



Jesus said 'Come and see'..... John 1:39-41

ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE PARISH MARAYONG

Parish Vision Statement

We are an active and welcoming Catholic community,
where people of all ages draw closer to God.
His love is expressed through each one of us by prayer,
liturgy and reaching out in service to one another.



23rd SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Please visit our Parish Website: www.standrewsmarayong.org.au Year B: Vol.46 No.41

5th September 2021

PARISH STAFF:

Monsignor Ron McFarlane
Father Florito [Flor] Apalias
Maria Hyson
(Sacramental Coordinator)
Michelle Sultana &
Joe Clemson
(Office staff)

PARISH OFFICE:

Phone: 9622 0817

40 Breakfast Rd, Marayong 2148
[PO Box 4345]

Email Address:

saapm@bigpond.com

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday
9.30am to 12.30pm

After hours phone: 9671 5793

PRESBYTERY:

41 Breakfast Rd, Marayong

FR. BYRNE CENTRE:

(Parish Meeting Rooms)
38 Breakfast Rd, Marayong.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

- After weekday & Saturday morning Masses.
- Before Vigil Masses Saturday afternoon 4:00-4:30pm
- Anytime by arrangement.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms: 1st & 3rd Sunday
of each month at 11.30am

Baptismal Preparation:

Second Wednesday of
each month at 7.30pm
in the Fr Byrne Centre.

*Please book for Baptisms
with the Parish Office.*

PIETY STALL:

By asking for an appointment
at the Parish Office.

MASS LIVE

[@standrewsmarayong](https://www.facebook.com/standrewsmarayong)

Sunday - 9:30am &

Monday to Saturday 9:00am



<https://bit.ly/SAAPM>

~ 30min after conclusion

WEEKEND MASSES:

Sunday: 9.30 am

LIVE-STREAM ONLY

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Monday: 9.00am

Tuesday: 9.00am

Wednesday: 9.00am

Thursday: 9.00am

Friday: 9.00am

Saturday: 9.00am

ALL LIVE-STREAM ONLY

PARISH SCHOOLS:

ST. ANDREW'S PRIMARY

www.standrewsmarayong.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Yvette Baird

Phone: 8869 6700

Address: 36 Breakfast Road
Marayong 2148

ST. ANDREWS COLLEGE

www.standrewsmarayong.catholic.edu.au

College Principal:

Stephen Kennaugh

Phone: 9626 4000

Campus -

JUNIOR CAMPUS (YRS. 7-10)

Address: 116 Quakers Road
Marayong 2148

SENIOR CAMPUS (YRS. 11-12)

Address: 50 Breakfast Road
Marayong 2148

Father's Day Blessing

May God bless all fathers with wisdom, strength, patience and great love.
May all fathers see their children as gifts from God and teach them to hear
and follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

We pray also that families who have lost a child through death may be
comforted and healed by the Holy Spirit.

We also remember today our parents who have died that they enjoy eternal
life with our heavenly Father.



Prayer of Blessing

Loving God, You have given us life and cared for us through our fathers.
We thank you for their lives, their care and the wisdom they have taught us.

Fill them today, and all days, with your Holy Spirit of wisdom and love.

Help them hear your voice, follow you and teach their children to do the same.

God our Father, bless all the fathers in the world.

Guide them to be good role models and loving to all their children.

Help them to be a father like you are.

Give them grace and patience to handle situations in a loving way.

May we honour them with profound respect and by living your Gospel.

Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

From Monsignor Ron ...

Every gospel story is a personal message for you and for me. As we listen to the healing in this weekend's gospel passage, we should ask ourselves what needs to be opened in our lives so that we can experience the healing presence of our Lord. The truth is that in some sense all of us have been or are bound by some form of blindness or deafness. So, if we do not see it as a personal message for us we will miss the point and fail to appreciate what Jesus wants to do for each one of us.

The point that I am trying to make is that God is always present to us always offering his healing to us but he does need us to invite him in and be receptive to his presence and healing. The other point I should mention is that God doesn't always heal us in the way that we expect. For example, we pray for someone who is dying and they still die. We complain that God did not listen and we might get bitter about this. Yet, healing is not a matter of jumping out of bed and living for another 30 or 40 years. What if the result of our prayer was that the person opened up more to God and surrendered their life more fully to God. To die with the growth of faith is far more important than physical healing.

The point is we can all be healed in body, soul and spirit rather than just experiencing physical healing. The reality is God is always healing and it is always to our betterment, our happiness and our total health. People who do not have the gift of faith do not appreciate that God never says "No" to our prayers. He simply loves us too much to do that. He always wants to give us life, more abundant life, and he will always do so and do it in the best possible way.

