



HOLY FAMILY COMMUNITY



UNDER THE CARE OF THE AUSTRALIAN JESUIT PROVINCE

254 Luxford Road, Emerton, N.S.W. 2770
2022/Issue 22

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29th May 2022

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

Parish Priest
Assistant Priest
Pastoral Associate
Site Manager
Secretary
Music Director
Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson

Fr Gregory Jacobs SJ
Fr Patrick Mullins, SJ
Sr Carlene Allen RSM
Ray Donaldson
Malia Lolesio
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MASS TIMES - HOLY FAMILY CHURCH - EMERTON

Saturday Vigil : 5.30 pm

Sunday: 9.00 am and 10.30 am

JOHN TERRY CHAPEL (DAY CHAPEL)

Monday 8.30am Mass
Tuesday 6.00pm Mass
Wednesday 6.00pm Mass
Thursday 8.30am Mass
Friday 9.00am Mass
Saturday 9.00am Mass



MASS AT WILLMOT CHURCH

Sunday 7.30am
Cnr Pelsart & Carteret Ave Willmot

RECONCILIATION AND HOLY HOUR—EMERTON

Saturday from 9.30 am to 10.00 am

REFLECTION FROM THE PARISH PRIEST FOR

The Ascension of the Lord (Solemnity)

The feast of the Ascension is a kind of liminal moment in the Easter season. It is a time between times; a moment when we have left one place in our journey but have not yet arrived at a second. We need to get used to such liminal moments in our life – moments in-between, moments when we are on a journey (especially when we realize that we do not know where this particular journey will end).

This event of Jesus' ascension is a turning point for the Church – they will no longer have Jesus around them to guide them, they need to learn to do this without his constant instruction. (Jesus' presence will come in a different way for them with Pentecost: the coming of the Holy Spirit next week).

CHRIST has no body but yours; no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which His COMPASSION looks out upon the world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do GOOD. Yours are the hands with which He BLESSES all the world.

—St. Teresa of Avila

Christ's work of beginning anew the reign of God, now is carried on by the Church, the community of believers, or as Vatican II called us: the People of God. I am reminded of Teresa of Avila saying: "God has no feet on earth now but yours, God has no hands on earth but yours..." Jesus now teaches through human apostles and evangelists. Jesus now ministers through human prophets and pastors. Jesus continues to heal and to comfort now through our pastoral works of mercy.

We have not been left alone to do this work; we have Jesus' power, the same power with which he performed marvels when he walked this earth. We also have each other – the other members of the Church. We are now the body of Christ, the people of God, those who witness and proclaim the message and ministry of Jesus in our modern world.

Fr Gregory



SCRIPTURE READINGS—YEAR C

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



He was taken up to heaven

LET US HEAR AND RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING: Acts 1: 1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the Apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me: for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM : Ps 46: 2-3, 6-7, 8-9

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.
For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth. R.

God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. R.

For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a Psalm.
God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne. R.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1: 17-23

Brothers and sisters: I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.

And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the Church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 24: 46-53

Jesus said to the disciples, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

"And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 5th JUNE 2022 - PENTECOST SUNDAY

1st Reading: Acts 2: 1-11

2nd Reading: Romans 8: 8-17

Gospel: John 14: 15-16, 23-26

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS

BAPTISMS: We welcomed into our community Lexi Cardona, Lyla Clarke, Kevin Fekitoo, and Mateo Nau, who were baptized last Sunday 22nd May 2022.

LIST OF THE SICK: Pam Picart-Manalac, Jose Manalo, Fely Dela Paz Manalo, Lopisoni Makario, Kilisimasi Lolesio, Faith Nimmo, Vaha Vave, Tualau Vave, Jeffrey Bonnici, Mayta Attachian, Carmen Carlon, Faye Iffland, Tim Meagher, Cristina Frugone, Jose Lay, Jerry Borg, Zarouf Mallouk, George Mallouk, Gloria Cutcliffe, Margaret Joyce, Maria Llave, Maria Belisario, Boyet Llave, Fe Llave, Stella Edwards, Fara Vargas.

ANNIVERSARIES: Vangana Kautai, Hingano Ma'afu, Tania Williams, June Benezuela, Michael Ford, Kath Ryan, Loleni Tatuila, Patrick Piercy, Kelly Ton, Fr. Paul Duffy SJ, Keith Carter, Guy de Casanove, Alma Bossini, Mannix Family, Tony Makosic, Rick Mansfield, George Albert Ignatius Lowles, Bill Morell, Jai Chalker, Peggy Truma, John Hanna, Tisola Lolesio Mouna, Leanne Herring, Ken McLaren, Barbara Lawler, Carmil Hill, John Kachan, Tony Eves.

