



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@hollyfamily.org.au

Site Manager:

Ray Donaldson

ray@hollyfamily.org.au

Parish Secretary:

Malia Lolesio

enquiry@hollyfamily.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. 9 // Sunday 3rd March, 2024

Reflection from the Parish Priest for the Third Sunday of Lent

The opening declaration of God to the Jewish people, in our First Reading from Exodus, is a profound, yet simple identification. "I am the God who saved you from the slavery of Egypt... You, Israel, are the nation and people saved by my love for you. The commandments were guides to help the people avoid chaos through wrong doing, or through forgetting who they were in God's eyes. Since then, the commandments have become one of the guides to help us in our examination of conscience as we prepare for the Sacrament of Penance.

In listening to, or reading the very exact laws, each of us can give ourselves a grade in how we have been doing lately. Yes, Lent can be a forty-day examination of just how bad, unfaithful, inconsistent we each have been. We may recognise the times we tried falsely to justify our words, thoughts, and deeds, and the times we didn't attempt to mend relationships, to reconcile with others, and to show our love to them. We can identify these failings and make a promise to stop, to let go of the false identities, or the false 'ME', and to begin a new life in God. In this way, like Jesus cleaning up the temple, we let God enter and clean up the mess which we ourselves have made, or others have made in us.

Human frailty is embraced by the human Jesus. Keeping over six-hundred laws from the Old Testament is an impossible expectation! At that time, an unjustified person could fulfill the rules and be righteous by sacrificing various animals; this would render God pleased and restore relationship with the sacrificer.

Jesus is Justification. He is the Lamb of Sacrifice. He is the Loving Face of God, bringing God's people out of slavery, chaos, and darkness and leading them and us to true identity. So, our Lent is giving up false identities, false ways of identifying ourselves. We operate as misnamed, misidentified flying objects. We are invited to allow Jesus to turn us over, drive out our chaotic ways and clean up our own personal temple through the Sacrament of Penance, either individually or as a community in the Second Rite of Reconciliation Service at 6.30pm, Saturday 16th March.

From this Sunday onward, may I suggest a practical Lenten examination of conscience called a daily Examen, whereby we spend 10-15 minutes each evening looking at the "ups and downs" or the "highs and lows" of our day. We can give the "highs" back to God in the form of joy and thanks. We can give the "lows" back to God by "offering them up" - that is, uniting our suffering (no matter how small) with the suffering of Christ on the cross, so that God might take our suffering and turn it into something good, just as he did in the Resurrection.

Fr Nguyen Van Cao SJ

Do you know what the Sacrament of Penance is? Turn to page 4 and read it. It is very simple and easy to understand.



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."

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS

LIST OF THE SICK: 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: Bill Vella, Agatha Benson, Mary Mallet, Salvatore Barbara.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Lafaele Mealamu.



SCRIPTURE READINGS - YEAR B

Third Sunday of Lent

LET US HEAR AND RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD



Collect:

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. 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: Exodus 20: 1-17 (short version)

The Law was given through Moses.

God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.

Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

Responsorial psalm : Ps 18: 8-11, R. Jn 6: 68

R: Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple. R.
2. The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes. R.
3. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. R.
4. More to be desired are they than gold, even much finer gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb. R.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 22:-25

God did not spare his own Son.

Brothers and sisters: The message about the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! 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 2: 13-25

Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of chords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!

His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." They then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?" But Jesus was speaking of the temple of his body.

After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

When he was in Jerusalem during the Passover festival, many believed in his name because they saw the signs that he was doing. But Jesus on his part would not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to testify about human nature, for he himself knew what was within the human person.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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.

PRAYER

Lord, cleanse the temple of our hearts, make them new with the saving inspirations of your divine Word as we hear it today.

May those inspirations become so alive in us that they become a gift for others through us.

We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Readings for Sunday 10th March, 2024: Fourth Sunday of Lent in Year B

1st Reading: 2 Chronicles 36: 14-16, 19-23 // 2nd Reading: Ephesians 2: 4-10 // Gospel: John 3: 14-21



Parish Collection for the weekend of 24th/25th February 2024:

1st Collection: (for the priests of the diocese)	\$ 664.30
2nd Collection: (for parish expenses)	\$ 1,713.20

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 3 March:**

- Baptisms, 11.30am (church)
- Holy Family Tongan community, 12pm-3pm (MMR)
- Samoan Divine Mercy, 3pm-5pm (MMR)
- St Ignatius Tongan Sunday School, 12pm-2pm (MMR)
- Jesus the True Vine, 3pm-6pm (MMR)

Monday 4 March:

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

Tuesday 5 March:

- Staff Prayer & meeting, 9.15am-11.15am (SICR)
- Mt Druitt & District Reconciliation meeting, 6pm-8pm (HFC)

Wednesday 6 March:

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

Thursday 7 March:**Friday 8 March:**

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

Saturday 9 March:

- Samoan choir prac, 3pm-4.30pm (church)
- Baptism during 5.30pm Vigil Mass (church)
- Holy Family Tongan choir prac, 2pm-5pm (SSR)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Rehearsal for Stations of the Cross on Good Friday**
Sunday 10th & 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	3/3 - Fast from mobile phones.
Mon	4/3 - Feast on reconciliation with others.
Tue	5/3 - Fast from jealousy.
Wed	6/3 - Feast on silence.
Thu	7/3 - Fast from holding grudges.
Fri	8/3 - Feast on acts of kindness to others.
Sat	9/3 - Fast from unnecessary words and comments.

**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/
Parish Cook (part-time) - St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Applications close 4 March.

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

- **Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities for Cycle 1**

If you have not yet completed Cycle 1, the first three Mandatory Safeguarding Modules, a face-to-face training day will be held at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre in Blacktown, on Tuesday mornings in March:

Module 1 - Tuesday 5 March, 10am - 11am

Module 2 - Tuesday 12 March, 10am - 11.30am

Module 3 - Tuesday 19 March, 10am - 11.30am

To register, please visit: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?topic=safeguarding>

- **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.

**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



Q & A. Sacrament of Reconciliation

1. How many Rites of Sacrament of Penance (Confession/ Reconciliation) do we have?

There are 3 Rites of Reconciliation: The First Rite is individual confession; the Second Rite is for several penitents with individual confession and absolution; and the Third Rite is for general confession and absolution.

2. When do I need to go to Confession?

First, every Catholic is required to go once a year, if he/ she has committed a mortal sin. However, this is the bare minimum, and will not be enough for most of us to fully live the Christian life.

Second, every Catholic should go to Confession when he/she commits a mortal sin because that means they have separated themselves from God.

Third, every Catholic must go to Confession before receiving the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion, if he/she is aware of having committed a mortal sin.

Fourth, even for people who are unaware of a mortal sin, going to Confession once a month is a great spiritual practice, if only to confess venial sins and receive the grace to stay free from mortal sin in the future.

3. What are mortal sins and venial sins?

Mortal sins cut us off from God and lead to hell, while venial sins merely weaken charity. Three conditions make a sin mortal: grave matter (serious sin), full knowledge (knowing what we're doing is wrong), and complete consent (freely choose to commit the sin). An example of mortal sin is murder. As we heard in the news this week - a tragic loss of three lives, a couple and a child, here in our city. However, using God's name in vain, done quickly in the heat of the moment, is not likely classed as mortal sin. Why? While the act is grave matter, because it comes out so quickly almost as a reflex, and is done without deliberation, it usually does not meet the criteria as mortal.

4. Can a person be forgiven without Confession?

Perfect contrition can forgive mortal sins with the firm intention to Confession as soon as possible. However, one must still go to Confession before receiving Holy Communion, except in very grave situations (like life or death situations). Perfect contrition means that we are sorry because we have offended an infinitely good and loving God. There is also imperfect contrition (also called attrition), which is being sorry for our sins because of the fear of hell, or because the sin is so hateful in itself. Imperfect contrition cannot forgive grave sins, but makes a person ready to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We should always strive for perfect contrition.

5. My sins are so bad, can I be forgiven?

Yes. For example, St Peter denied Jesus three times but was forgiven and given authority and power to lead the Apostles, then the Church.

St Paul persecuted the Church and yet the Lord accepted his repentance and made him an Apostle of the Gentiles.

6. How should I confess? Like a grocery list?

Some people like to examine their conscience and make a list of the sins. I prefer this way because I can remember what I want to confess. This is especially good for people who get nervous during Confession. When confessing, simply name the sin committed, be somewhat specific, (but don't go into the gory details) and give the number of times that sin was committed.

7. What if I forget to confess a mortal sin?

Sometimes this happens, when we leave the confessional without having confessed a mortal sin. Sometimes one just forgets, or skips over something on his/her list. Either way, so long as we do not intentionally withhold a sin, the absolution is still effective, and we may receive Holy Communion. However, we are expected to confess that mortal sin the next time we go to Confession.

9. Is there a good act of contrition?

Yes. The "Act of Contrition" or the "sorry prayer":

Oh my God, I am very sorry for what I have done against you because you are so good. With your help, I will try my best, not to sin again.

10. How do I make the Examination of Conscience?

You may base your Examination of Conscience on the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, or Seven Deadly Sins; or you can pray to God for help to think about your life in the relationships with God, with neighbour and with yourself.