I would like to suggest that each day we take our lives to God that he might heal our brokenness and answer our needs. What is important is to be confident that he will do precisely this and as I mentioned before he will do it in the best possible way.

The final point I would like to mention is that Jesus has entrusted this a ministry to us his disciples and promised to remain with us. If we do not grasp this, if we do not grasp that he is offering his healing to all of us and inviting us in turn to minister to others, we will remain deaf and blind to the word which is shared with us week by week. To accept the daily challenge of being loving people makes our prayers and honest expression of our openness to our God's healing touch.

BUILDING SAFE PARISHES TOGETHER

At the present time Safeguarding Modules can be presented online or via Zoom presentations. Once restrictions are eased there will be opportunities for face-to-face training. However, I would encourage parishioners who are volunteers in the various ministries in the parish to seriously consider doing some of these online modules.

OFFICE FOR SAFEGUARDING ARE OFFERING ONLINE TRAINING TO KEEP OUR PARISHES SAFE

The Office for Safeguarding is providing an opportunity for all of us to develop our awareness and skills in ensuring our parishes are safe and welcoming places for all. The team are currently offering accompanied online training courses throughout September and October. If you are interested or have any questions about the Safeguarding Training, please email our Safeguarding office:

safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org or maria.kervin@parracatholic.org

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Today is the greatest day of your life, because today is the only day that exists. All your earlier days are part of your mind's memory bank. All the future days have not occurred yet. So today just has to be the greatest day of your life.

The way you experienced the day will be different if you decide to view it as the greatest day of your life, right now. Today is the only day that you get to choose what you think, say, and do today.

So, think about it: what are some of the greatest thoughts that you could think of on this great day in your life?"

★FAITH FORMATION OFFERED BY THE PARISH★

On our Parish Facebook page & YouTube channel the topics already available are....

- ★ "God's Love" presented by Maria Hyson.
- ★ "Illness & Anointing of the Sick." presented by Fr. Flor.
- ★ "Living in the Present Moment" presented by Msgr Ron.
- ★ "Encouragement" presented by Maria Hyson.
- ★ "Eucharistic Spirituality." presented by Fr. Flor.

This Monday at 10 AM the topic will be:

- ★ "Relating to God in our needs."

THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

FEAST DAY SEPTEMBER 8

The birthday of Mary is a joyful day and not least because it highlights the good news of the closeness of God. God is uniquely close to Mary, but God is close to Joseph, and God is close to you and to me. When God sends us he does not usher us out of his presence. As we do God's word we come closer to him. We do not move further away. However busy we become we remain in relationship with God our creator. We'll need to cultivate our awareness of the presence of God -- there are various methods to do this but they will have one thing in common -- God is already present and we are trying to become more aware of his presence. We should acknowledge God and his presence. We should be grateful for his gifts to us and his **offer of friendship**. We should be grateful for the gift of Mary. Mary is one of God's special gifts to us.

Following the livestream of 9:00am Mass on Wednesday morning parishioners are invited to join us online for a livestream of the Rosary.

Catholic Outlook book giveaway

To celebrate Father's Day 2021, and with thanks to Coventry Press, Catholic Outlook is giving away three copies of "Matters of Life and Faith" by Paul Mitchell – a beautiful book about faith and fatherhood. Entries are now open until Thursday 9 September. Enter today via catholicoutlook.org and fill out the form under 'Book Giveaway'.

HOME Ground Fertility Awareness Zoom Session: 7 & 14 September

Are you looking for a new method of family planning that will empower you to understand how your body works? Join a private Zoom event at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7 September as part of our HOME Ground initiative. This session, which will be repeated on 14 September, will cover The Sympto-Thermal Method, and hear from couples that are using it. To register, please contact Catherine on catherine.bourne@parracatholic.org or call 0400 427 605

Sign the petition to welcome 20,000 refugees fleeing Afghanistan

In a sign of unity, major Australian church denominations and Christian organisations have come together to urge the Prime Minister to provide a special intake of an additional 20,000 refugees fleeing Afghanistan and support the ongoing wellbeing of all Afghan refugees and their families. For more information and to sign the petition go to www.unitedforafghanistan.com/?partner=dioceseparramatta

Diocese of Parramatta launches PLenary COUNCIL RESOURCE WEBSITE

A new website provides resources for parishioners in the Diocese of Parramatta to stay involved in the Plenary Council, which is exploring what the future of our Church should look like.

