



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.



## 24th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Please visit our Parish Website: [www.standrewsmarayong.org.au](http://www.standrewsmarayong.org.au) Year B: Vol.46 No.42

12th 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](mailto: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.standrewpsmarayong.catholic.edu.au](http://www.standrewpsmarayong.catholic.edu.au)

Principal: Yvette Baird

Phone: 8869 6700

Address: 36 Breakfast Road  
Marayong 2148

#### ST. ANDREWS COLLEGE

[www.standrewscmarayong.catholic.edu.au](http://www.standrewscmarayong.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

## BUILDING SAFE PARISHES TOGETHER

### #4 Update from the Office of Safeguarding's Community Engagement and Education Officer on: SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY...

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has designated the second Sunday in September each year as Safeguarding Sunday. This Sunday falls at the end of Child Protection Week.

Today is an opportunity to remind ourselves of the Diocese of Parramatta's Commitment to Safeguarding:

- We are committed to being a community of Safeguarding
- We will have zero tolerance to abuse of any form
- We are committed to ensuring children and vulnerable adults under our care are safe, protected and enabled to flourish.

And I am excited to confirm that parishes around the diocese are demonstrating this commitment in volumes! Our September dates for zoom sessions are close to full. The October sessions are filling fast. Many others are inquiring about and registering for the online Modules. Others are looking forward to restrictions easing and the opportunity for face-to-face training within their parish. In recent weeks I have had wonderful conversations with priests, parish managers and parish volunteers who are all so committed to their parish ministry and to this training. I am grateful and energized by each one of these conversations.

In gratitude for the work, you do in your parish I would like to offer this prayer for you on this Safeguarding Sunday.

**Let's** pray for our parish communities as they seek to follow the example of Christ and the teachings of his Church: that we will be strengthened in our commitment to ensure that policies and procedures are implemented to protect children, young people and the vulnerable in our society.

(Adapted from: <https://www.catholicreligious.org.au/resources>)

## *From Monsignor Ron ...*

We profess that Jesus is God become man. Yet do we really believe this in our heart of hearts? Do we really accept the consequences of it by basing our lives totally on his teachings and example? I suspect Jesus would often make the same statement about us as he made about Peter -- the way you think is not God's way but man's way of thinking.

For example, how often are we the source of our own temptations? How often we play down the Church's teaching on social justice, morality, Christian behaviour and sin? How often we justify our failures in helping others? How often we make excuses for not praying or going to Mass occasionally during the week? How often do we give into temptations because they seem too difficult to resist? The point is we may very easily become the main instruments of temptation against ourselves.

It is important that we look at life from God's point of view and not the world's point of view. It is important that we look for happiness and security in life not just in material things, and possessions, in comforts, or in friends, but we try to find them in God.

Today we are asked to reflect on the whole question of faith. We need to realize that being a person of faith is not just a matter of being baptized and believing a whole lot of teachings. It is about living, living a whole new way of life, with values, standards, attitudes and actions different from a person who does not have faith. It means accepting God's way of living and God's way of doing things. It means to stop fitting God into our plans and to concentrate on discovering his plans for us. Unfortunately, it is all too easy to live our daily lives with no thoughts of God. It requires constant effort to be aware that God is present with us and to us at all times. It means we have to stop often each day to discuss our way of living and doing things with our God.

Finally, at the end of each day we should be able to look back and to see the many ways our faith has expressed itself in action. If our faith does not affect everything we do, then we have to question ourselves as to whether or not we are really living our faith.

### *TEN BEST PRACTICES FOR HAPPINESS*

1. We need to accept ourselves as we are.
2. We need to try to fulfil our needs for relaxation, exercise, and nourishment.
3. We need to make our lives an act of love.
4. We need to stretch by stepping out of our comfort zones.
5. We must learn to be "good finders."
6. We need to seek growth, not perfection.
7. We need to learn to communicate effectively.
8. We need to learn to enjoy the good things of life.
9. We absolutely must make prayer part of our daily lives.
10. We need to accept that happiness is a natural condition for all of us.

### ★ ONGOING FAITH FORMATION AVAILABLE FOR PARISHONERS ★

A variety of talks can be found by going to our Parish Facebook page & YouTube channel. Each Monday at 10 AM a new topic will be streamed or posted. As well these **formation sessions can be accessed at any time. 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.
- ★ "Relating to God in our needs." presented by Msgr Ron.

This Monday at 10 AM the topic will be:

- ★ "Human Freedom." presented by Maria Hyson.

