



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@holyfamily.org.au

Assistant Priest: Fr Renato Zecchin SJ
renato@holyfamily.org.au

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

Book-keeper: Malinda Toms
account@holyfamily.org.au

Music Director: Etuate 'Eddie' Paunga
kosilio_lole@hotmail.com

Parish Pastoral Council

Chairperson & Children's Liturgy

Coordinator: Marissa Logronio
logroniom23@gmail.com

Sacramental Coordinator:

Lorraine Gordon

SRE Co-ordinators:

Maureen Freeburn & Lorraine Gordon

Finance Committee Chairperson:

Kevin Johnson

Holy Family Young Adult Leaders:

Monica Vave, Fololina Mafi, Burt Tukala
hfytdruitt@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

Mass at Willmot

Sunday at 7.30am
8 Carteret Ave, Willmot NSW 2770

Mass and Anointing

2nd Saturday of every month:
9.00am

Holy Hour - Emerton

Saturdays from 9.30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays: 9.30am - 10.00am OR
by appointment.

2025 / Issue No. 48 / 21st December, 2025

Reflection from Sr Carlene for the Fourth Sunday of Advent in Year A

"GOD-WITH-US", EMMANUEL

Today we are reminded that encountering Emmanuel, "God-with-us", is challenging and full of surprises.

In our First Reading [Isaiah 7:10-14], Isaiah advises King Ahaz to "ask God for a sign" confirming God's faithfulness to the House of David. Ahaz, who prefers to rely solely on his allies, tries to play politics with God, and rejects the advice. Isaiah ignores the proud mutinous king and gives the sign anyway:

"It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".

The message? God is present with and for his people. God overcomes the haughty through the humble. The promise has been proclaimed!

Paul in today's Second Reading [Romans 1: 1-7] declares that Jesus is the fulfilment of the promise made to the prophets. Jesus is both Son of David and Son of God, and the good news of Jesus' resurrection is good news for Jews and Gentiles (including us!). We "who are God's beloved" in Mt Druitt, are "called to be saints": we are the sign through which the world can encounter Emmanuel, "God-with-us".

Turning to the Gospel, we find that Matthew tells the story of Jesus' birth quite differently from Luke. He starts with "an account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham." In this way he establishes that Jesus is descended from David, and that Joseph is "the husband of Mary" [Matthew 1: 2-6, 16]. Having shown that salvation history reaches its high point in Jesus, Matthew identified Jesus is the Messiah (today's Gospel, Matthew 1: 18-24). God's power is at work! God's promise, foretold in our First Reading, is being fulfilled!

We note that Matthew puts Joseph centre-stage in the human story of Jesus' birth. We sense Joseph's dilemma when he first becomes aware of Mary's pregnancy. We hear about his plan "to spare her publicity." We then learn that he has a dream in which an "angel of the Lord" says "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit". [Matthew 1:20].

Joseph's "honour" stands in contrast to Ahaz. He trusts the word of God's messenger, abandons his own plans and takes a huge leap in faith. He says "yes", and, like Mary, willingly gives up everything for the sake of God's mysterious plan.

May we, too, accept the challenges and surprises of life, say "yes" to whatever God asks of us, and always be conscious of the awesome truth that "God-is-with-us."

The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.

ISAIAH 7:14

young-catholics.com



SCRIPTURE READINGS - YEAR A

Fourth Sunday of Advent

LET US HEAR AND RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD

**Collect:**

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 7: 10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary the people, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel."

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 23: 1-6

R. Let the Lord enter, he is king of glory.

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it;
for he has founded it on the seas,
and established it on the rivers. R.

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
Someone who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up their soul to what is false. R.

That person will receive blessing from the Lord,
and vindication from the God of their salvation.
Such is the company of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. R.

As we draw near to Christmas, let us learn from Saint Joseph how to cultivate spaces for silence in which another Word can emerge, that of the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.

Pope Francis

**WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS**

BAPTISMS: We welcomed in the church, Seraphina Vaimounga, who was baptised last Sunday 14th December, 2025.