RECENTLY DECEASED:



HOLY FAMILY

Primary Emerton (02) 8869 7200

Enrol now

Call for a personalised tour

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday: 9.00am—4.30pm

Friday: 9.00am—3.30pm

CLOSED ON WEEKENDS

Note: Staff meetings held on Tuesdays 9.15am—10.00am

SUPPORT US ONLINE

For contributions towards the 1st Collection, for the clergy of the Diocese of Parramatta, please use the following details:

Acc Name: Diocesan Clergy
BSB: 067 950
Acc No: 0000 4265
Reference: 6024 (followed by your name).

For contributions towards the 2nd Collection, for our parish expenses, please use the following details:

Acc Name: Mount Druitt Catholic Church
BSB: 067 950
Acc No: 0000 0446
Reference: Envelope No OR Your full name).

PARISH COLLECTIONS:

for the weekend of the 21st/22nd May 2022

1st collection (for the clergy of the Diocese): \$ 878.20

2nd collection (for parish expenses): \$ 1,883.65

The Story of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary—Feast Day May 31

This is a fairly late feast, going back only to the 13th or 14th century. It was established widely throughout the Church to pray for unity. The present date of celebration was set in 1969, in order to follow the Annunciation of the Lord and precede the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist.

Like most feasts of Mary, it is closely connected with Jesus and his saving work. The more visible actors in the visitation drama (see Luke 1:39–45) are Mary and Elizabeth. However, Jesus and John the Baptist steal the scene in a hidden way. Jesus makes John leap with joy—the joy of messianic salvation. Elizabeth, in turn, is filled with the Holy Spirit and addresses words of praise to Mary—words that echo down through the ages.

It is helpful to recall that we do not have a journalist's account of this meeting. Rather Luke, speaking for the Church, gives a prayerful poet's rendition of the scene. Elizabeth's praise of Mary as "the mother of my Lord" can be viewed as the earliest Church's devotion to Mary. As with all authentic devotion to Mary, Elizabeth's (the Church's) words first praise God for what God has done to Mary. Only secondly does she praise Mary for trusting God's words.

Then comes the *Magnificat* (Luke 1:46–55). Here, Mary herself—like the Church—traces all her greatness to God.

Reflection

One of the invocations in Mary's litany is "Ark of the Covenant." Like the Ark of the Covenant of old, Mary brings God's presence into the lives of other people. As David danced before the Ark, John the Baptist leaps for joy. As the Ark helped to unite the 12 tribes of Israel by being placed in David's capital, so Mary has the power to unite all Christians in her son. At times, devotion to Mary may have occasioned some divisiveness, but we can hope that authentic devotion will lead all to Christ and therefore, to one another.

Source: © Franciscan Media 2022, www.franciscanmedia.org/



Image: Memorial Tablet | Master of the Spes Nostra

THE FEAST OF JESUS' ASCENSION

The Feast of Jesus' Ascension celebrates the end of Jesus' work on earth for us and his return to God his Father. Luke's Gospel and its sequel - the Acts of the Apostles - describe Jesus as leaving his disciples and rising into heaven. His Ascension is followed almost immediately by the sending of the Holy Spirit. Through the Spirit Jesus remains present with us as we trust in his promise that he will return at the end of time. Taken together the stories of the Ascension and Pentecost explore the way in which Jesus is now both present to us and distant from us.

The image of Jesus rising through the clouds into heaven is in harmony with the way Luke and his contemporaries saw the world. They imagined our world as like a bowl with a spherical cover. Above the vault were the heavens, the world of God and the spirits. Our image of the world is unimaginably larger, measured in light years. We see rockets go into the sky above us, parachutists come down, and spaceships travel to nearby planets which were once seen as belonging to the heavens. In this world the image of Jesus rising to heaven can seem a little quaint.

We need to attend to the larger reality that underlies the image of Jesus being taken into heaven. It speaks of the journey of the Son of God into the human world, his work for us in Jesus, his killing at the hands of other human beings, his rising from the dead into a new life with God, his opening for us the way to follow him and share in his new life, and his coming again at the end of time. The Ascension is the closing of one stage of God's presence with us and the opening of a new stage of our presence with God.

