



## St Mary's Parish Concord

18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

31 July 2022

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

**FIRST READING:** Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23

*What do people gain by all their work?*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Psalm 89

*In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.*

**SECOND READING:** Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11

*Seek the things that are above where Christ is.*

**GOSPEL:** Luke 12:13-21

*To whom will all this wealth of yours go?*

### 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 those who are sick, especially those who have no one to care for them.

We pray for John Ryan, Vincenzo Cellucci, Fr Bernard Maxwell OP, Julia Camarsh and all those who have died recently; for Gloria Banares, Mary Amin and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time; for Luigi & Iolanda Moschetti and all our deceased family members, friends, and parishioners.

### CHARITABLE WORKS FUND (CWF) APPEAL

The first appeal for the 2022-2023 financial year will be held next Sunday. The funds raised by the CWF appeals support agencies of the Archdiocese of Sydney, including CatholicCare, the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, the Ephpheta Centre, the CCD (Catechists).

**OUR COVID JOURNEY:** As new variants spread we are encouraged to wear a mask at indoor gatherings, especially where social distancing is difficult and we are together for an extended time.

It is worth recalling that Sydney was in a Lockdown at this time last year. Churches closed on Saturday 26 June 2021 for two weeks. The Lockdown extended for four months and the church reopened in late October.

While vaccines have reduced the risk, we all have a responsibility to protect those who are still vulnerable. In NSW alone there have been 93,664 confirmed cases in the past week and 4,155 people have died since the pandemic began (NSW Government Health figures).

**WINTER SLEEPOUT APPEAL:** Each year the St Vincent de Paul Society hold a Sleepout to focus on the needs of the homeless. Our St Mary's SVdP Conference is inviting families to join their *Sleepout at Home* Appeal (#familywintersleepout@home) on Friday 5 August from 6.00pm.

Families are encouraged to sit outside on cardboard boxes for a period of time to reflect on how difficult it would be to be homeless. How do we feel when we see homeless individuals on the streets? How can we support the homeless?

You are invited to say a prayer for the homeless and if you can to donate to SVdP Appeal using the following link. All funds donated will go to support our local Vinnies Conference in Concord.

<https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way/st-mary-s-concord-2022-2>

### Acknowledgement of Country



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

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION MEETING

A meeting will be held in the church at 7.30 pm on **Wednesday 3 August** for those families who have registered a child for the two celebration of 1st Holy Communion in August. The meeting will give important information about the celebrations. It will also focus on understanding the Mass and the things children need to know. **The meeting is for parents not for the children.**

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 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.

**PALMS AUSTRALIA** For over 60 years Palms has been supporting our sister churches in Africa, Asia and the Pacific by sending and supporting Australian volunteers who use their skills to help local communities. Palms Australia, will ensure accommodation and a living allowance is provided to you during your time away.

To learn more about these Mission opportunities abroad, enquire online at <https://palms.org.au/> or phone 0422 742 567.

You can also register for a Webinar on Monday 1 August at 7:00 pm to talk directly with a Palms' partner community in Timor L'este and with two Australians recently posted to work with them. Invite your friends. Go to <https://palms.org.au/event/celebrate-palms-return-to-global-mission/>

**HOW DO I BECOME A CATHOLIC?** Adults who have not been baptized and wish to become part of the community of the Catholic Church receive the Sacraments of Christian Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (RCIA).

The RCIA presumes that there is an extended period of formation and preparation, usually leading to the celebration of Baptism at Easter.

Baptised members of other Christian Churches who wish to be become members of the Catholic Church do so through *Reception into Full Communion*.

If you are interested, or if you know of someone who may be interested in becoming a Catholic, please contact Fr Paul or the Parish Office tel 9747 4210.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD recommences this Sunday, 31 July, within the 9.30am Sunday Mass.** Like many parish activities the Children's Liturgy was suspended due to the COVID pandemic.

All children of primary school age are invited to attend. We ask that pre-school children remain in the church with their parents.

The Children's Liturgy is not a catechetical class nor is it Sunday school. **It is a celebration of the Word of God at a level appropriate for young children.** They listen to the Gospel reading of the Sunday and share prayers and reflections. The children leave the church after the Opening Prayer and return at the Preparation of the Gifts. The Children's Liturgy is held in the chapel of St Mary's Villa. **The Children's Liturgy would not be possible without the help of the adult leaders. We thank the leaders and helpers.**



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/>

**PLASTIC POLLUTION:** Plastic Free July® is a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution – so we can have cleaner streets, oceans, and beautiful communities. Will you be part of Plastic Free July by choosing to refuse single-use plastics? For more information go to <https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/>

## 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.

## 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/UCL0awxfUmJ6XjHIZcqsR2\\_A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL0awxfUmJ6XjHIZcqsR2_A)

**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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> collections.

Alternatively, you can scroll down for other options.

**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.

**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.



Donate today at [www.caritas.org.au/ukraine](http://www.caritas.org.au/ukraine) or call 1800 024 413 toll free.

**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/sydneywest/virtual-station>

## 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.

**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.

## 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](mailto: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

**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.

## **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](mailto:office@houseofwelcome.com.au)  
197 The Trongate, Granville  
Ph: 02 9727 9290  
[stfrancis.org.au/house-of-welcome](http://stfrancis.org.au/house-of-welcome)**



**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.

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