



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

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
accountse@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
hfytdruitt@gmail.com

Mass Times at Holy Family, Emerton

WEEKDAY:

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

WEEKEND:

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. 46 / 7th December, 2025

Reflection from Fr Renato for the Second Sunday of Advent in Year A

"PREPARING THE WAY FOR THE LORD"

In today's Gospel from Matthew, we have the appearance and the preaching of John the Baptist. His message, "Prepare the way for the Lord," states the theme for the entire season of Advent.

What is essential and truly preparatory to Jesus' proclamation of good news is John's summons to conversion of heart. The "way" that Isaiah wanted prepared in the wilderness is one that must be prepared in the wilderness of the human heart. The good news will then find a hearing when, at last, it is proclaimed.

The greatest obstacle to conversion of heart is complacency – a complacency that especially stems from privileged status, as John the Baptist tells us in today's reading: "We have Abraham for our father," and a sense that one is different from the despised outsiders – the Good Samaritan of the Gospel – and so can rest secure. Jesus will "baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

That is, He will seek to catch up human lives into the fire that is God's love, communicated through the Spirit (Rom 5:5). But only hearts that are truly repentant and converted will be able to be grasped within a "baptism" of this kind. John's baptism with water is a preparatory rite of conversion, readying human hearts for the entrance of this message about God's love, the true "knowledge of the Lord" that Jesus will impart. Jesus is God's love, born in a stable at Bethlehem to a young woman who, in her "yes" to God's angel messenger, embodies the true conversion of heart and mind that is being asked of us. The German mystic Angelus Silesius puts it this way: "Christ could be born a thousand times in Bethlehem – but all in vain until He is born in me."

He means that Jesus must be reborn in our own minds and hearts during this season of Advent and every day of our lives, radiating through our living His love, kindness, mercy, forgiveness, and spirit of humble service to the world.

This conversion of mind and heart challenges us to ask: What attitudes do I need to change so that my actions and behaviour are in line with what John the Baptist says as I "make His paths straight"? The Sacrament of Reconciliation is always there for us. Nevertheless, we must correct our relationships with others, mend ruptures, soothe frictions, face family responsibilities, work honestly, and treat people justly. Let us share our love with others through selfless and humble service. "Do small things but with great love," advise St Thérèse of Lisieux and St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa).

THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD SHALL REST UPON HIM:

A SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND OF UNDERSTANDING,

A SPIRIT OF COUNSEL AND OF STRENGTH,

A SPIRIT OF KNOWLEDGE AND OF FEAR OF THE LORD

ISAIAH 11:12

Change of Parish Mass Time – Thursday 11 December

Please note that the Parish Mass this Thursday, 11 December, will be at 9:00am, as the Primary School Graduation Mass will take place at 5:30pm.



POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER 2025

For Christians in areas of conflict.

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

Amen.



SCRIPTURE READINGS - YEAR A

Second Sunday of Advent

LET US HEAR AND RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD

**Collect:**

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-10

On that day: A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 71 (72):1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17.

R. Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice. R.

In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth. R.

For he delivers the needy one who calls,
the poor and the one who has no helper.
He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy. R.

May his name endure forever,
his fame continue as long as the sun.
May all nations be blessed in him;
may they pronounce him happy. R.

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS

LIST OF THE SICK: Richard Ward, Marie Purcell, Soane Quensell, Pam Picart-Manalac, Katea Vave, Kim Ahmad, 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, Mathew Sieders, 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:**Second Reading: Romans 15: 4-9**

Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name."

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all flesh shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 3: 1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the Prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, John said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Prayer After Communion:

Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, through our partaking in this mystery, you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth and hold firm to the things of heaven. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings for Sunday 14th December, 2025:

Third Sunday of Advent in Year A

\\ 1st Reading: Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10 //

\\ 2nd Reading: James 5: 7-10 //

\\Gospel: Matthew 11: 2-11 //



Parish Collection for the weekend of the 29th /30th November 2025:

1st Collection (for the priests of the diocese)	\$ 797.90
2nd Collection (for parish expenses)	\$ 2,228.15
Bishop's Christmas Appeal (Catholic Foundation)	\$ 271.60
Philippines Special Appeal	\$ 154.10

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.

