



St Mary's Parish Concord

The Baptism of the Lord

Year C

9 January 2022

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
The glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 104
O bless the Lord, my soul!

SECOND READING: Paul to Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7
God saved us through the water of rebirth.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22
The heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for Rosario Costa, Jack Adams, Fr Michael Butler and all those who have died recently.

We pray for Joseph Sackar, Tom Anthony, Fr Grove Johnson and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time and for 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.

Acknowledgement of Country



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

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

SUNDAY & ORDINARY TIME

Changes in society have already led many to see Sunday as just another day in the week. But for us it remains the day when we gather as a community to celebrate our relationship with God in Christ.

Unfortunately, over the past two years the COVID pandemic lockdowns have further eroded our sense of the community gathering on Sundays. We continue to face that challenge.

Technology has helped us to stay in touch with family and friends when we could not meet face to face, but it is a poor substitute for normal human contact. We all look forward to a time when we can again safely gather to celebrate the Eucharist together.

We are also about to return to what we call the Ordinary Sundays. It is a short-hand name for *Ordinary Time throughout the Year.*

The Liturgical Year of the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church is framed by the two great feasts: Easter and Christmas. The Liturgical Year begins with Advent, the season when we prepare for Christmas. Lent, which this year begins on 2 March (Ash Wednesday), will then lead us to the Easter Triduum and the Easter season.

In between the Advent-Christmas and Lent-Easter seasons are the Ordinary Sundays or Sundays in Ordinary Time.

The liturgical calendar was revised in 1969, following the reforms of Vatican II. After more than 50 years, we have become familiar with the term *Ordinary Time* for these "in between" Sundays.

Yet for some, the English word "ordinary" can give the impression that these Sundays are not important. One consequence has been a tendency to introduce theme Sundays such as "Social Justice Sunday" and "Marriage & Family Sunday" into the calendar.

While there are many important issues on which we need to reflect, the danger is that we lose sight of the essential meaning of Sunday.

We know that in many European languages, Sunday is called the "Lord's Day" and from the earliest centuries it has been the day on which Christians have gathered to celebrate the Eucharist.

*Paul Crowley,
Parish Priest*

MEMORIAL MASS: The Scerri family will be gathering here at St Mary's Church at 6.30 pm on Friday 14 January to remember and to pray for Anneliese on the first anniversary of her death. Anneliese Scerri was an active member of the parish community. All are welcome to join them.

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?**

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

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.

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.

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.

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

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.



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



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.

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