



St Mary's Parish Concord

Mass of the Holy Spirit
(Opening of the National Plenary Council)
3 October 2021

LITURGY OF THE WORD
(Mass for a Council)

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:10-14
The Word is very near to you.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 18
R: Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-4
Be united in your convictions and united in your love.

GOSPEL: John 14:23-29
The Holy Spirit will teach you everything.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for those who have gathered for the first Assembly of the Plenary Council.

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

We pray that our parish community will always be a place of safety for children and all vulnerable members of the community.

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 all health care worker and those who continue to work to protect the community.

We pray for Joan Reaby, Andrea Lloyd-Jones, Richard Booth, Ralph Wadley, John O'Toole and all those who have died recently. We remember and pray for Hanna Elias and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

NATIONAL PLENARY COUNCIL

The Fifth Plenary Council of Australia will open this Sunday, 3 October, with Plenary Council president Archbishop Timothy Costelloe celebrating the opening Mass at St Mary's Cathedral in Perth at 2 pm AEDT. The Mass will be livestreamed on the Plenary Council website.

To read more about the Plenary Council and the various stages of preparation please go to <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the first Plenary Council Assembly (3-10 October 2021) will be conducted using a combination of video conferencing and in-person meetings of smaller groups across Australia. The second Assembly will be held in Sydney in July 2022.



Masses during the week will also be broadcast publicly at 9.30am AEDT, with the Mass to close the first general assembly livestreamed from Brisbane at 11am AEDT on 10 October.

This Sunday we join with Catholic communities throughout Australia to pray that the Holy Spirit guides those who will participate in the Plenary Council.

We will use the same prayers and readings that are being used for the Plenary Council's Opening Mass. The prayers for the *Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit* and the readings for a *Council or Synod* will replace those set down for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Once 70% of those over 16 years have received a double vaccination, the NSW Government will allow churches to open but ONLY for those who have been fully vaccinated.

Everyone will be able to come to Mass when 80% of the adult community have been vaccinated. Other restrictions will apply. The details are still to be announced.

PLEASE GET VACCINATED
to protect all those most at risk.

See the parish website for more details.

Acknowledgement of Country



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

CITY OF CANADA BAY MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

The City of Canada Bay is hosting opportunities for us to explore mental health issues during October.

Join a free online presentation on Friday, 15 October from 12-12:45pm as community speaker, Camilla Martin from *Beyond Blue*, talks about mental health wellbeing, and her journey of recovery and resilience in the face of mental health struggles.

Camilla is a management consultant who has lived and worked around the world. She is a volunteer speaker, meditation teacher and triathlete, and was even a triathlon referee at the 2012 London Olympic Games. Camilla became a *Beyond Blue* speaker to challenge the stereotypical view of those with mental health conditions; she wants to share her experience with others to help them see that they're not alone. There will be time for questions after her talk.

In another online event on Wednesday, 13 October from 6:30-7.30pm, Dr Nikki Bruncker will talk about mental health and wellbeing while supporting schooling from home and offer tips on coping mechanisms during COVID-19 and guidance for moving forward as students begin to transition back to school. Dr Bunker is a teacher educator and lecturer with the University of Sydney, and a homeschooling mum. Her talk will include tips on daily essentials, coping mechanisms, and guidance going forward to help parents, carers, and children manage learning during COVID-19.

To register and see more information go to:

<https://www.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/>



St Mary's
Catholic Primary School
Concord

SCHOOL ENROLMENT 2022: St Mary's School is now enrolling students for Kindergarten in 2022. Email your request to info@stmconcord.catholic.edu.au or visit the school website for more information www.stmconcord.catholic.edu.au.

PRAYING THE ROSARY

October is traditionally the month of the Rosary. Each Thursday evening during October, starting on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (7 October), we are invited to join a **"Rosary Zoom" at 7.30pm**. It has been organised by the Family Educators from our local Catholic Schools.

A slide presentation will accompany the prayers and it will be led by the Family Educators' team. A variety of community members will be invited to take part.

TIME: Thursday, 7 October 7:30-8:30pm and then weekly on Thurs until 28 Oct 2021. LOCATION: <https://scscatholic.zoom.us/j/65317311082>

You can join for all four Thursdays or choose a day to start experiencing the Rosary online. If you would like to take an active role in praying part of the Rosary or you have any queries about attending, please email Leanne Favotto, the Family Educator at St Mary's School: leeanne.favotto@syd.catholic.edu.au.



Are you struggling in this time of crisis?

Depression. Anxiety. Loneliness. Conflict. Stress. CatholicCare offer 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

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY WINTER APPEAL

Each year as part of their Winter Appeal the St Vincent de Paul Society holds a sleep-out to raise our awareness of the homeless and those living on the streets of Sydney. **On Friday, 10 September, the St Mary's School Community supported the St Vincent De Paul Virtual Winter Appeal.** Families joined together at home to raise awareness and pray for those who are homeless.



COVID has been challenging time for the whole community but especially for those who are living rough without a home. As a parish we support the work of the St Vincent De Paul Society through the work of our Concord SVdP Conference. One way you can support this ongoing work is by volunteering your time and joining our parish team. Please contact the Parish Office for further details. You can still support the SVdP Winter Appeal and see more information about the St Mary's School Winter Appeal event by visiting the following link: [St Mary's Concord Donation Page- Family Winter Sleepout @ Home](#)



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

SEASON OF CREATION 2021

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."

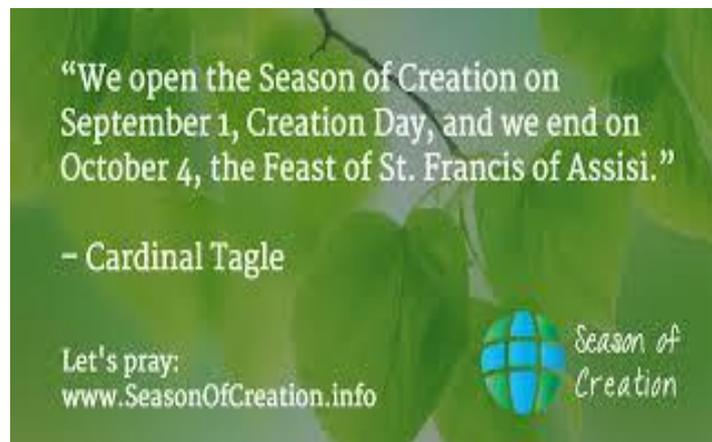
The theme uses the Greek word ***Oikos*** which means a home. Abraham and Sarah opened their tent as a home for three strangers, who turned out to be God's messengers (Genesis 18). By creating a home for all, their act of radical hospitality became a source of great blessing.

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* 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/>

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 as a community for the celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday.

When we do reopen, we will need to rebuild our teams of volunteers, such as those who previously took Holy Communion to the sick at home or in Aged Care facilities.

If you are interested in being part of this important reflection, join the Pastoral Council. New members are welcome. Contact Fr Paul at the Parish Office for more details.

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.

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*.

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).

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/>

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

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.

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/>

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/>

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

PARISH 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.