



# HOLY FAMILY COMMUNITY



UNDER THE CARE OF THE AUSTRALIAN JESUIT PROVINCE

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We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land this Church was built.

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## MASS TIMES - HOLY FAMILY CHURCH - EMERTON

**Saturday Vigil : 5.30 pm**

**Sunday: 9.00 am and 10.30 am**

### JOHN TERRY CHAPEL (DAY CHAPEL)

Monday	8.30am Mass
Tuesday	8.30am Mass
Wednesday	8.30am Mass
Thursday	8.30am Mass
Friday	8.30am Mass
Saturday	9.00am Mass



### MASS AT WILLMOT CHURCH

Sunday 7.30am  
Cnr Pelsart & Carteret Ave Willmot

### RECONCILIATION AND HOLY HOUR—EMERTON

Saturday from 9.30 am to 10.00 am

## REFLECTION FROM THE PARISH PRIEST FOR THE FEAST OF THE

### *Holy Family*

Jesus lived a truly human life. He was subject to the authority of his parents. Joseph and Mary accepted a tremendous responsibility when they said “YES” to God and became parents of God’s Son. From them he learned to live in loving human relationships, to work, to be obedient, to learn the customs and rules of his community, to know the stories of his ancestors, and to pray. The family is the model God gives us to teach us how to live with our fellow Christians and with all people. Jesus teaches us that we are to be brothers and sisters, members of one family with God at the head.

Jesus was born into a family that, like many of our families, faced challenges at times. The members of the Holy Family loved one another very much, but that does not necessarily mean that they always agreed with each other. Mary and Joseph might sometimes have had to tell Jesus “No”. They certainly seemed to be upset with him when he stayed behind in Jerusalem as a boy. And if the mothers I know – including my own – are any indication, that worrying over a son does not stop when they leave home.



Some of the challenges that we face in our families are not that different from the challenges faced by the Holy Family. Their world was controlled by a ruling empire, taxes were sometimes high, the poor were struggling to be heard and respected, the political and religious leaders were not always good people and more often placed heavy burdens on others rather than themselves, and the people hoped for help from God. At this time of Christmas we too can for a new beginning, someone to help us find a vision of God that will inspire us with hope. May we find this in the Holy Family that we celebrate today.

*Fr Gregory*

## SCRIPTURE READINGS—YEAR A MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

LET US HEAR AND RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD

**FIRST READING:** Numbers 6: 22-27

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM :** Ps 66: 2-3, 5, 6, 8

**R: May God bless us in his mercy.**

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations. R.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.  
Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you. R.

The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.  
May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him. R.

**SECOND READING:** Galatians 4: 4-7

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;  
now he speaks to us through his Son.

**Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL:** Luke 2: 16-21

The shepherds went with haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the Angel before he was conceived in the womb.

The Gospel of the Lord.



### READINGS FOR SUNDAY 8th JANUARY 2023— SOLEMNITY: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

**1st Reading:** Isaiah 60: 1-6    **2nd Reading:** Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6  
**Gospel:** Matthew 2: 1-12.

**THE PARISH OFFICE IS CURRENTLY CLOSED FOR  
THE CHRISTMAS/ NEW YEAR BREAK, AND WILL  
REOPEN ON MONDAY 9th JANUARY 2023.**

**The Ignite Food Store / Clothing Op-Shop reopens on  
Wednesday 11th January 2023.**

For **food assistance**, please contact the  
**St Vincent De Paul general line: 13 18 12.**

For other urgent matters, please leave a message on  
02 9628 7272 or email enquiry@holyfamily.org.au and  
we will respond as soon as we can.

## FAITH IN AN UNKNOWN FUTURE

*Over Christmas, a friend said something that made me look at the nativity story with new eyes. Usually, when we look at it, it's with all the information we've inherited. All we know about Jesus' life and death, and resurrection. We interpret it through nearly two thousand years of theology and church life.*

*But Mary and Joseph had none of that. They knew their baby was special in some way. The visits of the shepherds and wise men pointed to that, but it wasn't very clear. The vision they'd had told them to name him Jesus. It meant "saviour", but it was a common name. Even being told that he'd save people from their sins wasn't very explicit, seen from where they were.*

*It was made harder by other events. Mary and Joseph weren't in control of their lives. They'd been compelled to go to Bethlehem for a census, or Roman orders. Then, King Herod's soldiers got in the way, and they had to run for safety to Egypt as refugees.*

*Looking at other events, I'm sure it was a blessing that they didn't know in detail what life held for them all, especially about the baby's call to preach and die.*

*There are times when we wish we knew more about the future. Moments when we'd like to feel in better control of life, but we can't. Life's not like that. Each day we walk into the unknown as Mary and Joseph did. And, like them, we find strength for that one day. And then the next. We have one advantage though, that they didn't have. We do know who Jesus is, and what he's done. And we have the confidence of walking into each day with him.*

*Extract from 'No Strange Land', first published 1987. Eddie Askew.*

## Diocese of Parramatta WYD23 Pilgrimage Registrations Open!

Registration for WYD23 in Lisbon has now opened. Young people aged 16-35 can now view our itinerary, inclusions, indicative pricing, register and pay their \$800 deposit to secure their place. Limited spaces still available to join our team of 170 pilgrims with Bishop Vincent. Visit [www.parrawyd.org](http://www.parrawyd.org)

## Sr Nathalie Becquart Sydney Public Forum and Lecture: 3 February

Sr Nathalie Becquart XMCJ, the Vatican's most influential female, is coming to Australia for a whirlwind tour in February 2023. Sr Nathalie will be in Sydney on Friday 3 February, presenting at a public forum at 4pm and a public lecture at 7pm, both held at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Places are limited, so please register via <https://parracatholic.org/srnathalie/>.

## Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses 2023

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence next year in February. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or [mary.gale@parracatholic.org](mailto:mary.gale@parracatholic.org) or visit our website to download an enrolment form at <https://officeforworship.org.au/>

## VERY LIMITED tickets still available for our Summer Holiday Program bus trips:

Wednesday 11th January—Stanwell Park beach  
Monday 17th January—Bulli beach  
Friday 20th January—The Entrance  
Wednesday 25th January—Dee Why beach  
\$5 per person/ per trip.  
Children aged 0-2 are free.