



HOLY FAMILY PARISH, MT DRUITT

Under the care of the Australian Jesuit Province

252 -254 Luxford Road, Emerton NSW 2770

PARISH VISION: Holy Family Mt Druitt is a welcoming community: on a journey towards a personal encounter with Jesus; called to unity and celebrating our diversity; living and sharing the joy of the Gospel.

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

Acting Sacramental Coordinator:

Marissa Logronio

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 7.30am

Mass and Anointing

2nd Saturday of every month:

9.00am

Holy Hour - Emerton

Wednesday: 5.30pm - 6.00pm

Saturdays from 9.30am - 10.30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays: 9.30am - 10.00am

OR by appointment.

2026/ Issue No. 32 / August 9th 2026

Reflection from Fr Renato for the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time in Year A

**"IT IS I - JESUS, THE SAVING PRESENCE OF GOD."
"TAKE COURAGE... DO NOT BE AFRAID."**

Our first reading from the First Book of Kings and today's Gospel from Matthew both describe a profound encounter with God following the storms of nature.

The first reading recounts the experience of the prophet Elijah. After being harassed by Queen Jezebel, he flees and journeys to Horeb, the mountain of God, where he takes shelter in a cave. Elijah is overwhelmed by inner turmoil—his anxiety, depression and fears—symbolised by the violent wind, the earthquake and the fire. Yet God is not found in these dramatic events, but in "a voice of sheer silence."

Elijah is called out from the security of the cave to stand before the Lord. There he receives both a new revelation of God and a renewed mission. This is one of the great moments of revelation in the Old Testament. The God once associated with the mighty forces of nature now reveals himself in gentle silence—a silence that speaks. It is this quiet voice that lifts Elijah from despair, renews his hope, and strengthens him for his vocation.

Like Elijah, we are invited to quieten the fears, anxieties and darkness within us so that we too may hear the voice of the Lord. God seeks us first, just as he sought Elijah. His presence is greater than our fears and empowers us with renewed faith, hope and purpose.

In today's Gospel, after the miracle of the loaves, Jesus and the disciples are separated. The disciples cross the Sea of Galilee by boat while Jesus goes up the mountain to pray. Throughout Scripture, the mountain is the place of encounter with God. In prayer, Jesus returns to the source of all that he is and does—his union with the Father. That same source of strength is offered to us through prayer.

Jesus then comes to his struggling disciples as they battle the wind and the waves. Walking on the water, he approaches them, but they are terrified and cry out, "It is a ghost!" Immediately Jesus reassures them: "Take courage. It is I; do not be afraid."

The words "It is I" echo throughout Scripture. From Moses at the burning bush to the prophets, they reveal God's saving presence among his people. Again and again, God accompanies these words with the same reassurance: "Do not be afraid."

Peter seeks confirmation that it is truly the Lord: "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." Jesus simply replies, "Come."

Peter steps out in faith and begins to walk towards Jesus. But when he notices the strength of the wind and the waves, fear overwhelms him and he begins to sink. He cries out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reaches out his hand and says, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

Despite Peter's weakness and doubt, Jesus does not abandon him. He rescues him. The same is true for all the disciples in the boat, and it remains true for us today. The Lord stands beside us in our moments of fear and need. Once Jesus and Peter enter the boat, the wind dies down, and the disciples proclaim, "Truly, you are the Son of God."

The experiences of Elijah, Peter and the disciples mirror our own journey of faith. We often begin with courage, yet life's storms—suffering, grief, loss, uncertainty, conflict, change and disappointment—can shake our confidence. As individuals, families, communities and as the Church, we all face times when our faith seems fragile.

Yet today's readings remind us that we are never alone. Without Jesus we can make no headway, but with him we find strength, hope and peace. Sometimes the Lord calls us to leave the safety of our own "boat" and step into the unknown. Peter's story reminds us that even those of little faith are never beyond the Lord's reach. When we begin to sink, Christ stretches out his hand, holds us close, and leads us safely through the storms of life.

Amen.





SCRIPTURE READINGS - YEAR A

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

LET US HEAR AND RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD

**Collect:**

Almighty ever-living God, whom, taught by the Holy Spirit, we dare to call our Father, bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters, that we may merit to enter into the inheritance which you have promised. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Responsorial Psalm - 84:9-14

R. Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people.
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land. R.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky. R.

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS

BAPTISM: We welcomed into the community, Castiel Tan Keating, who was baptised last Sunday 2nd August 2026.

LIST OF THE SICK: Jose Manalo, Fely Dela Paz Manalo, Grace Tinker, Maria Barbara, Leonie Pike, Marie Purcell, Pat Phelan, Makasini Vave, Loretta Josephine Seupule, Leue Dunlop, Lino Dunlop, Cheryl Barrell, Lisimoa Hufanga, Norah Gibson, Sabrina Ellingsworth, John Murray, Lemisio Fa'ulua, Sylvia Greene, Mayda Attachian, Faye Iffland, Tim Meagher, Maria Llave, Maria Belisario, Fara Vargas, Fe Llave, Stella Edwards, Boyet Llave.

