



St Mary's Parish Concord

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

26 June 2022

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:16, 19-21

Elisha followed Elijah and became his servant

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 16:1

You are my inheritance, O Lord.

SECOND READING: Galatians 5:1 13-18

You were called to freedom.

GOSPEL: Luke 9:51-62

I will follow you wherever you will go.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for Vincenzo Cellucci and all those who have died recently.

We pray for Francesco Alvaro, Domenico Alvaro, Grazia Cutri, Giovanni & Francesca Giannone, Sheamus McGhee and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time; for Iolanda & Luigi Moschetti and for all our deceased family members, friends, and parishioners.

We pray for all health care workers 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.

SCHOOL ENROLMENT 2023: St Mary's School is now enrolling students for Kindergarten in 2023. An application form is available from the school office or phone 9744 0260 or email your request to info@stmconcord.catholic.edu.au

Visit the school website for more information www.stmconcord.catholic.edu.au.

We look forward to welcoming new families into the school and parish communities.

HOLY FATHER'S APPEAL: This appeal is held each year around the feast of Sts Peter & Paul (29 June) and unites parish communities around the world. Your gift will help Pope Francis to give assistance to those affected by natural disasters, wars, refugee crises and poverty. His care for those in need brings hope and the spirit of Christ to our less fortunate brothers and sisters around the world.

Envelopes are available on the table at the back of the church and in the side porch. Cash donations can be placed in an envelope and then placed in one of the parish collection buckets.

You can also use the envelope to donate by credit card and mail it directly to the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. Please do not send cash in the mail.

To support the appeal please use the envelopes provided.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated within a special 11.00 am Mass on Sundays 21 and 28 August 2022.

Registrations have now opened. Please email the Parish Office nominating either Sunday 21 August or 28 August and include your child's name. An information letter and enrolment form will be sent by return email.

Registration will close Friday 1 July or as soon as the capacity for each Mass is reached.

The number of family members present at these Masses will be limited due to the ongoing presence of COVID in the community.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ON OTHER DATES: Families can nominate to celebrate First Holy Communion at any parish Sunday Mass. There will be no limit on the number of family members present at a parish Mass.

If you wish to celebrate your child's First Holy Communion at a parish Sunday Mass, please contact the Parish Office to discuss possible dates.

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.



Mary MacKillop Today supports thousands of people in Timor-Leste, Peru, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and here in Australia, bringing hope to communities for generations to come.

Please pray for **Mary MacKillop Today** especially during the challenging times we all face, so that we can continue to transform lives through our vital works carrying on the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop.

If you'd like to learn about **Mary MacKillop Today** please contact us via Ph: (02) 8912 2763 Email: hello@marymackilloptoday.org.au or visit:

www.marymackilloptoday.org.au

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

My thanks to Monsignor Vince Redden who presided at the Sunday Masses (Vigil and 9.30 am) and to Fr Gerard Kelly who presided at the 6.00 pm Mass while I was away on my annual leave.

My thanks also to those who assisted in various ministries and supported the parish community not only on Sundays but also throughout the week at the morning Communion Services.

Vince is one of many retired priests who provide support for parish communities when their Parish Priest is away. He has been assisting us here at St Mary's since 2014 and he is now in his 80s.

If their health allows, our retired priests continue to serve the People of God. Most have worked in parishes for over fifty years, and many continued working as a Parish Priest into their late 70s.

It is understandable therefore that when they do retire, they do not wish to take on the fulltime care of a parish even for only a few weeks.

We cannot presume that there will always be a priest available to celebrate a Funeral, a Wedding, weekday Masses or even Sunday Masses.

The COVID 19 pandemic has also had an impact on many older parishioners who were active volunteers prior to the pandemic. We need more people to become involved in every area of parish life. **Can you help?** Contact the parish office for more details.

*Paul Crowley
Parish Priest*

NEW ENVELOPES: New sets of Planned Giving envelopes for 2022-23 are available at the back of the church, arranged in alphabetical order. Please note some envelope numbers have changed. For further information and to register for Planned Giving envelopes, please contact the parish office. If you now donate online and no longer require physical envelopes, please contact the parish office.

REMEMBERING MOMENTS IN COVID HISTORY

On Saturday 26 June 2021 the Sydney region went into its second extended lockdown. Churches were closed and all Masses were suspended. Participation was only possible via the livestreaming of the 9.30 am Mass on Sundays. Some restrictions were lifted on 11 October, but Sunday Masses only resumed with the Vigil Mass on Saturday 23 October 2021.

MARRIAGE Are you planning to celebrate your Marriage in 2023? Many couples begin their planning by booking a venue for the reception. If you are hoping to celebrate your marriage in a Catholic church, it is important to confirm your date with the church and with a priest before committing yourself to a reception or any other booking.

TAX RECEIPT FOR PLANNED GIVING

Thank you to all those who have been able to support the Mission of the parish through your contributions to the parish Sunday collections.

All those who contribute through the parish envelopes will receive a receipt but only those who have requested a **tax receipt** will receive one.

Because not all contributors require a *tax receipt*, in 2017 parishioners were asked to register with the parish if they did **require a tax receipt**.

Those who have registered for 2021-2022 will receive a tax receipt that gives 50% tax deductibility for contributions **received by 30 June 2022**.

We will presume that those who have registered in the past still wish to receive a tax deduction. However, if your circumstances have changed and you no longer require a *tax receipt* for 2022-2023, please contact the parish office.

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.

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 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.

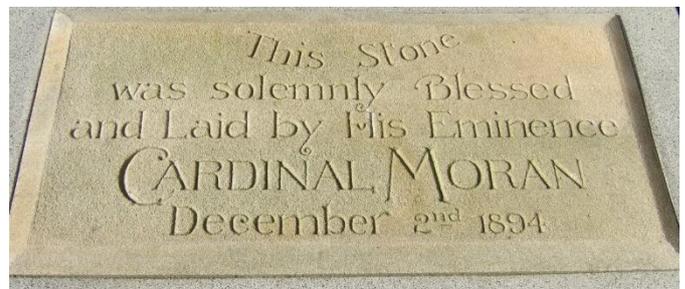
When John Clancy retired due to ill health in 1858, he was followed by a series of lay teachers. Records are unclear about the school's operation in the 1860s but when St Mary's Parish was established in 1870, the existing one-teacher school became part of St Mary's Parish.



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 steps. St Mary's School continued to grow and expand.



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

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.

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. 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



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

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. 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).



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.

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](#)

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**