



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@hollyfamily.org.au

Assistant Priest: Fr Renato Zecchin SJ

renato@hollyfamily.org.au

Pastoral Associate: Sr Carlene Allen

carlene@hollyfamily.org.au

Site Manager: Ray Donaldson

ray@hollyfamily.org.au

Parish Secretary: Malia Lolesio

enquiry@hollyfamily.org.au

Book-Keeper: Malinda Toms

accounts@hollyfamily.org.au

Music Director: Etuate 'Eddie' Paunga

kosilio_lole@hotmail.com

Parish Pastoral Council

Chairperson & Children's Liturgy

Coordinator: Marissa Logronio

logroniom23@gmail.com

Acting Sacramental Coordinator:

Marissa Logronio

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

WEEKDAY:

Monday, Friday & Saturday
9.00am

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday:
6.00pm

WEEKEND:

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm

Sunday: 9.00am & 10.30am

NO MASSES AT WILLMOT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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. 42 / 18th October 2026

Reflection from Fr Cao for the

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time in Year A

"Whose image is this?" This is a question that Jesus uses instead of an answer to the disciples of the Pharisees and the Herodians who set a trap: "to pay the census tax to Caesar or not". He invites them to look inwardly at themselves, to discover their true identity and whether their true loyalties belong to God or to someone else.

They reply, "Caesar." Jesus says, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." Jesus wants to tell them that there are different areas of life. He reminds them and us that the whole of creation "belongs to God." There is no question of "separate domains" since everything belongs to God. In fact, Jesus does two important things: He masterfully diffuses a conflict that the Pharisee's disciples were trying to set up, and he also teaches something important. We are made in God's image (Genesis 1:26-27) and bear the stamp of God's image in baptism. Our intellect, our talents, our free will, the people we love, truth, the beauty and goodness in the world, our soul, our moral integrity and of course, our hope for Eternal Life all belong to God. These are the things worth the struggle to ennoble and defend, and none of them come from Caesar or anyone or any succeeding government. We owe civil authority our respect and appropriate obedience. Nonetheless, that obedience is limited by what belongs to God.

If we're honestly willing to listen, it's also the question Jesus poses to us. It's not a question of tax. It's a question of faith. Whose image is on your face, in your hands and the way you use them? Whose image is woven into your entire body and your very being?

We may know what belongs to the world and what belongs to God. Nonetheless, we often choose the world rather than God. The world gives us power, wealth, authority, and what we want. We can feel and see. God is invisible and incomprehensible. The world can satisfy our temporal needs and wants, whereas God grants what best for us although it does not always satisfy our immediate wants. We get lost and forget who is the author of our life and body, of this world and the world to come. We often forget that all belongs to God and nothing – at least nothing permanent and important – belongs to Caesar.

Let us reflect on our lives to see what is so precious that we cannot make concessions. Let us look closely at such areas as family, friendship, the sanctity of sex, self-respect, compassion, humility, care for the poor, sick and elderly etc. Jesus wants us to get our priorities right. Is it the image of Caesar on our coins, or is it the image of God on each face in the crowd around us?

Lord, we are Your image bearers.

You call us Your own.

**May we find our true identity, our true purpose,
in who You've called us to be.**

May we not find it anywhere else.

May we get our priorities right.

May we seek the common welfare of all in Your name.



SCRIPTURE READINGS - YEAR A

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

LET US HEAR AND RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD

**Collect:**

Almighty ever-living God, grant that we may always conform our will to yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart. 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: Isaiah 45: 1, 4-6

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him- and the gates shall not be closed: "For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that all may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other."

Responsorial Psalm - Ps. 95: 1, 3-5, 7-10

R: Give the Lord glory and honour.

O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvellous works among all the peoples. R

O great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods.
For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the Lord made the heavens. R.

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts. R.

Worship the Lord in holy splendour;
tremble before him, all the earth.
Say among the nations, "The Lord is king!
He will judge the peoples with equity." R.

FLOWERS FOR THE CHURCH

Parishioners are warmly invited to contribute flowers from their gardens to help decorate our church. Please bring your flowers to the church before the 9:00 am Saturday Mass for arranging. Anyone interested in helping with flower arrangements is welcome to contact the Parish Office.

Thank you for helping beautify our church!

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR OCTOBER - FOR MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY**

Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS**BAPTISM:**

LIST OF THE SICK: Richard Ward, Reg Murray, Therese Walz, Palesete Fa'ulua, Katalina Tatafu, Claire East, Joseph Macayan, Jean Marie Federic, Pierre Pepin, Leonie Stout, Jose Manalo, Fely Dela Paz Manalo, Grace Tinker, Maria Barbara, Leonie Pike, Marie Purcell, Pat Phelan, Makasini Vave, Loretta Josephine Seupule, Leue Dunlop, Lino Dunlop, Cheryl Barrell, Lisimoa Hufanga, Norah Gibson, Sabrina Ellingsworth, John Murray, Lemisio Fa'ulua, Sylvia Greene, Mayda Attachian, Tim Meagher, Maria Llave, Maria Belisario, Fara Vargas, Fe Llave, Stella Edwards, Boyet Llave.

