



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
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Assistant Priest: Fr Renato Zecchin SJ
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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_lolee@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 (during Lent) at Holy Family, Emerton

Monday, Saturday: 9am
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 6pm
Friday: 9am & 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. 13// Sunday 30th March 2025

Reflection from Fr Renato for the

Fourth Sunday of Lent

"Compassion and Mercy"

"Because this son or daughter was dead and has come back to life; he/she was lost and is found."

It is tax collectors and sinners who were seeking the company of Jesus where as the Pharisees and Scribes complain because he "welcomes and eats with sinners." Jesus then tells a powerful story that reveals the heart of God to those "who are lost and for Jesus who were dead."

In the story there is the Father and his two sons/daughters- one younger and the other older. The younger wanted his own way and asks for his inheritance. The older son continues looking after the farm animals and property. The younger son/ younger daughter goes "to a distant country and squanders all his/her money on life of debauchery." Down and out it was not easy to survive because where he/she was the place experienced a "severe famine." The young man/daughter comes to his/her senses "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son/your daughter; treat me as one of your paid servants." He/she names his/her sin and wants to change.

The Father with compassion and mercy who always waits goes out and welcomes his son/daughter, hugging and kissing " he ran to the boy boy/the daughter, clasped him/her in his arms and kissed him/her." The son/daughter tries to make his/her speech of repentance, but it is totally ignored. Instead the Father orders for the best clothes to be brought out and a magnificent banquet to be laid on: "...For this son/daughter was dead and is alive again; he/she was lost and is found.!" The Father does not berate them or admonish them or bad mouth them. He accepts and welcome them because he was waiting. The same for us.

The elder brother/sister coming back from his/her days works hears the sounds of merry making and when told becomes very angry because nothing was done for him/her. He/she was loyal and faithful to his Father and did not squander his Father's wealth. The Father pleads with the elder brother/sister saying. "you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But...this brother/sister of yours was dead and has come to life; he/she was lost and has been found. We have to celebrate says the Father. The story is a clear reply to the criticism of the scribes and Pharisees. They simply did not understand the mind of God as revealed in Jesus behaviour. Our question is how well do we understand?

I can be absolutely sure of God's mercy and forgiveness, provided I turn back to him in true sorrow. I need to have the same attitude of compassion with people who offend me. I must be ready to forgive and to be reconciled.

There are three people in this story- which of the three most represents me? Which one would I want to be like? Good to ask why the elder son/daughter did not have the heart and mind of the Father. Are they the real sinners who shut their hearts against God's compassionate love, The parable does not tell us what the elder son/ daughter ultimately decides? What would you do?

- Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March -
- For families in crisis -



Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds
through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their
differences.



SCRIPTURE READINGS - YEAR C

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: Joshua 5: 9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." While the children of Israel were camped in Gilgal they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the Passover, on the very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the children of Israel no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Responsorial Psalm 33 (34): 2-7**R: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad. R.

O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.
I sought the Lord, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears. R.

Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
The poor one called, and the Lord heard,
and saved that person from every trouble. R.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21

Brothers and sisters: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake God made Christ to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Christ we might become the righteousness of God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I will get up and go to my father and say to him:
Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them a parable: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So the father divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. The young man would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.''" So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe - the best one - and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. The slave replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then the elder son became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Prayer After Communion:

As we receive the pledge of things yet hidden in heaven and are nourished while still on earth with the Bread that comes from on high, we humbly entreat you, O Lord, that what is being brought about in us in mystery may come to true completion. 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.

Readings for Sunday 6th April, 2025:

Fifth Sunday of Lent in Year C

\\ 1st Reading: Isaiah 43: 16-21 //

\\ 2nd Reading: Philippians 3: 8-14 // Gospel: John 8: 1-11 //

Parish Collection for the weekend of the 22nd/23rd March 2025:

1st Collection (for the priests of the diocese) \$ 992.85
 2nd Collection (for parish expenses) \$ 1,831.95

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.

Planned Giving 2025/2026

We're ordering envelopes for the next financial year. To join the Planned Giving program, fill out the form at the back of the church or use the online QR code.

For updates to your details, contact the parish office.
 Thank you for your continued support!