## Important Feast Days this Week:

### THE THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

This feast day is so important as it is a reminder of Christ's love and sacrifice and also of the triumph of God's love for us his people.

**"Lord, help us to love you, to seek you with all our hearts, and to rejoice in your cross and your Resurrection victory over of oppression and death. Ignite in us the fire of your Love so that, filled with your Holy Spirit, our faith may be awakened to renewed commitment and action. Amen"**

### OUR LADY OF SORROWS WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 15

We need to see a link between this feast day and the devotion to the seven dolours of Mary. The dolours of Mary are: the prophecy of Simeon, the flight into Egypt, the loss of the child Jesus at Jerusalem, meeting Jesus on the road to Calvary, the standing at the foot of the Cross, the descent of Jesus from the Cross and the burial of Jesus.

This feast day and these devotions are ways of commemorating the sorrows of Mary and also ways of reminding us that Mary experienced the negatives of life just as we do. It is important that we reflect on these sufferings of Mary because they are sufferings that all of us can identify with and are a reminder to us that Mary does provide a great source of help.

I believe this is an important feast day particularly this year when so many of us are finding difficulty in dealing with the restrictions on our normal lifestyles and so many of us have experienced the loss of somebody close to us due to the fact of Covid 19 or other illnesses.

### The Sacrament of Reconciliation:

A number of people have asked about the possibility of receiving this important sacrament and how to go about it. I would ask that people make an appointment through the parish office if they wish to avail of the sacrament. The sacrament will be administered in the piazza area, so we ask that only one person at a time gets out of the vehicle. Then you may proceed to the piazza area.

### 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/](http://parracatholic.org/plenary-2021/) to find a range of information, a Diocesan prayer and more.



#### MASS READINGS -YEAR B

##### THIS 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

##### NEXT SUNDAY:

##### 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Wisdom 2:12. 17-20

Psalm: Ps 53:3-6. 8

Second Reading: James 3:16 - 4:3

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

**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.....*

Maria - Khen Thi Tran, Maria Ly Thi Tran,  
Victor Miranda, Bernard Sultana,  
Peter Vaughn, Victor & Maryanne Vella,  
Aeldred & Riolen Weber, John Xiberras,  
Stella & Felic Zammit, Collins & Quinn Families,  
All Souls in Purgatory

.....*Please remember in your prayers*

#### Sunday

12-Sep

**24th Sunday in  
Ordinary Time**

Counters: Group 10

**9:30 Mass - live stream only**

#### Monday

13-Sep

Saint John Chrysostom,  
Bishop, Doctor

**9:00 Mass - live stream only**

#### Tuesday

14-Sep

The Exaltation of  
the Holy Cross

**9:00 Mass - live stream only**

#### Wednesday

15-Sep

Our Lady of Sorrows

**9:00 Mass - live stream only**

#### Thursday

16-Sep

Saints Cornelius, Pope, and  
Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

**9:00 Mass - live stream only**

#### Friday

17-Sep

Saint Robert Bellarmine,  
Bishop, Doctor

**9:00 Mass - live stream only**

#### Saturday

18-Sep

Saturday of week 24  
in Ordinary Time,  
Saturday memorial of  
the Blessed Virgin Mary

**9:00 Mass - live stream only**



## THANK YOU FOR CARING FOR OUR RETIRED CLERGY

### BISHOP'S FATHERS DAY APPEAL / COVID-19 update

Thanks to your kind and compassionate support, the [Clergy Support Foundation](#) can continue to ensure our priests' physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing is nurtured. And, where needed, support our ageing priests' daily living, health care and medical expenses; along with home comforts and essentials for living well. The Clergy Foundation Committee is very grateful for your generous donations over the last few weeks, both via online portal or by mail, which have raised just on \$60,000 as of Thursday 9 September, about a third of our way to our target. Hopefully we will soon be able to hold the appeal in our parishes. Thanks again and if you haven't yet made a donation and would like to, please visit [parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal](http://parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal) or call (02) 8838 3482

We would like to thank those who have already contributed. For those who would still like to contribute you may do this online but would ask you to put down the name of our parish in the space provided. Parishioners may also send their donations to the parish office and they will be forwarded.

