



## St Mary's Parish Concord

### 5th Sunday of Lent

Year C

3 April 2022

#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 43:16-21

*I will make a way in the wilderness.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Psalm 126

**The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

**SECOND READING:** Philippians 3:8-14

*I want to know Christ.*

**GOSPEL:** John 8:1-11

*Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone.*

#### PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for Luigi Moschetti and all those who have died recently. We pray for Maria Tringali, Mario Pieretti, Maria Cohil, Rocco Rinaldo, Michael & Elmaza Boumelhem and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time and for 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 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.



### Caritas Australia Ukraine Appeal

The escalating violence in Ukraine has become 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](http://www.caritas.org.au/ukraine) or call 1800 024 413 toll free.

### PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY 10 APRIL

It is the custom to bless palm or olive branches at all Masses. Please note that the people who have supplied palm branches to many parishes in the past are no longer able to do so. **Please bring your own palm or olive branch with you to Mass.** If you have a palm tree you may be able to bring extra branches to share with others. **The solemn blessing will take place in the Church at the beginning of the 9.30 am Mass.** It is not possible to hold the blessing and procession in the Forecourt due to the need to maintain appropriate social distance.

### Acknowledgement of Country



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

**CONFIRMATION 2022:** There will be two celebrations of Confirmation at St Mary's Concord in May. Registrations will close on Friday 8 April 2022. As some COVID Health restrictions could still apply in May, a limit has been placed on the number of candidates at each session. A few places are still available for Saturday 14 May at 3.00 pm.

## PROJECT COMPASSION *Providing Hope for*

**All Future Generations:** Shaniella 23, grew up in a remote village in the Solomon Islands in a province



which has limited educational and job opportunities and one of the country's highest poverty rates. After leaving school, she decided to move closer to the capital city, Honiara, to study hospitality and tourism. However, her vocational training school was hit by a landslide and cyclone in quick

succession, destroying its water supply system and the vegetable garden that it relies on for food.

With your generous support, Caritas Australia has helped the school to install water tanks, re-establish its garden and provided training in disaster risk reduction. Shaniella can now complete her job skills training and the school has enough food and water for its students.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help women like Rosalie to succeed in the future.**

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow. You can donate by placing your Project Compassion envelopes in the buckets for the parish collections or by visiting: [lent.caritas.org.au](http://lent.caritas.org.au) or by calling 1800 024 413

## 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 TRIDUUM 2022

### HOLY THURSDAY 14 April

*Please note there is no 8.30 am Mass*  
7.30 pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper

### GOOD FRIDAY 15 April

*Please note there is no 8.30 am Mass*  
10.00 am - Stations of the Cross  
3.00 pm - Celebration of the Passion

### HOLY SATURDAY 16 April

7.00 pm The Easter Vigil  
*Please note there is no 6.00 pm Vigil Mass*

### EASTER SUNDAY 17 April

Masses 7.30am, 9.30am & 6.00pm

## THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

The First Rite of Reconciliation (individual) is available on Saturdays from 5.00 to 5.30 pm in the Reconciliation Room near the Baptism Font. Saturday 9 April is the last opportunity for individual Reconciliation at St Mary's Concord before Easter.

## 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

**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.

**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/tfnsw/sydmetrowest/virtual-station>

## 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 School Concord

## The First School Building 1894



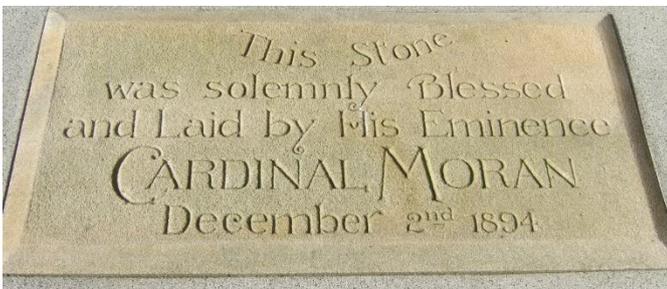
*The photo of the 1894 school was taken 1917 as the hall was under construction (on the left).*

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.*

**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.

### 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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL0awxfUmJ6XjHJZcqsR2_A)

# 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.



## 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)