



St Mary's Parish Concord

Second Sunday of Easter

Year C

24 April 2022

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 5:12-16

*More than ever believers were added to the Lord
great numbers of both men and women.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 118

Give thanks, for the Lord is good,
God's love is everlasting.

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:9 - 19

I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever.

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

A week later Jesus came and stood among them.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for Alfio Franco, Margaret Elias, Fr Ray Weaver and all those who have died recently.

We pray for Lionel Fonseka, Edoardo Bregolin and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time and for Luigi & Iolanda Moschetti, Edmund Walsh, Clement & Lois Walsh, James & Helen McKenzie and all our deceased family members, friends, and parishioners.

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

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

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

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.

ANZAC DAY: Each year we join with the wider Australian community to pray for those who have served in the Australian Defense Forces, particularly those who have been killed or injured in war.

ANZAC Day always falls in the Easter Season, a time when we remember that the Resurrection of Jesus has opened for us the way to eternal life.

The parish ANZAC Day Mass will be on Monday 25 April at 8.30 am.

CONFIRMATION: An enrolment ceremony for those who have registered for Confirmation will take place within the **9.30 am Mass next Sunday 1 May**. All candidates and their families are asked to join the parish community at the 9.30 am Mass.

Acknowledgement of Country



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

EUTHANASIA LAWS IN NSW

Sign an ePetition



**STAND AGAINST
EUTHANASIA**

Sign the e-petition to NSW Upper House MPs

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

THE EASTER SEASON

The Easter Triduum is the most solemn period in our liturgical calendar. The season of Lent concluded on Holy Thursday and the Triduum began on Holy Thursday evening with the Mass of the Lord's Supper. Easter Sunday marks the end of the Triduum but is also the beginning of the Easter Season.

The unity of the Easter Season, as an extended time of rejoicing, is also indicated by the fact that this Sunday is called the Second Sunday of Easter and not the first Sunday after Easter. It is also why no other feasts can take precedence over the Sundays of Easter. The one exception is the Ascension of the Lord, which can replace the 7th Sunday of Easter.

The Easter Season extends from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. This period of seven weeks or fifty days has its origin in *The Acts of the Apostles* (2:1-11) which describes the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles on the Jewish feast of Weeks (Shavuot). That feast was also known by the Greek name "Pentecost" because it was celebrated fifty days after the feasts of Passover and Unleavened Bread.

The three-year cycle of readings continues during the Easter Season and this year we continue to follow Year C.

Across the three years, the first reading is always taken from *The Acts of the Apostles*. Written by St Luke, it is the story of the growth of the early Christian communities and the role of the apostles as witnesses of the resurrection.

The Gospel readings on the Sundays of Easter are taken from *John's Gospel* which presents a different account of the teachings of Jesus from that found in the other three Gospels.

As a sign of the unity of the season, the Easter Candle, a symbol of the risen Lord, remains near the altar until the evening of Pentecost Sunday. It is lit during all Masses throughout the season.

To highlight the festive nature of the season many traditional prayers are also changed. The *Angelus* is replaced by the *Regina Caeli* and Alleluia is added to many prayers. There is also an ancient tradition that there is no kneeling during the Easter Season.

Paul Crowley

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.

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

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.

WORKERS NEED SECURE JOBS: Each year the Australian Bishops Conference publishes a message for the feast of St Joseph the Worker (1 May). In the context of a federal election campaign, this year's message calls on whoever forms the next government to have a policy that will promote decent work that is safe, secure, and fairly paid.

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, chair of the Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service, acknowledged in the message that working more than one job is a positive choice for some people.

"But for others it is a matter of economic necessity," he said. "They are cobbling together multiple part-time or casual jobs to try to make ends meet. This work is usually poorly paid and insecure.

"Casual and seasonal workers are not entitled to paid leave even when they are sick or must care for others. It is a stressful and uncertain way to live. Much of this work is undertaken by women. This type of work is hard on family life. It makes it difficult for young people to get a start in life."

To read the full statement go to:

<https://mediablog.catholic.org.au/bishop-workers-need-secure-jobs-fair-pay/>

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.

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.



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.

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

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



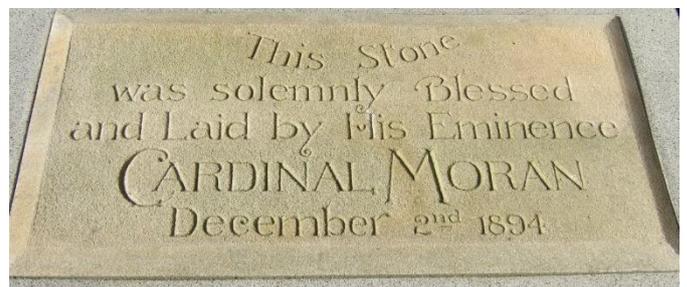
The photo of the 1894 school was taken 1917 as the hall was under construction (on the left).

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.



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

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.

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.

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).

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.

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>

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

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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
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stfrancis.org.au/house-of-welcome**