



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

logronio23@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 of 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. 10 // Sunday 10th March, 2024

Reflection from the Parish Priest for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

Rejoice in the Lord! This Fourth Sunday of Lent is always about rejoicing. We rejoice because we have made it halfway through Lent! We rejoice because the Lord continues to call us His people and to draw us to Himself to improve His work of art. We rejoice because we know that "God loved the World so much that he gave his only son...." Jesus came in the flesh for us, died for us and is raised from the dead for us.

However, we are still sinful humans, called to grow in faithfulness and love. Most of us choose to live in the darkness rather than choose to live in the light. This should not scare us. It is simply a part of our normal daily choice. When we are honest, many of us have to admit that we don't really spend a great deal of time looking for the deep realities of the spirit. Rather, we just get on with living and turn to God when we find a need to do so.

God's love and mercy has never ceased to take us tenderly by the hand, speak loving words to us, and then lead us back to God, despite our notoriety in perverting His ways of justice, truthfulness and holiness.

God is calling and patiently waiting for us to come back and be reconciled with Him through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Let us get out of the dark and all its content. God knows all the hidden corners in our lives. He wants us to stop hiding our sin in the dark. He asks that we expose every dark corner to His Light of life, so that we will be able to receive what He is giving to us – the Light that not only shows up the dirt in our lives, but cleans it away. The light of His forgiveness shines brightly in every corner and is available for who needs it. We must stop pretending that we don't see it.

Let us be ready for the Second Rite of Reconciliation on this coming Saturday at 6.30pm. Let us share with each other the joy of coming back, of coming home.

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."



Jesuit Provincial Visitation

Fr Quien 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.

TABLE TALK

Peace, Justice, Ecology - TABLE TALK -

Theme: Harmony Week: Everyone Belongs

Thursday 21st March, 6.30pm - 9.00pm

CatholicCare Mamre House & Farm, 181 Mamre Rd, Orchard Hills NSW 2748

To attend please scan and register here: tinyurl.com/harmony-week-table-talk

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS

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: Jackie Deveril, Pat Doepel, Terry Perry.

RECENTLY DECEASED:



SCRIPTURE READINGS - YEAR B

Fourth Sunday of Lent

LET US HEAR AND RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD



Collect:

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. 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: 2 Chronicles 36: 14-16, 19-23

All the leading priests and the people were exceedingly unfaithful, following the abominations of the nations; and they polluted the house of the Lord that he had consecrated in Jerusalem.

The Lord, the God of their ancestors, persistently sent his messengers to them, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place; but they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words, and scoffing at his Prophets, until the wrath of the Lord against his people became so great that there was no remedy.

Therefore the Lord brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans, who burned the house of God, broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious vessels. The king took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia, to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had made up for its Sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.

In the first year of King Cyrus of Persia, in fulfillment of the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah, the Lord stirred up the spirit of King Cyrus of Persia so that he sent a herald throughout all his kingdom and also declared in a written edict: "Thus says King Cyrus of Persia: The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdom of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all his people, may the Lord his God be with him! Let him go up."

Responsorial psalm : Ps 136. R. v6

R: Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you.

1. By the rivers of Babylon - there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion.
On the willows there we hung up our harps. R.
2. For there our captors asked us for songs, and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying,
"Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" R.
3. How could we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?
If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my hand wither. R.
4. Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth,
if I do not remember you,
if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy. R.

Second Reading: Ephesians 2: 4-10

God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - for it is by grace you have been saved.

And God raised up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come God might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. This is not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: John 3: 14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. The one who believes in him is not condemned; but the one who does not believe is condemned already, for not having believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God.

"And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

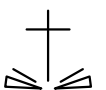
The Gospel of the Lord.

Prayer after Communion:

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity. Through Christ our Lord.

Readings for Sunday 17th March, 2024: Fifth Sunday of Lent in Year B

1st Reading: Jeremiah 31: 31-34 // 2nd Reading: Hebrews 5: 7-9 // Gospel: John 12: 20-30



Parish Collection for the weekend of 2nd/3rd March 2024:

1st Collection: (for the priests of the diocese) \$ 825.80
 2nd Collection: (for parish expenses) \$ 1,968.70

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 10 March:**

- Baptism, during 9.00am Mass (church)
- Stations of the Cross rehearsals, 11.30am (church)
- Parramatta Diocese Tongan Mass, 2pm-4.30pm (church)
- Samoan Divine Mercy, 3pm-5pm (MMR)
- St Ignatius Tongan Sunday School, 12pm-2pm (MMR)
- Parish Pastoral Council meeting, 12pm-2pm (HFC)

Monday 11 March:

- Adult Catechesis, 5pm-6.15pm (SICR)

Tuesday 12 March:

- Mass for Seniors & Anointing of the Sick, 11.30am (church)
- Staff Prayer & meeting, 3pm-4.15pm (SICR)
- St Vincent De Paul Emerton Conference, 7pm-8.30pm (HFC)

Wednesday 13 March:

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

Thursday 14 March:

- Liturgy meeting, 7pm (HFC)

Friday 15 March:

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

Saturday 16 March:

