



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)

Phone: 02 9628 7272

Mobile: 0497 966 277 OR

0434 931 270 (during office and after hours)

Office Hours:

Monday -Thursday: 9.00am-4.30pm

Friday: 9.00am - 3.30pm

Closed on weekends & public holidays.

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 Van Cao Nguyen SJ
caoholyfame@gmail.com

Pastoral Associate:

Sr Carlene Allen
carlene@holyfamily.org.au

Site Manager:

Ray Donaldson
ray@holyfamily.org.au

Parish Secretary:

Malia Lolesio
enquiry@holyfamily.org.au

Music Director:

Etuate 'Eddie' Paunga
kosilio_lole@hotmail.com

Parish Pastoral Council

Chairperson

Marissa Logronio
logroniom23@gmail.com

Mass Times at

Holy Family, Emerton

Monday & Thursday: 8.30am

Tuesday & Wednesday: 6.00pm

Friday: 9.00am

Saturday: 9.00am & Vigil 5.30pm

Sunday: 9.00am & 10.30am

Mass at Willmot

Sunday: 7.30am

(8 Carteret Ave, Willmot NSW 2770)

NOTE: There is NO 7.30AM

**MASS at WILLMOT from Sunday
21st April until Sunday 9th June!**

Mass and Anointing

2nd Saturday of every month:
9.00am

Holy Hour - Emerton

Wednesdays from 5.00pm

Saturdays from 9.30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays: 9.30am - 10.00am OR
by appointment.

2024/ Issue No. 15 // Sunday 14th April, 2024

Reflection from the Parish Priest for 3rd Sunday of Easter

In today's Gospel we feel the pain of Jesus convincing his disciples that He is real, and, that all has happened as foretold in scripture was part of a divine plan.

Jesus pleads by inviting them to touch him, give him something to eat, and examine his hands and his feet. Obviously, this is the first time the disciples ever came across a situation like this. We might think that seeing Lazarus, or the daughter of Jairus, or the young man in Naim, getting up and walking after seeming to be dead, should have prepared them for this moment. The disciples had known Jesus on a personal basis, and had felt at home in his company. This time things were different. He had broken free of the constraints of the human body, and there was a unique PRESENCE in him that they had never seen before. We cannot grasp the utter transformation these disciples felt when someone they knew and loved was so utterly transformed, and now had an unearthly aura about him. While they still doubted, they were filled with joy and wonder as Jesus spoke to them about the promises of Scripture, and how he had fulfilled them.

When eating with them, Jesus' identity as the Messiah is manifested in his resurrected body. The disciples knew Jesus best through the meals that he had shared with them. Here Jesus recalled all these meals, and most importantly, he recalled the Last Supper. This unveils for us the significance of the Eucharist. Our celebration of the Mass is an encounter with Jesus, through the Word and the Sacrament of the Eucharist. As Jesus commissioned his disciples to be witnesses to what Scriptures foretold, our celebration of the Eucharist commissions us. Like the disciples, we are sent to announce the Good News of Jesus' forgiveness of sins. How do we witness the Risen Christ?

Fifteen years ago, during my annual retreat in Chiang Mai Thailand, a retreatant lady shared her own story: She was married with 2 young children, her marriage has gone sour for some years. She was badly treated by her alcoholic husband who from time to time became softer and better after getting some help but it was for a very short time. He returned to who he was, a drunkard and violent person.

As a very devout catholic, this lady continually prayed for her husband; she tried to cope, and at the same time look after her children. She told me that being with God was her most comforting time, especially in the garden at the front of her house. There she found God's presence and peace, and she relaxed. While working in her garden every morning, she greeted everybody passing by with a smile and simple greetings like "good morning", "how are you", "God bless you", etc.

One day, her neighbour approached and asked her how to become a catholic. She told her neighbour to see the priest at her parish church and ask him to help. She was puzzled and asked "why do you want to become a catholic?" Her neighbour told her that despite her difficult and painful situation, every morning she saw her working in the garden, greeting everybody with a smile, and saying to someone: "God bless you." She was touched and wondered about the God who has given her strength and peace; she wanted to know who was her God. In the end, her neighbour's family of 6, [her parents, husband, two children and herself], were baptised at Easter the next year.

Each one of us can be a witness of the Risen Christ as this lady who unconsciously and actively witnessed the Risen Christ. Despite our daily challenges and sufferings we can find our way to be with God, to recognise God's gift of peace and blessing, and to greet each passer-by with a smile and blessings.

