



St Mary's Parish Concord

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year C

14 August 2022

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 38:4-6,8-10
Jeremiah was thrown into the cistern.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 39
Lord, come to my aid.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 12:1-4
Let us run the race set before us.

GOSPEL: Luke 12:49-53
I came to bring fire to the earth.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for the children who are preparing for their First Holy Communion

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

We pray for Jaime Jocson, Helen Miller and all those who have died recently; for Lois Walsh, Silvio Di Pasquantonio, Matteo Di Pasquantonio, Vincenza Iannelli, Norma Coulson and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time; we pray for all our deceased family members, friends, and parishioners.

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. **Please consider wearing a mask at Mass to protect yourself and the older members of our parish community.**

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Monday 15 August: Masses will be celebrated at 8.30 am, 9.30 am (St Mary's School) and 7.30 pm. Although the Assumption of Mary was only declared to be a dogma in 1950, it had been a popular devotion for many centuries. A feast commemorating Mary's death was celebrated on 15 August in Rome in the 7th Century. The Assumption is a Holy Day of Obligation.

We celebrate the Assumption of Mary as our Parish feast. The dominant image of Mary in the church is a painting by the Spanish artist Bartolome Esteban Murillo (1617-1682). While Murillo called his painting *The Immaculate Virgin*, he combined two different iconographic traditions: the Immaculate Conception and the Assumption. **To read more about the painting go to page 3 of this bulletin**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: This Sunday we again welcome the children who are preparing to celebrate First Holy Communion at the 9.30 am Mass. First Communion will be celebrated within a special Mass at 11.00 on Sundays 21 and 28 August.

Families can also nominate to celebrate First Holy Communion at any parish Sunday Mass. There will be no limit placed on the number of family members present at a parish Sunday Mass. If you wish to celebrate your child's First Holy Communion at a parish Sunday Mass, please contact the Parish Office.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD has recommenced within the 9.30am Sunday Mass. 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.

CHARITABLE WORKS FUND APPEAL

The first appeal for the 2022-2023 financial year continues this Sunday. The funds raised by the CWF Appeal support agencies of the Archdiocese of Sydney. They include: CatholicCare, the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, the Ephpheta Centre, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (Catechists).

Envelopes are available at the end of the pews and may be placed in the parish collection containers. **Your contribution to the CWF is 100% tax deductible.** Please print your name and address on the envelope if you wish to claim a tax deduction. If you wish to donate by credit card please include the current expiry date. Without that date your contribution cannot be processed.

If you do not require a receipt, it would help us to meet our parish quota if you are able to make an extra donation to the parish. Donations can be made online through the parish website or via the QR code below.

Acknowledgement of Country



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

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.

Baptized members of other Christian Churches who wish to 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.

WEEKLY ENVELOPES and RECEIPTS: The new parish envelopes for 2022-2023 and the receipts for 2021-2022 can now be collected from the Parish Office.

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/UCL0awxfUmJ6XjHJZcqsR2_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 1st and 2nd collections.

Alternatively, you can scroll down for other options.

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.

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.

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/>

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 Sesqicentenary of the founding of St Mary's Parish (1870-2020).

Are Australians less religious? There's more to the story.

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>**

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>

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 or call 1800 024 413 toll free.



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

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

197 The Trongate, Granville

Ph: 02 9727 9290

stfrancis.org.au/house-of-welcome

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

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.