LIST OF THE SICK: Richard Ward, Marie Purcell, Soane Quensell, Pam Picart-Manalac, Kateda Vave, Kim Ahmad, Vivian Masters, Makasini Vave, Fifita Sitani, Loretta Josephine Seupule, Leue Dunlop, Lino Dunlop, Cheryl Barrell, Lisimoa Hufanga, Jenny Gillman, Chris Wilson, Norah Gibson, Sabrina Ellingsworth, Jean Mari Frederic, Brian Russel, Toss Van den Berg, Pat Phelan, John Murray, Lemisio Fa'ulua, Lourdes Bustamante, Pippa O'Neal, Mathew Sieders, Jose Manalo, Fely Dela Paz Manalo, Maria Barbara, Sylvia Greene, Mayda Attachian, Faye Iflland, Tim Meagher, Emma Lawrence, Maria Llave, Maria Belisario, Fara Vargas, Fe Llave, Stella Edwards, Boyet Llave.

RECENT ANNIVERSARIES:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Makeleta Tu'umoto'oa, Colin McKenzie, Polly Borg, Christopher Watt, Athing Majok.

Second Reading: Romans 1: 1-7

From Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an Apostle, set apart for the Gospel of God, which God promised beforehand through his Prophets in the holy Scriptures: the Gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-24

The birth of Jesus the Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the Prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the Angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife.

Prayer After Communion:

May these mysteries, O Lord, in which we have participated, profit us, we pray, for even now, as we walk amid passing things, you teach us by them to love the things of heaven and hold fast to what endures. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION
FOR DECEMBER 2025**

For Christians in areas of conflict.

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

Amen.



Readings for Sunday 28th December, 2025: Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
\\ 1st Reading: Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14 // \\ 2nd Reading: Colossians 3: 12-21 // \\ Gospel: Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23 //



Parish Collection for the weekend of the 13th/ 14th December 2025:

1st Collection (for the priests of the diocese) \$ 981.00
 2nd Collection (for parish expenses) \$ 2,044.35

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.

- BONDI TERRORIST ATTACK -

The Holy Family Parish joins with our Jewish brothers and sisters in expressing our grief and sadness for the target killing and the wounding of Jewish community members gathered last Sunday evening at Bondi beach to celebrate their religious festival of Hanukkah- the festival of light, blessings, songs, shared meals, games, gift giving. Our prayers are with those who have died and with their families. And we pray for those recovering in hospitals and their families.

We pray that our country be a safe place for all peoples and all beliefs.

**Statement from Bishop Vincent on the Bondi Beach Terrorist Attack**

In response to the tragic terrorist attack at Bondi Beach that struck innocent people and our Jewish brothers and sisters, Bishop Vincent has issued a heartfelt message of prayer, solidarity and condemnation of all hatred and violence. The Bishop affirms there is no place for antisemitism in Australia, calls us to pray for the victims and their families, and urges our community to stand together in compassion, hope and peace. Catholic Outlook

Read the full statement online

Scan the QR code below to access Bishop Vincent's complete message.

**SERVE THE LORD IN HIS WORD AND SACRAMENT**

The next **Liturgical Ministry Training Course** will be held in Blacktown and Penrith in 2026. **Enrolments close Friday, 23rd January 2026** (or earlier if full).

Enrolment forms are available at the back of the church. Please return the signed form as soon as possible to secure your place.

LITURGICAL 27th/28th December 2025

5.30pm Vigil Mass Minister at the Altar: J. Gillman / P. Morrell
 Minister of the Word: G. Bruton / F. Hinder
 Eucharistic Minister: J. Macayan
 AV Operator: P. Gillman

9am Sunday Mass Minister at the Altar: S. Watt / M. Mealamu
 Minister of the Word: L. Seiders / L. Gordon
 Eucharistic Minister: C. Payne
 AV Operator: M. Abad

10.30am Sunday Mass Minister at the Altar: L. Tuuhetoka / G. Eberl
 Minister of the Word: - / M. Ortiz
 Eucharistic Minister: -
 AV Operator: P. Setefano

If you would like to be a part of the roster, please see Sr Carlene OR contact the Parish Office.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:**Sunday December 21**

- HF Tongan Catholic Communion, 12pm-3pm (MMR)
- Samoan Divine Mercy, 3.30pm-6.30pm (MMR)

Monday December 22

- AA mtg, 7pm (MMR)

Tuesday December 23

- Staff Meeting, 3pm-5pm (SICR)
- NA mtg, 6.30pm-8pm (MMR)

Wednesday December 24

- Christmas Eve Masses (see times below)

Thursday December 25

- Christmas Day Mass, 9am (Church)
- Combined Christian Churches - Christmas Day Lunch, doors open 11am (Primary School Hall)

Friday December 26**Saturday December 27**

- AA mtg, 7pm (MMR)

Meeting Rooms:

