



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@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. 16 // Sunday 21st April, 2024

Reflection from the Parish Priest for 4th Sunday of Easter THE GOOD SHEPHERD

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives us two perspectives and two criteria about the same job. A true shepherd is willing to give his life to protect the sheep, but a hired shepherd does not. He's just a labourer whose salary is the only incentive to keep him with the flock; when faced with danger, he runs away and lets the flock face the danger. The two shepherds have two completely opposite attitudes.

So, what motivates a true shepherd to forget himself for the flock? I think, it is because he loves his job, and sees it as an ambition, a part of life, a vocation for which he has always been looking for him, taking care of the flock is not a profession, nor is it for a salary, but it is totally an ideal. A hired shepherd is not like that in his heart, he is just a hired worker, so, he often measures, calculates, and is afraid of suffering... Work for him is always a burden.

It's not that work is hard, but whether it's heavy or light depends on how you feel and act. Ponder this story. There was a guy who carried a cross to heaven. Among a group of people he walked silently with the cross on his shoulder. However, when he noticed that others carrying the cross like him walked so quickly and happily, he grumbled: God was being unfair giving him a heavier cross than others. So, after walking a distance, he stopped and told God about his displeasure. Finally, God appeared to him and said: Your cross is no heavier than others. Everyone's cross is the same. Go on, try your best.

He still refused, insisting that his cross was heavier. Finally, God comforted him by saying: "If you feel it is heavy, cut it down." The guy became more cheerful; he said: "If God allows that, I will do it right away". Immediately he sawed off his cross, piece by piece. Then he happily went on his way.

Finally, the group had to cross a river to enter heaven. All used their cross as a bridge and entered heaven. When this guy came, he used his cross to go over the river. But oh my! Because a piece was sawn off, his cross did not reach the other side. He had regrets about cutting that piece off. Now he had to suffer at his end while others were happy on the other side.

Many times in life we are like this young man. We often blame God for letting us suffer. Why does God send me such a heavy cross? We should realize that it is not whether the cross is heavy or light, but it is our attitude that is most important. If we accept a cross with a willing and joyful attitude, even if it is heavy, we will still feel light.

Let us pray for the grace to understand that work increases human dignity and makes people more mature. It is through work that people develop to the full potential God has given them. 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.

We welcome Fr Robin Koning, who is here this weekend to celebrate our Masses.

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



SCRIPTURE READINGS - YEAR B

Fourth Sunday of Easter

LET US HEAR AND RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD

**Collect:**

Almighty ever-living God, lead us to a share in the joys of heaven, so that the humble flock may reach where the brave Shepherd has gone before. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 4: 8-12

While Peter and John were speaking to the people about the resurrection of Jesus, the captain of the temple arrested them and placed them in custody.

The next day the rulers, elders and scribes assembled. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.

"This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among human beings by which we must be saved."

Responsorial psalm : Ps 117: 1,8-9,21-23,26,28-29

The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!
It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to put confidence in humans.
It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to put confidence in princes. R.

I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.
The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. R.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

We bless you from the house of the Lord.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God, I will extol you.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever. R.

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2

Beloved: See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 10: 11-18

Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.

"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

"For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

Prayer after Communion:

Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd, and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures the sheep you have redeemed by the Precious Blood of your Son. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. 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, 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, Emma Lawrence, Maria Llave, Maria Belisario, Fara Vargas, Fe Llave, Stella Edwards, Boyet Llave.

RECENT ANNIVERSARIES:

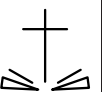
Huang Shiu Lan, Aunty Margaret Farrell

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Kevin Smith, Janice Angela Lawrence.

Readings for Sunday 28th April, 2024: Fifth Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 9: 26-31 // 2nd Reading 1 John 3: 18-24 // Gospel John 15: 1-8



Parish Collection for the weekend of the 13th/14th of April 2024:

1st Collection (for the priests of the diocese)	\$ 645.25
2nd Collection: (for parish expenses)	\$ 1,944.40
Special Appeal (Parish Insurance)	\$ 1,108.60

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



\$4,711.10

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 21:**

- Parramatta Diocese Tongan Mass, 12.30pm-5pm (church)
- Jesus the True Vine, 3pm-6pm (SSR)

Monday April 22:**Tuesday April 23:**

- Staff prayer & meeting, 9.15am-11.15am (SICR)
- Mass & Anointing, 11.30am (Rochford Place, Ropes Crossing)
- St Vincent De Paul Emerton Conference, 7pm-8.30pm (SSR)
- Planning for The Walk: Mt Druitt & District Reconciliation Group, 4pm-5.30pm (Dining HFC)

Wednesday April 24:

- Holiday Program (Parish Office closed)
- Christian Meditation, 6.30pm-7.30pm (MMR)

Thursday April 25:

- ANZAC Day Public Holiday (Parish Office closed)

Friday April 26:**Saturday April 27:**

- Holy Family Tongan choir prac, 2pm-5pm (SSR)
- Samoan choir prac, 3pm-4.30pm (church)

Meeting Rooms:

SSR - Schoenstatt Sisters Room;

SICR - St Ignatius Conference Room;

MMR - Mary Mackillop Meeting Room,

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **SRE Catechists Recruitment Appeal** - Sunday 28th April
- **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

PARISH CHAIRS & TRESTLE TABLES

If you have borrowed chairs and/or trestle tables from the parish, please:

- Check your house if you still have any,
- Return them to the parish office ASAP.

