



St Mary's Parish Concord

11th Sunday in Ordinary time

Year A

18 June 2023

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Exodus 19:1-6
You will be for me a holy nation.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 99
We are his people: the sheep of his flock.

SECOND READING: Romans 5:6-11
We have been reconciled to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 9:36-10:8
He summoned his twelve disciples.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for those who continue to suffer because of war and civil unrest.

We pray for those who have been forced to flee from their homes and become refugees.

We pray for reconciliation between all people who share this land, and especially with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We pray for the sick and the dying, especially those who have no one to care for them.

We pray for Antonio Bettiol, Edward Liston, Merle Fraley, Madeliene Kristine Aledia, Flora Iunius, Patricia Tudehope, Joanne Travaglia and all those who have died recently; we pray Vincenzo Cellucci, Giovanni LaMotta, Marion Matthies, Bette Hunt, Salvatore Vecchio, Vincenzo La Barbera, Francesco Franze, Carmelina DeMasi, Joe Leone, John & Margaret Coulson and for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time. We pray for Angelo & Francesco Agueci, Silvana Criscione and all our deceased relatives and friends.

PARISH MASSES IN JUNE: Fr Paul will be away on leave from 19 to 30 June. **Next weekend we will welcome Fr Geoff Plant who will be presiding at 6.00 pm Vigil Mass and at the 9.30 am and 6.00 pm Sunday Masses.** There will be no weekday Mass from Tuesday 20 June until Monday 3 July.

A Communion Service will take place at 8.30 am only on the following days:

Wednesday	21 June
Friday	23 June
Monday	26 June
Wednesday	28 June
Friday	30 June

The Parish Office is open Monday to Thursday from 8.30 am to 3.00 pm. For after-hours parish matters, please email parish@stmarysconcord.org.au
For any urgent sick calls after hours, please contact one of the neighbouring parishes.

Acknowledgement of Country



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

TAX RECEIPT FOR PLANNED GIVING

Thank you for supporting the Mission of the parish through your contributions to the parish Sunday collections.

Families contributing through parish planned giving will receive a **tax receipt** if they have previously registered to receive one.

As not all contributors require a tax receipt, in 2017 parishioners were asked to register with the parish if they did **require** a tax receipt.

Those who registered for 2022-2023 will receive a tax receipt that gives 50% tax deductibility for contributions **received by 30 June 2023.**

Any contributor who has not previously requested a tax receipt, may do so for **the new financial year (2023-2024)** by contacting the parish office by Friday 9 June 2023.

Existing registrations for tax deductions remain in place for 2023-2024. However, if your circumstances have changed and you no longer require a tax receipt, please contact the parish office.

REFUGEE WEEK 18-24 JUNE

2023 Theme: Finding Freedom

What does it mean to be free? To live without the fear of war, to have your basic human rights upheld, to live in equality and without the fear of persecution are just some of the examples of what freedom can entail. Every day millions of people across the world embark on dangerous journeys for the sole purpose of finding safety and freedom.

Refugee Week is Australia's peak annual activity to inform the public about refugees and celebrate positive contributions made by refugees to Australian society. The first Refugee Week events were organised in Sydney in 1986 by Austcare. In 1987, Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) became a co-organiser of the week, which became a national event from 1988. RCOA took on responsibility for the national coordination of Refugee Week from 2004.

Refugee Week provides a platform where positive images of refugees can be promoted in order to create a culture of welcome throughout the country. The ultimate aim of the celebration is to create better understanding between different communities and to encourage successful integration enabling refugees to live in safety and to continue making a valuable contribution to Australia.

Over the past 20 years, Refugee Week celebrations have developed in a number of other countries. While there are minor differences in the dates for Refugee Week, all include World Refugee Day (June 20). In Australia, Refugee Week is scheduled to ensure that it does not clash with public holidays in any Australian state or territory. The aims of Refugee Week are:

- to educate the Australian public about who refugees are and why they have come to Australia;
- to help people understand the many challenges refugees face coming to Australia;
- to celebrate the contribution refugees make to our community;
- to focus on how the community can provide a safe and welcoming environment for refugees.

For more information go to:

<https://www.refugeeweek.org.au/refugee-week-2023-theme-finding-freedom/>

COVID HEALTH REPORT: A 2023 COVID-19 vaccine booster dose is recommended for adults who have not had a COVID infection or a vaccine dose in the past 6 months. This will provide an increase in protection against severe illness. If you are unwell or at risk, please consider wearing a mask at Mass to protect yourself and the older members of our parish community.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILIES FROM ST MARY'S SCHOOL

At the 930am Mass this Sunday we welcome the children and their families from the Francis (Red) House in St Mary's School.

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. Any active parishioner 18 years of age or older may be nominated or may nominate his/herself. If you are interested, please contact Fr Paul. For more information go to the "Our Parish" tab on the Home Page of the parish website www.stmarysconcord.org.au

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

HOW CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

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.

For more information, contact Fr Paul or the Parish Office: parish@stmarysconcord.org.au

ST MARY'S PLAYGROUP has concluded for Term 2. Playgroup will resume on Friday 4 August at 9.30 am in the parish hall. Please contact the parish office for more information and to register.

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 or email parish@stmarysconcord.org.au.

MOMENTS IN HISTORY THE RENOVATION OF THE CHURCH

Ten years ago, in June 2013, we began a major renovation project for the interior of the church. From the Vigil Mass on Saturday 8 June 2013 the Sunday Masses were celebrated in the Hall.

A group of volunteers set up the chairs on Friday nights and others stacked the chairs each Sunday night after the 6.00 pm Mass. We were able to return to the church on Saturday 24 August.



The renovation project included a new ceiling, new lights, a new sound system and AV projection. The floorboards were replaced and a new carpet was laid. The pews were restored and the statues, the marble areas and the stained-glass windows were all professionally cleaned.



A new noticeboard and a new ramp were added at the eastern entrance and new doors and new steps on the western side of the church. CCTV was installed in the church to provide security.

We are fortunate to have a beautiful and prayerful church in which to gather each Sunday. Thank you to those who help to maintain and clean the church. More volunteers are needed.

Paul Crowley

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.

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.