Thank you for helping heal broken hearts this Christmas

Because of your compassion, our Bishop's Christmas Appeal raised over **\$271.60** to support Catholic Care's counsellors to continue bringing comfort and hope when it's needed most. Your kindness provides professional counselling, tailored care plans and the training that equips our team to serve with wisdom and compassion.

If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit parracatholic.org/appeal or scan this QR code.
Thank you.

**Special Appeal for the Philippines – Weekend of 6/7 December**

In recent weeks, severe natural disasters have struck the Philippines, leaving many families without homes, food, and essential supplies.

To support those most affected, our parish will hold a Special Appeal on the weekend of 6/7 December.

There will be a leaving bucket collection at all Masses.

Your donation—no matter the size—will help provide emergency shelter, clean water, medical assistance, and vital support to communities struggling to rebuild.

Let us reach out with compassion to our brothers and sisters in need.

Thank you for your generous response.

LITURGICAL 13th/14th December 2025**5.30pm
Vigil Mass**

Minister at the Altar: J. Gillman / P. Morrell
Minister of the Word: F. Hinder / G. Bruton

Eucharistic Minister: M. Freeburn
AV Operator: P. Gillman

**9am
Sunday Mass**

Minister at the Altar: S. Watt / M. Mealamu
Minister of the Word: L. Gordon / E. Villanueva

Eucharistic Minister: C. Payne
AV Operator: M. Abad

**10.30am
Sunday Mass**

Minister at the Altar: L. Tuuhetoka / M. Funaki
Minister of the Word: P. Mafi / M. Ortiz

Eucharistic Minister: P. Loloa
AV Operator: V. Setefano

If you would like to be a part of the roster,
please see Sr Carlene OR contact the Parish Office.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:**Sunday December 7**

- Baptism, 11.45am (Church)
- HF Tongan Catholic Communion, 12pm-3pm (MMR)
- St Ignatius Tongan Community Mtg, 12pm-3pm (SSR)
- Samoan Divine Mercy, 3.30pm-6.30pm (MMR)
- Jesus the True Vine, 3.30pm-6.40pm (SSR)
- Samoan Laulii Village, 7pm-9pm (SSR)

Monday December 8

- HF Primary Rehearsals, 11am-3pm (Church)
- AA mtg, 7pm (MMR)

Tuesday December 9

- HF Primary Rehearsals, 9am-3pm (Church)
- Staff Meeting, 3pm-5pm (SICR)
- NA mtg, 6.30pm-8pm (MMR)

Wednesday December 10

- HF Primary Rehearsals, 9am-11am (Church)
- Christian Meditation, 6.30pm-7.30pm (MMR)
- Advent: Second Rite of Reconciliation, 6.45pm (Church)

Thursday December 11

- NOTE: Parish Mass at 9am
- HF Primary Rehearsals, 10am-3pm (Church)
- HF Primary Yr 6 Graduation Mass, 5.30pm-7pm (Church)
- Parish Choir, 7.30pm-9pm (Church)

Friday December 12

- Funeral Service: Shirleen Young Donovan, 12pm (Church)
- AA mtg, 6.30pm-8pm (MMR)

Saturday December 13

- HF Tongan Choir, 2pm - 4.30pm (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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

DATE	DETAILS
Tuesday 16 th Dec	Mass and Anointing, 11.30am (Ropes Crossing) Rochford Place, 12 Avoca St Ropes Crossing 2760
Wed 24 th Dec	Christmas Eve (see Mass times below)
Thur 25 th Dec	Christmas Day Christmas Day Lunch, Doors open 11.00am (School Hall) To volunteer at this event, scan QR code: 

**HOLY FAMILY PARISH – CHRISTMAS & HOLIDAY MASS TIMES****CHRISTMAS EVE – WEDNESDAY 24 DECEMBER**

6:00pm – Children & Family Mass (Emerton)

8:30pm – Christmas Eve Mass (Willmot)

11:30pm – Carols (Emerton)

12:00am (Midnight) – Solemn Christmas Mass (Emerton)

CHRISTMAS DAY – THURSDAY 25 DECEMBER

9:00am – Christmas Day Mass (Emerton)

WEEKDAY MASS CHANGES

From 26 December 2025 to 16 January 2026

Weekday Mass at Emerton: 9:00am only

No 7:30am Mass at Willmot during this period

(Will resume on 18 January 2026)

SUNDAY MASSES (NO CHANGE – EMERTON)

Saturday Vigil – 5:30pm

Sunday – 9:00am & 10:30am

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed from midday 24/12/2025 and will reopen on 06/01/2026.

