



St Mary's Parish Concord

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

30 October 2022

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Wisdom 11:22-12:2

Lord, you are merciful to all.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 144

*I will praise your name forever,
my king and my God.*

SECOND READING: 2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2

May our Lord Jesus be glorified in you and you in him.

GOSPEL: Luke 19:1-10

The Son of Man came to seek out and save the lost.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

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

We pray for communities in many places who are affected by floods and other natural disasters.

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

We pray for Nunziato Iunius, Yang Mao Yu (China) and all those who have died recently; for Jeannette Saltis, Antonio Bonaccorso, Vincenzo Pappalardo, Carmela & Salvatore Tomarchio, Angelo Colerio, Joe Cannavo, Maria, Felice & Domenica Fazio, Conrado Ongsansoy and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time; we pray for all our deceased family members, friends, and parishioners.

HEALTH GUIDELINES: The COVID virus is still spreading in the community. We are encouraged to wear a mask at indoor gatherings, especially where social distancing is difficult and we are together for an extended time.

ALL SAINTS and ALL SOULS: Mass for the feast of All Saints is 8.30am Tuesday 1 November. Please note that All Saints is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation.

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day) is celebrated on 2 November. There will be two Masses: 830am and an evening Mass at 730pm on Tuesday 2 November.

NOVEMBER MASSES: November is traditionally the month of the Holy Souls. Praying for those who have died is an ancient custom in the Church. It is also a long-established custom that all parish Masses during November are offered for those who have died. **November Mass envelopes** are available on the table at the back and in the side porch of the Church for those who wish to have their deceased relatives and friends included in the November Masses.

The envelopes may be placed in the basket that remains at the front of the altar during November.

The offerings that are made for November Masses are combined to determine the number of Masses to be offered. Because there are more Masses than can be celebrated at St Mary's, November Mass offerings are also sent to priests working in the Missions who will offer Masses for the deceased members of our parish community.

In recent years many of the November Mass offerings given by parishioners have been sent to the Bishop of Iquitos, Peru. Fr John Andersen, a Sydney priest, has been working in Iquitos for the past 30 years. Our offerings are distributed to the local priests working in poorer parish communities. In return for our assistance those priests pray for our deceased family and friends in their Masses.

Acknowledgement of Country



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

GRANDPARENTS DAY celebrates the role grandparents and older people play in our society - both the things they have done, and the things they keep doing. We give thanks for grandparents.

PURGATORY

At the General Audience in the Vatican on 12 January 2011, Pope Benedict XVI reflected on the life of St Catherine of Genoa. Born in Genoa in 1447 Catherine was married at age 16. In 1473 she had a conversion experience. She died in 1510.

In 1551 a treatise was published describing her life. She was known particularly for her vision of Purgatory and that is what prompted Pope Benedict to reflect on her mystical experience.

Pope Benedict noted that Catherine's vision was very different from the common way of understanding Purgatory at that time.

Most writers and artists in the Middle Ages depicted Purgatory as a place of suffering for those souls who had not yet completed the penance that had been given to them for their sins.

While it was defined as a state of being, the popular images presented Purgatory as a "place" where souls were purified for a "time".

Pope Benedict noted that Catherine's vision did not start with the afterlife. Rather her vision was about her own life on the way to Eternity.

The soul, Catherine says, presents itself to God still bound to the desires and suffering that derive from sin and this makes it impossible for it to enjoy the beatific vision of God.

Catherine's insight was in that moment when we experience God's love, we would also be aware of the things that still hold us back. Our overwhelming experience of God's love for us would heal and "burn away" those things that prevent us from seeing God.

At that General Audience, Pope Benedict went on to reflect, "It is important to note that Catherine, in her mystical experience, never received specific revelations on Purgatory or on the souls being purified there. Yet, in the writings inspired by our Saint, Purgatory is a central element and the description of it has characteristics that were original in her time. Catherine, however, did not see Purgatory as a scene in the bowels of the earth. For her it is not an exterior but rather an interior fire. This is Purgatory: an inner fire."

This is an edited version of an article by Paul Crowley that appeared in the Parish Bulletin in 2014 when All Souls was celebrated on a Sunday.