RECENT ANNIVERSARIES: Gerry Greene, Colleen Sense, Dennis Holmes

RECENTLY DECEASED: Faye Iffland, Nicholas Buhagiar.

The Scripture quotations contained herein (including the texts of the readings, the Psalms, the psalm refrains and the Gospel verses) are based on the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. Adapted and used by permission. All rights reserved. Published by Publications Service Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Readings for Sunday 25th October, 2026 – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time in Year A

|| 1st Reading: Exodus 22: 20-26 || 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1: 5-10 || Gospel: Matthew 22: 34-40 ||

Collection for the weekend of the 10th/11th October, 2026:

1st Collection (for the priests of the diocese) \$ 738.45
 2nd Collection (for parish expenses) \$ 1,483.95

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.

World Mission Sunday – 18 October 2026

Today we celebrate **World Mission Sunday**, a time to pray for and support the Church's missionary work around the world.

We will hold a **leaving collection at all Masses this weekend**, with proceeds shared equally between **Catholic Mission and Jesuit Missions**, supporting communities in need through faith, education, healthcare and outreach.

Donation envelopes will be available for those wishing to make a tax-deductible donation, where eligible.

Your prayers and generous contributions help bring Christ's love and hope to those most in need.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

PAPAL BLESSING FOR MILESTONE WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES - APPLICATIONS EXTENDED!

As part of our Feast of the Holy Family celebration on Sunday, 27 December, couples celebrating a milestone wedding anniversary in 2026 are invited to apply for a Papal Blessing Parchment.

This includes any milestone events from 1 August 2026 to 30 April 2027.

Cost: \$130. Applications close 31st October, 2026.

Forms are available at the back of the church, or scan the QR code to apply online.

**PARISH SUGGESTIONS AND FEEDBACK**

Thank you to everyone who has shared their suggestions so far!

More Candles: We recognise the need for more candles and are exploring alternatives, such as LED candles, while considering fire safety and budget implications.

Youth Activities (Ages 10-17): The Parish is supportive of organising activities for young people in this age group. Parents or anyone interested in helping are invited to speak with Fr Renato.

We encourage all parishioners to continue sharing their ideas and suggestions by placing them in the suggestion box at the back of the church. Your feedback and involvement are greatly appreciated!

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:**Sunday October 18**

- Parramatta Tongan Catholic Chaplaincy Mass, 12pm-3pm (Church)
- Samoan Divine Mercy, 3pm-5pm (MMR)
- Jesus the True Vine, 3.30pm-6.30pm (SSR)

Monday October 19

- RCIA Gathering, 4pm-5.30pm (SICR)
- AA mtg, 7pm-8pm (MMR)

Tuesday October 20

- Staff prayer & mtg, 3.45pm-5pm (SICR)
- Liturgy Committee mtg, 6.45pm-8pm (SICR)
- NA mtg, 6.30pm-8.30pm (MMR)
- HF Young Adults, 7.30pm-9.30pm (SSR)

Wednesday October 21

- Sacramental Process: First Reconciliation Information session for parents/ carers only, 7pm-8pm (Church)
- Christian Meditation, 6.30pm-7.30pm (MMR)

Thursday October 22

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

Friday October 23

- Samoan Community, 6.30pm-8.30pm (Church)
- AA mtg, 6.30pm - 8.30pm (MMR)

Saturday October 24

- 'Tima Talks' Podcast, 2pm-4pm (MMR)
- 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)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Sunday 1 November** - All Saints Day
- **Monday 2 November** - All Soul' Day - Mass times: 9.00am and 6.00pm
- **Saturday 7 November** - Parish Mass for All Souls, 3pm (Pinegrove North Chapel)
- **Tuesday 10 November** - Mass for Seniors & Anointing of the Sick, 11.30am - Church
- **Saturday 14 November** - Parish Working Bee, 8am-3pm
- **Tuesday 17 November** - Risk Management Committee meeting, 6.45pm-8pm (SICR)
- **Friday 20 November** - Thanksgiving Mass and Dinner for our Volunteers (CathWest Loyola)
- **Sunday 22 November** - Fr Renato's 80th Bday Celebration
- **Saturday 28 November** - Parish Choir sings at 5.30pm Vigil Mass at Lavender Bay Parish for the Feast of St Francis Xavier
- **Sunday 29 November** - First Sunday of Advent Yr B
- **Saturday 5 December** - Parish Christmas Carols
- **Friday 11 December** - Advent Second Rite of Reconciliation, 7.30pm
- **Sunday 27 December** - Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph Feast Day - Parish Celebration

**Sacramental Enrolments Now Open FINAL CHANCE!**

Enroll now for the Sacramental Program. Preparation for the **Sacrament of First Reconciliation begins with Parent/ Carer Information Session: Wednesday 21 October, 7pm in the church.**

Looking ahead:

First Communion: 2027

Confirmation: 2028

For more information or to enroll, please contact the parish office or see Marissa Logronio.

