



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)
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
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Site Manager: Ray Donaldson
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Parish Secretary: Malia Lolesio
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Book-Keeper: Malinda Toms
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Music Director: Etuate 'Eddie' Paunga
kosilio_loleehotmail.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

Monday, Friday, Saturday: 9am
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 6pm

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. 8// Sunday 23rd February 2025

Reflection from Fr Cao for the

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time: Year C

Today's readings remind us of the essential virtues and elements of our Christian life. They include mercy and compassion, love of God and neighbour, self-control, appreciation of values, moral responsibility, awareness of sin, and the sacred sense. These are marks of our spiritual progress and Christian growth.

We hear the first reading from 1Samuel that David, finding Saul asleep, refuses to harm him, saying it's wrong to strike the LORD's anointed. He takes Saul's spear and jug, proving his mercy and faithfulness from afar. He heeds God's word: "Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Do not take revenge. Vengeance is mine" (Rom 12: 17-19; Deut 32:35).

In today's Gospel, Jesus gave a very important sermon on these essential virtues and elements that must guide our lives and actions as Christians. "love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly;" and "be compassionate . . . do not judge. . . do not condemn . . . grant pardon" and "give". These are characteristics of a new commandment to "LOVE" because it overrules the Old Testament law of reprisal attack -an act of retaliation- or retributive justice based on punishment rather than on rehabilitation. There is no doubt that humanly speaking, it is a very difficult commandment as it demands a lot of sacrifice and courage.

When I was working with refugees in Indonesia, I met an Indonesian couple who shared their experience of practising Jesus' instructions.

Suprpto and his wife, Kartini, were Javanese Christians who moved into a neighbourhood in Jakarta where all the other residents were followers of Indonesia's majority religion, Islam. Wanting to become friends with her neighbours, Kartini baked cakes and took them to the families on either side of their tiny house. But their gifts were thrown onto garbage heaps at the edge of the dirt path, accompanied by ugly words of rejection and dismissal. Each Sunday morning, Suprpto and his wife and their children walked out of the neighbourhood going to church, men followed them with threatening insults and shouts of disdain, sometimes standing together, threateningly, to block the narrow passage. Over time, the taunts and tension faded away, yet friendship seemed illusive.

But, as Suprpto and Kartini continued to act neighbourly, something remarkable happened. After four years, they not only had established several friendships, but often -- sometimes each week -- neighbours would come to their house to ask for advice about their marriages or to seek help with their children. In the words of this Javanese miracle worker: "They join with us to patch our leaky roof during rainy season. They deliver greeting cards whenever we celebrate our sacred holidays. They invite our Christian children into their Muslim homes. They bring us cakes."

This is true love in action!

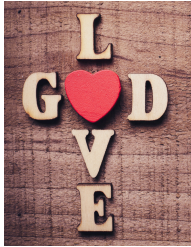
To you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

6:27-28



**- Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for February -
- For vocations to the priesthood and religious life -**

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.



SCRIPTURE READINGS - YEAR C

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time



LET US HEAR AND RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD

Collect:

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, always pondering spiritual things, we may carry out in both word and deed that which is pleasing to you. 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: 1 Samuel 26: 2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

Saul rose and went down to the Wilderness of Ziph, with three thousand chosen men of Israel, to seek David in the Wilderness of Ziph. David and Abishai went into Saul's army by night; there Saul lay sleeping within the encampment, with his spear stuck in the ground at his head; and Abner and the army lay around him. Abishai said to David, "God has given your enemy into your hand today; now therefore let me pin him to the ground with one stroke of the spear; I will not strike him twice." But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him; for who can raise his hand against the Lord's anointed, and be guiltless?" So David took the spear that was at Saul's head and the water jar, and they went away. No one saw it, or knew it, nor did anyone awake; for they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen upon them. Then David went over to the other side, and stood on top of a hill far away, with a great distance between them. David called aloud to Saul, "Here is the spear, O king! Let one of the young men come over and get it. The Lord rewards everyone for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the Lord gave you into my hand today, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed. As your life was precious today in my sight, so may my life be precious in the sight of the Lord, and may he rescue me from all tribulation." Then Saul said to David, "Blessed be you, my son David! You will do many things and will succeed in them." So David went his way, and Saul returned to his place.

Responsorial Psalm 102 (103): 1-4, 8, 10, 12-13**R: The Lord is kind and merciful.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits. R.

It is the Lord who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy. R.

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities. R.

As far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.
As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 45-49

Brothers and sisters: "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, made of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the one of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the one of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the one of dust, we will also bear the image of the one of heaven.

Gospel Acclamation:**Alleluia, alleluia!**

I give you a new commandment;
love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!**Gospel: Luke 6: 27-38**

Jesus said to his disciples: "I say to you that listen: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great in heaven, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be measure you get back."