Fr Nguyen Van Cao SJ

Fr Cao away in Manresa, Spain

Fr Cao is leaving for Manresa, Spain, on Thursday 18th April, 2024. He will be away for 3 months to complete a training course in Ignatian Spirituality. He will be returning on Tuesday 4th June, 2024.

In his absence, Fr Huy will be the Acting Parish Priest. Fr Robin Koning SJ, will assist with our Masses next weekend.

Let us keep Fr Cao in our prayers while he is away, and support Fr Huy in his ministry.



SCRIPTURE READINGS - YEAR B

Third Sunday of Easter

LET US HEAR AND RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD

He opened their minds to understand the scriptures



Collect:

May your people exult for ever, O God, in renewed youthfulness of spirit, so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption, we may look forward in confident hope to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection. 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.

First Reading: Acts 3: 13-15, 17-19

At the temple gate, Peter addressed the people: "The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him.

"But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.

"And now, brothers and sisters, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the Prophets, that his Christ would suffer.

"Repent, therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

Responsorial psalm : Ps 4: 2, 4, 7, 9

Lord, let your face shine on us.

Answer me when I call, O God of my right!
you gave me room when I was in distress.
Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer. R.

But know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for himself;
the Lord hears when I call to him. R.

There are many who say, "O that we might see some good!
Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!" R.

I will both lie down and sleep in peace;
for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety. R.

Second Reading: 1 John 2: 1-5

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Now by this we may be sure that we know him, if we obey his commandments. Whoever says, "I have come to know him," but does not obey his commandments, is a liar, and in such a person the truth does not exist; but whoever obeys his word, truly in this person the love of God has reached perfection. By this we may be sure that we are in him.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 24: 35-48

The two disciples told the eleven and their companions what had happened on the road to Emmaus, and how Jesus had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."

And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "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.

Prayer after Communion:

Look with kindness upon your people, O Lord, and grant, we pray, that those you were pleased to renew by eternal mysteries may attain in their flesh the incorruptible glory of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS

BAPTISMS: We welcomed into the church, Adonis Sita, who was baptised last Sunday, 7th April 2024

LIST OF THE SICK: Pippa O'Neal, Finau Kautai, Maureen Clements, Kevin Smith, Mathew Sieders, Emma Datoc, Val Polkcamp, Jose Manalo, Fely Dela Paz Manalo, Maria Barbara, Sylvia Greene, Tualau Vave, Mayda Attachian, Faye Iffland, Tim Meagher, Cristina Frugone, Zarouf Mallouk, George Mallouk, Gloria Cutcliffe, Janice Angela Lawrence, Emma Lawrence, Maria Llave, Maria Belisario, Fara Vargas, Fe Llave, Stella Edwards, Boyet Llave.

RECENT ANNIVERSARIES: Helen Page.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Taniela Fatai.

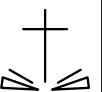


Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for April — 'For the role of women

"We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognised in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world."

Readings for Sunday 21st April, 2024: Fourth Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 4: 8-12 // 2nd Reading 1 John 3: 1-2 // Gospel John 10: 11-18



Parish Collection for the weekend of the 6th/7th of April 2024:

1st Collection (for the priests of the diocese)	\$ 603.00
2nd Collection: (for parish expenses)	\$ 1,572.60
Special Appeal (Parish Insurance)	\$ 2,002.50

DIRECT PARISH DONATIONS

Online contributions for the Diocesan Priests (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

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

PARISH INSURANCE APPEAL

Goal:
\$49,000.00



\$3,502.50
raised so far.

Please help us to reach our goal of paying for our insurance in one lump sum, by the end of June 2024.

To make a donation, please use the following account:

For online transfers:

Acc Name: Mount Druitt Catholic Church

BSB: 067 950 Acc No: 0000 0446

Reference: Your Name + Appeal

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

Note: All donations of \$2.00 or more is tax deductible. Please send a remittance advice notice with your contact information to enquiry@holyfamily.org.au to request a tax receipt.

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

- Holy Family Tongan Community, 12pm-3pm (MMR)

Monday April 15:**Tuesday April 16:**

- Staff prayer & meeting, 9.15am-11.15am (SICR)
- Baabayn Young Mum Book Launch, 10am-3pm, Baabayn Centre.

