



## St Mary's Parish Concord

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

31 October 2021

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 6:2-6

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 18

R: I love you, Lord, my strength.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 7:23-28

Jesus holds his priesthood permanently.

GOSPEL: Mark 12:28-34

Love God and love your neighbour as yourself.

### PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray the world leaders gathered in Glasgow for the Climate Change Conference that they may work together to develop policies to care for the environment.

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

We pray for Giovanna Gallina, Peter Fochesato, Lorraine Grace, John Cammareri, Carmela Tomarchio, Fr Renato Paras and all those who have died recently.

We pray for Antonino Marchetta, Salvatore Tomarchio, Antonio & Nancy Bonaccorso, Vincenzo & Maria Rosa Pappalardo, Giovanni & Francesca Giannone, Angelo Coleiro, Conrado Ongsansoy, Colin Smith cfc and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time and all our deceased relatives and friends.

## CHURCH ATTENDANCE

The church is now open and normal parish Masses have resumed. Restrictions still apply:

•Attendees must check-in using the Service NSW App or by clearly recording their name and contact details on the form provided by the Parish.

•Social Distancing - 1 person per 4 square metres. Please only use every second pew. The capacity of the church is 150.

•Everyone must wear a mask, except when reading, presiding or singing.

•Hand Sanitiser is available at church entrances.

•Congregational singing is not permitted. A socially distanced choir of up to 10 fully vaccinated people is allowed.

The revised numbers for funerals and weddings only apply if everyone attending is fully vaccinated. If some remain unvaccinated, the former restrictions remain for weddings and funerals.

The 4 sqm rule limits the number who can attend a Mass in a particular church.

*See the parish website for more details.*

**PLEASE GET VACCINATED  
to protect all those most at risk.**

## CAN THE UNVACCINATED COME TO MASS?

Yes, because we are following the current NSW Health Guidelines. Those guidelines no longer list "Places of Worship" as higher risk sites and therefore, like shopping centres, churches are now open to all people regardless of their vaccination status, provided they are wearing masks and observing other social distancing requirements. The revised guidelines still require full vaccination for weddings and funerals.

## Acknowledgement of Country



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

**ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS:** Mass for the feast of All Saints is 8.30 am on Monday 1 November. Please note that All Saints is **not** a Holy Day of Obligation. The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day) is celebrated on 2 November. **There will be the usual morning Mass at St Mary's Concord on Tuesday 2 November at 8.30 am and a Mass at 7.30 pm.** Please note that the children have returned to school and parking restrictions apply in the morning to the school drop-off zone in Burton Street.

**NOVEMBER MASSES:** November is traditionally the month of the Holy Souls. Praying for those who have died is an ancient custom in the Church. It is also a long-established custom that all parish Masses during November are offered for those who have died. **November Mass envelopes** are available on the table at the back and in the side porch of the Church for those who wish to have their deceased relatives and friends included in the November Masses.

**The envelopes may be placed in the basket that remains at the front of the altar during November.** The offerings that are made for November Masses are combined to determine the number of Masses to be offered.

Because there are more Masses than can be celebrated at St Mary's, November Mass offerings are also sent to priests working in the Missions who will offer Masses for the deceased members of our parish community.

In recent years many of the November Mass offerings given by parishioners have been sent to the Bishop of Iquitos, Peru. Fr John Andersen, a Sydney priest, has been working in Iquitos for 30 years. Our offerings are distributed to the local priests working in poorer parish communities. In return for our assistance those priests pray for our deceased family and friends in their Masses.

**VOTIVE CANDLES** A long Christian tradition has linked lighting a candle to prayers of petition. When we pray for a particular intention or for someone who has died, lighting a candle often provides a visible expression of our prayer. That is also why we give a donation so that it becomes "my candle" that I am offering as a sign of my prayer.

For safety reasons many churches have moved to electric votive candles. We have two electric votive candle stands to give parishioners an opportunity to "light" a candle. You simply need to touch the button in front of the candle.

We also have a votive candle stand in the shrine of *S Maria Vergine Annunziata* at the back of the church. It offers an opportunity to light a specially designed candle that fits into a glass holder. Please do not lift the glass holders out of the stand, simply place the candle into the cup and use the lighter that is provided. A donation can be placed in the box at the front of the stand.

## SUPPORTING THE PARISH

Thank you to all who have continued to support the parish in these difficult times.

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 are available in the church.

**SUNDAY COLLECTIONS:** The normal practice of passing the collection plates remains suspended. There are two containers at the back of the church and at the side door 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 now available at the doors of the church. Tap once to donate the amount shown. **Please note that receipts cannot be issued for donations and the transactions cannot be reversed.**

## TAX RECEIPT FOR PLANNED GIVING

Printed tax receipts are available from the table at the back of the church. The tax deduction for the *Parish Planned Giving* is only provided for those contributors who have already nominated that they require a *tax receipt*.

## 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.

Many of the things that we took for granted in the past still cannot happen. We still cannot gather as a community for the celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday.

**As we reopen, we 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.**

Many of our volunteers are senior members of our community and face their own health issues. **We particularly need younger members of the parish to become more involved. Can you help?** Contact Fr Paul at the Parish Office for more details.

## 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 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](mailto:info@stmconcord.catholic.edu.au) or visit the school website for more information [www.stmconcord.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmconcord.catholic.edu.au).



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](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au)

**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/>

**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/>

**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 [jpointo@sydneycatholic.org](mailto: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.



# 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).

**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.

**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)

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

# 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)**