SSR - Schoenstatt Sisters Room;

SICR - St Ignatius Conference Room;

MMR - Mary MacKillop Meeting Room,

HFC - Holy Family Centre

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE****CHRISTMAS EVE - WEDNESDAY 24 DECEMBER**

6:00pm - Children & Family Mass (Emerton)
 8:30pm - Christmas Eve Mass (Willmot)
 11:30pm - Carols (Emerton)
 12:00am (Midnight) - Solemn Christmas Mass (Emerton)

CHRISTMAS DAY - THURSDAY 25 DECEMBER

9:00am - Christmas Day Mass (Emerton)

HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE**WEEKDAY MASS CHANGES**

From 26 December 2025 to 16 January 2026
 Weekday Mass at Emerton: 9:00am only
 No 7:30am Mass at Willmot during this period
 (Will resume on 18 January 2026)

SUNDAY MASSES (NO CHANGE - EMERTON)

Saturday Vigil - 5:30pm
 Sunday - 9:00am & 10:30am

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed from midday 24/12/2025 and will reopen on 06/01/2026.

For urgent inquiries during the office's closing days, please reach out at 02 9628 7272 or send an email to enquiry@holyfamily.org.au.

HOLY FAMILY PARISH - ON-SITE SERVICES Christmas & Summer Closure Dates 2025-2026

- Holy Family Primary School**
18 December 2025 - 27 January 2026
- Life Start**
19 December 2025 - 5 January 2026
- Holy Family Pre-School**
19 December 2025 - 27 January 2026
- Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation**
19 December 2025 - 16 January 2026
Programs recommence February 2026
- Willmot Community Hub & JSS**
19 December 2025 - 5 January 2026
- Ignite Store**
12pm, 19 December 2025 - 12 January 2026
- St Vincent de Paul Hub(Vinnies)**
10 December 2025 - 21 January 2026
- Aboriginal Catholic Services (including OzHarvest Hampers)**
18 December 2025 - 5 January 2026
• OzHarvest Hampers resume: 8 January 2026
- The Shed**
Closed on public holidays. Will remain open.
- Holy Family Parish Office**
24 December 2025 - 6 January 2026
- For urgent matters, please contact:
(02) 9628 7272

THE COMBINED CHURCHES OF MOUNT DRUITT INVITES YOU TO

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

- LUNCH
- LIVE MUSIC
- FACE PAINTING

FREE!

THURSDAY
25
DECEMBER
AT 11:00AM

REGISTER NOW!



SCAN ME

HOLY FAMILY PARISH HALL
11 EMERT PARADE
EMERTON, 2770

CONTACT US:

Instagram COMBINED CHURCHES OF MT DRUITT
Facebook COMBINED CHURCHES OF MT DRUITT
CHRISTMAS LUNCH
Phone JOHN 0422 402 021
Email mtd.christmas@gmail.com

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START WATCHING

Parish Christmas Carols - Thank You

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made our Parish Christmas Carols on Saturday, 6 December such a joyful and memorable evening.

We are especially grateful to our Parish Pastoral Council for their leadership and organisation, and to our many volunteers who generously gave their time — from setting up in the heat, to cooking and serving with warm hospitality, and assisting with pack-up at the end of the night.

Our sincere thanks also go to all our performers — choirs, families, and first-time performers, especially our children who courageously shared their gifts with us. Your performances brought great joy to the community.

We warmly thank our sponsors and donors for their generosity and support, which helped make this event possible:

Mama Lana's Foundation (Penrith),
Elite Agency Real Estate (Mt Druitt),
St Vincent de Paul - Emerton Conference,
Tony Halangahu (bread rolls),
Linda Stead, and the
DCJ (Mt Druitt Family Holiday Program).

Finally, thank you to everyone who attended. Your presence made it a truly special night of community, celebration, and hope found in the birth of Christ.

We invite you to join us for our Christmas Masses and wish you and your families a blessed and Merry Christmas.

Family Holiday Program Notice

We are currently renegotiating our funding contract for the Family Holiday Program, which has resulted in a delay in publishing program details. Once the contract has been approved, we will promptly promote the program. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Waiting for a Birth

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights. He gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. James 1:17

Waiting through pregnancy is a special kind of waiting. No matter what we do there can be no rushing. The wonder of a new baby, the joy of parents, with all the new life buried in the child's future. This is remembered every Advent, As we wait for the birth of Jesus. Bless me Lord, as I wait for your birth renewing my life.