LET'S TALK ABOUT COMMUNICATION – FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP

Thursday 22 October 2026 at 9:30am

Parents and carers of children aged 6 months to 5 years are invited to join ifestart Senior Speech Pathologist Cindy Liew for a free online workshop. Learn simple ways to support your child's communication through play, mealtimes, reading and everyday routines. Families will also receive a Home Plan Tool to use at home.

Register your interest:
<https://www.lifestart.org.au/lets-talk-about-communication-workshop/>



ENCOUNTERING CREATION – WEEKEND RETREAT

**Friday 30 October 2026 @ 4:30 pm –
Sunday 1 November 2026 @ 3:00 pm**

Come and be nourished by the experience of beauty in this place and be blessed by the presence of all Creation.

The Spirit of God has filled the universe with possibilities and therefore, from the very heart of things, something new can always emerge... Nature is nothing other than a certain kind of art, namely God's art, inscribed in the heart of things. Laudato Si 80.

Take some time to nourish and revitalize yourself amidst the beauty of creation staying just steps away from Seven Mile Beach and amidst the beautiful vistas and surrounds of Gerroa.

This Retreat will explore the Ignatian understanding of Creation which sees the Divine at the centre of all things, always giving and receiving, creating, and sustaining in every moment of all life.

Using imagery, music, story and creative expression, participants will be given time to reflect and consider the Divine encounter with Creation.

During the weekend there will be time to walk on the beach, relax, sit quietly, listen, and reflect on your journey with God and share with others.

New Dates

**When: Friday 30 October 4:30pm –
Sunday 1 November 3pm, 2026**

Scan QR code to register



Where: "Stella Maris" Jesuit Villa House, 58 Burke Parade, Gerroa NSW Australia

Price: Single room \$620 per person. Shared room (bring a friend) \$790 (\$395 per person)

Price includes: accommodation, home-cooked nourishing meals, retreat facilitation and take-home materials.

2026 LIFTED LIVE IN THE FORECOURT: 24 OCTOBER

All are welcome to St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta on Saturday, 24 October for LIFTED Live in the Forecourt 2026. Join hundreds of young people and families for a Youth Mass at 6pm followed by festivities in the forecourt.

Encounter the variety of talent and passion of Western Sydney and Blue Mountains, with live performances, inflatable games, small businesses, adoration and more.

Register by visiting parracatholic.org/lifted-live

"COME AND SEE"

- ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?
- WOULD YOU LIKE TO EXPLORE WITH US THE PLACE OF GOD
 - IN OUR OWN LIVES,
 - IN AND THROUGH THE CATHOLIC FAITH?



If you can respond with a YES to any of these questions, please contact Sr Carlene personally, or phone 02 9628 7272.

LIGHT NIGHT – An Evening to Encounter Jesus

Friday 30 October | 6pm–9pm

The Good Shepherd Parish, Plumpton

All are warmly invited to Light Night, a special evening of faith, worship and encounter with Jesus. Come and be renewed in the Holy Spirit and inspired to live out your faith boldly!

The evening includes praise and worship, testimonies and teaching, prayer ministry and healing, Confession, Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction, followed by fellowship and supper.

FREE EVENT – ALL WELCOME!

Bring your family, friends and youth groups.

Free registration: www.trybooking.com/DOXEN

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."—John 1:5

Holy Family Parish Working Bee

Join us on **Saturday 14th November, 8am–3pm**, for our **Parish Working Bee** as we care for and beautify our grounds.

If you haven't collected your free plants from Blacktown Council, and would like to donate them to the parish, please complete the form at the back of the church.

Thank you!

All Are Welcome and Encouraged!

FAITH IN ACTION: THE RADICAL LOVE STORY OF DOROTHY DAY AND ITS RELEVANCE FOR COMMUNITIES IN SYDNEY TODAY

You are invited to an evening of conversation with Martha Hennessy, peace activist and member of the Catholic Worker Movement, co-founded by her grandmother Dorothy Day.

Date: Monday 19 October 2026

Time: 5:30pm – 8:00pm

Venue: Parramatta Mission, 119 Macquarie St, Parramatta

Light refreshments at 5.30pm, main program commencing at 6.00pm.

Registrations are essential. Please register online at tinyurl.com/dorothyday-parra

This is a free event. Donations towards charitable works in the Diocese of Parramatta will be welcome on the night.

Organised by the Diocese of Parramatta, Sydney Alliance, Jesuit Refugee Service, Jesuit Social Services, Catholic Religious Australia, Parramatta Mission and Young Christian Workers.

You can find out more about Dorothy Day, Martha Hennessy and the Catholic Worker Movement at tinyurl.com/dorothyday-parra-info.