



St Mary's Parish Concord

5th Sunday of Easter

Year C

15 May 2022

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 14:21-27

God opened the door of faith for the Gentiles.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 145

I will praise your name for ever, my King and my God.

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-5

God will wipe every tear from their eyes.

GOSPEL: John 13:1, 31 - 35

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for Giuseppe Guarrera, Pasquale Romano, Anita Liccardello, Helen Clutterbuck, Beryl Bolton, Filomena Sentore and all those who have died recently.

We pray for Tommaso Di Giovanni, Kath Travers, Leonie Crotty and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

We pray 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

WEEKDAY MASSES: Please note that there will be no Mass on Tuesday 17 May. A Communion Service will be held at 8.30 am.

CONFIRMATION

We congratulate the members of our parish community who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation this Saturday and Sunday

CWF APPEAL: The final Charitable Works Fund Appeal for the 2021-2022 financial year continues this Sunday. Your donations go directly towards the charitable and pastoral works of the Church in the Sydney Archdiocese. **Donations are 100% tax deductible. If you require a tax receipt, please complete all the details on the CWF envelope.** Envelopes can be placed in the black buckets. Your donation also assists the parish to meet its quota for the appeal. Thank you for your support.

ADULT CONFIRMATION: The Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered for adults by Bishop Terry Brady at St Mary's Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday, 5 June 2022 within the 10.30am Mass. This celebration is for adults who have not been confirmed and who may feel uncomfortable participating in the parish Confirmation with young people. **Registration is essential and is completed through the parish. Please contact the parish office by Friday 20 May to allow time for preparation.**

FAMILY ROSARY IN MAY All families are invited to join in a "Zoom Rosary" at 7.00 pm on Thursday 19 May. The Rosary is being hosted by the Family Educators from the Catholic schools of this area. The evening will begin with an introductory talk by Bishop Danny Meagher, to be followed by the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary. To join please click on the link in the parish bulletin on the parish website or put the link below into your browser:

<https://scscatholic.zoom.us/j/69757953061#success>

Acknowledgement of Country



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



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.

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.



EUTHANASIA LAWS IN NSW Sign an ePetition

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP has asked Catholics to support an e-petition launched by Upper House MLC Greg Donnelly opposing proposed euthanasia laws in NSW. To demonstrate your opposition to the proposed laws, sign the e-petition.

To find the link for the e-petition and for more information go to the parish bulletin on our website or to the Archdiocese of Sydney website.

PAPER PETITION: A petition form is also available on the table at the back of church. The form does require a name and address and signature.

CONFIRMATION, THE MASS AND THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Confirmation is one of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation and is therefore linked to Baptism and the Eucharist, which we first received at our First Holy Communion.

When an adult is baptized, the person is also confirmed and receives Communion in the one celebration. But for most of those born into a Catholic family, the more common experience is to be baptized as an infant, receive 1st Holy Communion about the age of 7 or 8 years and to be confirmed at age 12.

But that has been the common practice only since the early 20th Century. Before that time, it was more common for those baptized as infants to be confirmed at age 12 and then to receive 1st Holy Communion at the age of 15 when they were seen to have become adult members of their community.

Receiving Holy Communion is still the sign of full membership in the Church. But when the order of receiving the Sacraments changed over 100 years ago, Confirmation came to be seen as the final stage of Christian Initiation.

That change in the order led to an emphasis being placed on the personal choice of the candidate. The candidates are saying "yes" to gift of the Holy Spirit received at Baptism when they renew their Baptism promises. However, Confirmation like all the Sacraments is more about what God does.

Baptism and Confirmation are not the only times we receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is constantly being poured out upon us. Confirmation therefore celebrates that ongoing gift of the Holy Spirit that we first received at Baptism.

Confirmation is linked to Baptism, but the Eucharist (the Mass) remains the final stage of Christian Initiation because every time we share in the Eucharist, we are receiving again the gift of the Holy Spirit. We become one Body, one Spirit in Christ.

We are baptized and confirmed only once, but we constantly say "yes" to God in every Mass and then we go forth to live as children of God.

*Paul Crowley
Parish Priest*

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.



Laudato Si' Week (16-24 May) is a celebration of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* and a call to action for Catholics around the world to care for our common home. You can participate through prayer, action and reflection with the new resources for parishes, schools, organisations and individuals created by the ACBC Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace. Go to www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au

Didaskó

Catholic Adult Faith Formation

The Parish Renewal Team of the Archdiocese of Sydney is offering Sydney Catholics an opportunity to grow in their faith with spiritual, intellectual and practical formation.

Didaskó offers an online short course each month which aims to build a culture of formation in our parishes.

Courses are delivered online over three evenings at a cost of \$25 per course. Bishop Richard Umbers, Auxiliary Bishop in Sydney, will present the first course on Mondays 1 and 8 June, and Tuesday 14 June from 7:30pm-8:45pm, with the topic "What Catholic Christians Believe: An Introduction to the Catechism." Register at www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events/ For more information, contact Helen Wagner at parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org or go to the link to the information leaflet here: [A4 flyer](#)

WORKERS NEED SECURE JOBS: Each year the Australian Bishops Conference publish 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/>

St Mary's School Concord

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.

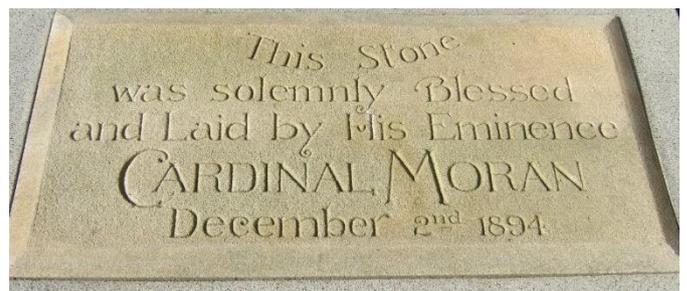


The First School Building 1894

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

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 on 2 December 1894 can now

be seen on the western side of the church stepsSt 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.

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.

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.

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).



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

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>



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

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

