



HOLY FAMILY PARISH, MT DRUITT

Under the care of the Australian Jesuit Province

252 -254 Luxford Road, Emerton NSW 2770

We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land this Church was built.



Parish Office:

Located in the Holy Family Centre
(via 11 Emert Pde, Emerton NSW 2770)
Postal Address:
PO Box 86, Mt Druitt NSW 2770
Ph: (02) 9628 7272 OR 0497 966 277

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9.00am – 4.30pm
Friday: 9.00am – 3.30pm

Find us on 

Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt
<https://fb.me/HFPMtDruitt>

Or visit our website:

www.holyfamily.org.au

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest: Fr Nguyen Van Cao SJ

cao@hollyfamily.org.au

Assistant Priest: Fr Renato Zecchin SJ

renato@hollyfamily.org.au

Pastoral Associate: Sr Carlene Allen

carlene@hollyfamily.org.au

Site Manager: Ray Donaldson

ray@hollyfamily.org.au

Parish Secretary: Malia Lolesio

enquiry@hollyfamily.org.au

Book-Keeper: Malinda Toms

accounts@hollyfamily.org.au

Music Director: Etuate 'Eddie' Paunga

kosilio_lole@hotmail.com

Parish Pastoral Council

Chairperson & Children's Liturgy

Coordinator: Marissa Logronio

logroniom23@gmail.com

Sacramental Coordinator:

Lorraine Gordon

SRE Co-ordinators:

Maureen Freeburn & Lorraine Gordon

Finance Committee Chairperson:

Kevin Johnson

Holy Family Young Adult Leaders:

Monica Vave, Fololina Mafi, Burt Tukala

hfytmtdruitt@gmail.com

Mass Times at Holy Family, Emerton

WEEKDAY:

Monday, Friday & Saturday: 9.00am
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday:
6.00pm

WEEKEND:

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm
Sunday: 9.00am & 10.30am

Mass at Willmot

Sunday at 7.30am

8 Carteret Ave, Willmot NSW 2770

Mass and Anointing

2nd Saturday of every month:
9.00am

Holy Hour - Emerton

Saturdays from 9.30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays: 9.30am – 10.00am OR
by appointment.

2025/ Issue No. 34// 14th September, 2025

Reflection from Fr Renato for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

**The Exaltation of the Cross –
“God’s victory over death and sin and the gift of divine life.”**

The Cross is one of the most central objects of the Christian faith. It is the symbol of God’s love for us, expressed through the self-sacrificing death of Jesus, His Incarnate Son.

“Today, the cruelty of the Cross is not what is exalted, but the Love that God manifested to humanity by accepting death on the Cross: ‘Who, though in the form of God, emptied himself, taking the form of a slave. This is the glory of the Cross of Jesus!’” (Pope Francis). And in today’s Gospel of John, we read: “...God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” (John 3:17).

The Cross is the power of God to raise His Son from death to new life as His Resurrected Son. The “lifting up” takes place upon the Cross, the instrument of Christ’s return to the Father and His ascent into heaven.

Those who approach the Cross in faith, who “look upon it” in this sense, as the Israelites looked upon the figure of the bronze serpent in today’s reading from the Book of Numbers, will receive what the Israelites received: rescue from death and the gift of life. As it was challenging for the Israelites to confront the serpent—the instrument of their affliction—so it is challenging for believers to confront the Cross, which, at one level, was the instrument of a terrible execution. But those who “look upon it” with faith confront, at the same time, both their own sinfulness and the victory over that sinfulness that the Cross represents.

Beyond the terrible execution, Christ dying upon the Cross becomes transparent to the extremity of divine love that brought Him there to rescue and give life to human beings. Hence, the Cross is a highly esteemed symbol for Christians everywhere and a way by which they express their faith. We place a Cross in our churches and homes, in the classrooms of our schools, and in other Christian institutions. Many wear a Cross as part of their dress.

Jesus on the Cross—when we experience our own pain and suffering, Jesus gives us strength, knowing that He who emptied Himself to become one with us and for us calls us to give our suffering to Him in love. In His humanity and in our humanity, we are one and share in His divine life.

We remember Jesus’ words to His followers: “...whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.” (Matthew 10:38-39).

As we often sing after the Consecration during the Eucharist: *Dying, you destroyed our death; rising, you restored our life. Amen.*

Everything is a reminder of the Cross. We ourselves are made in the shape of a cross.

