



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.



2026 / Issue No. 12 / 22nd March 2026

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

carlene@holyfamily.org.au

Site Manager: Ray Donaldson

ray@holyfamily.org.au

Parish Secretary: Malia Lolesio

enquiry@holyfamily.org.au

Book-Keeper: Malinda Toms

accounts@holyfamily.org.au

Music Director: Etuate 'Eddie' Paunga

kosilio_lole@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 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.

Reflection from Fr Cao for the Fifth Sunday of Lent in Year A

Today's Gospel anticipates the upcoming the Paschal mystery: Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. In this passage (John 11:1-45), Jesus gives the last of his signs before his passion. He performs the divine action of raising the dead to life. Of course, this event isn't the fullness of the resurrection in Christ. Whatever might be different in the new life Lazarus has received, he will still die another mortal death. The point is that only God, in His time, can raise from the dead. This sign that Jesus is God will bring many to believe in him, and follow him to Jerusalem, witness his death, and believe in his resurrection, which is foreshadowed by his raising of Lazarus.

At the beginning of the gospel, there's something relevant to today's situation. Jesus knows Lazarus is about to die, and he chooses to delay his return to Bethany, despite his love for Lazarus. Why does Jesus do that? "It is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." It's one thing for Jesus to heal a sick person but it's a much greater thing for Jesus to raise a dead person. Raising Lazarus from death to life leads to a great increase of faith. Many of us have experienced loss and weariness of life but we trust in Jesus, and we go forward with hearts of faith and hope.

Another point of this delay is that Jesus knows Lazarus is very ill and going to die. He knows it would cause great anguish and suffering for Mary and Martha. They both lament that if Jesus has been there, Lazarus wouldn't have died. But Jesus chooses to allow all that to happen. Jesus doesn't kill Lazarus, nor is Mary and Martha's suffering assigned to them as punishment for something they have done. "Jesus wept" tells us that he shares in their suffering. He is close to the broken hearted. He is God who is compassion, love, and mercy. He is God who shares our sufferings more than we think he does.

We might relate to Martha and Mary's feelings when we are in great need and in prayer: a bit confused, frustrated, and even angry. We struggle when we are sick, lost, and in hardship. It's like we're stuck part-way through the plan, and we don't know where God is leading. We expect quick answers! Our own perception is so limited, we only see one thing but God has a far larger design. Life and death are all about how we relate to Jesus in our day to day lives. If we firmly believe Jesus is "the resurrection and life" the road of suffering and death leads to resurrection. "Whoever believes in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." (John 11:26) The promised land is worth the wilderness.

God has the power to bring life where there appears to be naught but death. What we need to do is:

- wait for him and trust that he will do it in his time.
- respond to Jesus' call: "come out!" "unbind" and "let go" of whatever has bound us and caused death, and of whatever our past is so we can live a free new life in Christ.

May God help us to go beyond doubt, confusion, frustration and hardship in our daily lives. May God through his Spirit who is in us, strengthen our faith and hope.

"He who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies . . ."
(Rm 8:11)

Good Friday - Stations of the Cross (Volunteers Needed)

We are seeking volunteers to assist with our Good Friday Stations of the Cross. In particular, we are looking for someone to take on the role of Jesus, as well as as many marshals as possible to help guide the movement of the congregation.

This year, we invite parishioners to walk "the Way of the Cross" with Jesus—encouraging participation and movement, rather than simply sitting and watching.

Rehearsals: Sundays 22 & 29 March, after the 10.30am Mass, on the school grounds.

Please meet at the front of the church near the pre-school.

If you are able to assist, please speak to one of the PPC members.

Thank you for your support.



SCRIPTURE READINGS - YEAR A

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: Ezekiel 37: 12-14

Thus says the Lord God: "I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 129

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications! R.

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered. R.

I wait for the Lord,
my soul waits, and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen for the morning. R.

For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.
It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities. R.

Second Reading: Romans 8: 8-11

Brothers and sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS

BAPTISMS: We welcome to the community, Charlie Castles, who was baptised last Sunday 15th March, 2026.

LIST OF THE SICK: Pierre Pepin, Reg Murray, Richard Ward, Marie Purcell, Soane Quensell, 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:

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
*I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.*
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: John 11: 3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45 (shorter version)

The sisters of Lazarus sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard this, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." Jesus was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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. Amen.



POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH For disarmament and peace.

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence. Amen.

Readings for Sunday 22nd March 2026: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

|| Gospel before the Procession: Mt 21: 1-11 || 1st Reading: Is 50: 4-7 || 2nd Reading: Phil 2: 6-11 || Gospel: Mt 26: 14-27: 66 ||

Parish Collection for the weekend of the 14th / 15th March:

1st Collection (for the priests of the diocese) \$ 871.50
 2nd Collection (for parish expenses) \$ 1,898.05

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 / PARISH CENSUS - UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who has completed the Parish Survey.

While the official cut-off date has passed, we would like to clarify that this is not only a survey, but also a Parish Census. It is important for all parishioners to complete, as it helps us to update our records and recognise all members of our parish community.

Even if you have been part of the parish for many years, we still ask you to take a few minutes to complete the form so our records are accurate and up to date. Your feedback also helps us understand your experience of parish life and how we can continue to grow and improve.

If you have not yet completed the survey:

- Paper copies are available at the back of the church and can be returned to one of the priests, Sr Carlene, or the parish office
- Or complete the survey online
- Please contact the parish office if you need any assistance

Thank you for your support.

**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION - UPDATE**

Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation will begin shortly.

All parents and carers are asked to attend the

Information Evening on Wednesday 29 April at 7:00pm
 in the church.

