



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

## PARISH TEAM

**Parish Priest:** Fr Nguyen Van Cao SJ  
[cao@holyfamily.org.au](mailto:cao@holyfamily.org.au)

**Assistant Priest:** Fr Renato Zecchin SJ  
[renato@holyfamily.org.au](mailto:renato@holyfamily.org.au)

**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)

**Book-Keeper:** Malinda Toms  
[accounts@holyfamily.org.au](mailto:accounts@holyfamily.org.au)

**Music Director:** Etuate 'Eddie' Paunga  
[kosilio\\_lole@hotmail.com](mailto:kosilio_lole@hotmail.com)

**Parish Pastoral Council  
Chairperson & Children's Liturgy  
Coordinator:** Marissa Logronio  
[logroniom23@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:hfytmtdruitt@gmail.com)

## Mass Times at Holy Family, Emerton (During Lent)

### WEEKDAY:

Monday & Saturday: 9.00am  
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday:  
6.00pm

Friday: 9.00am & 6.00pm

### WEEKEND:

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm  
Sunday: 9.00am & 10.30am

**Mass at Willmot:** Sunday 7.30am

### Mass and Anointing

2nd Saturday of every month:  
9.00am

### Holy Hour - Emerton

Wednesday: 5.30pm - 6.00pm  
Saturdays from 9.30am - 10.30am

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays: 9.30am - 10.00am  
OR by appointment.

2026/ Issue No. 8 / 22nd February 2026

## Reflection from Fr Renato for the First Sunday of Lent in Year A

### "The Testing of God's Son - Keeping Our Eyes on the Lord - Lent"

In the First Reading, there is a striking contrast between Jesus in the Gospel and our First Parents in the Garden of Eden. The Second Reading connects the two events: it was the sin of our First Parents which brought about the coming of Jesus to restore our relationship with God. The weakness of our First Parents brought about the coming of Jesus and all that he means to us for our lives. It is an example of how, even behind unpleasant and, in fact, evil happenings, God's love can be found at work.

It is not necessary for us to understand either the Garden of Eden story or Jesus' experience with Satan as being strictly historical. These stories are primarily vehicles to communicate important truths to us.

Today's Gospel story follows immediately on Jesus' baptism and endorsement by his Father as his "Son, the Beloved," to whom we are to listen.

Note that Jesus is led into the desert by the "Spirit" of God. The purpose clearly is not to lead him to do evil, but as a testing of his fitness for his coming mission. Will he prove himself worthy of the mission he has been given?

The testing will be done not by God directly, but by the "devil"—the Evil One, the Tempter. It is pictured as taking place in a barren region between Jerusalem and the Dead Sea. Jesus, like Moses before him, had fasted for 40 days. He is alone in the wilderness without food. He is hungry, weak, and vulnerable. Now is the time for the Tempter to move in.

Each of the three temptations touches on Jesus' identity as the Son of God, which had been revealed during his baptism: "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

In each of the three tests today, Jesus is being led to do something which would seem to enhance his mission as Lord and Saviour.

In the first temptation, Jesus is put under the test by the Tempter: "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves." This may be a temptation to be a political messiah, but Jesus' reply shows a trustful waiting for God's help: "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." True happiness does not consist in satisfying material wants or in having many things, but in identifying ourselves fully with the vision of life which God gives us through Jesus.

In the second temptation, Jesus is brought by the Tempter to stand on the parapet (low protective wall on a roof or balcony) of the Temple: "Throw yourself down." The Tempter seizes on Jesus' trust in God and challenges him: "The Son of God will be supported and cared for by the angels of God." But Jesus resists this false, deceitful use of the Scriptures with a total openness to the word of God. There can be no forcing of God's hand, just as there can be no forcing of God's Scriptures: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." Real faith is total trust; it is not, as Scripture scholar William Barclay says, "doubt looking for proof."

The final temptation: where will Jesus place his allegiance? The Tempter takes Jesus to a very high mountain to show him the kingdoms of the world and all their splendour. He is told, "I will give you these if you fall down at my feet and worship me." Jesus replies, "There is only one God, and you must serve him alone."

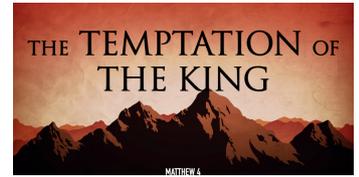
Jesus' unshaken allegiance and union is with his Father. He sends the Tempter packing: "Be gone, Satan." Let us think about this temptation. Is this a temptation that we constantly face—to belong to God and yet go to any lengths to get the things we want: material wealth, success, a recognised standing in the eyes of others, or whatever we deem important to our happiness?

