



St Mary's Parish Concord

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year C

4 September 2022

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Wisdom 9.13-18
Who can discern what the Lord wills?

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 89
In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

SECOND READING: Philemon 9-10, 12-17
Receive him, not as a slave, but as a dear brother

GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33
None of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possession.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

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

We pray for the people of Pakistan and all those suffering because of storms, floods and other natural disasters.

We pray for those who are suffering because of violence and abuse.

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

We pray for Giuseppe Caccavo and all those who have died recently; for Louise Massaria, Melina Bua, Bryan Clutterbuck, Sebastian Moll and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time; we pray for all our deceased family members, friends, and parishioners.

, Angelo Rizzo, Michael & Joseph Speranza, Lydia

HEALTH GUIDELINES: We are encouraged to wear a mask at indoor gatherings, especially where social distancing is difficult and we are together for an extended time.

The Season of Creation



Listen to the
Voice of creation
SEASON OF CREATION 2022

The Burning Bush
Ex 3:1-2

The theme for 2022, *Listen to the Voice of Creation*, reminds us of the voices of those who suffer the impacts of climate change. These are voices of people who hold generational wisdom about how to live gratefully within the limits of the land. These are voices of a diminishing diversity of more-than-human species. **It is the voice of the Earth.**

The *Season of Creation*, originally launched by the Orthodox Patriarch of Constantinople in 1989, has been progressively joined by other Christian churches, with Pope Francis announcing the Roman Catholic Church's participation in 2016.

The *Season of Creation* is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through repenting, repairing, and rejoicing together. During the *Season of Creation*, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.

This year, amid the natural disasters and crises that have shaken the world, we're awakened to the urgent need to heal our relationships with creation and each other. During the *Season of Creation*, we enter a time of restoration and hope, a jubilee for our Earth, that requires radically new ways of living with creation.

The *Season of Creation* unites the world's 2.2 billion Christians around one shared purpose. With so much injustice all around us, now is the time for Christians everywhere to come together and show the world how to love each other and creation.

For more information about the *Season of Creation* go to <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

Acknowledgement of Country



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

AN EMBER DAY FOR CREATION

Last Friday, 1 September, was the Spring Ember Day. When the Church's calendar was revised in 1969, the Ember Days were retained in principle but it was left to each Bishops' Conference to determine their date and form. For many years, they were not part of our Australian Church calendar.

In 2008 the Australian Bishops' Conference introduced two Ember Days into our Church calendar: the first Friday of March (our Autumn) and the first Friday of September (our Spring). We are recommended to keep them as days of fasting with a particular focus on the environment and God's providence.

Originally there were four *Ember Weeks* during the year. They date from 5th Century Rome and were associated with the change of seasons. The Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of each *Ember Week* were days of fasting.

They also became associated with various harvest festivals and so the Sunday after the *Ember Week* became a thanksgiving celebration for the various annual harvests.

In recalling the link to the cosmic seasons of Autumn and Spring, we are reminded that we are part of the world of nature, and we should also reflect on how we care for our environment.

Our Ember Day fast could be extended to other Fridays when we are asked to do some form of penance.

Our fast could be linked to our care for the environment. Fasting can remind us of our responsibility for restraint in the use of our natural resources. It can be an expression of our solidarity with those facing hunger and famine in many places in the world.

Another practical example could be a "fast" from using our cars by walking rather than driving on those days or perhaps even a "fast" from Social Media.

Paul Crowley

SOCIAL JUSTICE: This year's Social Justice Statement, *Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse*, invites us to engage with a complex and confronting social reality. It explores the roots of violence and abuse, honours the voices of victims, offers a social and theological exploration of the reality of violence, especially against women and children, and invites us to develop relationships in all parts of our lives 'marked by equality and reciprocity rather than domination and violence, respect and freedom rather than coercion and control.'

We welcome this urgent call from our Church to deepen our faith through full and frank discussion and dialogue, advocacy and action.



If the content of the Statement raises issues or concerns for you, please refer to the Getting Help page in the Statement for a list of support channels, or speak to a trusted friend, your GP, your parish priest or parish pastoral worker.

Access the Statement: <https://bit.ly/SJS22-23>.

More information: ACBC Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace, www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au or Tel (02) 62019845.

Facebook | www.facebook.com/socialjusticeACBC

Twitter | @JusticeCatholic

Instagram | @JusticeCatholic

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.

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 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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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

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.

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>

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.



KAPITAC
УКРАЇНИ
CARITAS
UKRAINE



Catholic Men's Fellowship:

A Catholic Men's Formation and Prayer Group currently meets Thursdays 8pm till 9pm, via online conference (zoom). We are a group of men who have met on a regular basis over the past ten years. We invite men to various formation programs, and to conclude with Prayer of the Church. Our chaplain is Deacon Louis Azzopardi. We are currently using Kapaun's Men, Virtue Series. For details on how to connect, contact Lee Caruana via email leecaruana@hotmail.com

For more information go to: <https://caportal.com.au/tfnsw/sydmetrowest/virtual-station>

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

KIMBERLEY CATHOLIC VOLUNTEERS

SERVICE: Volunteer workers are urgently needed. The Diocese of Broome, WA urgently requires volunteers to assist with the work of the local Church on Aboriginal Missions. There are various important voluntary tasks: administration, building maintenance, gardening, shop staffing, cooking, cleaning etc. Placements are preferred for a period of 6 months plus. In return for being part of the team, we offer accommodation, living expenses and an allowance. For further details, and an application form, please contact: Volunteer Coordinator, Janet Ryan: 08 9192 1060. Email: volunteers@broomedioocese.org

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

Help with Alcoholism and Addiction

Do you, a family member, or friend need help with an addiction concern? You can reach out to the **Calix Society**. Calix is an association of Catholic alcoholics, drug addicts, and family members and friends affected by addiction, who are maintaining their

sobriety through participation in their Catholic faith and a 12 Step program. We welcome anyone concerned with the illness of alcoholism or addiction who wish to join with us in prayer for *the virtue of total abstinence, promoting our spiritual development, and striving for the sanctification of the whole personality of each member.* Contact calixsydney@outlook.com for meeting times and resources. Perhaps this could be a crucial step toward recovery and saving a life.

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).

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.

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