

St Mary's Parish Concord

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Year C

8 May 2022

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 13:14, 43-52

I have set you to be a light for the Gentiles.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 100

We are God's people, the sheep of his flock.

SECOND READING: Revelation 7:9,14-17

The Lamb will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life.

GOSPEL: John 10:27-30

I give my sheep eternal life.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for Giuseppe Guarrera, Pasquale Romano, Sr Elizabeth Lusby OP, Mark Kennedy, George Mavromatis and all those who have died recently.

We pray for Philippe L'Olive, Rolande L'Olive, Antonio Logozzo, Fortunata Logozzo, Anna Grasso, Bruno Brancatisano 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, fires and other natural disasters.

CONFIRMATION will be celebrated over two sessions: **Saturday 14 May at 3.00 pm and Sunday 15 May at 11.00 am.** Bishop Terry Brady will celebrate on both days.

Happy Mother's Day

We give thanks for all mothers, grandmothers and caregivers; we also pray for women in many places who are living with violence and poverty.

CWF APPEAL: The final Charitable Works Fund Appeal for the 2021-2022 financial year is being held 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.

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. 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.

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*

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.

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



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.

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

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.

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.

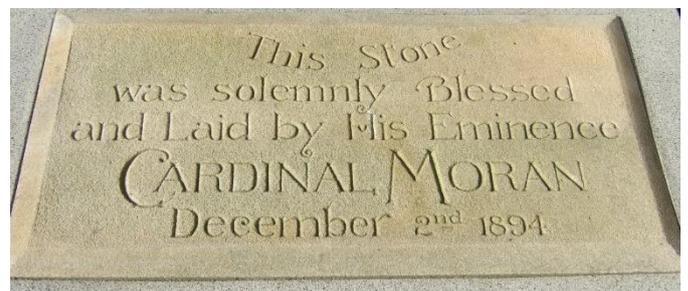
The First School Building 1894



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

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.



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

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.

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 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

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/tfnsw/sydmetrowest/virtual-station>

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



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