The first assembly starts in October, so visit parracatholic.org/plenary-2021/ to find a range of information, a Diocesan prayer and more.



MASS READINGS -YEAR B

THIS SUNDAY:

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7

Psalm: Ps 145:7-10

Second Reading: James 2:1-5

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

NEXT SUNDAY:

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 50:5-9

Psalm: Ps 114:1-6. 8-9

Second Reading: James 2:14-18

Gospel: Mark 8:27-35

**DUE TO COVID-19, PUBLIC
MASSES AND CHURCH BUILDINGS ARE
CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

**CHURCHES ARE NOT BEING CLOSED.
BUILDINGS ARE BEING CLOSED.
YOU ARE THE CHURCH!
YOU ARE TO REMAIN OPEN.**

During the week prayers have been requested for.....

Len Burn, Thomas Carvalho, Regina Castelino,
Maria - Khen Thi Tran, Maria Ly Thi Tran,
Bibiana Malaluan, Sr Alice Mary Martyris,
Graciano Menezes, Helen Tuscano, Peter Vaughn,
Victor & Maryanne Vella, Aeldred & Riolen Weber,
Stella & Felic Zammit, Collins & Quinn Families,
All Souls in Purgatory.....**Please remember in your prayers**

Sunday
<p>5-Sep</p> <p>23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Counters: Group 9 Father's Day</p> <p><i>Bishop Vincent's Father's Day Appeal</i></p> <p>9:30 Mass - live stream only</p>
Monday
<p>6-Sep</p> <p>Monday of week 23 in Ordinary Time</p> <p>9:00 Mass - live stream only</p>
Tuesday
<p>7-Sep</p> <p>Tuesday of week 23 in Ordinary Time,</p> <p>9:00 Mass - live stream only</p>
Wednesday
<p>8-Sep</p> <p>The Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary</p> <p>9:00 Mass - live stream only 9:30 Rosary - live stream only</p>
Thursday
<p>9-Sep</p> <p>Thursday of week 23 in Ordinary Time Saint Peter Claver,</p> <p>9:00 Mass - live stream only</p>
Friday
<p>10-Sep</p> <p>Friday of week 23 in Ordinary Time</p> <p>9:00 Mass - live stream only</p>
Saturday
<p>11-Sep</p> <p>Saturday of week 23 in Ordinary Time,</p> <p><i>Saturday memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i></p> <p>9:00 Mass - live stream only</p>

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

In this time of global pandemic, this may be the first time we have heard about spiritual Communion. This is not something new in the history of the Church. It has long been understood that when a person cannot be present at Mass and receive holy Communion that it is possible to make an act of spiritual Communion. Spiritual Communion is an opportunity to still be able to unite ourselves to the Sacrament. The faithful seeking to unite themselves in the sacrificial Mass without being physically present can still unite their hearts and minds to Jesus and the Universal Church. It's called Spiritual Communion.

Watching a live televised Mass, a pre-recorded Mass, or a Mass on other social media platforms like YouTube, Facebook or Instagram or listening on the radio, is available. It's different than receiving in a church or in the hospital from an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, but it is definitely a moment of grace because you are hungering for God, and He's going to bring you grace when you're receptive to that. Consequently, anytime Catholics are unable to receive the Eucharist, they can make an act of Spiritual Communion.

As noted by Pope Saint John Paul II:

"The Eucharist thus appears as the culmination of all the sacraments in perfecting our communion with God the Father by identification with his only-begotten Son through the working of the Holy Spirit. With discerning faith a distinguished writer of the Byzantine tradition voiced this truth: in the Eucharist "unlike any other sacrament, the mystery [of communion] is so perfect that it brings us to the heights of every good thing: here is the ultimate goal of every human desire, because here we attain God and God joins himself to us in the most perfect union". Precisely, for this reason, it is good to cultivate in our hearts a constant desire for the sacrament of the Eucharist. This was the origin of the practice of "spiritual communion", which has happily been established in the Church for centuries and recommended by saints who were masters of the spiritual life. Saint Teresa of Jesus wrote: "When you do not receive communion and you do not attend Mass, you can make a spiritual communion, which is a most beneficial practice; by it the love of God will be greatly impressed on you".

-Ecclesia de Eucharista, Pope Saint John Paul II, 69-70

In an article published by Catholic News Service, Pope Francis said that

"United to Christ we are never alone, but instead form one body, of which He is the head. It is a union that is nourished with prayer and also with Spiritual Communion in the Eucharist, a practice that is recommended when it isn't possible to receive the sacrament."