- Samoan choir prac, 3pm-4.30pm (church)
- Holy Family Tongan choir prac, 2pm-5pm (SSR)
- Community Reconciliation Service, 6.30pm (church)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Rehearsal for Stations of the Cross on Good Friday**
24th March, 11.30am in the church.
- **Mass for Seniors & Anointing of the Sick**
Tuesday 12th March, 11.30am in the church.
For catering purposes, please RSVP by Friday 8th March, to the Parish Office.
- **Communal Reconciliation Service**
Saturday 16th March, 6.30pm in the church.
"Come and receive God's grace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation."
- **Divine Mercy Sunday, 7th April, 12-4pm**
Prayers from 12-3pm. Mass at 3pm.
- **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** 10/3 - Feast on **harmony.**
- Mon** 11/3 - Fast from **selfishness.**
- Tue** 12/3 - Feast on **more sleep.**
- Wed** 13/3 - Fast from **bitterness.**
- Thu** 14/3 - Feast on **being peaceful.**
- Fri** 15/3 - Fast from **pressures.**
- Sat** 16/3 - Feast on **being welcoming.**

**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.
- **Volunteers to re-enact the Stations of the Cross, on Good Friday**

Rehearsals are on Sunday the 10th and 24th of March, after the 10.30am Mass.

- **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.

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

DIOCESAN NEWS:

• **Positions Vacant:** More details: parracatholic.org/about/jobs/
Administration Assistant (part-time) - Sacred Heart Parish, Mt Druitt South & Permanent Diaconate community.
Applications close 10pm Monday 11 March.

- **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

- **Music for Easter Triduum Workshop: 12 March**

Music workshop, led by Eric Grella, to learn more about Music for the Easter Triduum. 12th March, 7pm-9pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. RSVP to lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org OR 0460 037 795.

- **Celebrating Holy Week: Formation for Ministers at the Altar: 9 March**

A workshop for current Acolytes and Ministers at the Altar, Saturday 9 March, 9.30am - 3pm, at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown. To register, please call 02 8838 3456 by 5 March 2024.

- **MET The FaithFeed: 15 March**

Interested in live music, curious conversations, life and faith stories from those in their 20s, 30s, 40s? Sign up for The FaithFeed, Friday 15 March 2024 - Doors open 7pm, w/ live music for 7.30pm. Downstairs @ Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown NSW 2148.



RSVP via QR or get in touch with the team via met@parracatholic.org



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.

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.

HOLY THURSDAY

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 - 10.00am Stations of the Cross

- 3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Veneration of the Cross)

HOLY SATURDAY - EASTER VIGIL

30th March 2024 - 7.30pm Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY

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

**SPACE
AVAILABLE
FOR
ADVERTISING!**

**Please contact
the Parish Office
for more
information.**

Enrolling Now for Kindergarten
2025



HOLY FAMILY PRIMARY

OPEN DAYS 4 March 9:30am - 10:30am
7 August 2:00pm - 3:00pm

11 Emert Parade, Emerton
hfemerton.catholic.edu.au T 8869 7200



An Examination of Conscience for Lent

'Love of God and Love of our Neighbour'

The purpose of examining our consciences is to grow in our personal relationships with God, and others so to live our life as true sons and daughters of God.

In a personal relationship, each gets to know the other. Relationships also include personal interaction, which takes place through words and deeds. Knowledge affects interaction, and interaction affects knowledge.

I hope that the following questions may help us to look at what a good person should try his or her best to do. Remember, a good Catholic cannot be perfect, otherwise only God could be a good Catholic. Fidelity is a life-long challenge, for which God has provided the Sacrament of Confession. In our relationships, we also face challenges from time to time because of our fallen human nature. We need to affirm ourselves that it is never too late to come back and to strive for becoming faithful to God.

Love of God

- Have I loved God above all else, or have I allowed other things—money, popularity, image, success—to motivate me and have a primary place in my heart?
- Are there areas in my life that I am holding back from God? Secret parts I don't want to expose to the light of his love. For example, improper use of drugs, alcohol, sex...?
- Have I shown disrespect for God's name by misusing it in anger or frustration?
- Have I been nourishing my relationship with God through prayer and Scripture reading?
- Have I been faithful in honouring the Lord on the Sabbath by going to Mass?



Love of Neighbour

- Do I love those around me, especially my family, neighbours, and work colleagues?
 - Do I gossip? Have I shared information that should have been kept confidential?
- Is there anyone from whom I need to ask forgiveness? Is there anyone I need to forgive?
- Have I cheated or lied? Have I sought to protect my reputation at someone else's expense?
 - Am I honest in business dealings and in my shopping habits?
- Do I love the poor and do what I can to help, even if it means sacrifice on my part?
- Do I practise mercy and compassion, or do I hold people to an unreasonably high standard?
 - Do I envy other people's lives or possessions? Have I taken what is not rightfully mine?
- Have I yielded to anger and spoken hurtful or damaging words? Am I praying for people I consider "enemies"?
 - Have I engaged in sexual immorality? Have I treated others as objects and not persons valued by God?



HOLY FAMILY PARISH - COMMUNITY RECONCILIATION SERVICE

SATURDAY 16th MARCH, 6.30PM

"Come and embrace God's LOVE and MERCY in the Sacrament of Reconciliation"