RECENT ANNIVERSARIES: Fr Chris Riley, Carmen Barrows, Pepito Awayan

RECENTLY DECEASED: Fr Eugene Stockton

Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5

Brothers and sisters: I am speaking the truth in Christ. I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit. I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are children of Israel, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Christ, who is over all, God be blessed forever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
I hope in the Lord,
I trust in his word.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

Immediately after feeding the crowd with the five loaves and two fish, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning Jesus came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." Jesus said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Prayer After Communion:

May the communion in your Sacrament that we have consumed, save us, O Lord, and confirm us in the light of your truth. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST-
For evangelization in the city.**

**Let us pray that in large cities
often marked by anonymity and loneliness
we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel,
discovering creative paths to build community.**

Readings for Sunday 16th August, 2026 – 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time in Year A

|| 1st Reading: Isaiah 56: 1, 6–7 || 2nd Reading: Romans 11: 13–15, 29–32 || Gospel: Matthew 15: 21–28 ||



Parish Collection for the weekend of the 1st/ 2nd August 2026:

1st Collection (for the priests of the diocese) \$ 863.65
 2nd Collection (for parish expenses) \$ 2,372.85

DIRECT PARISH DONATIONS

Online 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.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:**Sunday August 9**

- Rev Matthew Pinson's First Mass Celebration after Priestly Ordination, 10.30am (Church). Followed by shared lunch, 12pm-3pm (School Hall)
- Samoan Divine Mercy, 3pm-5pm (MMR)

Monday August 10

- Jean Ward Rehearsal, 11am (Church)
- AA mtg, 7pm-8pm (MMR)

Tuesday August 11

- Staff meeting, 3.45pm-5pm (SICR)
- NA mtg, 6.30pm-8.30pm (MMR)
- St VdP Emerton Conference, 7pm-8.30pm (SICR)
- HF Young Adults, 7pm-9.30pm (SSR)

Wednesday August 12

- Christian Meditation, 6.30pm-7.30pm (MMR)
- Sacramental Process: First Holy Communion Session 2 - Parents/ Carers & Children, 7pm-8pm (Church)

Thursday August 13

- Parish Choir, 7pm-9pm (SSR)

Friday August 14

- Samoan community, 6pm-8pm (SSR)
- AA mtg, 6.30pm - 8.30pm (MMR)

Saturday August 15

- Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 9am (Church)
- 'Tima Talks' Podcast, 2pm-4pm (MMR)
- Samoan choir prac, 3.30pm (Church)
- YFC choir prac, 4.30pm (Church)
- AA mtg, 6.30-7.30pm (MMR)

Meeting Rooms:

SSR - Schoenstatt Sisters Room;
SICR - St Ignatius Conference Room;
MMR - Mary Mackillop Meeting Room,
HFC - Holy Family Centre (All rooms)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Friday 15 August** - Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)
- **Sunday 6 September** - Father's Day Raffle Draw
- **Saturday 19 - Sunday 20 September** - PPC Retreat
- **Saturday 26 September** - St Francis Reflection Day
- **Monday 12 - Wednesday 14 October** - Jesuit Parishes Conference - West HQ & Holy Family
- **Saturday 17 October** - Parish Working Bee
- **Saturday 7 November** - Parish Mass for All Souls, 3pm (Pinegrove North Chapel)
- **Tuesday 10 November** - Mass for Seniors & Anointing of the Sick, 11.30am - Church
- **Tuesday 17 November** - Risk Management Committee meeting, 6.45pm-8pm (SICR)
- **Friday 20 November** - Thanksgiving Mass and Dinner for our Volunteers (CathWest Loyola)
- **Saturday 28 November** - Parish Choir sings at 5.30pm Vigil Mass at Lavender Bay Parish for the Feast of St Francis Xavier
- **Sunday 28 November** - First Sunday of Advent Yr B
- **Saturday 5 December** - Parish Christmas Carols
- **Friday 11 December** - Advent Second Rite of Reconciliation, 7.30pm
- **Sunday 27 December** - Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS -**14 AUGUST TO 1 SEPTEMBER**

Please note that the Parish Secretary will be on leave from **Friday 14 August until Tuesday 1 September**. During this period, the **Parish Office will operate on reduced hours:**

Monday & Tuesday: 10:00am-3:00pm

Wednesday: 9:00am-5:00pm

Thursday & Friday: Closed

We thank you for your understanding and patience during this time.

