



St Mary's Parish Concord

13th Sunday in Ordinary time Year A

2 July 2023

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Kings 4:8-12, 14-16
They welcomed Elisha to stay with them.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 88
For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING: Romans 6:3-4, 8-11
Having been buried with him through baptism, we will walk in newness of a new life in Christ.

GOSPEL: Matthew 10:37-42
Anyone who welcomes you, welcomes me.

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 Anthony Grech, Yvonne Osborne and all those who have died recently; we pray for Jaime Jocson, Doreen Wilson, Giovanni & Francesca Giannone and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time. We pray for all our deceased relatives and friends.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY: This Sunday we join with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) and parish communities throughout our country in celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart invites us to live and journey together in hope. An important stage of that journey will take place later this year when we will be asked to vote at a referendum to amend the Australian Constitution to establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

To be informed we need to seek accurate information. See the official Voice to Parliament website: <https://voice.niaa.gov.au>

Acknowledgement of Country



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

NAIDOC WEEK 2 – 9 JULY 2023: NAIDOC Week is held annually across Australia in the first week of July. NAIDOC Week is an Indigenous-led celebration of the history, cultures, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The theme for this year, **FOR OUR ELDERS**, recalls the important roles Elders have played and continue to play in communities and families.



The role of Elders in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities also serves to remind all Australians to value the contributions that all our “elders” make to families and the community.

To read more go to: <https://www.naidoc.org.au/awards/current-theme>

HOLY FATHER'S APPEAL: The annual Holy Father's Appeal is being held this weekend. 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. Donations can be given to the Appeal by phone 1800 753 959, or via the website at www.ourfaithourworks.org/give-to-holy-fathers-appeal.

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%. Please note that a tax receipt can only be issued to those who have already registered their request with the parish.

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.

It is also possible to celebrate your child's First Holy Communion 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

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.

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.

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.

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.

PARISH HERITAGE SIGNS: In 2020 St Mary's Parish commissioned five heritage signs to mark the sesquicentenary of the founding of the parish in 1870. They can be seen in the Church Forecourt and recall 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). The signs have been placed close to the original locations of the buildings.



THE FIRST CHURCH

The first church built on the St Mary's Parish site was blessed and opened by Archbishop Polding on 7 December 1845.

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 British colony of New South Wales had been established in January 1788 with the arrival of the First Fleet under the command of Captain Arthur Phillip.

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.



The Concord-Burwood district continued to grow and in 1844 land was purchased by the Catholic Church on Parramatta Road at Concord for the site of a church and school.

The painting that now hangs in the parish hall is based on a photograph taken in 1917 when the hall was under construction behind the first church.

THE PRESBYTERY

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 Presbytery c 2003

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.

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, as part of the strategic plan for the development of the parish site, the Presbytery, the Convent and the 1950s school building were all demolished to make way for the new St Mary's Villa.

St Mary's School

The 1845 church also served as a hall and from 1846 as a classroom for a one-teacher school with John Clancy as the first schoolmaster.

When John Clancy retired due to ill health in 1858, he was followed by a series of lay teachers. Records are unclear about the school's operation in the 1860s but when St Mary's Parish was established in 1870, the existing one-teacher school became part of St Mary's Parish.

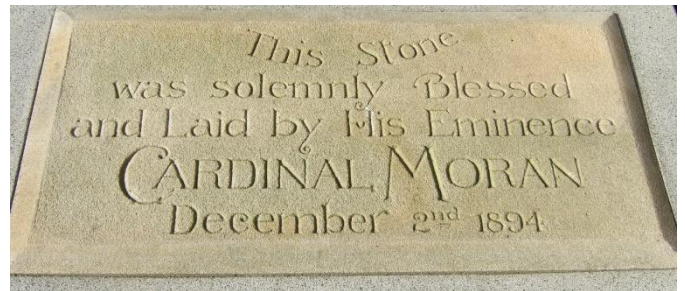
When the New South Wales Colonial Government withdrew funding for denominational schools in 1879, it became more difficult for the parish to pay the salary of the teacher and to maintain the school.



The photo of the 1894 school was taken 1917 as the hall was under construction (on the left).

Fr Callaghan McCarthy, the first parish priest, asked the Sisters of Charity to take charge of the school and in 1883 the Sisters began travelling each day from Ashfield to teach in the school-hall.

The first school building was erected on the parish site in 1894. It stood on the western side of the present Church Forecourt on what is now the "grass" area within the school precinct. The foundation stone laid by Cardinal Moran can now be seen on the western side of the church steps



St Mary's School continued to grow and expand. In 1917 a new hall was built with classrooms above and after the present church opened in 1929, the second church built in 1874 was used for classes.

In 1940 a new infants' school building was built facing Burton Street and in 1956 a Commercial College for girls was built on the site of the second church.

When more classrooms were needed in the 1970s, the first school building that had been opened in 1894 was demolished to make way for a new block of classrooms which was blessed and opened by Archbishop James Freeman on 3 September 1972.



The 1972 block after the 2000-2001 renovations.

Kindergarten classes moved into the new classroom block. Almost forty years later in 2011, another classroom block was built for Kindergarten along the Parramatta Road boundary of the school precinct on the western side of the hall. That project also enabled the 1972 classrooms to be demolished to create the present "grass" area.