



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.



2026/ Issue No. 10 / 8th March 2026

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
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**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 (During Lent)

WEEKDAY:

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

Wednesdays: 5.30pm - 6.00pm
Saturdays from 9.30am - 10.30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays: 9.30am - 10.00am
OR by appointment.

Reflection from Sr Carlene for the Third Sunday of Lent in Year A

QUENCHING OF THIRST: A Glimpse into Today's Three Readings:

Water is a theme in today's readings. As our Elect prepare for initiation at our Easter Vigil and we all renew our baptismal promises, we are invited to ask ourselves:

- What do we really thirst for in our lives?
- Who or what will quench our deepest longings?

In our First Reading [Exodus 17:3-7] we hear that the Israelites are "tormented by thirst". Moses strikes the rock at Horeb, and God responds not only to their thirst for water but also to deeper thirst, their need for direction, leadership, and hope. We ponder:

- In our desert times, what gives us life and hope?

St Paul, in our Second Reading [Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8] reminds us that "the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit." This wellspring within us is God within us. Christ died for us while we were still sinners! We don't have to get ourselves right so that God will love us! Let's relish that thought and turn to God in prayer, especially during this holy season of Lent.

Moving on to today's Gospel [John 4: 1-45] we have a story rich in water imagery. Jesus, a Jewish male, encounters an unnamed, lone Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. Hot, tired and thirsty, Jesus abruptly says "Give me a drink" (v7). As we glimpse the humanity of Jesus, maybe we recall other times Jesus expresses thirst, including when He is on the cross.

- When are we encountered by Jesus, and how do we respond?

At Jacob's well Jesus takes time to sit and listen to the Samaritan woman. We find ourselves asking her questions and listening to Jesus' answers.

Initially, the woman focuses on difficulties: Samaritans and Jews do not speak together, Jesus has no bucket. She addresses Jesus firstly as "a Jew", then as "sir", then as "a prophet", and finally as "Messiah". Step by step, she is coming to faith.

Jesus promises "living water" that will turn into an interior "spring, welling up to eternal life." Because of her willingness to engage with Jesus, the Samaritan woman is drawn into deep encounter and freely given living water. Her thirst is quenched, and she is able to witness to God's life within her, and bring others to experience God's gifts of love and life.

*Let us go to the well.
Rest there with Jesus. Speak to Him.
Let Him speak to you.
Be together in silence and listen.*



WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS

BAPTISMS: We welcomed into the community, Bode Meniconi and Sophia Nolland, who were baptised last Sunday 1st March, 2026.

LIST OF THE SICK: Richard Ward, Marie Purcell, Soane Quensell, Pam Picart-Manalac, Katea Vave, 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, Jose Manalo, Fely Dela Paz Manalo, Maria Barbara, Sylvia Greene, Mayda Attachian, Faye Iffland, Tim Meagher, Emma Lawrence, Maria Llave, Maria Belisario, Fara Vargas, Fe Llave, Stella Edwards, Boyet Llave.

RECENT ANNIVERSARIES: Randy Sing, Joseph Tallon, Ian Cameron.

ANNIVERSARIES: Annie and Alec Prentice.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Paloma Escarlan



SCRIPTURE READINGS - YEAR A
Third Sunday of Lent
 LET US HEAR AND RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD

**Collect:**

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. 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: Exodus 17: 3 -7

In the wilderness the people thirsted for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the children of Israel quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 94: 1-2, 6-9

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

O come, let us sing to the Lord;
 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
 let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! R.

O come, let us worship and bow down,
 let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
 For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,
 and the sheep of his hand. R.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
 Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
 as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
 when your ancestors tested me, and put me to the proof,
 though they had seen my work. R.

Second Reading: Romans 5: 1- 2, 5 - 8

Brothers and sisters: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person- though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
*Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
 give me living water, that I may never thirst again.*
 Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: John 4: 5-16, 19-26, 39-42 (shorter version)

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his children and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but the one who drinks of the water that I will give will never be thirsty. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water. I see that you are a Prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming" (who is called the Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." Many Samaritans from that city believed in Jesus. So when they came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world."

