



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
caoholyfam@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)

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. 13 // Sunday 31st March, 2024

Reflection from the Parish Priest for

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ.

If we have a look around our Church, we notice everyone is happy, and some are wearing colourful dress. We hear joyful music and uplifting prayer. This is our Easter - our celebration!

We recall the Holy Week events captured so well in a story written by Mary Carter Warren:

"When my oldest child was about four, he came home from school and told me he learned something amazing: on Sunday Jesus rode a donkey and people waved palms, on Thursday he ate the last supper with his friends, on Friday the bad guys got him and killed him on the cross, and on Sunday God fooled the bad guys and came back to life."

Isn't this a good story telling us that good triumphed over evil when it looked like evil had won?

In the Easter Gospel, we hear about Mary of Magdala, arriving at the tomb. She was shocked to find it empty and her first thoughts were that someone had broken into the tomb. The irony of course, is that no one had broken into it but that Jesus had broken out of it! Because this happened, her life was about to begin all over again. On that first Easter Sunday morning, the amazing truth dawned on Mary of Magdala that Jesus Christ, the man she loved, was alive and had overcome death. She was the first to experience the hope that all of us can have when we too visit graves and tombs: our relationship with our loved ones lives on because they live on. In St Paul's words to us, 'their lives are hidden with Christ in God.'

On that first Easter day, three lives would never be the same again. Peter, John and Mary; they were the first witnesses to know that Jesus had overcome death. If Jesus was Lord over death, then he was Lord over everyone!

Another part of the Easter message is to "go and tell" the mystery of the resurrection: Jesus has risen from the dead. Mary of Magdala reported to Peter and the beloved disciple that the tomb was empty. They ran to investigate and, while the loved disciple reached the tomb first, he held back in deference to Peter, the leader of the twelve. It is only when the beloved disciple entered the tomb that we are told - "he saw and he believed."

The beloved disciple is unnamed but, in John's gospel, he is present and close to Jesus in all key moments - the Last Supper, Calvary and now the tomb. He symbolises what all true believers should be - beloved disciples who accompany Jesus on his way: 'Where I am there also my servant will be.' (Jn 12:26)

When Peter and the unnamed disciple finally go into the tomb, they see the sign and believe. However, they fail to see it all as the Scriptures had predicted. Later on, they are commissioned to go and tell the whole world.

Today, therefore, we rejoice with Mary and the disciples as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. We are called to fulfill Jesus' commission, to share their joy and "go and tell" that Jesus is risen. Alleluia, alleluia!

Fr Nguyen Van Cao SJ

SCRIPTURE READINGS - YEAR B

Easter Sunday

LET US HEAR AND RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD

**Collect:**

O God, who on this day, through your Only Begotten Son, have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, we pray, that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in the light of life. 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: Acts 10:34,37-43

Peter began to speak: "You know the message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem.

They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear; not to all the people but to those who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one who was ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.

All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

Responsorial psalm : Ps 117: 1-2,16-17,22-23.

R: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever.

Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." R.

"The right hand of the Lord is exalted;
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly."

I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the Lord. R.

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes. R.

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS

BAPTISMS: We welcomed into the church, Monica Heti and Falemaka Vete, who were baptised at the Easter Vigil on Saturday 30th March 2024.

LIST OF THE SICK: Pippa O'Neal, Finau Kautai, Maureen Clements, Kevin Smith, Mathew Sieders, Emma Datoc, Val Polkamp, 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.

Second Reading: Colossians 3: 1-4

Brothers and sisters: If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;
let us feast with joy in the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 16: 1-7

When the sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices with which to go and anoint him. And very early in the morning on the first day of the week they went to the tomb, just as the sun was rising.

They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' But when they looked they could see that the stone - which was very big - had already been rolled back. On entering the tomb they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right hand side, and they were struck with amazement. But he said to them, 'There is no need for alarm. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: he has risen, he is not here. See, here is the place where they laid him. But you must go and tell his disciples and Peter, "He is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him, just as he told you."'

