



## St Mary's Parish Concord

### 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

15 January 2023

#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

*I will give you as a light to the nations.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Psalm 40

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

**SECOND READING:** 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

**GOSPEL:** John 1:29-34

*Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away  
the sin of the world!*

#### PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for those who continue to suffer because of war and violent conflicts, especially for the people of Ukraine and of Myanmar (Burma).

We pray for communities in many places who are still 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 Cardinal George Pell, Iolanda Marinucci and all those who have died recently; we pray for Anneliese Scerri, Rocco Rinaldo, Sarina Vartuli, Antonina Cordioli, Tom Antony and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time; and for all our deceased family members and friends.

**COVID HEALTH GUIDELINES:** The COVID virus is still spreading in the community. **Wearing a mask in indoor public spaces helps protect everyone** in our community and especially those who are at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and flu.

#### HOW CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

After almost three years of disruptions due to COVID, we face many challenges as we return to a more normal life.

As a parish, we need to rebuild the various parish ministry teams: those who support the community at Sunday Masses and those who extend the Mission of the parish in the wider community.

We thank those who continue to support the parish community each Sunday as readers and ministers of Holy Communion. However, we need more people to become active members of our community. We particularly need volunteers to serve as Communion Ministers to the Sick, as Catechists and as members of the Parish Pastoral Council.

Before COVID teams were taking Holy Communion to various residential aged care facilities in the parish. Those weekly visits still have not recommenced, but we need to start preparing now.

Our catechists teach the Catholic students in Concord Primary School. Do you have a spare hour on a Thursday afternoon to share your faith with them? Training courses are available.

The Parish Pastoral Council also needs new members. The role of the Council is to reflect on the Mission of the parish and to explore new ways of reaching out to others.

For more information, contact Fr Paul or the Parish Office: [parish@stmarysconcord.org.au](mailto:parish@stmarysconcord.org.au)

#### Acknowledgement of Country



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

**BAPTISM OF CHILDREN 2023** Parents wishing to present a child for Baptism please note that Baptism is not celebrated at St Mary's during the season of Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday. This year Ash Wednesday falls on 22 February. There are some places still available in January and February. Contact the Parish Office for details. Baptism will be celebrated again after Easter Sunday (9 April 2023). Baptism is celebrated at 11.00 am on Sunday.

## SUNDAY AND ORDINARY TIME

The Liturgical Year of the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church is framed by the two great feasts: Easter and Christmas. The Liturgical Year begins with Advent leading us to the Christmas season. Lent, which this year begins on 22 February, will lead to the Easter season. Easter Sunday is 9 April.

The Sundays in between the Christmas season and Lent and then again after the Easter season are called *Sundays in Ordinary Time*. It is a short-hand name for *Time throughout the Year* (in Latin *tempus per annum*).

The feast of the Baptism of the Lord usually takes the place of the first Ordinary Sunday. This year that feast was celebrated on Monday 9 January, the day after the Epiphany.

We then began the first week of Ordinary Time. This Sunday therefore is celebrated as the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time and it is marked by the return to green vestments, the colour of Ordinary Time.

When the Church's calendar was revised in 1969 the term *Ordinary Time* was introduced to reflect our understanding that these Sundays are not associated with a particular season or feast. However, the term can be confusing if we think that "ordinary" means that these Sunday are not important.

While we recognize that the whole of the Christian life is about becoming one with Christ in his death and resurrection, we also believe that we most fully celebrate our union with God in Christ when we gather to celebrate the Eucharist.

That is why from the very beginning Christian communities gathered every Sunday to celebrate the Eucharist. It was only later that an annual celebration of the death and resurrection of Christ was introduced at Easter. Over the first two centuries that annual celebration developed into what became the Easter Triduum.

It is for that reason that the Church teaches us that Sunday Mass is an important obligation because it is the best way for us to thank God for all that God has done for us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Paul Crowley  
Parish Priest*

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2023:** There will be a special Mass for 1st Holy Communion on Sundays 20 & 27 August. **More details and registration forms will be available in early July.** Families who believe that their child is ready to celebrate 1st Holy Communion can also choose to celebrate 1st Holy Communion at any parish Sunday Mass. Please contact the parish for more details. The best preparation for a child for 1st Holy Communion is to participate in a Mass each Sunday, with their family

**CONFIRMATION 2023:** There will be two celebrations of Confirmation: Sat 3 June and Sun 4 June. **Registrations will not open until Monday 24 April.** Please see the parish website for more details.

**COLLECTIONS:** The practice of passing around the collection plates during Mass remains suspended. There are two containers at the back of the church and at the side door marked 1st and 2nd Collection. Your regular donations can be placed in the appropriate containers. For your convenience "Tap and Go" stations are available at the doors of the church. Tap to donate the set amount. Please note that receipts cannot be issued for donations and the "Tap & Go" transactions cannot be reversed.

**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)

**MEALS ON WHEELS** is seeking volunteers to assist the elderly in our community. All it takes is a spare 2 hours a week to make a difference in someone's life! Packers, drivers and helpers are all needed. Phone 9747 1135 or email [mow@bcws.org.au](mailto:mow@bcws.org.au)

**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.

**CLIMATE CHANGE:** World leaders gathered in Canada in December 2022 for COP 15, the United Nations Conference of the Parties on biodiversity. In his Message for the **2022 World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation**, Pope Francis urged world leaders to commit to ambitious plans at the COP 27 to achieve the goal of keeping global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. He also urged leaders gathering at the COP 15 to make new multilateral agreements to halt the alarming increases in destruction of ecosystems and extinction of species. Pope Francis reminds us that the Gospel calls us to repentance, to a new relationship with God and a different relationship with others and with all of creation. This conversion of heart will lead us to take action personally, but also communally to care for our common home.





These two meetings present another opportunity for world leaders to agree on actions which will address the twin crises of climate change and loss of biodiversity.

They also present us with an opportunity as people of faith to join with others in calling for effective action to deal with these immense ecological crises.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace has produced a new **Information Sheet on COP 27 & COP 15**.

For more information:

<https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2022/11/10/cops-docs/>

**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**.

**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 or email [parish@stmarysconcord.org.au](mailto:parish@stmarysconcord.org.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.

**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.

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)

**SOCIAL JUSTICE:** The 2022 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.

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

The signs 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 Presbytery c 2003*

When Father McCarthy was appointed parish priest in 1870, he lived in a cottage on the Burwood side of Parramatta Road until the Presbytery (the priest's residence) was built in 1882. It stood on the northern side of the 1874 church facing Burton Street.

The original building was extended several times as the needs of the parish changed. As well as providing a residence for the priests, it also served as the office for the parish until 1994 when the Parish Office was relocated to a cottage at 4 Ada Street.

The Presbytery continued to be the residence for the priests of the parish until 2002. As part of the strategic plan for the development of the parish site, in 2002 the residence for the parish priest was relocated to a cottage at 6 Ada Street that the parish had purchased in 1995.



In 2008 the Presbytery, the Convent and the 1950s school building were all demolished to make way for the new St Mary's Villa.

## 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.

## HOUSE OF WELCOME FOODBANK



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)**



## 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

### 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.