



## St Mary's Parish Concord

### 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time

Year A

25 June 2023

#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

**FIRST READING:** Jeremiah 20:10-13

*He has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** 68

Lord, in your great love, answer me.

**SECOND READING:** Romans 6:12-15

*God's gift to us is nothing like our sin against him.*

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 10:26-33

*Do not fear those who can kill the body.*

#### 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, and all those who have died recently; we pray for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time. We pray for Philippe L'Olive and all our deceased relatives and friends.

**PARISH MASSES IN JUNE:** Fr Paul will be away on leave from 19 to 30 June. **This weekend we welcome Fr Geoff Plant who will be presiding at the 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:**

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](mailto: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.**

## HOLY FATHER'S APPEAL

On the Feast Day of Sts Peter and Paul, our parish, in union with all parishes around the world, will hold the annual Holy Father's Appeal next weekend – 1st and 2nd July – for which we ask your support. The appeal highlights the global charitable causes spearheaded by Pope Francis and is aimed at alleviating the suffering of those affected by natural disasters, wars, refugee crises, and poverty. It is an opportunity for us to get involved in an important initiative of the Catholic Church on a local level, and we humbly ask you to give what you can. Through your gift, you can help Pope Francis bring hope, faith, and the spirit of Christ to our less fortunate brothers and sisters around the world. Donate by visiting [www.ourfaithourworks.org/give-to-holy-fathers-appeal](http://www.ourfaithourworks.org/give-to-holy-fathers-appeal), phone 1800 753 959 or through our parish collection next weekend.

## NEW ENVELOPES

New sets of Planned Giving envelopes for 2022-23 are available at the back of the church, arranged in alphabetical order. Please note some envelope numbers have changed. For further information and to register for Planned Giving envelopes or online donations, please contact the parish office. If you now donate online and no longer require physical envelopes, please contact the parish office. Tax deductibility for 2023-2024 will be 50%.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** will be celebrated within a special 11am Mass on Sunday 20 and 27 August 2023.

Registration will only open on Monday 17 July and close on Friday 28 July. Applications will not be accepted prior to this date.

More details on how to register will be available in the coming weeks in the parish bulletin and on the parish website.

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ON OTHER DATES

If you would like to celebrate your child's First Holy Communion after July within any parish Sunday Mass, please contact the Parish Office to discuss possible dates. There is no limit on the number of family members present at a parish Mass.

**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:parish@stmarysconcord.org.au).

**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.

## 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](mailto: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.