Please also mark in your calendars the **celebration** of the **Sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday 3 June at 7:00pm.**

We give thanks for Lorraine Gordon and her 15 years of faithful and generous service to our parish, walking alongside so many children and families in their sacramental journey.

We warmly welcome Marissa Logronio, who many will already know from the sacramental team, as she now takes on the role of Sacramental Coordinator.

We keep her in our prayers as she begins this ministry.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:**Sunday March 22 - HAPPY BIRTHDAY FR CAO!**

- Baptism, 11.30am (Church)
- Rehearsals for Stations of the Cross, 12pm-2pm (School Grounds)
- St Ignatius Tongan Sunday School, 12pm-3pm (HFC)
- Samoan Divine Mercy, 3pm-5pm (MMR)

Monday March 23

- RCIA Process, 6.15pm (SICR)
- AA mtg, 7pm (MMR)
- St VdP Emerton Conference, 7pm-8.30pm (SSR)

Tuesday March 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 March 25

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

Thursday March 26

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

Friday March 27

- Stations of the Cross (English), 5pm (Church)
- Stations of the Cross (Tongan), 7pm (Church)
- AA mtg, 6.30pm - 8.30pm (MMR)

Saturday March 28

- Samoan choir, 4pm-5pm (Church)
- AA mtg, 6.30-7.30pm (MMR)

Meeting Rooms:

SSR - Schoenstatt Sisters Room;

SICR - St Ignatius Conference Room;

MMR - Mary Mackillop Meeting Room,

HFC - Holy Family Centre (All rooms)

Autumn Family Holiday Program

Join us these school holidays for two fun community days out for families and children.

Come along to connect with other families, enjoy the outdoors and have fun together.

Games and activities will be organised for children

Picnic Day at Nurragingy Reserve

Friday 10 April, 10am-3pm

Grevillea Picnic Area - Nurragingy Reserve

- Gold coin donation
 - Families make their own way to the park
 - Light refreshments provided
 - Bring picnic rug, hat and water bottle
 - Families welcome to bring food to share
- Scavenger hunt and fun group challenges for kids

Picnic Day at Fairfield Adventure Park

Wednesday 15 April, 9.30am-3pm

Fairfield Adventure Park

• \$5 per person

- Includes bus transport + light refreshments
 - Games and activities for children
- Bus transport provided.

Bus schedule: Street pick-up 9.00am; final pick-up & departure from HFC 9.30am

Leave Fairfield Adventure Park 3.00pm

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Bookings open Monday 23 March

Bookings must be made at the Parish Office
 Payments by cash only

Bookings are essential for both activities
 Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian
 Participant details will be collected at the time of booking
 Bus transport for the Fairfield Adventure Park outing will be provided by Cumberland Coachlines

For more information, please contact Malia on (02) 9628 7272

HOLY WEEK MASS SCHEDULE



Palm Sunday - 28/29 March

5.30PM Vigil (Saturday)
7.30AM (Willmot) / 9.00AM & 10.30AM



Holy Monday - 30 March

9.00AM Mass

Holy Tuesday - 31 March

6.00PM Mass



Holy Wednesday - 1 April

5.30PM (Eucharistic Adoration)
6.00PM Mass
7.30PM Chrism Mass (St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta)



Holy Thursday - 2 April

6.00PM - 7.00PM (Confession)
7.30PM Mass of the Lord's Supper
10.00PM - 7.00AM (overnight) Adoration



Good Friday - 3 April

10.00AM (Stations of the Cross)
11.00AM - 12.00PM (Confession)
3.00PM (The Lord's Passion)
4.30PM - 5.30PM (Confession)



Holy Saturday - 4 April

9.30AM - 10.00AM (Confession)
7.30PM - (Easter Vigil)



Easter Sunday - 5 April

7.30AM Mass (Willmot)
9.00AM & 10.30AM Mass

DONATIONS OF PALMS & GREENERY NEEDED

As we prepare for Palm Sunday, we invite parishioners who have palm branches or suitable greenery to consider donating them to help decorate the church.

If you are able to assist, please contact the parish office or drop off palms/greenery at the church by Friday 27 March 2026.

Thank you for your support.

HOLY THURSDAY - EUCHARISTIC ADORATION ROSTER

Following the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Blessed Sacrament will be transferred to the Altar of Repose in the Primary School Hall. Adoration will continue overnight until 7:00am on Good Friday.

If you are able to commit to spend time with our Lord, please add your name to the roster at the back of the church.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

MARSHALS
REGISTRATION SUPPORT
BUS DRIVERS

GOOD FRIDAY NIGHT WALK

FRIDAY 3 APRIL 2026



Register: <https://parracatholic.org/events/gfnw/>



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Fifth Sunday of Lent - 21st / 22nd March 2026

Since October 2023, Caritas Jerusalem staff in Gaza have endured displacement, personal loss, and danger alongside the communities they serve. Despite unimaginable challenges, they remain committed to providing lifesaving support, standing in solidarity with families enduring this conflict.

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
Or by calling: 1800 024 413

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

Lenten Journey: Weekly Challenges

Allow yourself to slow down enough to notice those who are hurting. Offer a listening ear, a prayer, or a simple act of kindness that brings comfort or hope. Let Jesus' compassion flow through you - so that, through your presence, someone else might glimpse the God who weeps with us and call us to new life.

Prayer: Lord, raise us in your compassion. Amen.

Week 5: Make a conscious effort this week to let go of small hurts or grudges. If someone frustrates or upsets you, pause and choose patience, understanding, or forgiveness - just as Christ forgives us.