The Ascension of Jesus is surrounded by rich symbolism that is easy to miss. It is said to take place forty days after Jesus' death and resurrection. The Gospels place his death around the Jewish feast of the Passover which celebrated their freedom from slavery in Egypt. Jesus' death was his passing over from death to life and freeing us from freedom from slavery to sin. The interval between his Resurrection and his Ascension and sending of the Spirit associated these events with another Jewish feast. It celebrated God's giving the Law through Moses to the people in the desert and God's promise to be present to them through the Law and the Temple. This association makes it clear that the Ascension of Jesus is about presence, not absence.

In the story of the Ascension, Jesus instructs his disciples to go to Bethany where he farewells them. In the Gospels Bethany was closely associated with Jesus during his ministry, most notably in John's Gospel as the place where he raised Lazarus to life. It was some distance outside Jerusalem, a safe place to which he retired when under threat of death. In Jerusalem by his death and rising he had conquered death. At his Ascension he could now send the disciples back from Bethany to Jerusalem to share the Good News.

- Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ

COMMON PRAYER for the 7th ANNIVERSARY of

Laudato Si

Loving God,
 Creator of heaven and earth
 and all that is in them,

You created us in your own image and
 made us stewards of all your creation.
 You blessed us with the sun, water and
 bountiful land so that all might be
 nourished.

Open our minds and touch our hearts,
 so that we may attend to your gift of
 creation.

Help us to be conscious
 that our common home belongs not only
 to us, but to all of your creatures and to
 all future generations, and that it is our
 responsibility to preserve it.
 May we help each person secure the food
 and resources that they need.

Be present to those in need in these
 trying times, especially the poorest and
 those most at risk of being left behind.

Transform our fear and feelings
 of isolation into hope and fraternity
 so that we may experience a
 true conversion of the heart.

Help us to show creative solidarity in
 addressing the consequences of this
 global pandemic.

Make us courageous to embrace the
 change that are needed in search of the
 common good.

Now more than ever
 may we feel that we are all
 interconnected and interdependent.
 Enable us to listen and respond to the cry
 of the earth and the cry of the poor.

May the present sufferings
 be the birth pangs of a more
 fraternal and sustainable world.

Under the loving gaze of
 Mary Help of Christians,
 we make this prayer through
 Christ our Lord.

Amen.





HOLY FAMILY 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.



Support our seminarians to become beacons of Christ's light



At all Masses this weekend 28th/29th May!



Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal
yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal



Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal for our Holy Spirit Seminarians in Harris Park

Our Holy Spirit Seminary in Harris Park is carrying out its mission to prepare men who have been called by God to be good shepherds and beacons of Christ's light. Will you be their extended formation community and support seminarians on their important spiritual journey to be formed as priests after the heart of Christ?



Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal or scan this QR code.

Thank you for accompanying our seminarians on their journeys.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Our *Children's Liturgy of the Word* is back every Sunday during the 10:30 am mass and we would like to invite all children aged 5 years old and above to come and join us.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

Please consider helping to share the Gospel! You will need to have OR obtain a Working With Children Check (WWCC) number and clearance.



For more information, please contact the parish office 02 9628 7272.

View the Diocesan synthesis for the Synod of Bishops

All are invited to VIEW the online version of the synthesis from the Diocese of Parramatta Writing Committee for the Synod of Bishops 2023. Visit <https://parracatholic.org/synod-of-bishops/> and email met@parracatholic.org with your reflections. The Diocese of Parramatta is a 'listening Church' we invite continued dialogue through both the website and direct email address.

CALLING NEW LEADERS!

HOLY FAMILY YOUTH PLANNING MEETING

3 JUNE 2022 | 6:00PM TO 7:30PM



Calling new leaders to step up and be part of launching the parish youth group!

We need leaders keen to grow in faith and leadership!

Friday 3rd June // 6.00pm—7.30pm // Holy Family Centre (11 Emert Pde Emerton 2770)

SAVE THE DATE

YOUTH NIGHT

YOUTH NIGHT

FRIDAY 24TH JUNE

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

AGED 16 - 25



LET'S CELEBRATE PENTECOST SUNDAY NEXT WEEK, BY WEARING SOMETHING RED

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. OR you can drop in to our St Vincent De Paul Emerton Hub, located behind the Ignite Food Store, on Tuesdays and Wednesday 9am-5pm for assistance.

To find out more about what support is available, visit <http://vinnies.org.au/covidsupportnsw>