



## St Mary's Parish Concord

### The Holy Family

Year C

26 December 2021

#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

**FIRST READING:** 1 Samuel 1: 20-28

Samuel is given to the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Ps 84

**R:** Blessed are they who dwell in your house O Lord.

**SECOND READING:** 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

We are called children of God.

**GOSPEL:** Luke 2:41-52

His parents found him in the temple.

#### 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 Jack Adams, Pippo (Joe) Senzio, David Bradley (Ireland), Fr Jim Esler SM and all those who have died recently.

We pray for Diogo Cardozo, Jean McKibbin, Domenico Cellucci, Maria-Elizabetta & Giuseppe Monteleone, Antonietta & Pasquale DeMasi and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time and for all our deceased relatives and friends.

#### 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.

#### CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Please see the revised NSW Government restrictions: [www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/stay-safe/rules](http://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/stay-safe/rules)

**All people may attend Masses. Face masks are once again mandatory.**

**Please continue to check-in using the QR code.**

**All pews are now available but please continue to observe social distancing when possible.**

**From Monday 27 December we will return to the 2 sqm rule and that rule limits our capacity to 300.**

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

#### LIVE STREAMING FROM ST MARY'S

We began live streaming the parish 9.30 am Mass in December 2020. When we were locked-down from June to October 2021, the live streamed Mass provided a valuable link for our parish community. **The dynamic coverage is made possible because someone is directing the cameras.** A small team of volunteers has enabled that to happen each Sunday. **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)

It is also possible to view the Mass on the parish

**ST MARY'S SCHOOL NEWS:** Ms Anna Marsella is leaving St Mary's School at the end of this school year after nine years as principal. In 2022 we will welcome Ms Elizabeth Pisano as the new principal of St Mary's School.

## 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.

### ST MARY'S PARISH MOMENTS IN HISTORY

Monsignor Edmund Bond died on 22 December 1958. Born in Sydney in 1894 Edmund was ordained a priest in 1916 at the age of 22.

Fr Edmund Bond was appointed the Administrator of St Mary's Concord in March 1932 and was then appointed the Parish Priest on 22 May 1932.

He led the parish with great energy until his health failed in late 1957. While he remained the Parish Priest, he was too frail to continue his ministry. He died on 22 December 1958 at the age of 64 years. He had been a priest for 42 years and had served the people of Concord for 26 years.

**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.



**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)



## 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).

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