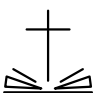
Prayer after Communion:

Look upon your Church, O God, with unfailing love and favour, so that, renewed by the paschal mysteries, she may come to the glory of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Readings for Sunday 7th April, 2024: Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

1st Reading: Acts 2: 42-47 / 2nd Reading 1 Peter 1: 3-9 / Gospel John 20: 19-31



Parish Collection for the weekend of 23rd/24th March 2024:

1st Collection: (for the priests of the diocese) \$ 1,156.70
 2nd Collection: (for parish expenses) \$ 2,102.60

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 donation, please send your contact information to the Parish Office.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:**Sunday March 31:**

- Holy Family Tongan Community, 12pm-3pm (MMR)
- Samoan Divine Mercy, 3pm-5pm (MMR)
- St Ignatius Tongan Sunday School, 12pm-3pm (SSR)

Monday April 1 : Parish Office Closed (Public Holiday)**Tuesday April 2:****Wednesday April 3:**

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

Thursday April 4:**Friday April 5:**

- Funeral service for William Beale, 12pm (church)

Saturday April 6:

- Holy Family Tongan choir prac, 2pm-5pm (SSR)

Meeting Rooms: SSR - Schoenstatt Sisters Room; SICR St Ignatius Conference Room; MMR Mary Mackillop Meeting Room,



Daylight savings ends next
 Sunday, 7th April, at 2am!
 Don't forget to turn your
 clocks back 1 hour!

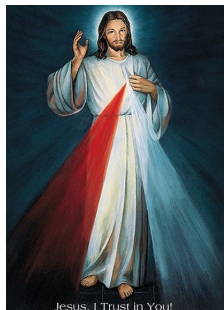
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Next Sunday, 7th April, we celebrate
 Divine Mercy Sunday.

Please join us for our celebration:

- Prayers from 12pm
- Sacrament of Reconciliation 2pm
- Mass at 3pm.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

**Please donate to Project Compassion.**

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

Please return Project Compassion boxes/ envelopes to the church or parish office asap.

HELP NEEDED:

- **Become a Catechist, A Special Religious Education teacher!**

- **We need Professional Advice to assist the Parish with:**

1. Improving ventilation in the church
2. Finding sustainable, cost-saving options to reduce the parish's power bills.

- **Reception/ Administration Support (Volunteer)**

Days desired in the office: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

- **Volunteer at the Parish's Piety Store (weekends only)**

We need volunteers to assist with sales at the Piety Store, before and after our weekend Masses.

- **Advertise your Business in the Bulletin**

We are welcoming small businesses to advertise in the parish bulletin, and published on website/ Facebook page.

If you are interested, or have any questions or concerns with any of the above, please contact the Parish Office.

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

- **Easter/ Autumn 2024 Catholic Outlook Magazine Out Now**

Grab your copy of the Easter/ Autumn 2024 edition of the Catholic Outlook Magazine! This edition invites us to practise silence, deepen our interior lives and pray for a Gospel change of heart, how our communities celebrate Easter, seminarians preparing to 'go out into the deep', a handy Holy Week Mass Times guide, plus so much more. Also available online via catholicoutlook.org/magazine

- **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

HOLY FAMILY PARISH, MT DRUITT

Autumn Family 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 2024 - COMMUNITY WORKING BEE
10.00AM - 2.00PM
HOLY FAMILY CENTRE, 11 EMERT PDE EMERTON

ARRIVE 9.30AM FOR REGISTRATION
LUNCH & GARDENING TOOLS PROVIDED.
BYO HAT + WEAR CLOSED COMFORTABLE SHOES.

WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL 2024 - PICNIC DAY
10.00AM - 2.00PM
NURRAGINGY RESERVE, DOONSIDE

EXACT LOCATION TO BE ADVISED CLOSER TO THE DATE.
WHAT TO EXPECT: FUN / FOOD / FELLOWSHIP

GOLD COIN DONATION

TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE
0497 966 277 OR EMAIL ENQUIRY@HOLYFAMILY.ORG.AU



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March — 'For the new martyrs'

"We pray for those around the world who risk their lives for the Gospel, to inspire the Church with their courage and missionary zeal."

SPECIAL PARISH APPEAL

Next weekend we are having a special parish appeal to boost our own parish funds, because we need to pay our own insurance in one lump sum instead of instalments. We truly appreciate your generosity which we have often experienced in the past.

Celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!

Happy EASTER



ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE!

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



Text: Edwina Gateley, *Growing into God* (2000).
Image: Julia Stankova, *The Buried Lazarus* (2012).

Nothing.
I must come to understand what it means to hold on to nothing - it is the ultimate experience of faith. There is nothing left, only God, only God and me— my little self in God.

THANK YOU!

A special 'thank you' to everyone who played a part in the preparation and execution of our Holy Week/ Easter Triduum services.

We are extremely grateful for your time, energy, and support.

May the joy of the risen Jesus be with you and your loved ones.



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 - 20th/21st April