We are in need of them, and are not in the position to have them replaced. Thank you.

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** (Catholic Foundation) at all Masses this weekend (20th/21st April)

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

- **Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities**

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held on **Saturday 27 April at Our Lady of the Way Parish, Emu Plains**, for Modules 4 and 5. More training opportunities will be available throughout May. For more information, please email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

- **Youth Mass 'Round the Diocese: 21 April**

Looking for some young adults to worship with? Hunting for an excuse to catch up with Jesus and friends? Wondering what goes on around the Diocese? Mass 'Round the Diocese' is just that! Our young people are visiting different churches around the Diocese for Mass and fellowship afterwards with new and known friends. The next Mass will be at The Good Shepherd Parish, Plumpton, on Sunday 21 April at 6pm. For more information, please contact Sr Christine Ramada CSFN on csfn.christina@gmail.com

Autumn Holiday Program

WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL - 10am to 2pm
PICNIC DAY at NURRAGINGY RESERVE,
DOONSIDE

Join us for the second activity of our Holiday Program, for a lovely picnic at the local Nurragingy Reserve, in Doonside.

You can take a stroll and enjoy the view, play in the water park... the options are vast.

Lunch will also be provided.

Please contact the Parish Office on 0497 966 277 to register for our activities. Donations accepted.

NOTE: Transportation is not included.

Thank you!



A huge thanks to our band of helpers who attended our first Holiday Program activity on Friday 19th April 2024. Together we worked hard to clean and beautify the front garden area of the Holy Family Centre (Parish Office).



Everyone enjoyed the day with beautiful weather, hardwork, playing games, building their own burgers for lunch, great company, and overall giving back to community.

We still have one more activity before school goes back. Don't forget to register!



This year Anzac Day both recalls the death of those who died in a military campaign of the past and draws our attention to those dying in current wars. The bringing together of past and present is important. It encourages a realistic view of the war in which the landing on Gallipoli was a small part and invites us to attend to the full reality of what we see around us in Myanmar, Gaza, Ukraine and Sudan. That view draws our attention to the United Nations Observance on the eve of Anzac Day – the Day for Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace.

Anzac rightly commemorates those who served, were injured and died on the Turkish beach. They fought on behalf of the Australian people, and they, their families and children should remain in our memory. The battle which we remember, however, was a defeat that failed in its goal. Much of the fighting there was hand to hand. It was part of a long war, however, in which massive developments in weaponry meant that killing and dying were done on an industrial scale often without any sight of opposing troops. It was an introduction to the war of machines. That war that took so many lives, too, did little more than prepare the seeds for an even more destructive war in which citizens as well as soldiers were fair game.

It was a step on the road to the helicopters of Myanmar, the drones in Ukraine and the destroyed cities of Ghaza, wars in which what counts as victory is the destruction of homes, of lives and of civil society, and the embitterment of generations. It was the expression of a geopolitics in which millions of people are expendable for the prize of a passing advantage. As a Roman writer said of their legions, 'They make a desert and call it peace'.

Anzac Day is a day of remembering its future. It is also a day of compassion for those who suffer in war both in the past and the present. As we think of the soldiers who fought and died at Gallipoli, we imagine also the families they left behind and returned too, the soldiers who returned wounded inwardly by the war and the burden borne by their families, the women widowed and left single by the death of so many marriageable men, the small towns stripped of a generation of young men, and the grief that enveloped so many people. Anzac was sometimes described as the making of Australia. If so, it did so by stripping not by adorning.

That is why in the face of present conflicts Pope Francis follows earlier Popes in speaking of war as the enemy and calling for diplomacy to end them. This is always unpopular with people who see diplomacy as appeasement and anything short of unqualified victory as defeat. Anzac Day reminds us of the price that people pay for the wars their leaders join. The present wars remind us of the destruction of peoples and of their culture made possible in war today. Both call on us to support the work of people who try to make peace. In the heat of war, they are often accused of appeasement. But their words contribute more to human happiness than do their critics' bombs.

*By Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ

A PRAYER for VOCATIONS

God our Father, You made each of us to use our gifts in the Body of Christ.

We ask that You inspire young people whom You call to the priesthood and consecrated life to courageously follow Your will.

Send workers into Your great harvest so that the Gospel is preached, the poor are served with love, the suffering are comforted, and Your people are strengthened by the sacraments

We ask this through Christ our Lord,

Amen.