



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@holyfamily.org.au

Assistant Priest: Fr Renato Zecchin SJ
renato@holyfamily.org.au

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

Book-Keeper: Malinda Toms
accounts@holyfamily.org.au

Music Director: Etuate 'Eddie' Paunga
kosilio_lole@hotmail.com

**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

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 at 7.30am

8 Carteret Ave, Willmot NSW 2770

Mass and Anointing

2nd Saturday of every month:
9.00am

Holy Hour - Emerton

Saturdays from 9.30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays: 9.30am - 10.00am OR
by appointment.

2025/ Issue No. 47 / 14th December, 2025

Reflection from Fr Cao for the

Third Sunday of Advent in Year A 'Gaudete Sunday'

Today is Gaudete Sunday, Sunday of Joy. Continuing the themes of Hope and Peace in the last two weeks, the Church now asks us to be aware of the joy of the coming of Christ we commemorate at Christmas.

Isaiah exults us to "rejoice with joy and singing" because God is coming to save us. Being a generous God, our God will come with many gifts. "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, the lame shall leap like a deer, the tongue of the mute sing for joy. The ransomed of the Lord shall return".

In today's gospel, Jesus' work and actions were so unique that they elicited a joyful response from the people. He fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah to the extent that even John the Baptist heard of him from his prison. If we sincerely receive Christ into our lives when he comes, he shall fulfill our expectations by making us see again, walk again in righteousness, and hear and pay attention to his words.

However, because of being in prison for some-time, John the Baptist doubted: "Are you the one who is to come or are we to wait for another?" Maybe his singular vision, commitment, and determination have blinded him. Maybe his vision has become narrow and myopic. After all, wrath and fire are a far cry from the blind who receive sight, the lame who walk, the lepers who are cleansed, the deaf who hear, the dead who are raised, and the poor who are given good news. Maybe John's focus on wrath and fire has blurred his vision to everything else that is going on around him.

Like John the Baptist, we may have doubts in daily life, as our agenda and priorities often make us blind, deaf, crippled and mute. Sometimes we put on blinkers and sometimes our focus becomes our own blindness. Either way it leaves us in prison; incarcerated by our inability or unwillingness to see more, to explore other possibilities, to consider something new, different, or totally unexpected. Things that blind us can range from the ecstatic and joyful to the tragic and painful.

What can we do when we are in doubt? St James in the Second Reading urges us: "Be patient . . . until the coming of the Lord. . . Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near." In our journey of hope during this Advent, patience is a crucial word. These two gifts, patience and hope, work together to produce the joy which keeps us moving.

In 2013, Pope Francis said: "The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and the lives of all who encounter Jesus...With Christ, joy is constantly born anew." That joy comes from living in His presence now, not just in the future. He reminded us that we are called to be missionaries of Jesus, missionaries of joy, the joy we have received from encountering Christ. We carry Jesus to others because we have been touched by him. We have been transformed in Christ whose love accompanies us in all we do - acting with love, compassion and hope. This will bring us joy.

Be strong, fear not!
Here is your God

”

ISAIAH 35:4

young-catholics.com





SCRIPTURE READINGS - YEAR A

Third Sunday of Advent

LET US HEAR AND RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD

**Collect:**

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. 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: Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 145: 6-10

R. Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith forever,
who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.
The Lord sets the prisoners free. R.

The Lord opens the eyes of the blind
and lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous
and watches over the strangers. R.

The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
The Lord will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations. R.

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS

BAPTISMS: We welcomed in the church, Matilda Ross, who was baptised last Sunday 7th December, 2025.

LIST OF THE SICK: Richard Ward, Marie Purcell, Soane Quensell, Pam Picart-Manalac, Katea Vave, Kim Ahmad, 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, Mathew Sieders, 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:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Polly Borg, Christopher Watt, Athing Majok

Second Reading: James 5: 7-10

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of the suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the Prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he has sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 11: 2-11

When John the Baptist heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples who said to Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A Prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a Prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Prayer After Communion:

We implore your mercy, Lord,
that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults
and prepare us for the coming feasts.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION
FOR DECEMBER 2025****For Christians in areas of conflict.**

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict,
especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace,
reconciliation and hope.
Amen.

Readings for Sunday 21st December, 2025: Fourth Sunday of Advent in Year A

\\ 1st Reading: Isaiah 7: 10-14 // \\ 2nd Reading: Romans 1: 1-7 // \\ Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-24 //



Parish Collection for the weekend of the 6th/ 7th December 2025:

1st Collection (for the priests of the diocese)	\$ 845.60
2nd Collection (for parish expenses)	\$ 2,010.15
Bishop's Christmas Appeal (Catholic Foundation)	\$ 80.00
Philippines Special Appeal	\$ 773.40

DIRECT PARISH DONATIONSOnline 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.

ACYF2025: MELBOURNE

The Diocese's youth joined more than 6,000 young Catholics from across Australia at the three-day Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Melbourne last week, contributing through music, workshops, and storytelling. Youth leaders from Mt Druitt and Emerton parishes animated prayer spaces and festival activities.

Two young pilgrims represented the Diocese at the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's Bishop and Young People's Dinner, sharing insights from their generation with bishops from across Australia. Oscar (MOOF Parish, Blacktown) also had the opportunity to meet Cardinal Mykola Bychok!

We pray our that our young people from Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains spirits have been revived and are ready to go live out their faith.

LITURGICAL 20th/21st December 2025

5.30pm Vigil Mass	Minister at the Altar: J. Gillman / P. Morrell
	Minister of the Word: G. Bruton / F. Hinder
	Eucharistic Minister: J. Macayan
	AV Operator: P. Gillman
9am Sunday Mass	Minister at the Altar: S. Watt / M. Mealamu
	Minister of the Word: L. Seiders / L. Gordon
	Eucharistic Minister: C. Payne
	AV Operator: M. Abad
10.30am Sunday Mass	Minister at the Altar: L. Tuuhetoka / G. Eberl
	Minister of the Word: - / M. Ortiz
	Eucharistic Minister: -
	AV Operator: P. Setefano

If you would like to be a part of the roster, please see Sr Carlene OR contact the Parish Office.

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

- Baptism, during 10.30am Mass (Church)
- HF Tongan Catholic Communion, 12pm-3pm (MMR)
- Samoan Divine Mercy, 3.30pm-6.30pm (MMR)

Monday December 15

- HF Primary Rehearsals, 11am-3pm (Church)
- AA mtg, 7pm (MMR)

Tuesday December 16

- HF Primary Christmas Liturgy & Awards Presentation, 9.15am (Church)
- Mass and Anointing, 11.30am (12 Avoca St, Ropes Crossing NSW 2760)
- Staff Meeting, 3pm-5pm (SICR)
- NA mtg, 6.30pm-8pm (MMR)

Wednesday December 17

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

Thursday December 18

- Funeral Service for the late **POLLY BORG**, 11.30am (Church)
- Parish Choir, 7.30pm-9pm (Church)

Friday December 19

- Funeral Service: **RHEANON BERGAN**, 11am (Church)
- AA mtg, 6.30pm-8pm (MMR)

Saturday December 20

- HF Tongan Choir, 2pm - 4.30pm (Church)
- AA mtg, 7pm (MMR)

Meeting Rooms:**SSR** - Schoenstatt Sisters Room;**SICR** - St Ignatius Conference Room;**MMR** - Mary Mackillop Meeting Room,**HFC** - Holy Family Centre**CHRISTMAS & HOLIDAY MASS TIMES****CHRISTMAS EVE - WEDNESDAY 24 DECEMBER**

6:00pm - Children & Family Mass (Emerton)

8:30pm - Christmas Eve Mass (Willmot)

11:30pm - Carols (Emerton)

12:00am (Midnight) - Solemn Christmas Mass (Emerton)

CHRISTMAS DAY - THURSDAY 25 DECEMBER

9:00am - Christmas Day Mass (Emerton)

WEEKDAY MASS CHANGES

From 26 December 2025 to 16 January 2026

Weekday Mass at Emerton: 9:00am only

No 7:30am Mass at Willmot during this period (Will resume on 18 January 2026)

SUNDAY MASSES (NO CHANGE - EMERTON)

Saturday Vigil - 5:30pm

Sunday - 9:00am & 10:30am

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed from midday 24/12/2025 and will reopen on 06/01/2026.

HOLY FAMILY PARISH – ON-SITE SERVICES
Christmas & Summer Closure Dates 2025–2026

Holy Family Primary School
 17 18 December 2025 – 27 January 2026

Life Start
 17 19 December 2025 – 5 January 2026

Holy Family Pre-School
 17 19 December 2025 – 27 January 2026

Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation
 17 19 December 2025 – 16 January 2026
 Programs recommence February 2026

Willmot Community Hub & JSS
 17 19 December 2025 – 12 January 2026

St Vincent de Paul Hub(Vinnies)
 17 10 December 2025 – 21 January 2026

Aboriginal Catholic Services (including OzHarvest Hampers)
 17 18 December 2025 – 5 January 2026
 • Last day for OzHarvest Hampers: 18 December 2025
 • Resume: 8 January 2026

The Shed
 17 Closed on public holidays. Will remain open.

Holy Family Parish Office
 17 24 December 2025 – 6 January 2026

For urgent matters, please contact:
 ☎ (02) 9628 7272

THE COMBINED CHURCHES OF MOUNT DRUITT INVITES YOU TO

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

- LUNCH
- LIVE MUSIC
- FACE PAINTING

FREE!

THURSDAY
25
 DECEMBER
 AT 11:00AM

HOLY FAMILY PARISH HALL
11 EMERT PARADE
 EMERTON, 2770

REGISTER NOW!



SCAN ME

CONTACT US:

COMBINED CHURCHES OF MT DRUITT
 COMBINED CHURCHES OF MT DRUITT
 CHRISTMAS LUNCH
 JOHN 0422 402 021
 mtd.christmas@gmail.com

**THIS CHRISTMAS,
 SHARE MOMENTS
 OF TRUE JOY WITH
 YOUR FAMILY.**



START WATCHING



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SERVE THE LORD IN HIS WORD AND SACRAMENT

Our parish invites parishioners to discern a call to serve as Readers or Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. This is a beautiful way to support the liturgy and build up our parish community.

The next Liturgical Ministry Training Course will be held in Blacktown and Penrith in 2026.

Enrolments close Friday, 23rd January 2026 (or earlier if full).

Enrolment forms are available at the back of the church. Please return the signed form as soon as possible to secure your place.

Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January.

For one week, the Diocese of Parramatta will come alive with celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who have enriched our parishes, schools and communities.

Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you.

Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross.

Blacktown Project

Mary, Queen of the Family Parish is exploring a new chapter in partnership with the Diocese of Parramatta, Blacktown City Council and Walker Corporation as part of the Blacktown Quarter urban revitalisation. This initiative aims to establish a welcoming Catholic precinct at the heart of Blacktown, enhancing community spaces for worship, outreach and parish life within the future vibrant town centre. We invite you to stay informed, share your thoughts, and join the journey as this vision unfolds over the next few years.

Read more about this project, by scanning the QR code:



Thank you for helping heal broken hearts this Christmas

Because of your compassion, our Bishop's Christmas Appeal raised over **\$271.60** to support Catholic Care's counsellors to continue bringing comfort and hope when it's needed most. Your kindness provides professional counselling, tailored care plans and the training that equips our team to serve with wisdom and compassion.

If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit parracatholic.org/appeal or scan this QR code.

Thank you.

OPEN THE DOORS OF HOPE TO GRIEVING HEARTS THIS CHRISTMAS

"Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall..."