**AUTUMN FAMILY HOLIDAY PROGRAM goes to...**

Saturday 26/04/2025 - 12.30pm session
 Sydney Coliseum Theatre, West HQ, Rooty Hill

Tickets = *\$10 pp

(Free for babies who will be held by parents).

*Terms & Conditions apply.

Please visit website www.holyfamily.org.au/latest-news to read the terms and conditions, to avoid disappointment.

Tickets go on sale on Monday 31st March, 2025, from the Parish Office. CASH PAYMENTS ONLY! Limited tickets available.
 For residents in the Mt Druitt 2770 suburbs only.

Parish Jubilee Celebration - Call for Information

As we prepare for our Parish Jubilee Celebration on 1st June 2025, we're gathering information to help build the history of our parish. If you joined the parish between 1965 and 2005, please send us:

- Your name, phone number, email, and the year you joined the parish
- Any memorabilia, such as photos, newspaper articles, or other items

Please submit your details by 21st April 2025 to the parish office or email it to jubilee@hollyfamily.org.au for inclusion in our Jubilee publication. More information to come.

Thank you for helping us celebrate our parish history!

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:**Sunday March 30**

- Baptism, 11.30am (Church)
- Stations of the Cross initial gathering, 11.30am (Primary School grounds)
- Holy Family Tongan Catholic Communion Blacktown/Mt Druitt, 12pm - 3pm (MMR)
- St Ignatius Tongan Sunday School, 12pm-3pm (HFC)
- Samoan Divine Mercy, 3.30pm-5.30pm (MMR)

Monday March 31

- RCIA Process, 6.45pm (SICR)
- AA mtg, 7pm (MMR)

Tuesday April 1

- Staff Meeting, 3pm-5pm (SICR)
- Mt Druitt & District Reconciliation Group, 5.30pm-8pm (Dining/Kitchen)
- NA mtg, 6.30pm-8pm (MMR)

Wednesday April 2

- Second Rite of Reconciliation, 6.45pm (Church)

Thursday April 3

- Lenten Prayer Group, 6pm - 7.30pm (SSR) - *All are welcome and encouraged to participate.*
- Liturgy Committee meeting, 6.45pm (SICR)
- Parish Choir, 7.30pm-9pm (Church)

Friday April 4

- Stations of the Cross in English, 5pm (Church)
- Stations of the Cross in Tongan, 7pm (Church)
- AA mtg, 6.30pm-8pm (MMR)
- Parish Young Adults Lenten Program, 7.30pm-9.30pm (SSR)
- Samoan Divine Mercy First Friday Adoration, 8pm-Midnight (Chapel)

Saturday April 5

- 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 13th April	PALM SUNDAY - beginning of Holy Week
Thursday 17th April	HOLY THURSDAY , 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Friday 18th April	The Way of the Cross - 10.00am Celebration of the Lord's Passion - 3.00pm Good Friday Walk - Blacktown - Parramatta 10pm - 6am
Saturday 19th April	EASTER VIGIL - 7pm NOTE: There will be NO MASS at 9.00am
Sunday 20th April	EASTER SUNDAY
Saturday 26th April	Autumn Holiday Program Activity
Saturday 3rd May	Cycle 2 Mandatory Safeguarding Training for Volunteers who completed Level 1 Training in 2023. 10am-1.30pm Register online via QR code:
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 Celebration Mass 10.30am

Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal for Catholic Care's chaplaincy services.

This Lent, will you be a pilgrim of hope to people who may break in the face of suffering? Your kind-hearted gift and prayers will help our chaplains at Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains offer pastoral care, comfort and Christian companionship that can bring healing and transformation.

Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal at parracatholic.org/appeal or scan this QR code.



Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Gospel: Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

The prodigal son.

**How will my heart 'come home' this Lent?
What tensions exist in my family, house-hold or parish?**

How will I be the one to seek forgiveness and reconciliation?

LENTEN PRAYER HELPS

Helps for prayer- Consolation and Desolation

During Lent, we reflect upon our spiritual state and on our interior movement. Are we moving toward more doubt, fear, and anger? Or are we moving toward greater faith, hope, and love? The Ignatian principles of consolation and desolation can help us.

A person dwells in a state of consolation when she or he is moving toward God's active presence in the world. Consolation can hold many emotions and experiences.

