



St Mary's Parish Concord

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

17 July 2022

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 18:1-10

Lord, do not pass by your servant.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 14

The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

SECOND READING: Colossians 1:24-28

The mystery hidden throughout the ages has now been revealed to his saints.

GOSPEL: Luke 10:38-42

Martha welcomed Jesus into her home.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

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

We pray that all Australians will work together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to achieve reconciliation and real structural change.

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

We pray for Jaime Jocson, Mary Debeck, Robert Kinnes and all those who have died recently.

We pray for Elsie Guinness, Gianni Licciardello, Carmelo Rizzo and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time and for all our deceased family members, friends, and parishioners.

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.

THE HOSPITALITY OF GOD

Earlier this year, as we began reading Luke's Gospel, I noted in the Parish Bulletin (see Sunday 23 January) that the Australian Jesuit priest and scripture scholar Brendan Byrne has called his book on Luke's Gospel, *The Hospitality of God*.

Byrne believes that the idea of "hospitality" is one of the keys that can help us to understanding Luke. Many important moments in Luke's Gospel are in the context of a meal where Jesus either offers hospitality or shares in the hospitality of others.

This Sunday's reading (Luke 10:38-42) is a very clear example. On the journey to Jerusalem Jesus accepts the hospitality of Martha and Mary.

In the past this passage was often used to promote the view that the contemplative life is superior to a more active ministry. But is that what is meant by the words of Jesus, "Mary has chosen the better part"?

Although Jesus is the guest in this scene, at the very heart of Luke's Gospel is the understanding that Jesus is the one who offers us hospitality.

As Byrne puts it "Luke sees the whole life and ministry of Jesus as a visitation on God's part to Israel and the world."

That visitation by God was reflected in today's first reading from the Book of Genesis (18:1-10). Abraham offers hospitality to three strangers, but it is his guests who provide the gift.

That is what Mary understood. Jesus may appear to be the guest, but he is the one who is offering hospitality to those who are open to receive it.

In Luke "Salvation" is the invitation to share in the hospitality of God but it is not just the end point of the journey, it is the journey itself.

The invitation is to be one with God now, not just in the future. We share in the hospitality of God every Sunday when we gather to celebrate the Eucharist.

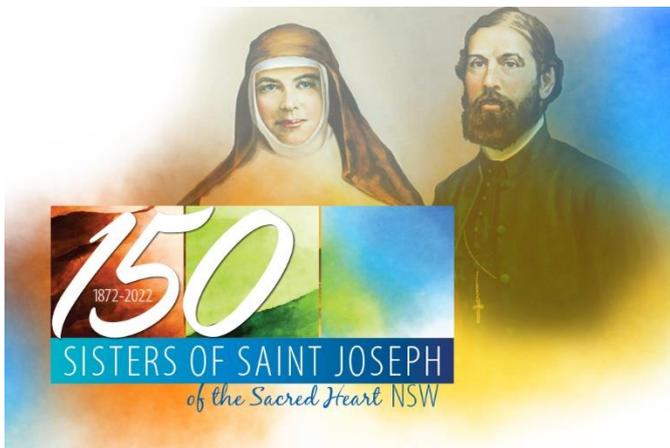
Like Mary we need to put aside the demands of everyday life and be attentive to the Word of God, to the invitation that is being offered to us.

Paul Crowley

Acknowledgement of Country



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



The Sisters of Saint Joseph celebrate 150 years of the Congregation's presence in New South Wales since their arrival in Perthville on 16 July 1872. We invite you to read about this special milestone: <https://www.sosj.org.au/celebrating-150-years-in-nsw/>

SUPPORTING OUR PARISH There are many ways parishioners continue to support the Mission and work of the parish: the Planned Giving program, Tap n' Go donations and cash donations placed in the collection buckets each Sunday. Increasingly, we are becoming a cashless society. For your convenience this QR Code allows secure credit donations to be made to the parish through the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.



The QR Code will take you directly to the Donation Page on our parish website. If you select the default option (Sunday collections) your donation will automatically be split between the normal parish 1st and 2nd collections.

Alternatively, you can scroll down for other options.

Are Australians less religious? There's more to the story. This month the Australian Bureau of Statistics released findings from the 2021 National Census, including trends in religious affiliation. Newspaper headlines are declaring that Australians are less religious than ever before, but there is more to the story—especially when we explore the findings from the NCLS 2021 Australian Community Survey.

The National Church Life Survey (NCLS) conducts a five-yearly survey and has had millions of participants. Decades of rigorous and thoughtful work has examined wellbeing, spirituality and church health. The latest NCLS Research newsletter explores what Australians of different ages think about

religion, church and faith. **To read more go to the NCLS website or go to**

<https://mailchi.mp/ncls/ncls-research-enews-are-australians-less-religious?e=37e705d4c6>

Caritas Australia Ukraine Appeal

The continuing violence in Ukraine is a humanitarian crisis. Over three million people have been displaced and thousands of civilians have lost their lives. Our long-standing partner, Caritas Ukraine, is on the ground to provide support for those forced from their homes.



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RECEIPT FOR PLANNED GIVING AND OTHER APPEALS

Receipts for 2021-2022 have been emailed to those who requested their receipt be emailed. For others, a printed receipt can be collected from the table at the back of the church.

A tax receipt for the *Parish Planned Giving* is only provided to those contributors who nominated prior to 1 July 2021 that they required a *tax receipt*. In those cases, the parish *Planned Giving* receipt should show two figures: the amount contributed and the amount that is tax deductible.

OTHER APPEALS: Those who contributed to various other appeals during 2021-2022 (CWF Appeals, Project Compassion, Priests' Retirement Foundation) **and also requested a tax receipt for those contributions** should find their contributions listed on their receipt.

If you have any questions, please contact the parish office by email or phone 97474210 Monday to Thursday between 9.00 am and 3.00 pm.

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.

Classroom Music Teachers Wanted

Sydney Catholic Schools (SCS) is looking for specialist Instrumental tutors in Brass, Woodwind and Strings and Classroom Music Teachers with an ability to teach Drama and Dance to work in SCS primary and secondary schools, from one to five days per week. Tutors will commence in Term 1, 2023. All Classroom Music Teacher positions will be advertised from Monday, 25 July. For further information, please contact the SCS Recruitment team at: hr.recruitment@syd.catholic.edu.au.

SIERRA LEONE SUPPORT

In early 2003 the Parish Pastoral Council received a request from Br John Hay cfc, who asked if St Mary's Parish Concord would consider offering some support to Sacred Heart Parish Serabu in Sierra Leone, West Africa. John had previously worked in Serabu.

In 2003 Sierra Leone was still recovering from a decade long civil war that had started in 1991. The conflict had destroyed much of the local infrastructure including churches and schools.

The Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Finance Committee supported the request. Every year since 2003 St Mary's Parish has sent a significant donation to the parish community in Serabu.



Our support has enabled that community to repair their church, school and parish house. A clinic to assist the sick has also been established. In more recent years our parish donation has enabled the Sacred Heart Parish to provide support for children who otherwise could not attend school.

Within our parish community individuals and families continue to support *Caritas Australia* through Project Compassion and support the work of *Catholic Mission*.

However, it is also appropriate that we as a parish community continue to share our blessings with the parish community of Sacred Heart, Serabu.

Paul Crowley
Parish Priest

St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal: Thank you to the students and families of St Mary's primary school for their support of the recent Winter Appeal. In total over 130 bags of winter woolies and non-perishable food items were donated and will help make a difference in the lives of many families in need this winter.

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.

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.

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.

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 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



For help finding help,
call CCareline
on 13 18 19

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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>

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.

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