Prayer After Communion:

As we receive these glorious mysteries, we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord, for allowing us while still on earth to be partakers even now of the things of heaven. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH
For disarmament and peace.

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence. Amen.

Readings for Sunday 15th March 2026: Fourth Sunday of Lent in Year A

\\ 1st Reading: 1 Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13 // \\ 2nd Reading: Ephesians 5: 8-14 // \\ Gospel: John 9: 1-41 //

Parish Collection for the weekend of the 28 Feb / 1 March:

1st Collection (for the priests of the diocese) \$ 824.55
 2nd Collection (for parish expenses) \$ 2,121.10

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.

Parish Survey - Follow-Up This Weekend (7 & 8 March)

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Parish Survey last weekend! Your feedback is helping us plan and grow our parish community.

If you haven't had a chance to complete the survey yet, you can still take part this weekend:

- Paper copies are available at the back of the church. Please return completed forms to one of the priests, Sr Carlene, or the parish office.
- Alternatively, you may complete the survey online.



Please ensure all responses are submitted by Sunday 15 March. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts and support our parish community.

HOLY FAMILY PRIMARY EMERTON

You're invited to
join our community!

Enquire, enrol or take a tour
ENROLLING NOW FOR 2027!



Scan QR code to register your interest

11 Emert Parade, Emerton T: 8869 7200 W: hfemerton.catholic.edu.au

SCRUTINIES: A SEARCH OF THE HEART

- Scrutinies are CELEBRATIONS by the whole Church for the whole Church. They are RITES held during Lent when we PRAY together for God's help to UNCOVER and HEAL "all that is weak, defective and sinful in our hearts" and in the hearts of the ELECT. We also pray for the grace to be UPFRONT about our STRENGTHS and GIFTS.
- Hence, at our 9.00am Mass on this Third Sunday of Lent we have the First Scrutiny. We are invited to join together in prayer for KIRSTY, our Elect. She has been formally accepted into and by the Catholic Church [at the Rite of Election, by Bishop Vincent]. Kirsty is now intensifying her preparation for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist to be celebrated at our EASTER VIGIL [Saturday, 4th April].

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:**Sunday March 8**

- St Ignatius Tongan Mass, 12pm-3pm (SSR)
- Samoan Divine Mercy, 3pm-5pm (MMR)

Monday March 9

- Young Adults Sacramental Prep, 4.30pm-5.45pm (SICR)
- RCIA Process, 6.15pm (SICR)
- AA mtg, 7pm (MMR)

Tuesday March 10 - HAPPY B'DAY TO SR CARLENE!

- Mass and Anointing - Seniors, 11.30am (Church)
- Staff Meeting, 3pm-5pm (SICR)
- NA mtg, 6.30pm-8pm (MMR)
- HF Young Adults Choir prac, 7pm-8pm (SSR)
- HF Young Adults Lenten Program, 8pm-9pm (SSR)

Wednesday March 11

- Christian Meditation, 6.30pm-7.30pm (MMR)
- Second Rite of Reconciliation, 6.45pm (Church)

Thursday March 12

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

Friday March 13

- Stations of the Cross (English), 5.15pm (Church)
- Stations of the Cross (Tongan), 7pm (Church)
- AA mtg, 6.30pm - 8.30pm (MMR)

Saturday March 14

- Samoan choir, 4pm-5pm (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

**Mass for Seniors**

and Anointing of the Sick.

Tuesday 10th March, 2026
 11.30am in the church.

ALL ARE WELCOME

PALM SUNDAY -**DONATIONS OF PALMS & GREENERY NEEDED**

As we prepare for Palm Sunday, we invite parishioners who have palm branches or suitable greenery to consider donating them to help decorate the church.

These palms will be used for our Palm Sunday liturgies and to prepare the church as we enter into Holy Week, remembering Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

If you are able to assist, please contact the parish office or drop off palms/greenery at the church by Friday 27 March 2026.