*Thank you, Clergy Support Foundation Committee*

### 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](http://www.unitedforafghanistan.com/?partner=dioceseparramatta)

### Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth Online Discernment Retreat: 25 September

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth are inviting single women aged 18-35 to an online discernment retreat on Saturday 25 September from 4pm. The retreat will include a reflection and talk, a Q&A session and Evening Prayer. If you would like to participate in the Zoom meeting, or for more information, please contact Sr Paula on 0449 656 406 or [vocationscsfn@gmail.com](mailto:vocationscsfn@gmail.com)

### 2021 Abraham Conference – Women Leaders in the Abrahamic Traditions: 10 October

The Abraham Conference plays an important role in bringing Jews, Christians and Muslims together to discuss contemporary issues of concern for the members of the three religions and for the wider society. This year's conference, which will discuss 'Women Leaders in the Abrahamic Traditions: Role Models for Our Time', will be livestreamed for free via Zoom on Sunday 10 October from 2.30pm to 4pm.

To register, please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/2021-abraham-conference>

### Vinnies Support Centres are still available to those in need

St Vincent de Paul Support Centres across Greater Sydney are still available and taking calls to arrange for food vouchers or other items to be provided to those in need. If you need assistance, call the Support Centres in Blacktown on (02) 8861 9777, Harris Park on (02) 8861 9757 and Penrith on (02) 8861 9770. To find out more about what support is available, visit <http://vinnies.org.au/covidsupportnsw>

For more events, please go to: [parracatholic.org/events](http://parracatholic.org/events)

### Fan the Flame Towards Plenary Assembly One October 2021

**'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me.'**

*Mark 8:27-35*

There can be no shortcuts, no bypassing the cross or the tomb, to encounter the resurrection. For new life and new hope to emerge, we need to acknowledge that we are a broken, hurt and traumatised Church... by standing in solidarity and compassion with each other, particularly the wounded, the poor and the traumatised.

*(Humble, Healing and Merciful – Discernment Paper pp. 12 and 18)*

[www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthe flame/](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthe flame/)

### '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](http://www.thewell.org.au)



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

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## **Pastoral letter to the young people of Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains**

### **“I am with you always” Matthew 28:20**

My dear young people of Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains,

I write to you today from my own small apartment in Harris Park, in one of countless LGAs of concern across Sydney. COVID cases are frighteningly high in suburbs surrounding me. Like you, I have been locked down for almost 12 weeks and my balcony, with its small makeshift garden has become an intimate place of respite from the concrete walls of my building.

I want to let you know that I have been thinking deeply about the situation we share. There is no doubt that the restrictions and subsequent impact on your life, family, and friends is being felt just as strongly by you. It's OK to feel angry, emotional, overly dependent or withdrawn. I imagine, too, that you're overhearing the stress that your parents, guardians, or roommates are under with home schooling, working from home, loss of income, relationship strain, loneliness or even too many people living too closely together.

I can't imagine what the loss of important milestones in your life might feel like at this time, but I do know that through the example of Jesus you will be resilient, adaptive and bounce back. His resurrection is proof that there is always light in the darkness.

Most heartbreaking for me in recent weeks has been what reports are calling the “shadow pandemic”. Each day more than 40 children and teenagers from our own backyard are being rushed to emergency departments due to self-harm and mental health problems.

We've put so many things on hold - during this time - that give us hope. Hope is what gives us the most joy in life and sometimes on our worst days I know it can feel like we're just not moving anywhere and progressing. Anxiety, depression, and far worse, is on the rise.

During this time, please, keep talking. Whether it be face-to-face around the dinner table or over the phone or Zoom. Please, also keep walking and keep active. Walk with a friend who lives nearby or someone you live with. Exercise is so good for our mental health and our bodies. It gets us out of the four walls that can feel oppressive, dark, and confined, and into the sunlight that is warm on our face and the fresh air moving through our lungs.

This R U OK? Day, I encourage you to consider going a little more deeply in supporting each other and turn that one, simple, but potentially powerful question into a true conversation.

I'm also pleased to share with you a website we launch today called **With You** ([parracatholic.org/withyou](http://parracatholic.org/withyou)) a collection of new initiatives we've developed to journey with you, accompanied by some outstanding resources that I pray will find, and grow that sense of HOPE in your hearts during these challenging times. This includes content from some wonderful organisations. Remember that there is absolutely no shame in reaching out to them for help.

I will continue to pray for you and your good health. May you find continued peace and serenity during these troubled times. As scripture reminds us, we are not to be afraid nor dismayed, for our Lord is with us wherever we go.

I have found great comfort lately in reflecting on the scriptural account of the 'Journey to Emmaus' and particularly turning my mind to how the disciples felt on the road and knowing that they could share with each other their doubts and struggles that the Lord became present to them. In such company they journeyed on to Eucharist and then mission.

We have so much to look forward to together.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in green ink, reading "Vincent Long Van Nguyen".

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

*Given at Parramatta on 9 September 2021*