St. John Vianney



SCRIPTURE READINGS - YEAR C



Feast: Exaltation of the Holy Cross

LET US HEAR AND RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD

Collect:

O God, who willed that our Only Begotten Son should undergo the Cross to save the human race, grant, we pray, that we, who have known his mystery on earth, may merit the grace of his redemption in heaven. Amen.

First Reading: Numbers 21: 4-9

In those days: the people became impatient on the way. They spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many children of Israel died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us. So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 30 (31): 2-6, 15-16, 20

R: Do not forget the works of the Lord!

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old. R.

When God killed them, the people sought for him;
they repented and sought him earnestly.
They remembered that God was their rock,
the Most High God their redeemer. R.

But they flattered him with their mouths;
they lied to him with their tongues.
Their heart was not steadfast toward him;
they were not true to his covenant. R.

Yet he, being compassionate, forgave their iniquity,
often he restrained his anger,
and did not stir up all his wrath. R.

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS

LIST OF THE SICK: Soane Quensell, Pam Picart-Manalac, Katea Vave, Kim Ahmad, Vivian Masters, Makasini Vave, Fifita Sitani, Loretta Josephine Seupule, Leue Dunlop, Lino Dunlop, Cheryl Barrell, Lisimoa Hufanga, Jenny Gillman, Chris Wilson, Norah Gibson, Sabrina Ellingsworth, Jean Mari Frederic, Brian Russel, Toss Van den Berg, Pat Phelan, John Murray, Lemisio Fa'ulua, Lourdes Bustamante, Pippa O'Neal, Mathew Sieders, Jose Manalo, Fely Dela Paz Manalo, Maria Barbara, Sylvia Greene, Mayda Attachian, Faye Iffland, Tim Meagher, Gloria Cutcliffe, Emma Lawrence, Maria Llave, Maria Belisario, Fara Vargas, Fe Llave, Stella Edwards, Boyet Llave.

ANNIVERSARIES: Manuel Herrero (10).

RECENTLY DECEASED: Sione Uele, Charlie Kirk.

Second Reading: Philippians 2: 6-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, he did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death- even death on a cross. Therefore God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
because by your cross you have redeemed the world.*
Alleluia!

Gospel: John 3: 13-17

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Prayer After Communion:

Having been nourished by your holy banquet, we beseech you, Lord Jesus Christ, to bring those you have redeemed by the wood of your life-giving Cross to the glory of the resurrection. Amen.



POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR: SEPTEMBER 2025

For our relationship with all of creation.

*Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis,
we might experience our interdependence
with all creatures who are loved by God
and worthy of love and respect. Amen.*



★ Congratulations to Our First Holy Communicants! ★

We rejoice with all the children in our parish who received First Holy Communion this weekend!
May this be the beginning of a lifelong friendship with Jesus, who comes to you in the Eucharist
with love, peace, and joy.

As a parish family, we are so proud of you and keep you in our prayers.

Readings for Sunday 21st September, 2025: Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time in Year C

\\ 1st Reading: Amos 8: 4-7 // \\ 2nd Reading: 1 Timothy 2: 1-8 // \\ Gospel: Luke 16: 1-13 //



Parish Collection for the weekend of the 6th/7th September 2025:

1st Collection (for the priests of the diocese)	\$ 1,098.55
2nd Collection (for parish expenses)	\$ 2,322.45
Fathers Day Appeal	\$ 924.30

DIRECT PARISH DONATIONSOnline contributions for the **Priests of the Diocese** (1st collection)**Acc Name: Parramatta Diocesan Clergy****BSB: 067 950 Acc No: 004265****Make sure to Reference: 6024 and Your Name**Online contributions for **Parish Expenses** (2nd collection)**Acc Name: Mount Druitt Catholic Church****BSB: 067 950 Acc No: 0000 0446****Reference: Your 'Planned Giving Number' OR Your Full Name
OR****For over the counter deposits:****Acc Name: Diocesan Development Fund Mt Druitt Catholic Church****BSB: 062 315 Acc No: 0090 1486 Agent No: 935****Reference: Your Name + Appeal**

If you would like a tax deductible receipt for your Planned Giving envelopes OR specific donation, please contact the parish office.

THANK YOU - FATHER'S DAY RAFFLE

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our Father's Day Raffle — whether by buying tickets or helping to sell them. Your generosity and involvement made it a great success, and your support helps strengthen our parish community.

