



St Mary's Parish Concord

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year B

5 September 2021

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7

The ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 146

R: Praise the Lord, my soul!

SECOND READING: James 2:1-5

Have you not made distinctions among yourselves?

GOSPEL: Mark 7:31-37

He even makes those who are deaf to hear.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for our fragile environment and for all who are working to address climate change.

We pray for the people of Afghanistan and people everywhere who are suffering because of war and civil unrest.

We pray for those who are suffering in many other places due to the COVID-19 pandemic and for those who have died.

We pray for Louise Massaria and all those who have died recently. We pray for Guy Dimech, Sebastian Moll, Joseph Attard, Lisa Ma, Melina Bua, Concetto Raiti and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

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

*We wish all fathers a
Happy Father's Day*

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.

NO EUTHANASIA PETITION

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP is urging all Catholics to sign an e-petition to prevent the NSW parliament passing laws that sanction the killing of vulnerable human beings.

Please sign this petition, calling on the Government to keep us focused on the present challenges and once they have been met, let us focus on medicine at its best and not its most lethal.

https://www.no euthanasia.org.au/protect_life_nsw

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK

6 – 12 SEPTEMBER 2021

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.

SEASON OF CREATION 2021



Why are Christians pitching 'Abraham's tent' during 2021 Season of Creation?

Every year during the *Season of Creation*, Christians on six continents unite to pray, to take action, and to advocate for our common home.

Every year the *Season of Creation* features a new theme and a new logo for Christians to unite around as they care for God's creation.

This year's theme is ***A home for all? Renewing the Oikos of God.*** The logo that invites us to reflect on that theme is **Abraham's Tent**, which symbolizes "a home for all."

The theme uses the Greek word *Oikos* which means a home. Abraham and Sarah opened their tent as a home for three strangers, who turned out to be God's messengers (Genesis 18). By creating a home for all, their act of radical hospitality became a source of great blessing.

Abraham's tent is a symbol of our ecumenical call to practice creation care as an act of radical hospitality, safeguarding a place for all creatures, human and non-human, in our common home, the household (oikos) of God.

The Season of Creation

The *Season of Creation*, originally launched by the Orthodox Patriarch of Constantinople in 1989, has been progressively joined by other Christian churches, with Pope Francis announcing the Roman Catholic Church's participation in 2016.



The *Season of Creation* is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through repenting, repairing, and rejoicing together. During the *Season of Creation*, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.

This year, amid crises that have shaken the world, we're awakened to the urgent need to heal our relationships with creation and each other. During the *Season of Creation*, we enter a time of restoration and hope, a jubilee for our Earth, that requires radically new ways of living with creation.

The *Season of Creation* unites the world's 2.2 billion Christians around one shared purpose. With so much injustice all around us, now is the time for Christians everywhere to come together and show the world how to love each other and creation.

For more information about the *Season of Creation* go to <https://seasonofcreation.org/>



The Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement, *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*, invites us to join in responding to Pope Francis' invitation to take a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability.

The Statement provides theological foundations to ground and inspire our efforts to care for creation while responding to the needs of the disadvantaged and excluded. For more information go to the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference (ACBC) Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace, www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au

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



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 have received an emailed receipt.

Others who 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*.

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.

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.

St Mary's Church Concord

The painting of the Blessed Virgin Mary that is the dominant image of Mary in the church is a copy of *The Immaculate Virgin of Los Venerables* painted by the Spanish artist Bartolome Esteban Murillo (1618-1682) in about 1678.

It is believed that the original painting was commissioned from Bartolomé Esteban Murillo by Justino de Neve, who was ecclesiastical president of

the *Hospital de los Venerables* in Seville. He later donated it to the chapel at the hospital. The original painting is now in the Prado Museum in Madrid

The title of Immaculate Virgin reflects the belief that Mary was without sin from the first moment of her being. Although it was only officially declared a dogma of the Church in 1854, belief in the Immaculate Conception of Mary had been a popular devotion in Spain since the 16th century.

In this painting Murillo combined two different iconographic traditions: the Immaculate Conception and the Assumption. Although the Assumption of Mary was only declared to be a dogma in 1950, it too had been a popular devotion for many centuries.

The parish's copy was cleaned and restored in February 2020 to mark the Sesquicentenary of the founding of St Mary's Parish (1870-2020).



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.

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.

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/>

GO MAKE DISCIPLES is 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/>

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.

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.



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>

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.

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

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