



## St Mary's Parish Concord

### The Most Holy Trinity

Year A

4 June 2023

#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

**FIRST READING:** Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9

*The Lord God, ruler of all, merciful and loving.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Daniel 3:52-56

*Glory and praise for ever!*

**SECOND READING:** 1 Corinthians 13:11-13

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

**GOSPEL:** John 3:16-18

*God sent his Son to save the world through him.*

#### PRAYER INTENTIONS

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

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

**We pray for our candidates for Confirmation and their families.**

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

**We pray for Patricia Tudehope, Salvatore Greco, Esther Tully, Thomas Cullen and all those who have died recently; we pray for Biago Durante, Anna Melita, Frances Sewell, Giuseppe Guarrera, SS Manuelpilla, C Manuelpilla & Gerard Manuelpilla and for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time; and for all our deceased relatives and friends.**

**CONFIRMATION:** We welcome Bishop Terry Brady who will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with us at a special 11.00 am Mass.

## CONFIRMATION

*We congratulate the members of our parish community who receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this Sunday.*

**WALK WITH CHRIST:** The annual Eucharistic procession through the streets of Sydney will be held on Sunday 11 June, the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi). Those who wish to participate in the procession are asked to gather at the corner of Martin Place and Pitt Street. Entertainment in Martin Place from 1.00 pm with the procession beginning at 2.30 pm. The procession ends at St Mary's Cathedral.

**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.

## 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.

## CONFIRMATION, THE MASS AND THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Confirmation is one of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation and is therefore linked to Baptism and the Eucharist, which we first received at First Holy Communion.

When an adult is baptized, the person is also confirmed and receives Communion in the one celebration. But that was not the experience for most who were born into a Catholic family.

The more common experience is to be baptized as an infant, receive 1st Holy Communion about the age of 7 or 8 years and to be confirmed about the age of 12 years.

However, that has only been the common practice since the early 20th Century. Before that time, those who were baptized as infants were confirmed at age 12 and then to receive 1st Holy Communion at the age of 15 when they were considered to have become adult members of their community.

Receiving Holy Communion is still the sign of full membership in the Church. However, as a consequence of that change in pastoral practice during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Confirmation came to be seen as the final stage of Christian Initiation.

That change also led to more emphasis being placed on the candidate's personal choice and readiness to be confirmed. In some places Confirmation was delayed until the age of 15 years.

It is important to remember, however, that the Sacraments are celebrations of the gift of the Holy Spirit and therefore the primary focus is always on what God does.

Baptism and Confirmation are not the only times we receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is constantly being poured out upon us. Confirmation therefore celebrates that ongoing gift of the Holy Spirit that we first received at Baptism.

Confirmation is linked to Baptism, but the Eucharist (the Mass) remains the final stage of Christian Initiation. Every time we share in the Eucharist, we receive again the gift of the Holy Spirit. We become one Body, one Spirit in Christ.

We are baptized and confirmed only once, but we constantly say "yes" to God's gift in every Mass. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit we become one with Christ and then go forth and to live as children of God.

*Paul Crowley  
Parish Priest*

**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)

## 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, the season when we prepare for Christmas.

In between the Advent-Christmas and Lent-Easter seasons are what we call the Ordinary Sundays or Ordinary Time. It is a short-hand name for *Ordinary Time throughout the Year* (in Latin *tempus per annum*).

When the Church's calendar was revised in 1969, the term *Ordinary Time* was introduced to indicate that these Sundays are not associated with any particular season or feast but are celebrations of our ongoing relationship with God in Christ.

Although we celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ with special solemnity each year during the Easter Triduum, we also recognize that the whole of the Christian life is about becoming one with Christ in his death and resurrection.

In the Eucharist we become one with Christ in his offering of himself to the Father. It is for that reason that we gather to celebrate the Eucharist each Sunday.

That is also why 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.

This Sunday we celebrate the feast of the Trinity and the following Sunday (11 June) the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

*Paul Crowley,  
Parish Priest*

**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)

## 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)

**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.

**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).

## 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.