



St Mary's Parish Concord

Resurrection of the Lord

Easter Sunday

Year C

17 April 2022

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34, 36-43

We ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 118

**This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.**

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-4

Seek the things that are above, where Christ is.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:1-12

Why do you look for the living among the dead.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for Anita Liccardello, Eileen Barry, Alfio Franco, Margaret Elias and all those who have died recently; we remember Cath & Frank Collins, Teresa Fitzmaurice and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time, and for all our deceased family members, friends, and parishioners.

We pray for peace in the world and especially for the people of Ukraine.

We pray for all those affected by floods and other natural disasters.

We pray for all health care worker and all those who continue to work to protect the community.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE UPDATE: All are welcome to join us at our Sunday and weekday Masses. Face masks are no longer mandatory for the church. However, masks are recommended for those indoor settings where it is not possible to maintain social distancing. Please respect other people's space.



Caritas Australia Ukraine Appeal

The continuing violence in Ukraine is a humanitarian crisis. Over three million people have been forced from their homes and thousands of civilians have lost their lives.

Our long-standing partner, Caritas Ukraine, is on the ground, supporting people in need during this humanitarian crisis.

Your urgent support today will help provide critical assistance including emergency shelter, food, clean water, transportation services, and psychological support to people affected by this crisis.

Donate today at www.caritas.org.au/ukraine or call 1800 024 413 toll free.

*Christ is Risen
Alleluia, Alleluia*

Acknowledgement of Country



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

BLESSING OF A HOME AT EASTER:

Families are invited to take Easter Water from the Baptism Font. Small "Holy Water" bottles are available from the table near the Baptism Font. A simple prayer, *Blessing of a Home at Easter*, is also available from the table.

EASTER OFFERINGS:

Envelopes are available on the pews. Easter Offerings, together with your contributions throughout the year to the first collection, go to the support of the clergy. Your contributions also assist those smaller parishes where the local community cannot support a priest. It is one of the ways that we as a community help to support struggling parishes.

**We congratulate
Austin Yeung & Sonyla Zarb
who received the Sacraments of
Christian Initiation at the Easter Vigil**

THE EASTER CANDLE: Each year the Easter Vigil begins with the entry into the darkened church of the new Paschal Candle, the symbol of Risen Christ, the Light of the world. The 2022 Paschal Candle has been made by the Benedictine nuns of Jamberoo Abbey and was generously donated to the parish by a parishioner. During the Easter Season the Paschal Candle remains near the altar. After Pentecost Sunday it is placed near the Baptism Font.

**Congratulations to the students and families
of St Mary's Primary School for raising over
\$1200 for Project Compassion.**

This is an amazing effort along with their recent donations to the Vinnies Flood Appeal and Tonga Relief Appeal.

PROJECT COMPASSION: Caritas Australia thanks you for supporting Project Compassion. If you still have a box or envelopes at home, we encourage you to return them next Sunday. You can still donate online at lent.caritas.org.au or by calling 1800 024 413

CONFIRMATION 2022: Registrations have now closed. Thank you to all those who have registered.

EUTHANASIA LAWS IN NSW Sign an ePetition



A debate on euthanasia and assisted suicide has resumed in the NSW Parliament. A petition against this Bill can be signed using the QR code above or go to the website for the Archdiocese of Sydney

Easter Thanks

Although we still live under the shadow of COVID, we give thanks that this year we have been able to gather to celebrate the Easter Triduum. We pray for those in many places who are still suffering because of the continuing COVID pandemic.

Parishioners who are still unable to join us each Sunday greatly appreciate the livestreaming of the 9.30 am Mass. Special thanks to Angela Kwa and James Kennedy for their expert direction each Sunday of the church video cameras.

Our thanks to all those who have prayerfully participated in our Easter Triduum celebrations and especially those who have assisted as readers, acolytes, special minister of Communion and wardens.

Our celebrations have been greatly enhanced by the contribution of our musicians and singers. The choir, led by Jessica Di Bartolo and supported by our organist Catherine Kim, gave up many hours to prepare for the Easter Triduum. They continue to lead us in song every week at the Sunday 9.30 am Mass.

