



## St Mary's Parish Concord

### 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

6 November 2022

#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

**FIRST READING:** Maccabees 17:1-2, 9-14  
*The King of the universe will raise us up.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Psalm 17  
Lord, when your glory appears,  
my joy will be full.

**SECOND READING:** 2 Thessalonians 2:16 - 3:5  
*May the Lord strengthen your hearts.*

**GOSPEL:** Luke 20:27-38  
*He is not God of the dead but God of the living.*

#### 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 the children preparing for First Reconciliation in the coming days.

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

We pray Beniamino Di Pasquantonio and all those who have died recently; for Grace White, Hanna Elias, Giuseppe Guarrera, Marija & Branko Mikulic and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time; we pray for those who are remembered in November Masses and for all our deceased family members and friends.

**MORNING TEA:** The monthly morning tea was suspended due to COVID. The parish Social Committee will hold our first post-COVID morning tea in the Parish Hall after the 9.30 am Mass this Sunday 6 November. Please join us.

## CHARITABLE WORKS FUND

The second CWF Appeal for the 2022-2023 financial year is now being held.

The funds raised by the CWF appeals support various agencies of the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Sydney.

Your generous support allows the Church in Sydney to provide help and support to those in need.

An example is the **Ephpheta Centre** which provides services to the deaf and hard of hearing communities in the dioceses of Sydney, Parramatta and Broken Bay. That support includes Sunday Mass in sign language, sacramental preparation for both children and adults, pastoral care and community support, outreach to families with young deaf children, advocacy services, spiritual development and leadership.

The CWF also supports the **Aboriginal Catholic Ministry** which promotes reconciliation and mutual understanding between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities.

**Your contribution to the CWF is 100% tax deductible** Envelopes are available at the end of the pews and may be placed in the parish collection buckets. 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.

**Donations can also be made via the parish website. Go to the SUPPORT US button top right of the home page. In the drop-down menu please add CWF in the "donation type" box and fill in all your details.**

If you do not require a tax receipt, it will help us to meet our parish quota if you are able to make an extra donation to the parish second collection. **Your support is greatly appreciated.**

## Acknowledgement of Country



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

**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 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 over 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.

### VOTIVE CANDLES

A long Christian tradition has linked lighting a candle to prayers of petition. When we pray for a particular intention or for someone who has died, lighting a candle often provides a visible expression of our prayer. That is also why we give a donation so that it becomes "our candle" that we are offering as a sign of our prayer.

For safety reasons many churches have moved to electric votive candles. We have two electric votive candle stands to give parishioners an opportunity to "light" a candle. You simply need to touch the button in front of the candle.

In 2018 we also added a new votive candle stand in the shrine of *S Maria Vergine Annunziata* at the back of the church. It offers an opportunity to light a specially designed candle that fits into a glass holder. Please do not lift the glass holders out of the stand, simply place the candle into the cup and use the lighter that is provided. A donation can be placed in the box attached to the front of the stand.

**FIRST RECONCILIATION:** The children preparing for Reconciliation and their families will join us at the 9.30 am Mass this Sunday, 6 November, for their enrolment. They will celebrate their First Reconciliation over two sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday evening.



## Catalyst for Renewal Q & A in the Crypt

with Bishop Shane MacKinlay on  
Sunday 13 November 2022,  
1.30pm – 3.00pm in the Crypt of St

Patrick's Church, Grosvenor Street, Church Hill.

### *Looking forwards in the Australian Church after the Plenary Council*

The 4-year journey of the Plenary Council led to important decisions in eight critical areas for the Catholic Church in Australia. It also provided an invaluable immersion in synodality, with an unprecedented experience of broad consultation, honest and respectful dialogue, extended discernment and co-responsible decision-making. This talk will review some of the main decisions made by the Plenary Council, as well as reflecting on its significance for strengthening synodal processes in the Church.

Bishop Shane Mackinlay is the Bishop of Sandhurst in Victoria and was the Vice-President of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia. He is also one of the Australian delegates to the Synod on Synodality in 2023.

He completed a doctorate in philosophy at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, and was serving as Master of Catholic Theological College in Melbourne when Pope Francis appointed him Bishop of Sandhurst in 2019.



**NO NEED TO BOOK. Suggested Donation: \$10**

Catalyst for Renewal

PO Box 265 Swansea NSW 2281;

tel 02 4971 4090

Email: [catalyst-for-renewal@outlook.com](mailto:catalyst-for-renewal@outlook.com)

Website: [www.catalystforrenewal.org.au](http://www.catalystforrenewal.org.au)

**COVID HEALTH GUIDELINES:** The COVID virus is still spreading in the community. In NSW during the past week 12,450 cases were reported. There were 809 COVID related admissions to hospitals, including 17 in ICU. There were 24 deaths related to COVID. We are encouraged to wear a mask at indoor gatherings, especially where social distancing is difficult and we are together for an extended time.

**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](mailto:admin@sydneytribunal.org.au)

**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](http://www.stmarysconcord.org.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.

**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](http://theletterfilm.org) and **YouTube Originals**.

**ST MARY'S PLAYGROUPE:** 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](mailto:info@stmconcord.catholic.edu.au)

### **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.

### **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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL0awxfUmJ6XjHJZcqsR2_A)

### **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.*

**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.'



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](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au) or Tel (02) 62019845.

Facebook | [www.facebook.com/socialjusticeACBC](http://www.facebook.com/socialjusticeACBC)

Twitter | @JusticeCatholic

Instagram | @JusticeCatholic

## 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 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.

## 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](mailto:calixsydney@outlook.com) for meeting times and resources. Perhaps this could be a crucial step toward recovery and saving a life.

## 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](mailto:leecaruana@hotmail.com)

## 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.



## 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

**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.

**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.

## 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.

For help finding help,  
call CCareline  
on 13 18 19



Are you experiencing 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](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)**