Congratulations to our lucky winners!**1 Ticket No. 0974: Ann & Marvin****2 Ticket No. 0388: Michael Mallouk****3 Ticket No. 4158: Cecilia Makario**

We hope all our dads, grandfathers, and father figures had a joyful and blessed Father's Day!

— Parish Fundraising Team

Father's Day Appeal - Supporting Those Who Serve

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Father's Day Appeal over the weekend.

If you missed the opportunity, you can still take part. Envelopes are available at the back of the church for donations to:

1. **Australian Jesuit Foundation Trust** - supporting retired and sick Jesuit Fathers in Australia.

2. **Clergy Support Foundation (Diocese of Parramatta)** - caring for retired and unwell priests who have served our Church.

Donations over \$2 are tax-deductible.

Your generosity helps us honour and support those who have fathered us in faith.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS ROSTER**for next week: 20/21 September 2025****5.30pm Vigil Mass**

Minister at the Altar:	P. Morrell
Minister of the Word:	F. Hinder/ G. Bruton
Eucharistic Minister:	J. Macayan
AV Operator:	P. Gillman

9am Sunday Mass

Minister at the Altar:	S. Watt /
Minister of the Word:	M. Clements / E. Villanueva
Eucharistic Minister:	C. Payne
AV Operator:	-

10.30am Sunday Mass

Minister at the Altar:	G. Eberl / S. Kiteau
Minister of the Word:	P. Tatuila/ P. Tuimavave
Eucharistic Minister:	-
AV Operator:	P. Setefano

If you would like to be a part of the roster, please see Sr Carlene OR contact the Parish Office.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:**Sunday September 14**

- HF Tongan Catholic Communion, 12pm-3pm (MMR)
- Samoan Divine Mercy, 3.30pm-6.30pm (MMR)
- Jesus the True Vine, 3.30pm-6.30pm (SSR)
- Parish Pastoral Council mtg, 4pm-6pm (SICR)

Monday September 15

- Prep for Sacraments - Adults, 4pm (SICR)
- AA mtg, 7pm (MMR)

Tuesday September 16

- Staff Meeting, 3pm-5pm (SICR)
- St VdP Emerton Conference, 7pm - 8.30pm (SSR)
- NA mtg, 6.30pm-8pm (MMR)

Wednesday September 17

- Free Community Podiatry, 10am-3pm (SSR)
- Christian Meditation, 6.30pm-7.30pm (MMR)

Thursday September 18

- Baptism Prep (older children), 3.30pm (SICR)
- Risk Management Committee mtg, 6.45pm (SICR)
- Parish Choir, 7pm-9pm (Church)

Friday September 19

- Hamper Planning Mtg, 10am (CathWest)
- AA mtg, 6.30pm-8pm (MMR)

Saturday September 20

- HF Tongan Choir prac, 2pm-4.30pm (SSR)
- AA mtg, 7pm (MMR)

Meeting Rooms:**SSR** - Schoenstatt Sisters Room;**SICR** - St Ignatius Conference Room;**MMR** - Mary Mackillop Meeting Room,**HFC** - Holy Family Centre**Next Weekend - Special Collection & Trifecta Tickets**

Fr Renato has requested a bucket collection next weekend to support flood victims in Pakistan.

Please give generously to assist those in urgent need.

Also, Melbourne Cup Trifecta Tickets will go on sale next weekend — now \$2 each

UPCOMING EVENTS:

DATE	DETAILS
23 rd September	Mass and Anointing, 11.30am (Ropes Crossing)
Tue 14 th October	Mass for Seniors at 11.30am Followed by light lunch in the church. Contact the Parish Office to RSVP by Friday 10 Oct.
Thur 16 th October	Liturgy Committee Meeting 6.45pm
20 th - 22 nd October	Jesuit Parishes Conference (Melbourne)
Wed 22 nd October	First Reconciliation Information Session for Parents/ Carers, 7pm
Tue 28 th October	Mass and Anointing, 11.30am (Ropes Crossing)
Tue 4 th November	Melbourne Cup Day
Sat 8 th November	TBC - Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Doors at Mt Schoenstatt, Mulgoa
Sun 9 th November	Mass for All Souls, 3pm (Pinegrove Cemetery)
Sat 15 th November	Parish Working Bee
Tue 25 th November	Mass and Anointing, 11.30am (Ropes Crossing)
Fri 21 st November	Thanksgiving Dinner for Parish Volunteers
30 th Nov - 2 nd Dec	Australian Catholic Youth Festival (Melbourne)
Sun 30 th November	Parish Choir singing at Nth Sydney Parish Mass
Sat 6 th Dec	Parish Christmas Carols, 7pm-10pm (School Grounds)
Wed 10 th Dec	Second Rite of Reconciliation, 6.45pm (Chapel)
Tuesday 16 th Dec	Mass and Anointing, 11.30am (Ropes Crossing) Rochford Place, 12 Avoca St Ropes Crossing 2760
Wed 24/ Thur 25 December	Christmas Eve/ Day Masses



