



St Mary's Parish Concord

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

23 July 2023

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19
In the place of sin, you give repentance.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 85
 Lord, you are good and forgiving

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-27
The Spirit helps us in our weakness.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30
Let them grow together until the harvest.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

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

We pray for all grandparents and older parishioners who continue to hand on their faith to younger generations.

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 Caterina Brancatisano, Patricia McNamara and all those who have died recently; we pray for John Ryan, Tony Attard, Nancy Bonaccorso and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time and for all our deceased relatives and friends.

ST MARY'S 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.

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

This Sunday, 23 July, marks the Third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. Pope Francis instituted the Day in 2021 and each year it is held on the fourth Sunday in July. It is linked to the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne (26 July) the parents of Mary and the grandparents of Jesus.

The theme chosen for this year is *His mercy is from age to age*. In Luke's Gospel (Lk 1:50), a young Mary praises God as she visits her elderly cousin Elizabeth. This Sunday Pope Francis will celebrate a Mass in St Peter's Basilica and at the end of the celebration, five elderly people, one representative from each continent, will symbolically hand over the World Youth Day Pilgrim's Cross to five young people leaving for WYD in Lisbon.

The gesture symbolizes not only the transmission of faith from age to age but also the commitment that the elderly and grandparents have accepted, at the invitation of the Holy Father, to pray for the departing youth and accompany them with their blessing.

Acknowledgement of Country



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

RECEIPTS FOR PLANNED GIVING have now been issued via email. Those who requested printed receipts can collect the receipt from the green box on the table at the back of the church. *A tax receipt for Parish Planned Giving is only provided to contributors who advised prior to 1 July 2022 that a tax receipt was required.* Tax receipts will show the amount contributed and the amount that is tax deductible.

RECEIPTS FOR OTHER APPEALS: Those who contributed to various other appeals during 2022-2023 (CWF Appeals, Project Compassion, Priests' Retirement Foundation) and requested a tax receipt, will find their contributions listed on their receipt. Please contact the parish office if you require further information.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated within a special 11am Mass on two Sundays, 20 and 27 August 2023. Registration will open on Monday 17 July and will close on Friday 28 July.

To register, please email the Parish Office including your child's full name and your nominated Sunday (either 20 August or 27 August). An information letter and enrolment form will be emailed to you. Please note the number of families members able to attend will be limited to 10 people including your child.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ON OTHER SUNDAYS It is possible to celebrate your child's First Holy Communion within any parish Sunday Mass. Please contact the Parish Office to discuss possible dates.

While there will be a limit for each family attending the special First Holy Communion Masses, there is no limit on the number of family members who can be present at any regular parish Sunday Mass.

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. COVID is currently spreading in the Australian community.

NEW PARISH CENTRE: In 1994 the parish office was moved from the former Presbytery to its current location at 4 Ada Street where it has served the parish well for almost 30 years.

The 2010 Parish Strategic Plan identified the need for a new Parish Centre due to the significant structural cracks in the present building.

The new Parish Centre will be located at 6 Broughton Street (corner of Broughton & Burton Sts). The property was purchased by the parish in November 2020. It will include parish offices, an interview room, a parish meeting room and storage for the parish archives.

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

MOMENTS IN HISTORY

World Youth Day, Sydney, July 2008

As many young people prepare to travel to Lisbon, Portugal for World Youth Day, we recall that 15 years ago Sydney hosted WYD.



St Mary's Parish was a centre for 300 Italian pilgrims from the Marche region of Italy. They began arriving on Monday 14 July and stayed until Sunday 20 July. The church was a catechesis centre for Italian pilgrims during that week with the Masses broadcasted to Italy.



Most of the pilgrims were accommodated in the classrooms of St Mary's School and enjoyed the winter sunshine as they gathered for lunch.

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

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.

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. Anyone concerned with the illness of alcoholism or addiction who wish to join them in prayer is welcome.. 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 First Church 1845

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

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.

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

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 expand. In 1940 a new infants' school 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 was demolished to make way for a new block of classrooms that were blessed and opened by Archbishop James Freeman on 3 September 1972. They became the Kindergarten block until almost forty years later in 2011 when another classroom block was built for Kindergarten along the Parramatta Road boundary of the school precinct on the western side of the hall.



The 1972 classrooms were then demolished to create the present "grass" area.