Your generosity helps make our celebrations prayerful and beautiful for the whole parish community. Thank you for your support. ✨✚

HOLY THURSDAY - EUCHARISTIC ADORATION ROSTER

Following the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Blessed Sacrament will be transferred to the Altar of Repose in the Primary School Hall. Adoration will continue overnight until 7:00am on Good Friday.

Parishioners are invited to spend time with the Lord in prayer.

If you are able to commit to a time, please add your name to the roster at the back of the church. ✚

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES – PRAY, FAST, GIVE

Take advantage of the opportunities to grow in faith, reflection, and service this Lent:

Pray

• **Lenten Groups:**

- Young Adults - Tuesdays 7pm in the Holy Family Centre |
- Tregear Residence – Thursdays 3pm |
- Dharruk Residence – Fridays 10.10am

If you would like to join a group, please contact the parish office for details.

• **Meditation on the Stations of the Cross:**

- Fridays 5.15pm in English
- Fridays 7pm in Tongan

• **Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

- Saturdays from 9.30am-10am
- **Second Rite** - Wednesday 11th March, 6.45pm

• An **additional Mass** offered on Friday at 6pm.

Fast

Take time this Lent for personal reflection and spiritual growth

Give

- Support Project Compassion (boxes available in the church)
- Give your time to help those less fortunate in our community
- Volunteer in areas of need within the parish

May this Lent be a time of prayer, fasting, and generous giving for all.



“Jesus waits for us, just like he waited for the Samaritan woman, without judgment, disrespect, or condemnation. Bring your jar to him!”



Third Sunday of Lent - 7th / 8th March 2026

Monoranjon lives in a village in Bangladesh close to the sea, where floods and storms often damage his crops and his home. With support from Project Compassion, he learnt climate-resilient farming techniques and new ways to diversify his income, helping his family survive and build a safer, more sustainable future.

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.



Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate
Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we Unite Against Poverty this Lent.

PARISH LENTEN RETREAT - WEEK 2

Last Wednesday evening, we gathered for the second session of our Lenten retreat, led by Marilyn Hancock. The evening offered a rich opportunity for prayer, learning and reflection as we continue our journey through this holy season.

We began by exploring the tradition of iconography, discovering how sacred images are more than simply art. In the Christian tradition, icons are a form of prayer and proclamation of faith. The colours, gestures and symbols within an icon all carry meaning and help lead us into deeper contemplation of God's presence.

Our reflection then turned to the Gospel readings for the Sundays of Lent, focusing particularly on the Raising of Lazarus. This powerful story reminds us that Christ calls each of us out of the “tombs” in our lives and into new life. As we journey through Lent, it invites us to trust in the Lord who brings hope, healing and resurrection.

The evening concluded with a prayerful reflection on the Stations of the Cross (Traditional). Through photographs from Marilyn's pilgrimage to the Holy Land, we were able to visualise the places connected to Jesus' Passion and walk spiritually alongside Him on the road to Calvary.

We also heard a brief history of the holy sites in the Holy Land – from the Byzantine period through Muslim rule and the Crusades – and the important role of St Francis of Assisi. Through the work entrusted to the Franciscans, the Catholic Church continues to maintain a presence at these sacred places, with Mass offered daily. The annual Holy Land Appeal helps support this mission and ensures the care of these sites for pilgrims from around the world. As we continue our Lenten journey, we invite everyone to take the next step in preparing their hearts for Easter.

All parishioners are warmly invited to the Second Rite of Reconciliation on Wednesday 11 March at 6:45pm.

May this season of Lent continue to be a time of reflection, renewal and drawing closer to the Lord.



Lenten Journey: Weekly Challenges

Take time this week to sit with Jesus at your own “well”. Be honest about your thirsts and needs, and let him meet you there with compassion. Then, look for one simple way to let that encounter overflow - through a word of encouragement, an act of kindness, or a quiet gesture of mercy - so that living water may flow through you to others.

Prayer: Lord, draw us into your healing compassion. Amen.

Week 3: Pause before responding to criticism or gossip. Respond with calm, or choose to stay silent rather than escalate.