



## St Mary's Parish Concord

### The Epiphany of the Lord

2 January 2022

#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 60:1-6

*The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Psalm 72

*Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*

**SECOND READING:** Ephesians 3:2-6

*The Gentiles have become fellow heirs of the promise.*

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 2:1-12

*We have come from the East to pay homage.*

#### PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for Pippo Senzio, Maria Daidone, Mary Thygesen and all those who have died recently.

We pray for George Kheir, Carmelo Iannelli, Trish Pocock, Cleveland & Ivy Pigott, Bishop Geoff Robinson and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

We pray for Yousseff Germanos, Edmund Walsh, Clement & Lois Walsh, James & Helen McKenzie and all our deceased family members, friends and parishioners.

We pray for all those who are sick and for the health care workers and all who care for the sick.

**LIVE STREAMING MASSES:** The 9.30 am Sunday Mass is live streamed to on the parish Facebook page (St Marys Parish Church Concord) and to the parish YouTube channel.

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL0awxfUmJ6XjHjZcqsR2\\_A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL0awxfUmJ6XjHjZcqsR2_A)

While we encourage all who can to join us on Sundays, we know that some older and frail parishioners are not able to come to the church.

#### CHURCH ATTENDANCE UPDATE

All are welcome to join us at our Sunday and weekday Masses. No bookings are required.

Face masks are mandatory. Please continue to check-in using the QR code.

The "No Sitting" signs have reappeared to encourage everyone to observe social distancing.

If you are unwell, please do not come to the church.

See the parish website for more details

#### CHRISTMAS 2021

Our parish Christmas celebrations were again impacted by the spread of the COVID virus in the community. Thank you to all those who were able to join us under difficult circumstances.

Our thanks to all who assisted at our Masses: wardens, Communion ministers, readers, and others who helped to prepare the church.

Special thanks to Jessica Di Bartolo and our choir, supported by Catherine Kim at the organ and our guitarists David and Dylan.

Our musicians and singers assisted at three Christmas Masses to help lift our spirits as we gave thanks to God for the birth of Jesus.

On a more personal note, I thank you for your Christmas greetings, and for the cards and gifts I received.

*Paul Crowley, Parish Priest*



**Adoration of the Magi**  
**Bartolome Esteban Murillo (1617-1682)**  
*(Public Domain Work)*

## THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

In the Church's calendar the Christmas season begins on Christmas Eve with the Vigil Mass and continues until the feast of the Baptism of the Lord which takes the place of the First Ordinary Sunday of the Year.

Traditionally the Epiphany is celebrated on 6th January, the twelfth day of Christmas. In many countries, including Australia, the feast is transferred to the Sunday closest to 6th January. This year we celebrate the Epiphany on Sunday 2 January and the Baptism of the Lord on Sunday 9 January.

The word **Epiphany** comes from the Greek word for "manifestation". In the western Church, the feast became associated with the manifestation of Jesus to the non-Jewish peoples through the visit of the Magi. Each year we read the account of the coming of the Magi that is found only in Matthew's Gospel (Mt 2:2-12). In Matthew's Gospel the Magi or wise men came from the East; that presumes that they were probably from Persia, modern Iran.

In the Eastern Churches the Epiphany was the original feast of Christ's birth. When the feast was adopted by the Western Church, it became a celebration of the revelation of God's eternal plan of salvation in Christ, manifested as "the light to enlighten all nations".

As Jesus came to reveal God's love for all peoples so we too are called to bring a message of peace and good-will to all the nations. That is an invitation to work with men and women of every race, religion and culture to bring peace to the world.

*Paul Crowley*

**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 1st and 2nd 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 to donate the set amount. Please note that receipts cannot be issued for donations and the transactions cannot be reversed.

**CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS:** Each Christmas donations made in the Christmas Offering envelopes supplement your contributions to the Sunday the first collection. As noted on the back of the envelope, your donation goes to the fund that provides an income to sick priests and priests working in special ministries. An example is Fr John Andersen, a Sydney priest who has been working in Peru for the past 30 years. The Sydney Priests' Fund pays John a salary that enables him to continue his ministry in Iquitos, Peru.

Follow us on Twitter   
**St Marys@ParishConcord**

## 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. In 2022 we need directors. **Are you interested in becoming part of the live-streaming 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)

**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.

## 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.

**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.

## Are you struggling in this time of crisis?

Depression. Anxiety. Loneliness. Conflict. Stress. CCareline 13 18 19 is 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 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).



For help finding help,  
call CCareline  
on 13 18 19



## 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)**