



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
caoholyfame@gmail.com

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

Music Director:

Etuate 'Eddie' Paunga
kosilio_lole@hotmail.com

Parish Pastoral Council

Chairperson

Marissa Logronio
logroniom23@gmail.com

Mass Times at

Holy Family, Emerton

Monday & Thursday: 8.30am

Tuesday & Wednesday: 6.00pm

Friday: 9.00am

Saturday: 9.00am & Vigil 5.30pm

Sunday: 9.00am & 10.30am

Mass at Willmot

**NOTE: There is NO 7.30AM
MASS at WILLMOT from Sunday
21st April until Sunday 9th June!**

Mass and 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. 17 // Sunday 28th April, 2024

Reflection from the Parish Priest for 5th Sunday of Easter

Today's Gospel is taken from middle of the Last Supper discourse in the Gospel of St John 15. Jesus speaks about his relationship to his disciples as of the vine and branches. He affirms that his relationship with them will not end after his death. He will remain with them always. This unity between Jesus and his disciples is the basis for their ability to continue doing the work that he began.

It's consoling to hear Jesus insists his disciples and each one of us remain in him: "Remain in me, as I in you. . ." so to bear fruit in plenty, and "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it." What does it mean "remain in me"?

In "Expository Thoughts on the Gospels: St. John" J.C. Ryle explains, "To abide in Christ means to keep up a habit of constant close communion with Him - to be always leaning on Him, resting on Him, pouring out our hearts to Him, and using Him as our Fountain of life and strength, as our chief Companion and best friend."

For me, remaining in Christ is a process, constantly moving forward. It has a continual, hour-by-hour nature to it, a constant looking to Jesus through the Scriptures with open heart in order to let his words abide in us and make a home in us. God reveals Himself to us through the Word. So, spending much time in His word, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal more of Christ to us, our relationship with Christ would grow closer. J.C. Ryle also says: "To have His words abiding in us, is to keep His sayings and precepts continually before our memories and minds, and to make them the guide of our actions and the rule of our daily conduct and behavior."

Remaining in Christ is a lifelong relationship with Him that grows more intimate over time. Just as marriage is a lifelong relationship where both partners should grow closer to one another over the years, so it should be with Christ. But as those who have been married for a very long time know, growing closer isn't automatic. It requires purposefully spending time together; keeping on working through issues that come up; communicating with each other; enjoying each other's presence. If this does not happen, it's easy to drift apart. The same is true of our abiding in Christ. We can't put our relationship to Christ on autopilot. If we are not growing closer to Christ, we are backsliding from fellowship with Him.

Remaining in Christ also means having a new legal standing *and* a new relational orientation. We don't only want to be made right with God, we want to be *with* God. We are new creations in Christ, freed from sin and worldly pursuits to remain in Him. He gives us what we need to pursue this by giving us Himself.

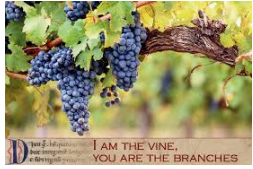
King David once said: "Earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you!" May the Holy Spirit spark in us a desire to be in more intimate relationship Christ. May we yearn with holy urgency to know the depths and riches of the love of Christ, grasped through abiding in Him. Amen

Fr Nguyen Van Cao SJ

Fr Cao away in Manresa, Spain

Fr Cao is currently away in Manresa, Spain. He will be away for 6 weeks to complete a training course in Ignatian Spirituality. He will be returning on Tuesday 4th June, 2024. In his absence, Fr Huy will be the Acting Parish Priest.

Let us keep Fr Cao in our prayers while he is away, and support Fr Huy in his ministry.

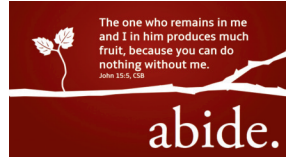


I AM THE VINE,
YOU ARE THE BRANCHES

SCRIPTURE READINGS - YEAR B

Fifth Sunday of Easter

LET US HEAR AND RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD



Collect:

Almighty ever-living God, constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us, that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism may, under your protective care, bear much fruit and come to the joys of life eternal. 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: Acts 9: 26-31

When Saul had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples; and they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him, brought him to the Apostles, and described for them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who had spoken to him, and how in Damascus Saul had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus.

So Saul went in and out among them in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. He spoke and argued with the Hellenists; but they were attempting to kill him. When the believers learned it, they brought Saul down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

Meanwhile the Church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

Responsorial psalm : Ps 21: 26-28, 30-32

I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

My vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the Lord.
May your hearts live forever. R.

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;
and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.
To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. R.

I shall live for him.

Posterity will serve him; future generation will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it. R.

Second Reading: 1 John 3:18-24

Little children, let us love, not in word and speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and God knows everything.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever obeys his commandments abides in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 15: 1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.

"Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in them bears much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

"Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Prayer after Communion:

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for April — 'For the role of women

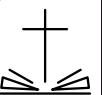
"We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognised in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world."

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS

LIST OF THE SICK: Antony Pepin, Pippa O'Neal, Finau Kautai, Maureen Clements, 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, Emma Lawrence, Maria Llave, Maria Belisario, Fara Vargas, Fe Llave, Stella Edwards, Boyet Llave.

