in the church just prior to the lockdown on 26 June. Unfortunately, the church must remain closed until the lockdown is lifted.

THE JOURNEY: Journey Catholic Radio is a weekly radio program and podcast developed by the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong all about faith, hope, love and life. It includes awesome music, a weekly Gospel reflection, interviews and a variety of weekly inputs from some of the best Catholic presenters in Australia.

Journey Catholic Radio is hosted by the director of the Office of Renewal and Evangelisation, Mr Jude Hennessy and produced by Mr Max Norden. For information about how to listen and subscribe go to <https://www.dow.org.au/media-resources/journey-radio/>

TAX RECEIPT FOR PLANNED GIVING

Printed tax receipts will not be available until the current Lockdown is lifted.

Those who have previously requested that their tax receipt be sent via email will receive an emailed receipt. Others who now wish to receive their receipt via email are asked to email the parish office. Please give your full name and envelope number when requesting a receipt. **The receipt will be sent to the email address you use to make the request.**

The tax deduction for the *Parish Planned Giving* is only provided for those contributors who have already nominated that they require a *tax receipt*.

Please note that your receipt should show two figures: the amount contributed and the amount that is tax deductible.

Those who contributed to various other appeals during 2020-2021 (CWF Appeal, Project Compassion, Priests' Retirement Foundation) **and also requested a tax receipt for those contributions** should find their contributions listed on their receipt.

If you have any questions, please contact the parish office by email.

In the coming financial year (2021-2022) the parish can again provide a 50% tax deduction for contributions to the *Planned Giving*.

Christian Brothers' High School Lewisham SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Christian Brothers' High School Lewisham is seeking expression of interest for potential new members of its School Advisory Committee (formerly the School Board). CBHS Lewisham is a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition educating boys from Year 5 - Year 12. The School Advisory Committee supports the Principal in the strategic management of the school. The Committee is looking for members of the community who have expertise in financial management, master planning, risk management and other areas of school governance.

To request an expression of interest form please email Mrs Cathie Dalliwall at cathie.dalliwall@cbhslewisham.nsw.edu.au.

For more information about the school please go to <https://cbhslewisham.nsw.edu.au/>.

Once received, EOIs will be assessed and suitable candidates will be included on an eligibility list for consideration when a vacancy arises

SCHOOL ENROLMENT 2022: St Mary's School is now enrolling students for Kindergarten in 2022. An application form is available from the school office or phone 9744 0260 or email your request to info@stmconcord.catholic.edu.au Visit the school website for more information www.stmconcord.catholic.edu.au.

PLAYGROUP: The Playgroup has suspended all meetings until further notice.

CATHOLIC MISSION INDIA COVID-19 APPEAL

Catholic Mission has launched an urgent appeal to provide immediate help for vulnerable communities devastated by COVID-19 in India. Well over 300,000 people have died from the illness in India and the hospitals have been struggling to cope. Through donating to *Catholic Mission*, you will be playing a key role in supporting the valuable work of mission hospitals in the country. Donate online via the Catholic Mission website:

<https://www.catholicmission.org.au/donate/your-donation?id=covid-19-india>

SIERRA LEONE SUPPORT

In early 2003 the Parish Pastoral Council received a request from Br John Hay cfc, who asked if St Mary's Parish Concord would consider offering some support to Sacred Heart Parish Serabu in Sierra Leone, West Africa. John had previously worked in Serabu.

In 2003 Sierra Leone was still recovering from a decade long civil war that had started in 1991. The conflict had destroyed much of the local infrastructure including churches and schools.

The Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Finance Committee supported the request. Every year since 2003 St Mary's Parish has sent a significant donation to the parish community in Serabu.



Our support has enabled that community to repair their church, school and parish house. A clinic to assist the sick has also been established. In more recent years our parish donation has enabled the Sacred Heart Parish to provide support for children who otherwise could not attend school.

Within our parish community individuals and families continue to support *Caritas Australia* through Project Compassion and support the work of *Catholic Mission*.

However, it is also appropriate that we as a parish community continue to share our blessings with the parish community of Sacred Heart, Serabu.

Paul Crowley
Parish Priest

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>

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/>

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.

The current Health Lockdown in the Sydney region is a reminder of the challenges we face as we reflect on the need to rebuild our parish community.

Many of the things that we took for granted in the past still cannot happen. We cannot gather for the Morning Tea on the first Sunday of the month.

As we prepare for 1st Holy Communion in August, we presume that some restrictions will still be in force.

An example of the challenges we face is the need to rebuild our team of volunteers who previously took Holy Communion to the sick at home or in Aged Care facilities. Many of our older parishioners are still not confident to come back to Mass.

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.

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. If you have any questions, please email jpointo@sydneycatholic.org.

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.

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



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: In 2020 St Mary's Parish commissioned five heritage signs to mark the sesquicentenary of the parish. They can be seen 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 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.

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.

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.

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**