MORNING TEA: The monthly morning tea was suspended due to COVID. The parish Socially Committee will hold our first post-COVID morning tea **in the Hall after the 9.30 am Mass next Sunday 6 November.** Unfortunately, the Bell Tower courtyard is not available as access to St Mary's Villa is still restricted.

FIRST RECONCILIATION: The children preparing for Reconciliation and their families will join us at the 9.30 am Mass next Sunday, 6 November, for their enrolment.

ST MARY'S PLAYGROUP: Resumed on 14 October for Term 4. Families are invited to join for games, music and fun activities each Friday in the parish hall 9.30-10.45 am. For details contact: info@stmconcord.catholic.edu.au

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD has recommenced this Sunday 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.

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.

THE LETTER: The Feast of St Francis of Assisi (4 October) saw the world premiere at the Vatican of the documentary film *The Letter: A Message For Our Earth*. Based on Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical letter, "Laudato Si', on Care for Our Common Home" the film was made in partnership with the Laudato Si' Movement, the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and the Dicastery for Communication.

It explores the consequences of climate change through the voices of the poor, young people, indigenous peoples and others who met with Pope Francis last year. The film is streaming for free at theletterfilm.org and **YouTube Originals**.

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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL The Parish Pastoral Council is a consultative body entrusted with the task of reflecting on the parish's vision and mission. In a spirit of service to the community the Pastoral Council works with the parish priest to foster and support appropriate pastoral action. Members serve a four-year term with half the Council changing every two years.

Over the past two years the work of the Pastoral Council has been disrupted by the COVID Lockdowns. As we begin to plan for 2023, new members are needed. Any active parishioner 18 years of age or older may be nominated or may nominate his/herself. If you are interested, please talk to Fr Paul or to any of the current members. For more information go to the "Our Parish" tab on the Home Page of the parish website www.stmarysconcord.org.au

JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE FOODBANK

The JRS continues to support those seeking asylum and temporary migrants in Australia, as they remain excluded from all forms of Federal government support. This has meant that people who were once working and self-sufficient have had to rely on charities, like JRS, for rent, medication, bills and food. To help keep everyone fed, we are asking those who can to donate one item a week (1 or 2 Kg bags of Basmati Rice, Tuna in oil, Cooking Oil (750ml/1L/2L bottles), tinned tomatoes, tinned lentils, chickpeas, red kidney beans, pasta (spaghetti, penne, spiral) but please not tinned spaghetti. Donations can be placed in the blue bin on the table at the back of the church.

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.

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

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.

HERITAGE SIGNS: St Mary's Parish commissioned five heritage signs to mark the sesquicentenary of the parish in 2020.

They are located in the Church Forecourt and recall the 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). Each sign has been placed close to the original location of that building.

The sign near the Parramatta Road gates also reminds us that prior to European settlement, the Burwood-Concord district was occupied by the Wangal clan. They called themselves the Eora, meaning 'the people' and they had been living in the Sydney area for at least 10,000 years.



The First Church 1845

The British colony of New South Wales was established in January 1788 with the arrival of the First Fleet. In late 1788 a small settlement was established at Parramatta and by 1791 a bush track had been built between Sydney and Parramatta that became what is now Parramatta Road. In 1793 some free settlers received grants in the area then named Liberty Plains. In that same year, land grants were made to six non-commissioned officers in the district that came to be known as Concord.

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

MARRIAGE ANNULMENT: The Tribunal of the Catholic Church offers advice to all of those who have experienced a marriage breakdown and question the validity of their first marriage as understood by the Church. Inquiries: 9307 8300 or email: admin@sydneytribunal.org.au

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.

MARIAN COURT INDEPENDENT LIVING

Marian Court Units is an independent living village for over 55s, acquired by the Trustees of Catholic Aged Care Sydney in April 2022. Conveniently located near Strathfield station, there are currently vacant units featuring one bedroom one bathroom (46sqm) and two bedrooms two bathrooms (65sqm). There is a sliding scale of entrance and exit fees to suit your circumstances. Please call the Manager on 0400 077 781 for an inspection.



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.

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



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

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

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.

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.

For help finding help,
call CCareline
on 13 18 19