Readings for Sunday 5th May, 2024: Sixth Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48
2nd Reading 1 John 4: 7-10 OR 1 John 4: 11-16
Gospel John 15: 9-17 OR John 17: 11-19



Parish Collection for the weekend of the 20th/21st of April 2024:

1st Collection (for the priests of the diocese)	\$ 615.10
2nd Collection: (for parish expenses)	\$ 1,625.50

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 Planned Giving envelopes OR specific donation, please contact the parish office.

PARISH INSURANCE APPEAL

Goal:
\$49,000.00



\$4,831.10

raised so far.

Thank you for your generous contributions towards our goal of paying our insurance premiums in one lump sum. We will continue this appeal until the end of June, 2024. If you would like to make a donation, please refer to the details below.

For online transfers:

Acc Name: Mount Druitt Catholic Church

BSB: 067 950 Acc No: 0000 0446

Reference: Your Name + Appeal

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

Note: All donations of \$2.00 or more is tax deductible. Please send a remittance advice notice with your contact information to enquiry@holyfamily.org.au to request a tax receipt.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:**Sunday April 28:**

- Baptisms, 11.30am (church)
- St Ignatius Tongan Community, 12pm-3pm (SSR)
- Samoan Divine Mercy, 3pm-5pm (MMR)
- Laulii Samoan Village, 5pm-8pm (SSR)

Monday April 29:

- Funeral service of KEVIN SMITH, 10.00am (church)

Tuesday April 30:

- Staff prayer & meeting, 9.15am-10.00am (SICR)

Wednesday May 1:

- Christian Meditation, 6.30pm-7.30pm (MMR)
- Sacramental of Confirmation Parents/ Carers mtg, 7pm (church)
- Mt Druitt/ Blacktown Tongan Prayer Service, 7.30pm (SSR)

Thursday May 2:

- Liturgy meeting, 7.00pm (SICR)

Friday May 3:**Saturday May 4:**

- Holy Family Tongan choir prac, 2pm-5pm (SSR)

Meeting Rooms:

SSR - Schoenstatt Sisters Room;

SICR - St Ignatius Conference Room;

MMR - Mary Mackillop Meeting Room,

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Sacrament of Confirmation Parents/Carers meeting**, Wednesday 1st May, 7pm in the church, **for children of primary school age.**
- **Mother's Day** - Sunday 12th May
- **Jesuit Parishes Conference** - 14th/15th May, Nth Sydney.
- **Young Adults Bon-Fire Night** - Sunday 19th May
- **Catholic Foundation - Good Samaritan Appeal** - 25th/26th May

Sacrament of Confirmation

Parents/ Carers of children of High School age who are not yet confirmed are invited to contact Sr Carlene at the Parish Office as soon as possible.

Sessions will be scheduled for Monday evenings starting on the 6th of May.



Support our seminarians to "go out into the deep."

Support our Seminarians to be "**anchors of faith**" so that more people may come to know, love, and serve our risen Christ!

Please give generously to the **Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal**. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation, please use the envelopes at the back of the church, and place it in the 2nd collection.

DIOCESAN NEWS:

- **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

- **Free Online Formation on Synodal Spirituality**

Dive into 'Synodal Spirituality' with this FREE online short formation course, taught by Sr Patty Andrew OSU. Part of the FaithLIFE series hosted by the Mission Enhancement Team, the course offers an exploration of communal discernment, active engagement, and creative faith responses to challenges in the mission of the Church today. Enrol now and take part in Pope Francis's vision for a synodal Church: <https://pfparra.thinkific.com/courses/synodal-spirituality/>

- **Exploring Music for the Solemnities following Easter: 30 April and 2 May**

All are invited to the next music workshop organised by the Office for Worship and presented by Eric Grella. This workshop is perfect for all parish musicians and also for anyone who wishes to learn more about music for the Solemnities after Easter. There are 2 locations for this workshop:

* 30 April at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown from 7.00pm

* 2 May at St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith from 7.00pm

RSVP by 28 April to lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795.

Autumn Holiday Program

Thank you to all the families who turned up to our Picnic Day on Wednesday 24th April, at Nurragingy Reserve. It was a wonderful day to spend outdoors, with activities to keep the kids entertained, and a little break for parents and grandparents, and also time to bond over a meal.

Thank you again to our little helpers, and their parents/grandparents, who participated in the Working Bee during these school holidays. It has been great to hear from the kids how much they enjoyed this activity, taking pride in their involvement in caring for our Common Home.

We wish all the children the very best in their 2nd term of school. We hope to see you all, and more families, at our Winter Family Holiday Program in July!



PEACE
JUSTICE
ECOLOGY

TABLE TALK

THEME: Laudato Si' Week: Seeds of Hope

Monday 20th May 2024
6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

St Finbar's Catholic Parish
Parish Hall
52 Levy Street, Glenbrook

To register please click on the link provided in the description.



FAITH BREATHING

Life into

FUTURE GENERATIONS

Do you love your faith? Share it!

The Church needs you!

Our Parish needs you!

Become an SRE Catechist

We need dedicated people who are passionate about passing on the faith, and fostering the love of Christ in the hearts of our young people and children. Training and support is provided!

Enrolling Now for Kindergarten 2025



HOLY FAMILY PRIMARY

OPEN DAY 7 August 2:00pm - 3:00pm

11 Emert Parade, Emerton
hfemerton.catholic.edu.au T 8869 7200



"Bless young people with the gift of courage to respond to your call. Open their hearts to great ideals, to great things."

POPE FRANCIS