A person dwells in a state of desolation when she or he is moving away from God's active presence in the world. Desolation also holds many emotions and experiences

Helpful list to help when a person is trying to determine if they are in consolation or desolation.

Desolation:

- Turns us in on ourselves
- Drives us down the spiral ever deeper into our own negative feelings
- Cuts us off from community
- Makes us want to give up on the things that used to be important to us
- Takes over our whole consciousness and crowds out our distant vision
- Covers up all our landmarks [the signs of our journey with God so far]
- Drains us of energy

Consolation

- Directs our focus outside and beyond ourselves
- Lifts our hearts so that we can see the joys and sorrows of other people
- Bonds us more closely to our human community
- Generates new inspiration and ideas
- Restores balance and refreshes our inner vision
- Shows us where God is active in our lives and where God is leading us
- Releases new energy in us

As we learn to recognize when we are in desolation and consolation, we can respond accordingly: changing course (through prayer, community, discernment, spiritual direction) when in desolation, and staying the course when in consolation.

2. Daily prayer: "Lord, grant that I may see you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen"

- By Fr Renato

Bookings now open: Diocese of Parramatta's Adult 35 years+ Jubilee Pilgrimage

Join a life-changing 19-day pilgrimage from 7 to 25 September 2025, exploring sacred sites in Greece, Turkey, and Rome. Open to adults aged 35 and over, this journey follows St. Paul's path and the early Church, culminating in the Jubilee Year of Hope in Rome. Bookings close on 2 May 2025, with a deposit of \$800 required at the time of booking. The final payment is due by 7 July 2025. Don't miss this incredible faith experience. For more information and to register, visit parracatholic.org/jubileepilgrimage2025/.

RCIA UPDATE

SCRUTINIES

- The Scrutinies are special rites in the **RCIA Process**. They are celebrated on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent, and are only for the unbaptised.
- The Scrutinies are meant to UNCOVER and HEAL "all that is weak, defective and sinful" in the hearts of the ELECT (those preparing for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist). These rites are also meant to STRENGTHEN "all that is good" in their hearts.
- Hence, during our 10.30am Mass, we celebrate the SECOND SCRUTINY, for our Elect... CAROLINE, MELE, and JEREMIAH. Please continue to pray them, especially over the coming weeks.

Volunteers Needed for Stations of the Cross on Good Friday!

We are calling for volunteers to assist with set-up, marshalling etc at our Way of the Cross on Good Friday.

The Stations of the Cross will be held in the school grounds on Good Friday.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Parish Office for more details.

Thank you for your participation! 🙏

Rehearsals for the Way of the Cross on Sundays, after the 10:30 AM Mass in the school grounds.



Fourth Sunday of Lent 29th and 30th of March 2025

Irene lives in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and faced immense challenges after losing her father to war and raising her children in poverty. With support from Caritas Australia, Irene received vocational training in sewing and farming and can now support her whole family.



You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code OR online at:
caritas.org.au/project-compassion
Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Care for Creation 2025 Lenten Calendar Pilgrims of Hope

SUSTENANCE SUNDAYS

30th March - "Be praised, my Lord, for sister water, who is very useful and humble and precious and pure." Water is scarce in some parts of the world and companies are commodifying it against the common good. Clean water is a human right.

MEATLESS MONDAYS

31st March - Take Meatless Monday to the next level. Switch olive oil in & butter out. Global livestock production creates more greenhouse gas than the entire transportation sector.

TALK ENERGY TUESDAYS

1st April - Energy Audit turns inward. Recharge your own batteries by giving up one electronic device for a week - or all devices for one day. Have dinner by candlelight - with a soy-based candle of course.

WISDOM WEDNESDAYS

2nd April - "...the word 'creation' has a broader meaning than 'nature', for it has to do with God's loving plan, in which every creature has its own value and significance." Laudato Si' 76

TURNAROUND THURSDAYS

3rd April - Many nations are banning plastic cutlery, plates, straws, food containers and polystyrene cups. When you are ordering take-out, remember to bring a reusable container.

FISH & FOOTPRINT FRIDAYS

4th April - Pre-cycle before you buy. Choose products that have the least amount of packaging. Buy cereals, nuts, grains and other dry foods in bulk. Save \$\$\$ too.

SUSTAINABILITY SATURDAYS

5th April - Start a porch or window box garden, or join a community garden.