Prayer After Communion:

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we may experience the effects of the salvation which is pledged to us by these mysteries. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS

LIST OF THE SICK: Pope Francis, Marjorie Ritchie, Pat Phelan, John Murray, Lemisio Fa'ulua, Lourdes Bustamante, Antony Pepin, Pippa O'Neal, Maureen Clements, Mathew Sieders, Jose Manalo, Fely Dela Paz Manalo, Maria Barbara, Sylvia Greene, Mayda Attachian, Faye Iffland, Tim Meagher, Zarouf Mallouk, Gloria Cutcliffe, Emma Lawrence, Maria Llave, Maria Belisario, Fara Vargas, Fe Llave, Stella Edwards, Boyet Llave.

RECENT ANNIVERSARIES:**RECENT DEATHS:** Betty Littler

Readings for Sunday 2nd March, 2025: 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time in Year C

\\ 1st Reading: Sirach 27: 4-7 // \\ 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 54-58 // \\ Gospel: Luke 6: 39-45 //



Parish Collection for the weekend of the 15th/16th February 2025:

1st Collection (for the priests of the diocese) \$ 992.85
 2nd Collection (for parish expenses) \$ 2,137.90

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.

RCIA NEWS: RITE OF WELCOME

This Sunday during our 10.30am Mass we welcome CAROLINE, MELE and JEREMIAH as they take their first formal step in their preparation for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

Please keep them and their loved ones in your daily prayers and encourage them on their journeys of faith.

LENTEN PRAYER GROUPS

Joining a prayer group this Lent is a great way to enhance your spiritual journey and connect with others in the community. We have groups available in Tregear, Ropes Crossing, Dharruk, and at the Holy Family Centre.

There are options for everyone—families, youth, and young adults. Group prayer fosters unity, support, and a deeper understanding of faith.

For more information, please contact Sr. Carlene or the Parish Office.

This could be a wonderful opportunity to grow spiritually and build lasting friendships.

M A N D A T O R Y

Safeguarding Training

For those who completed Cycle 1 training in 2023, we have arranged a **Cycle 2 face-to-face Safeguarding training session on Saturday, 3rd May, from 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM in the School Hall.**

To register for this session, please use the QR code or contact the parish office.



Additionally, if you prefer, you can complete the training online at <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au/>.

Please note, completion of the three mandatory modules is required, totaling six points.

Together, we can ensure a safe and welcoming environment for all. Your participation in safeguarding efforts is essential, and we look forward to seeing you at the training.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:**Sunday February 23**

- Rite of Welcome, during 10.30am Mass (Church)
- Baptism, 11.30am (Church)
- Holy Family Tongan Catholic Communion Blacktown/Mt Druitt, 12pm - 3pm (MMR)
- St Ignatius Tongan Sunday School, 12pm-3pm (SSR)
- Samoan Divine Mercy, 3.30pm-5.30pm (MMR)

Monday February 24

- High School Children Sacramental Process, 5pm (SICR)
- RCIA Process, 6.45pm (SICR)
- AA mtg, 7pm (MMR)

Tuesday February 25

- Mass and Anointing, 11.30am (Rochford Place, 12 Avoca St, Ropes Crossing - ALL ARE WELCOME!)
- Staff Meeting, 2pm-3.30pm (SICR)
- St VdP Emerton Conference, 7pm-8.30pm (SSR)
- NA mtg, 6.30pm-8pm (MMR)

Wednesday February 26

- Christian meditation, 6.30pm-8pm (MMR)

Thursday February 27**Friday February 28**

- Christmas Appeal Evaluation meeting, 10am-11am (SICR)
- NAIDOC Initial Planning meeting, 11.30am-1pm
- AA mtg, 6.30pm-8pm (MMR)

Saturday March 1

- Legion of Mary, 10am - 12pm (MMR)
- Divine Mercy, 12pm-2pm (MMR)
- Holy Family Tongan choir, 2pm-4.30pm (SSR)
- AA mtg, 7pm (MMR)

Meeting Rooms:

SSR - Schoenstatt Sisters Room;

SICR - St Ignatius Conference Room;

MMR - Mary Mackillop Meeting Room,

HFC - Holy Family Centre

UPCOMING EVENTS:

DATE	DETAILS
Sunday 2nd March	PPC Extended Meeting 4pm - 7pm
Wednesday 5th March	ASH WEDNESDAY Mass times: 8am and 6pm
Friday 7th March	Young Adults Lenten Program 7.30pm-9pm (HFC) Fridays during Lent
Tuesday 18th March	Mass and Anointing, 11.30am 12 Avoca St, Ropes Crossing NSW 2760 ALL ARE WELCOME!
Tuesday 25th March	Mass for Seniors, 11.30am. ALL ARE WELCOME. RSVP required by 12/03/2025
Sunday 13th April	PALM SUNDAY
Monday 14th - Saturday 19th April	HOLY WEEK
Sunday 20th April	EASTER SUNDAY
Saturday 3rd May	Cycle 2 Mandatory Safeguarding Training for Volunteers who completed Level 1 Training in 2023. 10am-1pm
Wednesday 14th May	Parents/Carers Information Session for the Sacrament of Confirmation, 7pm in the church.
Sunday 1st June	Holy Family Parish 60 Year Anniversary
Sunday 6th July	Joshua Choong's SJ First Mass after Priestly Ordination, 10.30am



JUBILEE OF DEACONS 21-23 February

This year, Pope Francis has declared 21–23 February as the Jubilee of Deacons. In Rome and across the world, Catholics will come together to celebrate these men who have answered God's call to the permanent diaconate. This event offers a chance to honour their commitment and to shed light on a vocation that, while ancient, is still relatively unknown to many within the Church.

