



## St Mary's Parish Concord

### 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

24 September 2023

#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 55: 6-9

*My thoughts are not your thoughts.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Ps 144

The Lord is near to all who call him.

**SECOND READING:** Philippians 1:20-24, 27

*For me to live is Christ.*

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 20: 1-16

*Why are you jealous because I am generous?*

#### PRAYER INTENTIONS

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

We pray for those who face poverty, conflict, discrimination or lack of opportunities in their home countries

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

We pray for all those who have died recently; we pray for Vincent (Tony) Biasi, Carmela Vecchio, Amanda Stefanucci, John Travers, and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time; we also pray for all our deceased relatives and friends.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD** is currently suspended until Sunday 15 October.

**ANNUAL LEAVE:** Fr Paul is currently on annual leave. During Fr Paul's leave, we welcome Fr Geoff Plant who is presiding at the weekend Masses. Fr Pat Hurley is presiding at the weekday Masses (8.30 am Mon-Fri). We are grateful to them for their support.

The Parish Office is open Monday to Thursday from 8.30 am to 3.00 pm. Outside of those hours for any non-urgent parish matters, please send an email to [parish@stmarysconcord.org.au](mailto:parish@stmarysconcord.org.au)

For an urgent sick call, please contact one of the neighbouring parishes.

#### Acknowledgement of Country



We acknowledge the Wangal people of the Eora nation, the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

#### ST MARY'S FAMILY GROUPS

We invite everyone to celebrate 50 years of Passionist Family Groups in Australia and 32 years at St Mary's Concord at the 9:30 Mass on **Sunday 15th October**. This will be followed by a gathering in the Parish Hall. All are welcome.

#### ST MARY'S PLAYGROUP

Playgroup will conclude for term 3 on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September and resume Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October.

Playgroup operates from each Friday 930 - 1045am in the Parish Hall. All families are welcome to join during school terms with their pre-school aged children. It is a wonderful opportunity to engage with other families and have fun with your child. Contact the parish office for further information.



## MIGRANT AND REFUGEE SUNDAY

The theme chosen by Pope Francis for today's 109<sup>th</sup> World Day of Migrants & Refugees is "**Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay.**"

Pope Francis emphasised that "we are called to show maximum respect for the dignity of each migrant; this entails accompanying and managing waves of migration as best we can, constructing bridges and not walls, expanding channels for a safe and regular migration.

In whatever place we decide to build our future, in the country of our birth or elsewhere, the important thing is that there always be a community ready to welcome, protect, promote and integrate everyone, without distinctions and without excluding anyone."

As a community, we can choose not to judge, but to respond with the generosity of God. We can create spaces of human dignity and flourishing. We can provide welcome, hospitality and means to earn an income. We can show love and build pathways towards hope and healing. We can support those who choose to return. Pope Francis says that "the chance to live in peace and with dignity" is not yet a right, but "must be seen as a shared responsibility".

We are children of God, and we place ourselves in God's hands. As do those who make difficult choices about whether to migrate or to stay. Whatever happens, our communities are free to choose how to respond.

## Listen, Learn, Love.

The Social Justice Statement 2023-2024 is a *New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples*

In 1967, Australians gave overwhelming support to a referendum that recognized Australia's First Peoples as citizens. In 2023, we will be given a chance to vote in another referendum to constitutionally recognize Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples through a Voice to Parliament. Australia's Bishops see it as an opportunity for all Australians to renew our engagement with the First Peoples of Australia. They have come to this view through much listening to the First Peoples and they encourage us all to listen to them in a spirit of love and humility.

The Bishops invited the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) to speak directly to them about their experiences of injustice and about their hopes for the future. NATSICC addresses the many injustices their people have faced since colonization until now. They speak of many concerns including high suicide rates and incarceration, shorter life expectancy and poorer outcomes in employment, education and housing. They also identify racism as an on-going challenge. The information they use includes the Closing the Gap Report and the witness of

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples who spoke about their concerns during visits to many communities during the preparation of this statement. **The full statement and other resources, including a Prayer Card, can be found at [www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au)**

**SUPPORTING OUR PARISH** There are many ways parishioners continue to support the Mission and work of the parish: the Planned Giving program, Tap n' Go donations and cash donations placed in the collection buckets each Sunday.



For your convenience this QR Code allows secure credit donations to be made to the parish through the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

The QR Code will take you directly to the Donation Page on our parish website. If you select the default option (Sunday collections) your donation will automatically be split between the normal parish 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> collections. Alternatively, you can scroll down for other options.





## Let Justice and Peace Flow

Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River  
Amos 5: 24

**Prophet Amos cries out: "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 5: 24) and so we are called to join the river of justice and peace, to take up climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for communities most impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity.**

**As the people of God, we must work together on behalf of all Creation, as part of that mighty river of peace and justice.**

The *Season of Creation*, originally launched by the Orthodox Patriarch of Constantinople in 1989, has been progressively joined by other Christian churches, with Pope Francis announcing the Roman Catholic Church's participation in 2016.

The *Season of Creation* is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through repenting, repairing, and rejoicing together. During the *Season of Creation*, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.

This year, amid the natural disasters and crises that have shaken the world, we're awakened to the urgent need to heal our relationships with creation and each other.

The *Season of Creation* unites the world's 2.2 billion Christians around one shared purpose. With so much injustice all around us, now is the time for Christians everywhere to come together and show the world how to love each other and creation.

For more information about the *Season of Creation* go to <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

**COVID HEALTH REPORT:** A 2023 COVID 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.

**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)

**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)

### FREE SEMINAR ON WILLS FOR THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Writing or updating a Will can be complicated & challenging. Sydney Archdiocese is offering a free seminar to help you gain a better understanding of important topics such as Estate planning, Enduring Guardianship and Powers of Attorney. Leading industry specialists will offer their expertise and answer your questions.

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 1030am, St Martha's 138 Renwick St, Leichhardt. For more details contact Tony Maricic on 1800 753 959 or email [tony.maricic@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:tony.maricic@sydneycatholic.org)

To register for this event visit [www.trybooking.com/CLCJW](http://www.trybooking.com/CLCJW)

### St Mary's Church Concord

The painting of the Blessed Virgin Mary that is the dominant image of Mary in the church is a copy of *The Immaculate Virgin of Los Venerables* painted by the Spanish artist Bartolome Esteban Murillo (1618-1682) in about 1678.

It is believed that the original painting was commissioned from Bartolomé Esteban Murillo by Justino de Neve, who was ecclesiastical president of the *Hospital de los Venerables* in Seville. He later donated it to the chapel at the hospital. The original painting is now in the Prado Museum in Madrid.



In this painting Murillo combined two different iconographic traditions: the Immaculate Conception and the Assumption.

The title of *Immaculate Virgin* reflects the belief that Mary was without sin from the first moment of her being. Although it was only officially declared a dogma of the Church in 1854, belief in the Immaculate Conception of Mary had been a popular devotion in Spain since the 16th century. The Assumption of Mary was only declared to be a dogma in 1950. It too had been a popular devotion for many centuries.

The parish's copy was cleaned and restored in February 2020 to mark the Sesquicentenary of the founding of St Mary's Parish (1870-2020).

### PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding Office provides support and training for parish communities to ensure that our communities offer a safe and caring environment. The Safeguarding Office also provides support for those who have suffered abuse. If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Archdiocese of Sydney, the Safeguarding Office will listen to you respectfully, offer support and discuss the options available to you. Please contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office on phone: 9390 5812.

**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)

### 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)

### 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.

### 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 classroom block was then demolished to create the present “grass” area.