HOLY FAMILY PARISH – ON-SITE SERVICES Christmas & Summer Closure Dates 2025-2026

Holy Family Primary School
17 18 December 2025 – 27 January 2026

Life Start
17 19 December 2025 – 5 January 2026

Holy Family Pre-School
17 19 December 2025 – 27 January 2026

Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation
17 19 December 2025 – 16 January 2026
Programs recommence February 2026

Willmot Community Hub & JSS
17 19 December 2025 – 12 January 2026

St Vincent de Paul Hub(Vinnies)
17 10 December 2025 – 21 January 2026

**Aboriginal Catholic Services
(including OzHarvest Hampers)**
17 18 December 2025 – 5 January 2026
• Last day for OzHarvest Hampers: 18 December 2025
• Resume: 8 January 2026

The Shed
17 Closed on public holidays. Will remain open.

Holy Family Parish Office
17 24 December 2025 – 6 January 2026

For urgent matters, please contact:
1 (02) 9628 7272

THE COMBINED CHURCHES OF MOUNT
DRUITT INVITES YOU TO

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

- LUNCH
- LIVE MUSIC
- FACE PAINTING

FREE!

THURSDAY
25
DECEMBER
AT 11:00AM

REGISTER NOW!



SCAN ME

HOLY FAMILY PARISH HALL
11 EMERT PARADE
EMERTON, 2770

CONTACT US:

COMBINED CHURCHES OF MT DRUITT
 COMBINED CHURCHES OF MT DRUITT
CHRISTMAS LUNCH
 JOHN 0422 402 021
 mtd.christmas@gmail.com

Second Rite of Reconciliation Wednesday, 10th December | 6:45 pm

As we journey through Advent, we are called to open our hearts to God's love and mercy. Join us for the Second Rite of Reconciliation—a gentle, prayerful celebration of forgiveness and renewal.

Take this special opportunity to prepare your heart for the coming of Christ. Everyone is warmly welcome to come, reflect, and experience the peace and joy of God's mercy this Advent.

SERVE THE LORD IN HIS WORD AND SACRAMENT

Our parish invites parishioners to discern a call to serve as Readers or Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. This is a beautiful way to support the liturgy and build up our parish community.

The next Liturgical Ministry Training Course will be held in Blacktown and Penrith in 2026. Enrolments close Friday, 23rd January 2026 (or earlier if full).

Enrolment forms are available at the back of the church. Please return the signed form as soon as possible to secure your place.

Mt Schoenstatt Advent and Christmas Carols: 13 December

Come and prepare your hearts for the coming of Christ at the Advent and Christmas Carols at Mt Schonstatt Family Hall, 230 Fairlight Road Mulgoa on Saturday 13 December from 7pm. All children are encouraged to arrive by 6.45pm dressed as angels or shepherds. Contact Sr. M. Rita for more details: 0493 026 628 srrita@schoenstatt.org.au

“Five Waiting Prayers” – Weekly Advent Prayer Series



As Advent begins, our parish invites you to join a special prayer opportunity: “Five Waiting Prayers.”

Starting soon, this online series offers families and individuals a chance to enter into Advent with prayerful reflection.

By registering via the QR code, you will receive weekly prayers and reflections designed to help you wait in hope and prepare your heart for Christmas.

To join: visit book.venue.life – Five Waiting Prayers and complete the simple registration form.

Let this Advent be a time of quiet waiting, prayer and preparation.

Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January.

For one week, the Diocese of Parramatta will come alive with celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who have enriched our parishes, schools and communities.

Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross.

Volunteer Communicators Network

Are you savvy with a camera, writing or social media? We want to hear from you! Share your interest with us to support our storytelling in Catholic Outlook, our websites and social media.

Name/contact details are required:
parracatholic.org/communicators