Wednesday April 17:

- Christian Meditation, 6.30pm-7.30pm (MMR)

Thursday April 18:

- Parramatta Diocese Tongan Leaders meeting, 7pm-9pm (SSR)

Friday April 19:

- Holiday Program (Parish Office closed)

Saturday April 20:

- Holy Family Tongan choir prac, 2pm-5pm (SSR)
- Samoan choir prac, 3pm-4.30pm (church)

Meeting Rooms:

SSR - Schoenstatt Sisters Room;

SICR - St Ignatius Conference Room;

MMR - Mary Mackillop Meeting Room,

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Catholic Foundation - Good Shepherd Appeal** - 20th/21st April
- **Mass and Anointing (Ropes Crossing)** - Tuesday 23rd April, 11.30am, Rochford Place, Ropes Crossing. All are welcome.
- **ANZAC Day - Public Holiday** - Thursday 25th April
- **SRE Catechists Recruitment Appeal** - Sunday 28th April
- **Sacrament of Confirmation Parents/Carers meeting**, Wednesday 1st May, 7pm in the church, for children of primary school age.
- **Mother's Day** - Sunday 12th May
- **Jesuit Parishes Conference** - 14th/15th May, Nth Sydney.
- **Young Adults Bon-Fire Night** - Sunday 19th May
- **Catholic Foundation - Good Samaritan Appeal** - 25th/26th May

PARISH CHAIRS & TRESLE TABLES

If you have borrowed chairs and/or trestle tables from the parish, please:

- Check your house if you still have any,
- Return them to the parish office ASAP.

We are in need of them, and are not in the position to have them replaced. Thank you.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Parents/ Carers of children of High School age who are not yet confirmed are invited to contact Sr Carlene at the Parish Office as soon as possible.

Sessions will be scheduled for Monday evenings starting on the 6th of May.

DIOCESAN NEWS:

- **Synod 2023 Update: Decree issued and Development of Diocesan Plan Begins**

The Diocesan Plan for a Synodal Church will launch at the Diocesan Gathering on Saturday 10 August. Learn more at parracatholic.org/synod

- **MET FaithLIFE Theology Short Course: from 16 April**

Considering learning about theology? Wanting to expand your language for expressing your faith? Seeking ways to deepen the way you put your faith into practice? Sign up now for the 3-session FaithLIFE Theology short course with Dr John Collins on Tuesdays 16 + 23 + 30 April! Registration and more dates and details via met@parracatholic.org

- **Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities**

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held on **Saturday 27 April at Our Lady of the Way Parish, Emu Plains**, for Modules 4 and 5. More training opportunities will be available throughout May. For more information, please email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

- **Youth Mass 'Round the Diocese: 21 April**

Looking for some young adults to worship with? Hunting for an excuse to catch up with Jesus and friends? Wondering what goes on around the Diocese? Mass 'Round the Diocese' is just that! Our young people are visiting different churches around the Diocese for Mass and fellowship afterwards with new and known friends. The next Mass will be at The Good Shepherd Parish, Plumpton, on Sunday 21 April at 6pm. For more information, please contact Sr Christine Ramada CSFN on csfn.christina@gmail.com

Autumn Holiday Program

It's time to turn off your screens, and those gadgets, and simply embrace the outdoors giving back to and building community.

FRIDAY 19TH APRIL - 10am to 2pm COMMUNITY WORKING BEE

Join us for the first activity of our Holiday Program, where we plan to beautify the front area of the Holy Family Centre (Parish Office).

The day will include some painting, gardening, cleaning, games... and lunch!

Arrive at 9.30am for registration.

WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL - 10am to 2pm PICNIC DAY at NURRAGINGY RESERVE, DOONSIDE

Join us for the second activity of our Holiday Program, for a lovely picnic at the local Nurragingy Reserve, in Doonside.

You can take a stroll and enjoy the view, play in the water park... the options are vast.

Lunch will also be provided.

Please contact the Parish Office on 0497 966 277 to register for our activities. Donations accepted.

NOTE: Transportation is not included.



ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE!

Contact the Parish Office for more
information (02) 9628 7272.



PARRAMATTA
CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

Support our seminarians to "go out into the deep."

Support our Seminarians to be "anchors of faith" so that more people may come to know, love, and serve our risen Christ!

Catholic Foundation - Bishop's Good Shepherd
Appeal - Next weekend: 20th/21st April

FAITH BREATHING

Life into

FUTURE GENERATIONS

Do you love your faith? Share it!

The Church needs you!

Our Parish needs you!

Become an SRE Catechist

We need dedicated people who are passionate about passing on the faith, and fostering the love of Christ in the hearts of our young people and children. Training and support is provided!

Contact the Parish Office for more information.

Enrolling Now for Kindergarten 2025



HOLY FAMILY PRIMARY

OPEN DAY 7 August 2:00pm - 3:00pm

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



Scan QR code to register your interest