Jesus puts it differently later on when he says: "...what will it profit a person if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life?" (Matt 16:26)

Jesus passes all three tests and will continue to do so throughout his life, right up to the moment of his death. The way of the Father is the only way that will lead him—and us—to the life that never ends. And then, all tears will be wiped away.



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

**Collect:**

Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects. 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: Genesis 2: 7-9; 3: 1-7**

The Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden; in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed. Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

**Responsorial Psalm - Ps 50: 3-6, 12-14, 17**

**R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

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.

For I know my transgressions,  
 and my sin is ever before me.  
 Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
 and done what is evil in your sight. R.

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.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
 and sustain in me a willing spirit.  
 O Lord, open my lips,  
 and my mouth will declare your praise. R.

**Second Reading: Romans 5: 12-19**

Brothers and sisters: Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, so death spread to all people, because all have sinned. Sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all people, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all people. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
*No one lives on bread alone,  
 but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*  
 Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**Gospel: Matthew 4: 1-11**

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his Angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly Angels came and waited on him.

**Prayer After Communion:**

Having fed upon these heavenly delights, we pray, O Lord, so that we may always long for that food by which we truly live. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY 2026**

**For children with incurable diseases.**

*Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope. Amen.*

Readings for Sunday 1st March 2026: Second Sunday of Lent in Year A

\\ 1st Reading: Genesis 12: 1-4 // \\ 2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 1: 8-10 // \\ Gospel: Matthew 17: 1-9 //

**Parish Collection for the weekend of the 14th/15th February:**

1st Collection (for the priests of the diocese) \$ 684.85  
 2nd Collection (for parish expenses) \$ 1,617.10

**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.

**Parish Survey – Weekend of 28 Feb & 1 Mar**

We invite all parishioners to take part in our parish survey at all Masses on the weekend of 28 February & 1 March.

Your feedback is important in helping us plan and grow our parish community.

**RCIA NEWS****RITE OF SENDING**

During our 9.00am Mass this Sunday we will be invited to pray for KIRSTY-LEE (our Catechumen) and bless her as we send her forth from Holy Family Parish to St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, for the Rite of Election.

**RITE OF ELECTION**

- All are welcome to come to St Patrick's Cathedral for this Rite which will be celebrated at 2.00pm this Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February. We are asked to be seated by 1.45pm.
- Bishop Vincent Long will welcome Kirsty-Lee and Catechumens from other parishes in our Diocese. He will then ask them to state publicly their intention to receive the Sacraments of entry into the Catholic Church. Their Godparents, Sponsors and friends will also be asked to testify on their behalf.

Let us pray fervently for these women and men.

**Update – Fr Pat Mullins SJ**

We wish to let parishioners know that Fr Pat has now moved into residential aged care at St Peter's Aged Care, Lane Cove.

Parishioners are welcome to make contact by phone or to visit. Please contact the facility directly for current visiting arrangements and guidance:

📍 Catholic HealthCare St Peter's Aged Care  
 (3 Felton Avenue, Lane Cove North)

☎️ (02) 8413 5000

Please continue to keep Fr Pat in your prayers.

**WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS**

**LIST OF THE SICK:** Richard Ward, Marie Purcell, Soane Quensell, Pam Picart-Manalac, Katea Vave, 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, 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:** Betty Littler

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Mathew Sieders, Dennis Clancy

**WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:****Sunday February 22**

- Rite of Sending during 9.00am Mass.
- St Ignatius Tongan Sunday School, 12pm-3pm (SSR)
- Rite of Election (RCIA), 2pm (St Patrick's Cathedral)
- Samoan Divine Mercy, 3pm-5pm (MMR)
- Jesus the True Vine, 3.30pm-6.40pm (SSR)

**Monday February 23**

- Young Adults Sacramental Prep, 4.30pm-5.45pm (SICR)
- RCIA Process, 6.15pm (SICR)
- AA mtg, 7pm (MMR)
- St Vincent De Paul Emerton Conference, 7pm-8.30pm (SSR)

**Tuesday February 24**

- Staff Meeting, 3pm-5pm (SICR)
- NA mtg, 6.30pm-8pm (MMR)
- HF Young Adults Choir prac, 7pm-8pm (SSR)
- HF Young Adults Lenten Program, 8pm-9pm (SSR)

**Wednesday February 25**

- Ash Wednesday Masses 8am and 6pm (Church)
- Christian Meditation, 6.30pm-7.30pm (MMR)

