



## St Mary's Parish Concord

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Year B

17 September 2021

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

**FIRST READING:** Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

*Let us test him with insult and torture.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Ps 54

**R:** The Lord upholds my life.

**SECOND READING:** James 3:16 – 4:3

You ask and do not receive because you ask wrongly.

**GOSPEL:** Mark 9:30-37

Whoever wants to be first must be last of all.

### PRAYER INTENTIONS

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 Mario Guerrera, Joan Hutchens and all those who have died recently. We remember and pray for Tony Biasi, Carmela Vecchio, Rosina DeMasi, Giovanni & Maria-Theresa DeMasi, Julie McKeown, Angelo Agueci, A Soosaitasan, M Uruthiran and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

### 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.*

## 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. **Last 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 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](#)

## ST MARY'S SCHOOL COMMUNITY TRIVIA CHALLENGE

The St Mary's School Community Parent Association are excited to host a virtual Trivia Challenge on **Saturday 2nd October at 6.30pm (log on from 6.15pm)** This is an opportunity for households to participate in a night of fun and competition with fellow St Mary's families. All are welcome!

At a time where we can't physically come together, we can continue to build our strong school and parish spirit by coming together virtually! Questions will be tailored to both adults and children so that everyone can participate. The cost per household is \$20 with \$5 of each ticket sold going towards purchasing books for the school library.

'Time for Trivia' will be running the event. All you need to participate is access to 2 devices per household (e.g. an iPad, computer, Smart TV). One device is used to access zoom, where the host will be presenting and other to answer the trivia questions.

Tickets can be purchased here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/st-marys-school-concord-parents-association-trivia-night-tickets-170553572326>

## Acknowledgement of Country



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

## 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



## 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/>



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)

## 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 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.



### 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).

**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](mailto:info@stmconcord.catholic.edu.au)  
Visit the school website for more information [www.stmconcord.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmconcord.catholic.edu.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/>

**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/>

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



**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](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)

**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)

**GIFT OF BREAD:** The *Gift of Bread* program has created a donation page called "**Who gives a loaf?**"