FATHER'S DAY RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

TICKETS ONLY \$10

AMAZING PRIZES TO BE WON



PICK YOUR DESTINATION TRIP
 VALUED AT \$1000



TRIP FOR 2 TO TROPICAL GOLD COAST
 VALUED AT \$700



SYDNEY HARBOUR GLASS BOAT DINNER CRUISE
 4-COURSE DINNER & DRINKS INCLUDED



DRAWN ON FATHER'S DAY,
 SUNDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2026



ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS CHURCH MAINTENANCE.



Phone:
 (02) 9628 7272



Email:
 enquiry@holyfamily.org.au



ABN:
 67 363 880 627

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026

Our children are now beginning their preparation to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion.

Over the coming weeks, they will gather with their families for preparation sessions as they continue their sacramental journey.

We ask you all to please keep these children and their families in your prayers, that they may grow in faith and come to know more deeply the love and presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

First Holy Communion will be celebrated on Saturday 12 September and Sunday 13 September.

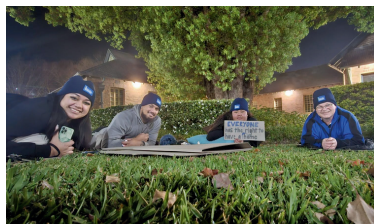
SUPPORT GEORG IN THE VINNIES COMMUNITY SLEEPOUT



Our parishioner and Holy Family St Vincent de Paul Conference President, Georg, will be taking part in the Greater Sydney Vinnies Community Sleepout to raise awareness of homelessness and much-needed funds for people doing it tough in our community.

You are warmly invited to join Georg at the Sleepout or support his fundraising efforts by making a donation. Simply scan the QR code to donate. Every contribution, big or small, will help make a difference.

Thank you for your generosity and support.



DATE AND TIME

Friday, 28 Aug 2026, 6pm

Location
Australian Catholic University,
Strathfield Campus
Coordinator: Kate Conroy
kate.conroyevinnies.org.au



THE DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA WILL HOST A PILGRIMAGE TO SEOUL IN SOUTH KOREA IN 2027.

Bishop Vincent invites all young people aged 18 to 35 years old to join him and hundreds of thousands of young people from all over the world to deepen their faith, experience South Korea's rich history and vibrant culture, and be inspired by the theme

"Take courage! I have overcome the world."

There will be a **WYD 2027 Launch Event held on Wednesday, 12 August, 6.30pm at Nagle College, Blacktown.**

Scan QR code to register.

For more information about World Youth Day, visit www.parrawyd.org

SUPPORTING THE PERSECUTED: HELP REBUILD A CATHEDRAL IN THE PHILIPPINES

In 2017, Christians in the city of Marawi in the southern Philippines faced brutal persecution from Islamist militants. More than 800 people were killed and thousands of families were displaced. During the five months of violence, the Cathedral of St Mary was bombed, desecrated and destroyed.

Nine years on, there is a growing desire for healing and reconciliation. The poor and faithful people of Marawi have asked for our help to rebuild their beloved cathedral so they can once again gather, pray, and be witnesses of Christ in this Muslim-majority region.

To learn more or provide your support, please scan the QR code or visit: aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject

Thanks to generous supporters, every contribution during August will be doubled.



Scan for
Jesuit
Vocations
Australia

A PRAYER FOR FR MATTHEW PINSON SJ

Gracious God,
we give you thanks
for the ordination of
Fr Matthew Pinson SJ
and for his generous "yes" to your call
to serve your people as a priest.

Bless him as he begins his priestly
ministry.

May he be strengthened by your grace,
guided by the Holy Spirit,
and always find joy
in serving your Church.



AD MAIOREM
DEI GLORIAM

We thank Fr Matthew for choosing to
celebrate his First Mass
with our Holy Family Parish community.

May this special celebration be a blessing
for him and for all of us,
and inspire many more to listen
generously to your call.
Amen.

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

All are warmly invited to join us for
Mass as we celebrate the
**Feast of the Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary.**
Saturday 15 August | 9:00am



Come together as a parish
community as we honour Mary and
give thanks for her faithful "yes" to
God.

*Our Lady, assumed into Heaven,
pray for us.*

St Carlo Acutis's Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition

Designed by St Carlo Acutis, the first millennial saint, this exhibition documents reported Eucharistic miracles from around the world, and it is touring parishes right across our Diocese.

Next, it comes to Our Lady of the Angels, Rouse Hill, from 9-23 August. Students, teachers and parishioners are invited, entry is free and no bookings are required. To see where the exhibition is heading next across the Diocese, scan QR code.



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY - SAVE THE DATE

On Sunday 27 December, we will celebrate our parish feast day with a special 10:30am Mass for the Feast of the Holy Family.

As part of our celebration, we are also preparing to recognise couples celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries and are applying for Papal Blessings for eligible couples.

Please save the date and stay tuned - more information, including how to register your wedding anniversary, will be provided soon.