



## St Mary's Parish Concord

### 4th Sunday of Advent

Year C

19 December 2021

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

**FIRST READING:** Micah 5:2-5

From you Bethlehem will come the ruler of Israel.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Ps 80

**R:** Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face  
and we shall be saved.

**SECOND READING:** Hebrews 10:5-10

I come to do your will.

**GOSPEL:** Luke 1:39-45

Mary greeted Elizabeth.

### PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray that all world leaders will 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 Gloria McLachlan, Allison Hulse, Jimmy Lavin (Ireland), Fr Joe Stowers (Samoa), Fr Etuale Etuale, Vine Asa Leausa, Angelo Adamo and all those who have died recently.

We pray for Gino Cortiana, Maria Cecillia Nguyen, Fr Peter Humphries, John Tannous, Richard Abrahams, Tannous Yousef Tannous and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time; for Edmund Walsh, Norm & Sid Mouawad, Moussa, Hanna & Johnny Mouawad and all our deceased relatives and friends.

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

**No Bookings Required**

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

Friday 24 December

6.00 pm Vigil Mass for Christmas

9.00 pm Mass during the Night

*Please note there is NO MASS  
at 12.00 Midnight*

#### CHRISTMAS DAY

Saturday 25 December

Masses at 7.30 am, 9.30 am and 11.00 am

**NO EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY**

#### SUNDAY 26 DECEMBER

#### THE HOLY FAMILY

Masses 9.30 am and 6.00 pm

#### SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (RECONCILIATION)

**Saturday from 5.00 pm to 5.30 pm.**

The last opportunity for the 1<sup>st</sup> Rite (individual)

Reconciliation at St Marys Concord before Christmas  
will be Saturday 18 December

### Acknowledgement of Country



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

#### THE ADVENT WREATH

*The fourth candle is called the Angel's candle to remember the heralds of Christ's birth. You are invited to join in the response.*

Lord Jesus, the angel Gabriel announced your coming to the Virgin Mary.

**Response:**

**Come and lead us to share your joy and peace.**

Lord Jesus, the angels sang at your birth of the peace given to all people who enjoy God's favour.

**Come and lead us to share your joy and peace.**

Lord Jesus, the angel came to strengthen you in the garden in your time of need.

**Come and lead us to share your joy and peace.**

## CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Please see the revised NSW Government restrictions.

All people may attend Masses. Please check-in using the QR code. All pews are now available but please continue to observe social distancing when possible. Face masks are no longer mandatory but are recommended.

See the parish website for more details.

**LIVE STREAMING MASS:** We began live-streaming the parish 9.30 am Mass in December 2020. When we were locked-down in June 2021, the live-streaming provided a valuable link for our parish community. **A small team of volunteers enabled that to happen. Are you interested in becoming part of that team?** Our 9.30 am Sunday Mass can be viewed on the parish Facebook page (St Marys Parish Church Concord) and on the parish YouTube channel. [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL0awxfUmJ6XjHJZcqsR2\\_A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL0awxfUmJ6XjHJZcqsR2_A)

**The 9.30 am Mass on Christmas Day will also be live streamed.**

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The Concord Conference of the SVdP Society thank the parish community and the families of St Mary's School for their generous support of the SVdP Christmas Appeal.

**NEW YEAR'S DAY: Saturday 1 January 2022** is the feast of Mary, Mother of God. There is only one Mass on 1 January at 8.30 am, the normal weekday Mass time. **It is not a holy day of obligation.**

**SUNDAY 2 January** is the feast of the Epiphany. The normal Sunday Mass times will apply: Vigil Mass at 6.00 pm (Saturday 1 January) and 9.30 am and 6.00 pm on Sunday 2 January.

**ST MARY'S SCHOOL NEWS:** Ms Anna Marsella will be leaving St Mary's School at the end of this school year after nine years as principal. The parish community will have the opportunity to thank Anna at the 9.30 am Mass on Sunday, 19 December. In 2022 we will welcome Ms Elizabeth Pisano as the new principal of St Mary's School.

**LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS** St Mary's Cathedral Forecourt from 9 to 25 December. Join in Sydney's favourite free Christmas tradition, uniting families, locals and tourists with a display of digital storytelling projected onto St Mary's Cathedral. Light show 8.30 to 11.00 pm. Choirs from 7.30 pm. COVID Health restrictions are in place. To enter the site you will need to scan the QR code and show proof of vaccination or proof of a medical exception. For more details go to: <https://lightsofchristmas.com.au/>



## ADVENT – WAITING IN HOPE

The Season of Advent opens the Church's liturgical year. The English word "advent" comes from the Latin *adventus* and literally means "coming". In pagan Rome "adventus" was the word for the celebration of the anniversary of the coming of the Emperor.

The early Christians took over the term and used it for the time of preparation for Christmas when they celebrated the first coming of Christ. That remains the focus of the last week of Advent.

However, the season begins by looking to the future, not to Christmas but to the second coming of Christ in glory. In that sense the first weeks of Advent continue the focus of the last Sunday of the Church's year, the feast of Christ the King.

By the end of the fourth century, as the Christmas season became established in Spain and Gaul, Advent emerged as a time of preparation for those who were to be baptized on the feast of the Epiphany and so it came to be seen as a "second Lent".

At one time it extended for 40 days from the feast of St Martin (11 November) to the Epiphany (6 January) leading to the popular name of "St Martin's Lent".

The traditional use of purple or violet vestments recalls that connection with Lent. But Advent is not a penitential season. At St Mary's, we distinguish the different seasons by using a blue-purple for Advent and red-purple for Lent.

In Rome the season of Advent did not become established until the middle of the sixth century. By then the link with preparation for Baptism had diminished as had the earlier penitential practices. Pope Gregory the Great (591-604) reduced Advent to four Sundays to make a clear distinction between Advent and Lent.

In Advent we continue to use Alleluia as our Gospel acclamation but the *Gloria* is not said or sung. It is omitted so that may resound with greater freshness at Christmas.

Popular devotions such as the Advent wreath give a focus to our waiting in hope for the coming of Christ.

*Paul Crowley*

## 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.**

### 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.

**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.

**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)

### 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

**HERITAGE SIGNS:** In 2020 St Mary's Parish commissioned five heritage signs to mark the sesquicentenary of the parish. They 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). The signs have been placed close to the original locations of the buildings.

**THE PRESBYTERY:** When Father Callaghan McCarthy was appointed parish priest in 1870, he lived in a cottage on the Burwood side of Parramatta Road until the presbytery (the priest's residence) was built in 1882. It stood on the northern side of the 1874 church and faced Burton Street.



*The Presbytery was on the eastern side of the church and faced Burton Street.*

The original building was extended several times as the needs of the parish changed. As well as providing a residence for the priests, it also served as the office for the parish until 1994 when the parish office was relocated to 4 Ada Street.

The presbytery continued to be as the residence for the priests of the parish until 2002. It was demolished in 2008 to make way for the new St Mary's Villa.

**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 *Santa 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. A donation can be placed in the box at the front of the stand.



## 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 Sesqicentenary of the founding of St Mary's Parish (1870-2020).

**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/>



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.

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)

**RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREATS:** offer healing and hope to women and men hurt by an abortion experience. 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).

## 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)**