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

'The Well' offers spiritual nourishment during lockdown



Need some inspiration and spiritual encouragement during lockdown? Why not check out The Well? The Diocese's 'on demand' streaming site has a tonne of video and prayer resources for you to explore and engage with during this difficult time. Our latest offerings include The FaithFeed's most recent livestream session and a special international version of Worship Wednesday.

Check it out at www.thewell.org.au

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS' DIGNIFIED RETIREMENT AND THOSE CLERGY WHO ARE IN ILL-HEALTH

BISHOP'S FATHERS DAY APPEAL / COVID-19 update

This Father's Day, please spare a thought for our humble priests who have cared for our faith community's spiritual nourishment and wellbeing for all their lives. With your generosity, the **Clergy Support Foundation** helps our priests with the personal, professional, and practical care and guidance needed to transition to a dignified and well-deserved retirement. Please give generously via the Father's Day Appeal at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or call (02) 8838 3482

Thank you, Clergy Support Foundation Committee

CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIRST COLLECTION while in lockdown

With the continued lockdown of our Church, you may wish to make an EFT contribution to support your Clergy, i.e. what you would normally place on the first collection. To do, please use the following details: **BSB: 067 950 - Account No: 00004265 - Account Name: Diocesan Clergy - Reference: 6022 & your name.** This will enable us to credit your donation to your parish.

PLANNED GIVING - SECOND COLLECTION via direct debit

Thank you to all those who have contributed to the Parish Planned Giving Program by using direct debit. Your contributions help to maintain our church building and pay our bills. For those who would like to contribute via direct debit please use our Parish Bank Details- **BSB: 067 950 - Account No: 00000420 - Account Name: Marayong Catholic Church - Reference: your - PG / envelope number or full name.**

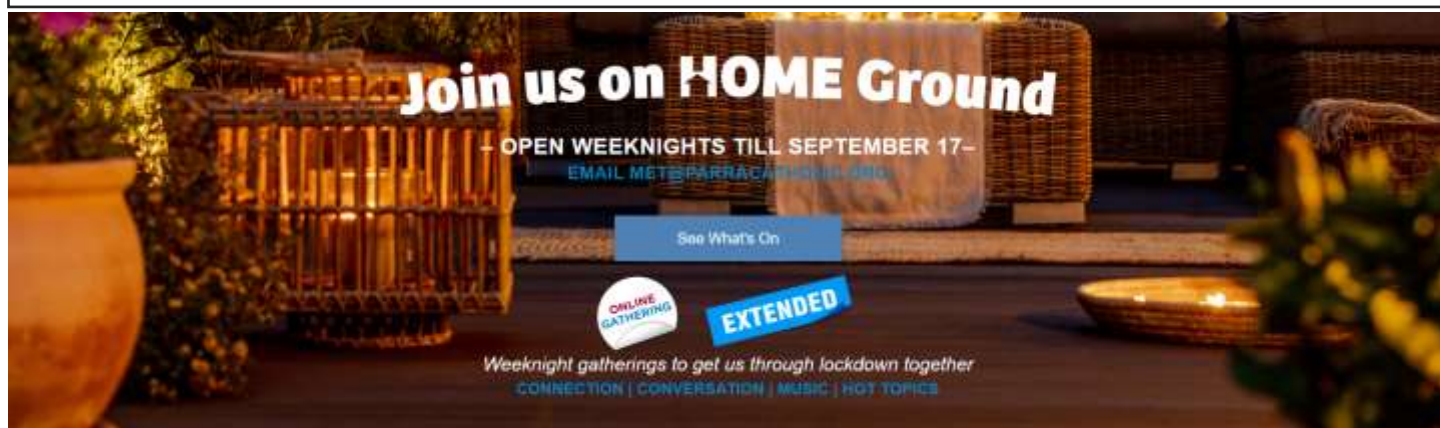
Thank you for your contributions – they are much appreciated.



World Day of Prayer for Creation & Season of Creation

Pope Francis has designated September 1 as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. Join Pope Francis and Christians around the globe in praying for and taking action for our common home on 1 September and during the Season of Creation (1 Sept – 4 Oct). For more information, resources, and activities in the Diocese of Parramatta,

visit parracatholic.org/seasonofcreation



Date	Name	Description	Time	Venue
Tuesday 7 September	Team Tuesday	For youth leaders and those serving in youth ministry. This is your opportunity to check in with others and discover different ways of doing ministry in these times.		ZOOM + Facebook
Tuesday 7 September	Fertility Awareness Special Event	Join Catherine and our Natural Fertility experts from the MET Team for an intimate session on fertility awareness	7:30pm	ZOOM
Wednesday 8 September	Worship Wednesday ALL STARS		8:00pm	Diocese of Parramatta Facebook page
Thursday 9 September	'BE MET' Night	An evening of welcome and connection, and a little bit of fun led by the new Mission Enhancement Team – Parramatta. Join people from right across the Diocese for prayer, local music, light-hearted discussion and a special guest appearance	7:30pm	ZOOM + Facebook



Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD STL
Bishop of Parramatta

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🌐 parracatholic.org

Pastoral letter to the faithful of the Diocese of Parramatta on our response to the situation in Afghanistan

Dear brothers and sisters,

Many of you will be shocked, as I am, by how quickly and easily the Taliban has seized control of Afghanistan. The daily scenes from Kabul airport that we have seen over the past weeks have been heartbreaking. How much more shocked and scared must the Afghan population be, as well as their relatives and friends who are now living here in Australia.

I ask you all to keep the Afghan people in your prayers, especially now as international forces have withdrawn from the country. Please include those in our community who have come from Afghanistan. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace has published a resource for communal prayer in your households: [Prayer of Solidarity for the People of Afghanistan](#).

Many Afghans are still trying to flee from the Taliban. Especially ethnic and religious minorities, including Christians, and those who worked together with the Australian and international military forces are at risk of targeted persecution. Women fear losing their human rights. The Australian Federal Government has so far committed to allocating 3,000 places within the existing refugee program for people fleeing Afghanistan.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Brisbane, the President of our Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, recently [wrote to the Prime Minister](#). Based on estimates from key humanitarian organisations and pledges from other countries, Archbishop Coleridge proposed that the Federal Government should make at least another 17,000 places available.

This proposal is being supported by many humanitarian and community organisations, including Catholic organisations, and by a broad ecumenical alliance of Christian churches in Australia.

I invite and encourage you all to add your voice to this important call. Under the theme "Christians United for Afghanistan" you can do this by signing the call at unitedforafghanistan.com/?partner=dioceseparramatta.

I have already added my signature on behalf of the Diocese of Parramatta. Parishes can sign within the category "Church". Catholic schools, agencies and our Diocesan councils are invited to sign as an "Organisation", and every faithful can sign as an "Individual".

Beyond a special intake of refugees from Afghanistan and Afghan refugee camps in neighbouring countries, “Christians United for Afghanistan” calls on the Federal Government to “Welcome. Protect. Reunite. Support.”

This includes granting permanent protection to all people from Afghanistan who are already in Australia on temporary protection visas or are currently awaiting application outcomes. It also includes enabling these refugees to bring their families from Afghanistan to Australia and reunite in safety, as well as additional emergency and long-term support for humanitarian aid through reputable organisations working in the region.

Our partners at Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Australia and the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA) are supporting this ecumenical initiative and will help to engage the Catholic community across Australia.

As Christians, we believe that God bestows an indestructible dignity on every human being. However, we know that humans can erode this dignity. That is what I fear the Taliban are doing when they persecute those who do not share their beliefs and oppress the women and minorities they live alongside.

So, when it is within our national power to protect dignity, we are prompted by our faith to speak out. As Pope Francis said in 2017 when speaking of people seeking asylum: “Defending their inalienable rights, ensuring their fundamental freedoms and respecting their dignity are duties from which no one can be exempted.”

It is our collective duty as a society to foster and uphold the unity of the family, and in the context of Afghanistan this includes enabling access to family reunion for refugees and members of the diaspora.

Australia has a long tradition of generously resettling refugees and displaced persons who flee their home countries due to war, conflict and violence. We need to honour this legacy by showing the Afghan people fleeing oppression and violence our compassion and solidarity. I believe that this is the true identity of the country I have made my home.

I was a refugee once and fled by boat in the wake of the end of a protracted war in which Australia had been involved. I hope to see the same level of bipartisan support for Afghan refugees now as there was for Vietnamese refugees then.

While the Government has a critical role to play in supporting Afghans in Australia and in their homeland, faith-based and community groups declaring they are ready to help people relocating to Australia is a big piece of the puzzle.

If you have friends, colleagues or neighbours with an Afghan background, please be there for them in this traumatic time. I ask you to open your hearts to newly arriving refugees, and to support our Catholic agencies in providing support to them as well as humanitarian aid in the region.

Also include the members of our Australian Defence Force in your prayers who served in Afghanistan in the past 20 years.

Thank you for your prayer and solidarity with our Afghan sisters and brothers in this difficult time.

In Christ,



**Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv
Bishop of Parramatta**

Given at Parramatta on 1 September 2021