We thank Poppy & Albert Becerra for assisting with the Veneration of the Cross on Good Friday. Thanks to those who participated in the Washing of Feet ritual during the Mass of the Lord's Supper and to Catherine Tudehope who organized the volunteers.

We thank those who continue to work behind the scenes: Jenni McEntee, our Parish Secretary, supports the work of the Parish and the parish volunteers.

We also thank Fr Gerard Kelly for his continuing presence among us. Gerard joined us this year at the Easter Vigil and continues to preside at the Sunday evening Mass on the second Sunday of the month.

As a parish community we are indeed fortunate to have many dedicated people who consistently give of their time and talents to support our worship.

*Paul Crowley,
Parish Priest*

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.

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.

St Mary's School Concord

The First School Building 1894



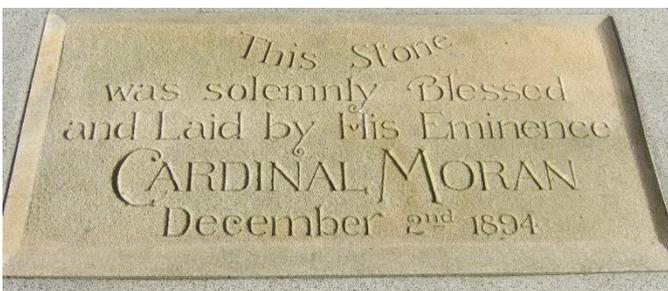
The photo of the 1894 school was taken 1917 as the hall was under construction (on the left).

The 1845 church also served as a hall and from 1846 as a classroom for a one-teacher school with John Clancy as the first schoolmaster.

When John Clancy retired due to ill health in 1858, he was followed by a series of lay teachers. Records are unclear about the school's operation in the 1860s but when St Mary's Parish was established in 1870, the existing one-teacher school became part of St Mary's Parish.

When the New South Wales Colonial Government withdrew funding for denominational schools in 1879, it became more difficult for the parish to pay the salary of the teacher and to maintain the school.

Fr Callaghan McCarthy, the first parish priest, asked the Sisters of Charity to take charge of the school and in 1883 the Sisters began travelling each day from Ashfield to teach in the school-hall.



The first school building was erected on the parish site in 1894. It stood on the western side of the present Church Forecourt on what is now the "grass" area within the school precinct. The foundation stone laid by Cardinal Moran can now be seen on the western side of the church steps.

St Mary's School continued to grow and expand. In 1917 a new hall was built with classrooms above and after the present church opened in 1929, the second church built in 1874 was used for classes.

In 1940 a new infants' school building was built facing Burton Street and in 1956 a Commercial College for girls was built on the site of the second church.

When more classrooms were needed in the 1970s, the first school building that had opened in 1894 was demolished to make way for a new block of classrooms which was blessed and opened by Archbishop James Freeman on 3 September 1972.

Kindergarten moved into the new classrooms until almost forty years later when, in 2011, another new classroom block was built for Kindergarten along the Parramatta Road boundary of the school precinct. That project also enabled the 1972 classrooms to be demolished to create the present "grass" area.



The 1972 block after the 2000-2001 renovations – it was demolished in 2011.

PARKING ON SUNDAYS: One of the limitations that we face is the very limited parking that is available. Some off-street parking is available in the Church Forecourt via the Parramatta Road gates. The Burton Street entrance is the emergency access for St Mary's Villa and can only be used as a drop-off point. The spaces behind the church, including the disabled space, are for short-term visitors to the Villa, who are picking up or returning a resident and need to accompany the person to their room.

SYDNEY METRO WEST is the new metro railway connecting Parramatta to the Sydney central business district (CBD). One of the stations, to be called Burwood North, is located at the corner of Parramatta Road and Burwood Road. For more information go to: <https://caportal.com.au/tfsw/sydmetrowest/virtual-station>

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 of Mary. 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).

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.

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



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



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

197 The Trongate, Granville

Ph: 02 9727 9290

stfrancis.org.au/house-of-welcome