**Thursday February 26**

- Parish Choir, 7pm-9pm (Church)

**Friday February 27**

- Stations of the Cross (English), 5.15pm (Church)
- Stations of the Cross (Tongan), 7pm (Church)
- AA mtg, 7pm (MMR)

**Saturday February 28**

- Samoan choir, 4pm-5pm (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

**PARISH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We are seeking volunteers to assist in the following ministries:

- **Sacramental Team** - supporting children and families preparing for the Sacraments
- **Parish Office (Administration)** - assisting with reception, filing, and general admin tasks
- **St Vincent de Paul - Emerton Conference** - serving those in need within our local community
- **SRE Catechists** - sharing faith with children in local public schools
- **Church Cleaning** - helping care for our worship space
- **Liturgical Ministers** - particularly AV operators, assisting with screens and sound during Mass Whether you can offer time weekly, monthly, or occasionally, your help makes a meaningful difference in the life of our parish.
- **Altar Servers** - young people aged 8 years and over are invited to consider serving God and our community as altar servers.

Training and support are provided where required. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the parish office.

## LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES – PRAY, FAST, GIVE

As we enter Lent, there are many ways for parishioners to grow in faith, reflection, and service:

### Pray

- **Lenten Groups:**
    - Young Adults - Tuesdays 7pm in the Holy Family Centre |
    - Tregear Residence – Thursdays 3pm |
    - Dharruk Residence – Fridays 10.10am
- If you would like to join a group, please contact the parish office for details.*

- **Meditation on the Stations of the Cross:**
  - Fridays 5.15pm in English
  - Fridays 7pm in Tongan
- **Parish Lenten Retreat – Lenten Journey:** Wednesday evenings, 25 Feb & 4 Mar at 6.45pm – an inspiring opportunity to deepen your prayer life and prepare your heart for Easter
- **Sacrament of Reconciliation:**
  - Saturdays from 9.30am-10am
  - **Second Rite** - Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March, 6.45pm
- An **additional Mass** offered on Friday at 6pm.

### Fast

Take time this Lent for personal reflection and spiritual growth

### Give

- Support Project Compassion (boxes available in the church)
- Give your time to help those less fortunate in our community
- Volunteer in areas of need within the parish

May this Lent be a time of prayer, fasting, and generous giving for all.



### First Sunday of Lent - 21-22 February 2026

Project Compassion 2026 shares four stories from around the world. We'll meet Sisilia from Tanzania, Monoranjon from Bangladesh, Manaini from Fiji and Ahmad from Gaza.

Each of this year's stories highlights unique challenges, yet they are united by the determination to rise above adversity and to build brighter, more hopeful futures for themselves, their families and their communities.

#### Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.



Or online at: [www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate](http://www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate)  
Or by calling: 1800 024 413

**Thank you for standing with us, as we Unite Against Poverty this Lent.**

# LIFTED LAUNCH

## Catholic Youth Parramatta 2026 Kick-Off: 26 February

Young people from across the Diocese are invited to an evening of celebration as we begin 2026 together. Hear testimonies from local leaders, take part in prayer, connect with others, and discover the vision for Catholic Youth Parramatta in the year ahead.

Join us on Thursday 26 February from 7pm to 9.30pm at Holy Family Primary School, 11 Emert Parade, Emerton.



Register today:

<https://parracatholic.org/events/liftedlaunch/>

## Lenten Message from Pope Leo XIV

Pope Leo XIV invites us during Lent to open our hearts to God's Word, to listen deeply, and to let fasting renew our lives. A special emphasis in his message is to fast not only from food, but from hurtful words – avoiding harsh judgments, gossip, and speech that wounds others, and instead use words that build up hope, peace and kindness in our homes, workplaces and community. Lent is a time of conversion, prayer and care for the vulnerable among us.



Full text of the Pope's 2026 Lenten Message:

## Lenten Journey: Weekly Challenges

*This Lent, why not take a few moments each day to sit quietly with Scripture and ask, "Holy Spirit, where are you leading me today?" In your hunger, silence, or struggle, you may just hear the voice of Love whispering your name.*

**Prayer: Lord, be our companion in every trial. Amen.**

*Week 1: Offer at least one kind or encouraging word each day. Notice how it changes your interactions.*

## Rosary Making Workshops

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on the following days:

- Thursday 26 February at St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith, from 7pm.
- Saturday 7 March at Holy Spirit Parish, St Clair-Erskine Park, from 2pm.
- Tuesday 10 March at Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown, from 7pm.

Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for more information, please visit [parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops](http://parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops)