



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.



2024/ Issue No. 8 // 25th February, 2024

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)

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

caoholyfame@gmail.com

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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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: 9.00am

Friday: 9.00am & 6.00pm

Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm

Sunday: 9.00am & 10.30am

Mass at Willmot

Sunday: 7.30am

(8 Carterat Ave, Willmot NSW 2770)

Mass of Anointing

Second Saturday of every month at
9.00am

Holy Hour - Emerton

Wednesdays from 5.00pm

Saturdays from 9.30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays: 9.30am - 10.00am OR
by appointment.

Reflection from the Parish Priest for the Second Sunday of Lent

As we continue our Lenten journey towards Easter, St Mark invites us today to follow the experience of the first disciples on their journey to the first Easter in Jerusalem. On a high mountain they beheld for a moment the glory of Jesus and heard the Father's voice saying, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, listen to him.' There, God reveals himself not through the prophets in the old time but through his only Son, Jesus, to his disciples with the witness of Moses and Elijah.

The transfiguration shows Jesus' vocation and identity as the Messiah. He wishes them to understand this, not in terms of glory and esteem but in being faithful to God's will and so he has mentioned to them for the first time that he will have to endure his passion in Jerusalem.

Peter, James and John are appalled at the idea but fail to take on board his message of the self-emptying love of the kingdom. They follow their own human desire, wanting to take possession of the place and never give it up for somewhere else. The next time these three are invited to come aside with Jesus is at the foot of a mountain, the Mount of Olives, in the Garden of Gethsemane, and there too Jesus is revealed to them, not in glory but in suffering and, because they have not listened and understood, they will run away.

Lent is a time to stop and reflect and change, a time to receive God's grace and to be empowered by Jesus' transfiguration. At one level, we learn to listen and understand God's word. If we are to come to know God and the meaning of real love, then we must learn to let go of our certainties and insistence on having things our own way. We must learn to trust in God. Abraham and Jesus both learnt to entrust everything into the hands of God the Father, even when this appeared to lead to the end of all they had hoped for. God would have us understand that he is with us in each moment of our lives, whether at the top of the mountain or in Gethsemane. Each moment is sacred. If we are to understand this, we must develop the art of listening, really listening to Jesus. We must learn the art of letting go.

At another level, God has given us the power of transfiguration. We can transfigure or disfigure each other. We can bring out the light and the hope and the joy in our belonging to God! In the light of the cross, the sign of our faith, the way we are saved.

We can transfigure our family, a school, a parish, a community, any group through our conviction of being loved by God and letting love radiate, go out. If we really believe we are loved by God, then the world we live in is transfigured, ... changed!

Fr Nguyen Van Cao SJ



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for February— For the terminally ill

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

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, Lafaele Mealamu, Janice Angela Lawrence, Emma Lawrence, Maria Llave, Maria Belisario, Fara Vargas, Fe Llave, Stella Edwards, Boyet Llave.

RECENT ANNIVERSARIES: Josefina Lastica.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Lisa Tilsted.



SCRIPTURE READINGS - YEAR B

Second Sunday of Lent

LET US HEAR AND RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD



Collect:

O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory. 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: Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And Abraham said, "Here I am."

God said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you."

When Abraham and Isaac came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son.

But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." The Angel said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."

Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.

The Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Responsorial psalm : Ps 115: 10, 15-19

**R: I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.**

1. I kept my faith, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted." Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones. R.
2. O Lord, I am your servant. You have loosened my bonds. I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord. R
3. I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. R.

Second Reading: Romans 8:31-34

God did not spare his own Son.

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn?

It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.

And there appeared to them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." Peter did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Prayer after Communion:

As we receive these glorious mysteries, we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord, for allowing us while still on earth to be partakers even now of the things of heaven. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings for Sunday 3rd March, 2024:

Third Sunday of Lent in Year B

1st Reading: Exodus 20: 1-17

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 22-25

Gospel: John 2: 13-25

PRAYER

Lord, open our hearts to you. Help us to realise fully that your light is always with us, no matter how deep the darkness that surrounds us. Give us the courage to trust you. Let us, like Jesus, surrender to your will, knowing that wherever you lead us, we are not lost. Amen.

Parish Collection for the weekend of 17th/18th February 2024:

1st Collection: (for the priests of the diocese) \$ 857.65

2nd Collection: (for parish expenses) \$ 1,955.80

DIRECT PARISH DONATIONS

If you would like to make an online contribution towards the Diocesan Priests' Pastoral Revenue, i.e. First Collection, please make your deposit to:

Acc Name: Parramatta Diocesan Clergy**BSB: 067 950 Acc No: 004265****Make sure to Reference: 6024 and Your Name**

If you would like to make an online contribution to our parish, please transfer funds to:

Acc Name: Mount Druitt Catholic Church**BSB: 067 950 Acc No: 0000 0446****Reference: Your 'Planned Giving Number' OR Your Full Name****WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:****Monday 26 Feb:**

- AA Meeting, 7-8pm, Mary Mackillop Meeting room (MMR)
- Youth Leaders Lenten Program, 6.30-8pm, Holy Family Centre (HFC)

Tuesday 27 Feb:

- Staff Prayer & Meeting, 9.15-11am, HFC
- Western Deanery Meeting, 10.30am-1pm, Kingswood
- Mass and Anointing, 11.30am, Ropes Crossing (12 Rochford Place, Ropes Crossing)
- Narcotics Anonymous, 6.30-8pm, MMR

Wednesday 28 Feb:

- Christian Meditation, 6.30-7.30pm, MMR

Thursday 29 Feb:

- Oz Harvest Food Distribution, 12-4.30pm, CatholicCare
- Liturgy Meeting, 7pm, HFC

Friday 1 Mar:

- Stations of the Cross, 5pm (English), 7pm (Tongan), church
- AA Meeting, 6.30-7.30pm, MMR

Saturday 2 Mar:

- Senior Legion of Mary, 10am-2pm, MMR
- Holy Family Tongan choir, 2-5pm, HFC
- AA Meeting, 6.30-7.30pm, MMR

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- **Rehearsal for Stations of the Cross on Good Friday**
Sunday 10th & 17th 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.**
- **World Day for Grandparents & Elderly: 28th July.**

HELP NEEDED:

- **Become a Catechist, A Special Religious Education teacher!**

We need volunteers to step up and become a Catechist, also known as Special Religious Educator (SRE).

In this parish, we only have 2 x SRE's, who go into **12 State Primary Schools**, during school hours, and spread the message of God's love and our faith.

If you can spare at least 30mins or more, each week, please consider this spiritually rewarding opportunity. Support, training, and all teaching materials/ lesson plans are provided.

To register your interest, or make further enquiries, please visit or call the Parish Office 02 9628 7272.

- **We need Professional Advice to assist the Parish with:**

1. Improving lighting and ventilation in the church
2. Finding sustainable, cost-saving options to reduce the parish's power bills.

If you are able to help in any way by giving us the names of suitably qualified people, for e.g. electricians, we would be most grateful. Perhaps you, yourself, might be able to assist.

- **Volunteers to re-enact the Stations of the Cross, on Good Friday**

We need volunteers to re-enact the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.

We particularly want our youth and young adults to come forward and take an active part. Rehearsals are on Sunday the 10th and 24th of March, after the 10.30am Mass.

- **Palms/ Greenery for Palm Sunday - 24th March**

We need palms/ greenery for Palm Sunday, falling on the weekend of the 23rd/24th March.

- **Fresh flowers and greenery for the Church**

We would like to have fresh flowers and greenery in the church, at the altar (and/or shrines). If you can assist, with supplying and/or arranging flowers, please contact the parish office.

- **Reception/ Administration Support**

We need volunteers to assist with general administration tasks in the Parish Office, e.g. answering calls, data entry and typing, updating WWCC register etc. OR You may be able to assist with regular tasks from home, e.g. preparing daily Mass sheets, updating parish website etc. Days desired in the office: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. If you can help, please contact the Parish Office.

- **Cleaning in the Church**

Our hope is to have a roster of cleaners in the church, every weekend. You may want to gather your family, community, or friends together to clean inside the church, e.g. sweeping and mopping floors, vacuuming, wiping windows and surfaces.

- **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: Saturday Vigil, and Sunday morning. Duties include: opening and closing the store, cash handling, recording and reconciling sales.

If you are interested, or have any questions or concerns with any of the above, please contact the Parish Office.

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

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



DIOCESAN NEWS:

- **Positions Vacant: Parish Cook (part-time) - St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta.** Applications close 4 March. More details: parracatholic.org/about/jobs/
- **Synod 2023 Update: Decree issued and Development of Diocesan Plan Begins**

In January, the Synodal Decree from our inaugural Diocesan Synod was issued, enabling us to move forward in the development of a Diocesan Plan. Join us in the next phase of our journey, as we discern a new path forward for our local Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. 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>

- **Catholic Youth Parramatta 2024 LIFTED Launch - Thursday 29th February**

LIFTED Launch 2024 is here! Join young people from across our Diocese for an evening of faith, live music, formation, and announcements. Learn about ways you can meet, connect and 'walk with' other young people. Thursday 29th February 2024, 7pm - 9.30pm, at West HQ, Rooty Hill. Register at www.parracatholic.org/liftedlaunch.

- **Celebrating Holy Week: Formation for Ministers of the Altar - Saturday 9 March**

The Office for Worship presents 'Celebrating Holy Week' - a workshop for current Acolytes and Ministers at the Altar. Saturday 9 March, 9.30am-3pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. To register, call 02 8838 3456 by Tuesday 5th March 2024.

FASTING and FEASTING during LENT

- Sunday 25th February:** Feast on *simplicity & the simple pleasures.*
- Monday 26th February:** Fast from *being judgmental.*
- Tuesday 27th February:** Feast on *being reflective & prayerful.*
- Wednesday 28th February:** Fast from *being indifferent to others.*
- Thursday 29th February:** Feast on *filling your heart with joy.*
- Friday 1st March:** Fast from *social media.*
- Saturday 2nd March:** Feast on *compassion for others.*



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.

Lenten Fasting Jar - A Family Activity through Lent

During Lent, fasting is a way to become closer to God - to sacrifice some of the things that we like but don't need.

YOU WILL NEED:

- A glass jar
- Paddle Pop Sticks or cardboard paper of similar size
- Permanent Marker
- List of fasting ideas

Examples:

Fast from **negative words**

Fast from **social media**

Fast from **video games/ devices**



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Find a small glass jar to be your base.
2. Grab some paddle pop sticks and, as a family, write some ideas of how you will fast this Lent. You can write them on the paddle pop sticks or on pieces of paper.
3. Once created, place all ideas in the glass jar. Depending on how many you have created, pull one out everyday, or every couple of days, to grow closer to God this Lent.