The Catholic diaconate is a permanent order of ordained ministry within the Church, distinct from both the priesthood and the laity.

Deacons may be married or single, have the full support of their spouse, family and their parish priest to pursue this vocation, and have completed a rigorous formation program before being ordained.

THE GIFT AND CALLING OF DEACONS

The gift and calling of the deacon is not for his own sake but for building up the Church in particular ways:

- To bring God's Word to believer and unbeliever alike;
- To preside over public prayer, to baptise, to assist at marriages and bless them;
- To give viaticum to the dying, and to lead the rites of burial;
- Once he is consecrated by the laying on of hands, he will perform works of charity in the name of the bishop; and
- To celebrate faithfully the liturgy of the hours for the Church and for the whole world.
- In their active involvement in the community, their outreach to the poor and marginalised, and their fostering of Eucharistic communion, deacons sacramentalise the Church's service. The support of a deacon's family is vital and essential for anyone contemplating the ordained ministry of the permanent diaconate.

THE ROLE OF AN ORDAINED DEACON

An ordained deacon will be appointed to one parish and may be asked to prepare parents and candidates for Baptism, couples for marriage and conduct funerals. As servants of the Word of God they will proclaim the Gospel in the liturgy, preach the homily, pray the prayer of the faithful and participate in sacramental programs. As servants of charity ordained deacons can be chaplains in hospitals, prisons, universities, armed services and visit the sick.

WHAT TYPE OF STUDY DOES A DEACON COMMIT TO?

Suitable applicants will be required to complete a tertiary degree in theology as well as participate with their spouses in regular monthly formation sessions offered through the Diocese of Parramatta over the four or more years of study. Deacons must be willing to take part in formation opportunities after ordination.



Scan the QR Code to contact the Diocese of Parramatta, to find out more about the Permanent Diaconate

*In this Jubilee Year, do everything with humility,
with joy without complaining,
and in radical hospitality to the poor and marginalized.
Allow the love of Jesus to flow from you,
as you humbly serve others as missionary disciples.
Listen with tender care and affection to the needs of others,
especially the poor in your community.
In this way, you will be messengers of hope to the world.*

Parish Pastoral Council Extended Meeting

You are warmly invited to an extended Parish Pastoral Council Meeting on Sunday, March 2nd, from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Holy Family Centre.

This meeting will be an opportunity to discuss the plans for the upcoming year, address any pressing issues, and explore ways to enrich the life of our parish community.

Your participation is highly encouraged, as it is vital to fostering a vibrant and inclusive parish environment. We look forward to your valuable input and hope you will join us in shaping the future of our parish.

Everyone is welcome!

News from the Diocese of Parramatta

FaithLIFE Scripture Short Courses for adults: 26 February

Are you looking to read the Bible more in 2025 but don't know where to start? Consider the FREE FaithLIFE Scripture Short Course guided by Scripture scholar, Dr Michele Connolly RSJ. Wednesdays 26 February. 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM 1-5 Marion Street Blacktown - Bishop Bede Heather Centre. RSVP via <https://parracatholic.org/faithlife> OR email met@parracatholic.org

Join the Diocese of Parramatta's Jubilee Youth Pilgrimage

Young people (18–35) across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are invited to embark on an 18-day pilgrimage to the Jubilee of Youth in Rome from 19 July – 5 August 2025. The journey includes a visit to Greece, tracing the footsteps of Saint Paul, before heading to Rome for the celebration. Express your interest today at parracatholic.org/jubileeyouth2025

LIFTED Launch: 27 February

Join us for LIFTED Launch on Thursday, February 27th, from 6:45 PM to 9:30 PM at West HQ, Rooty Hill! Get a sneak peek at exciting events we have planned for young Catholics, including the Jubilee Year Pilgrimage and Australian Catholic Youth Festival. Enjoy a night of prayer, formation, and fun with fellow young Catholics. Register now: parracatholic.org/events/liftedlaunch/

FaithLIFE Lenten Scripture night by Dr Michele Connolly RSJ: 3 March

Are you looking to read the Bible during Lent but don't know where to start? Consider the FREE Diocesan Lenten Scripture Night guided by Scripture scholar, Dr Michele Connolly RSJ. Monday, 3 March. 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM. 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown NSW 2148 - Mary Queen of the Family parish. RSVP via parracatholic.org/events/lenten-scripture-night/ OR email met@parracatholic.org

MET Natural Fertility Instruction Sessions

MET Natural Fertility are organising a series of instruction sessions on the Natural Family Planning methods offered by the Diocese of Parramatta via Zoom. Learn how to chart your cycle, space out pregnancies and identify the best time to reach your family goals.

- Sympto-Thermal Method: 25 February at 7:15pm
- Billings Ovulation Method®: 18 March at 7:30pm
- Creighton Model Introductory Session: 3 May at 2pm

For more information and to register, please visit parracatholic.org/natural-fertility