



St Mary's Parish Concord

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

3 July 2022

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 66:10-14

I will send toward Jerusalem peace like a river.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 65

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

SECOND READING: Galatians 6:14-18

The marks I carry on my body are those of Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL: Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

Your peace will rest upon them.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for those who will participate this week in the Plenary Council Assembly.

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 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.

We pray for Alvaro Da Silva, Sylvia Rapisardi, Fr Kevin O'Grady and all those who have died recently.

We pray for John Lillcrap, Thomas Thomas, Giuseppe Giglio, Rodolfo Sereno, Ladding Alcantara, Roberto Sabio, Pacita Escano, Gloria Banares, Maria, Carmelo & Juan Solomon, June Magno and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time and for all our deceased family members, friends, and parishioners.

NAIDOC WEEK celebrations are held across Australia in the first week of July each year (Sunday 3 July to Sunday 10 July) to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about First Nations cultures and histories, and to participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth.

This year's celebration calls on all Australians to ***Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!*** To move forward together will require the whole Australian community to support and secure institutional, structural, collaborative, and cooperative reforms. For more information go to: <https://www.naidoc.org.au/>

Acknowledgement of Country



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

PLENARY COUNCIL The four-year journey of the Fifth Plenary Council of the Catholic Church in Australia will hold its second and final assembly in Sydney from 3 to 9 July. The 277 Council members will consider the motions that have emerged from that four-year national journey.

The second assembly commences with the opening Mass celebrated at 5.00 pm on Sunday 3 July. From Monday to Friday, the members will hold several sessions each day to consider the work of the Plenary Council, including the motions and taking votes.

Masses will be celebrated each evening at 6.00 pm from Monday to Thursday, with Mass on Friday celebrated at 7.45 am. The closing Mass of the Plenary Council will be celebrated at 10.30 am on Saturday 9 July at St Mary's Cathedral. That Mass is open to the public.

All Council Masses and sessions on each day of the week will be livestreamed.

Members of the public can send messages of prayer, hope and support to the Council members leading up to and during the week. Those messages will be posted on a special message wall at the entry to the meeting room. Go to the Plenary Council website <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>

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-eneews-are-australians-less-religious?e=37e705d4c6>

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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



KAPITAC
УКРАЇНИ
CARITAS
UKRAINE



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

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

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.

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

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.

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.

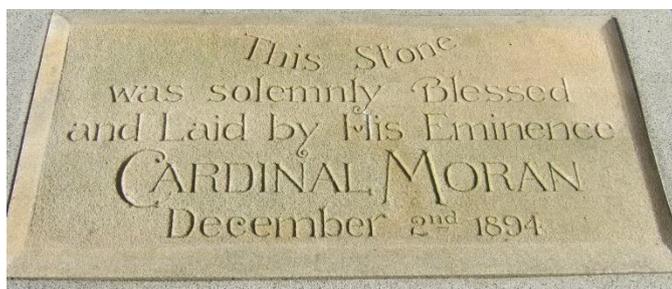


The First School Building 1894

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

For help finding help,
call CCareline
on 13 18 19



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/tfnsw/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 Sesqicentenary 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.

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