Garden of Peace
Isaiah 32:14-18

PEACE WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2025

Season of Creation 2025 - "Peace with Creation" 1 September - 4 October

This year, the global Christian family unites under the theme "Peace with Creation", inspired by Isaiah 32:14-18, which calls us to restore justice, renew the land, and live in harmony with God's creation.

The symbol for 2025 is the Garden of Peace – a powerful image showing the Earth divided between destruction and life, with a dove carrying an olive branch as a sign of hope, peace, and healing for our world.

At Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt, we respond to this call with prayer, reflection, and local action – because caring for our common home is an act of faith.

Parish Working Bee - Saturday, 15 November

As part of our commitment to Peace with Creation, we invite all parishioners to join us for a Community Working Bee on Saturday, 15 November.

Let's come together to clean, garden, and care for our parish grounds – a small but meaningful way to honour creation and build community.

🕒 Time: TBC

📍 Where: Holy Family Parish Grounds

💚 All ages welcome – bring gloves, tools, and a heart for service!

Child Protection Sunday - 14 September 2025 "The Parramatta Way" - Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility

This Sunday we mark Child Protection Sunday, a reminder that ensuring the safety and dignity of all children and vulnerable people is at the heart of our faith.

At Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt, we follow The Parramatta Way – promoting a culture of care, accountability, and respect.

We all share in this responsibility.

If you see something, say something.

☎ Contact the Parish Office or the Diocesan Office for Safeguarding: 02 8838 3419

🔗 Learn more at: parracatholic.org/safeguarding



Signs of Hope on the Edge: Serving Homeless People with Mental Ill-Health (the 2025-26 Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement)

"Instead of walking by and not noticing the plight of our neighbours, pay attention to them and their plight, listen to their stories, and serve them with the love we learn from Jesus."

Copies of "Signs of Hope on the Edge: Serving Homeless People with Mental Ill-Health" are available at the back of the church. Please take one and reflect on how we can respond with compassion, courage, and hope in our parish and community.

Spring Family Holiday Program - Join the Fun!

Holy Family Parish invites families to two exciting outings during the spring school holidays. Come along, connect with others, and enjoy a day out!

🍷 Activity 1: Sydney Observatory 📅 Wednesday 1st October

Explore the stars, planets, and the wonders of space at the historic Sydney Observatory! Families can enjoy the interactive exhibits, telescopes, and learn about our night sky.

📍 Nearby: Relax at Observatory Hill Park, enjoy a picnic with harbour views, or take a short stroll to Barangaroo Reserve.

🦖 Activity 2: Australian Museum 📅 Friday 10th October

Discover dinosaurs, ancient cultures, and amazing wildlife at the Australian Museum. Perfect for all ages!

📍 Nearby: Visit St Mary's Cathedral, wander through Hyde Park, or enjoy a treat at a nearby café.

🚌 Bus Details:

Leaves Holy Family Church: 9:00am sharp

Departs destination: 3:00pm

\$ Cost: \$5 per person (transport only)

Note: Food, drinks, and any entry/exhibition costs are not included.

🎫 Tickets available from the Parish Office starting Tuesday 16th September 2025.

☎ For more information, call the parish office.

📧 We Want to Hear From You!

Parish Bulletin - Feedback & Good News Stories

We're looking to make our parish bulletin more engaging, meaningful, and community-focused – and we'd love your input!

- ✅ What would you like to see more of in the bulletin?
- ✅ Do you have a story, experience, or event you'd like to share?

We're especially keen to feature "good news" stories from our parish community – things you or others are doing in or outside the parish that inspire hope, faith, or connection.

Examples might include:

- A community initiative you're part of
- A faith moment or testimony
- A recent celebration or act of kindness
- An event that brought people together

✉ Share your ideas, stories, or feedback with us by contacting the Parish Office or emailing: enquiry@holyfamily.org.au

Let's celebrate the good happening in and around Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt!