



# 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](http://www.holyfamily.org.au)

## PARISH TEAM

### Parish Priest:

Fr Van Cao Nguyen SJ

[caoholyfam@gmail.com](mailto:caoholyfam@gmail.com)

### Pastoral Associate:

Sr Carlene Allen

[carlene@holyfamily.org.au](mailto:carlene@holyfamily.org.au)

### Site Manager:

Ray Donaldson

[ray@holyfamily.org.au](mailto:ray@holyfamily.org.au)

### Parish Secretary:

Malia Lolesio

[enquiry@holyfamily.org.au](mailto:enquiry@holyfamily.org.au)

### Music Director:

Etuate 'Eddie' Paunga

[kosilio\\_lole@hotmail.com](mailto:kosilio_lole@hotmail.com)

### Parish Pastoral Council

#### Chairperson

Marissa Logronio

[logroniom23@gmail.com](mailto:logroniom23@gmail.com)

## Mass Times at

### Holy Family, Emerton

Monday & Thursday: 8.30am

Tuesday & Wednesday: 6.00pm

Friday: 9.00am & 6.00pm

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. 11 // Sunday 17th March, 2024

## Reflection from the Parish Priest for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

We are approaching Holy Week, the celebration of Christ's mystery, death and resurrection which opens us to the fullness of life. The word of God challenges each one of us to recognise how different a vision of life we must have if we are to serve and follow Jesus Christ. "Anyone who loves his life, loses it, anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life."

Jesus knows the time is coming. He knows it won't be fun, but it is necessary. He knows this is the purpose. "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." He has to suffer, to die, and to be resurrected. There has to be a Palm Sunday and Good Friday for there to be an Easter.

Many people go into hospital wondering about their illness and suffering, and thinking that death might be close. That's part of life. For Jesus, this time in his life is also a fearful time; it is confusing, and faith-testing. In a hospital, we can transform our pain into suffering, and find some great graces in it. We can be challenged to find new life. Pain becomes suffering. In Gethsemane, Jesus doesn't want the chalice of suffering, but he allows it to become fully part of him so that his inner strength is big! Jesus doesn't take a simple approach. Instead, his approach is acceptance of darkness in life.

On the cross Jesus is draws all people to himself. Jesus invites a faith response to God' love which he has manifested. The death of Jesus is like a seed falling into the ground where it perishes, but out of it, comes growth and a rich harvest. This is the way of love and all who follow Jesus must walk this path. By doing so, they participate in God's ultimate victory over evil.

Jesus reveals to us that God is not a distant figure from the past, but the living One who has suffered for us and now is calling us to new life. In him, we are offered nothing less than intimate friendship with God and faith in Him. Jesus also calls us to have the courage involves dying to our own pride. Every act of courage involves dying to our cowardice. Every act of courage involves dying to our selfishness. Our false self dies, and our true self, the one made in God's image, is born to a new and eternal life.

God's glory is in the living, suffering, and dying of Jesus, but that's not the end of the story. God's glory is in the raising of Jesus to new life, the final triumph of love over death.

Fr Nguyen Van Cao SJ



## 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."



Please remember: Next Sunday is Palm Sunday. We begin our liturgy outside the church building, with the blessing of the palms, proclamation of the Gospel, and procession into the church for Mass. Please arrive early.

## 'WATCH and PRAY'



We will have the opportunity to adore the Blessed Sacrament after the Mass of the Lord's Supper, on Holy Thursday evening, in the Primary School Hall until 7.00am on Good Friday morning.

To ensure that the Blessed Sacrament will not be left alone, during this time, we are asking groups, families, or individuals to schedule a time to sit with Our Lord.

If you are interested, please write your name on the roster at the back of the church.  
Thank you.

## WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS

**BAPTISMS:** We welcomed into the church, Toviah Palu who was baptised on Saturday 9th March, 2024, and Leonid Ekwueme who was baptised on Sunday 10th March, 2024.

**LIST OF THE SICK:** 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.

**RECENT ANNIVERSARIES:** Charlie Cardona, Francis Cardona.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Carmen Jones.



**SCRIPTURE READINGS - YEAR B**  
***Fifth Sunday of Lent***  
**LET US HEAR AND RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD**



### Collect:

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. 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: Jeremiah 31: 31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt - a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

### Responsorial psalm : Ps 50: 3-4, 12-15. Rv.12 **R: Create a clean heart in me, O God.**

1. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. R.
2. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. R.
3. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

### Second Reading: Hebrews 5: 7-9

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

### Gospel Acclamation:

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be.

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

### Gospel: John 12: 20-30

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew, then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. The person who loves their life loses it, and the person who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

"Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say - 'Father, save me from this hour?' No. It is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name."

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An Angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The Gospel of the Lord.

### Prayer after Communion:

We pray, almighty God, that we may always be counted among the members of Christ, in whose Body and Blood we have communion, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

#### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Do you recognise in yourself that inner fight against "what you think" or "know you should do"?

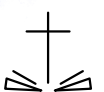
What is the hardest thing that you have had to do for love of another?

Do you see the Cross as God's great act of love for you? Why or why not?



**Readings for Sunday 24th March, 2024: Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion**

Procession Gospel: Mk 11:1-10 / 1st Reading: Is 50:4-7 / 2nd Reading Phil 2:6-11 / Gospel Mk 14:1 - 15:47



**Parish Collection for the weekend of 9th/10th March 2024:**

1st Collection: (for the priests of the diocese)	\$ 642.65
2nd Collection: (for parish expenses)	\$ 1,578.80
Tongan Mass	\$ 285.80

**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.

**Jesuit Provincial Visitation**

Fr Quyen Vu, Provincial of the Australian Jesuits, will be visiting the Jesuit Community here at Holy Family, from the 21st - 24th of March.

He is happy to be joining our Eucharistic celebrations on:

Friday 22/03 at 6pm, Saturday 23/03 at 5.30pm, and on Sunday 24/03 at 10.30am.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:****Sunday 17 March:**

- Baptisms, 11.30am (church)
- Holy Family Tongan Community, 12pm-3pm (MMR)
- Samoan Divine Mercy, 3pm-5pm (MMR)
- St Ignatius Tongan Sunday School, 12pm-3pm (SSR)
- Jesus the True Vine, 3pm-6pm (SSR)

**Monday 18 March:**

- Planning Group - Reconciliation Walk, 12.30pm (HFC)
- Adult Catechesis, 5pm-6.15pm (SICR)

**Tuesday 19 March:**

- Staff Prayer & meeting, 9.15am-11.15am (SICR)

**Wednesday 20 March:**

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

**Thursday 21 March:****Friday 22 March:**

- Stations of the Cross, 5.15pm in English, 7pm in Tongan, (church)

**Saturday 23 March:**

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

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Divine Mercy Sunday, 7th April, 12pm-4pm**  
Prayers from 12-3pm. Mass at 3pm.
- **Youth Launch, Sunday 7th April, 12pm-2pm**
- **Sacrament of Confirmation, Wednesday 5th June, 7pm**
- **NAIDOC Day Celebration, Thursday 11th July.**
- **St Ignatius Feast Day Celebration, and the Installation Mass for Fr Cao, Sunday 28th July, 10.30am.**

**FASTING and FEASTING during LENT**

Sun	17/3 - Fast from <b>complaining.</b>
Mon	18/3 - Feast on <b>being open to new things.</b>
Tue	19/3 - Fast from <b>unnecessary worry.</b>
Wed	20/3 - Feast on <b>saying Thank you.</b>
Thu	21/3 - Fast from <b>pessimism.</b>
Fri	22/3 - Feast on <b>affirming others.</b>
Sat	23/3 - Fast from <b>anger.</b>

**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](http://parracatholic.org/synod)

- **Free Online Formation on Synodal Spirituality**

Dive into 'Synodal Spirituality' with this FREE online short formation course, taught by Sr Patty Andrew OSU. Part of the FaithLIFE series hosted by the Mission Enhancement Team, the course offers an exploration of communal discernment, active engagement, and creative faith responses to challenges in the mission of the Church today. Enrol now and take part in Pope Francis's vision for a synodal Church: <https://pfparra.thinkific.com/courses/synodal-spirituality/>

- **Diocesan Lent & Holy Week Scripture Reflection Evening: 20 March**

Looking for a way to reflect on your experience of Lent as we enter Holy Week? Interested in praying with the Scripture readings for Holy Week? Register for the Diocesan Lent & Holy Week Scripture Reflection Evening, Wednesday 20th March 2024, 6.30pm - 8.30pm. RSVP to [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org)

- **Peace Justice Ecology Table Talk - "Harmony Week: Everyone Belongs": 21 March**

This Table Talk is an opportunity to hear inspiring stories, engage in meaningful conversations, ask questions, and play a vital role in creating positive social change. Be part of it on Thursday 21 March, 6.30pm - 9pm at CatholicCare Mamre House & Farm, 181 Mamre Rd, Orchard Hills.



**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](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.

Please return Project Compassion boxes/ envelopes as from Holy Thursday, to the church or parish office.

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](mailto:ENQUIRY@HOLYFAMILY.ORG.AU)

## THANK YOU!

Last Tuesday, Mass and Anointing of the Sick was specially celebrated for our Seniors who deeply appreciated the opportunity to worship together, receive the Sacraments, and enjoy lunch and companionship. Thanks to our wonderful team of helpers who worked together to make this "event" happen; you are truly amazing!



# HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

## PALM SUNDAY of the PASSION of the LORD

23rd March 2024 - 5.30pm Vigil Mass  
24th March 2024 - 7.30am Mass (Willmot), 9.00am & 10.30am.  
25th March 2024 - 8.30am Mass

### MONDAY

### TUESDAY

### WEDNESDAY

### HOLY THURSDAY

27th March 2024 - 6.00pm Mass  
28th March 2024 - 7.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper  
*The Blessed Sacrament is transferred to the Altar of Repose (in the school hall), for an overnight Vigil, until 7.00am on Good Friday morning.*

### GOOD FRIDAY

29th March 2024 - 9.00am - 10.00am - Sacrament of Reconciliation  
- 10.00am - Stations of the Cross  
- 3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Veneration of the Cross)  
- 4.00pm - 6.00pm - Sacrament of Reconciliation

### HOLY SATURDAY

- 30th March 2024 - 7.30pm Easter Vigil

### EASTER SUNDAY

- 31st March 2024 - 7.30am Mass (Willmot),  
9.00am & 10.30am (Emerton)

