



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)

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
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Site Manager: Ray Donaldson
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Parish Secretary: Malia Lolesio
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Book-Keeper: Malinda Toms
accounts@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
hfytmtdruitt@gmail.com

Mass Times (during Lent) at Holy Family, Emerton

Monday, Saturday: 9am

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 6pm

Friday: 9am & 6pm

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. 14// Sunday 6th April, 2025

Reflection from Fr Cao for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

Today's readings call us to pursue spiritual growth relentlessly, leaving behind past mistakes and striving towards the ultimate goal of being closer to God with a conviction of God's mercy and love. Our life journey is a calling from God Himself, a privilege to be part of Christ Jesus. In fact, the future is always beyond our understanding and far better than what we think. C.S. Lewis once said: "There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind."

In the first reading, God, through Isaiah, tells us "Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not; see, I am doing something new!" God is restoring our hope and giving us every reason to continue living and moving forward. So, despite the difficulties of this present moment and season, the Lord will put a smile on our faces soon.

St Paul counted everything as a loss for the sake of Christ to gain the future glory that God wishes to reveal in Christ. He understood the worth of the new life offered by God in Christ. So, he remained resolute in his faith. He did this even to the point of "reproducing Christ's death" in himself. This same promise must sustain us to the end.

In the Gospel, there is a contrast between the Pharisees and an adulterous woman. Following strict rules, the Pharisees thought that Jesus would condemn an adulterous woman immediately. They thought Jesus would give them permission to go ahead and stone the woman to death. However, they were wrong because Jesus came to save and not to condemn. The ways and thoughts of Jesus differed from theirs. So, instead of condemning the woman, Jesus restored her life and offered her a new chance. Jesus encouraged her moving forward: "Go and sin no more." She should leave the past to the past and go forward to the future with God's mercy and love.

Like this woman, Jesus is always giving us new opportunities despite our weaknesses. He knows how vulnerable and sinful we are. He knows the forces with which we contend in our lives and society. His mission is to save us from all our sins and accusations. It is not to condemn us. Hence, Jesus says, "I have come that they may have life and have it in full" (Jn 10, 10).

Today, we should be encouraged by these words of Jesus "Neither do I condemn you." We have been forgiven through the Sacrament of Reconciliation last week. The complete forgiveness of Jesus is incredible. When Jesus says these words to us, he means them. He means that he has taken care of our negative past. For our part, we must "Go and sin no more." This is an injunction we must believe and put into practice. He promises us a better future and a share in his glory if we remain faithful to this command. Jesus will always fill us with joy, which he has completed for us soon through his death and resurrection.

During this Lent, let us reflect on areas where we can "press on" in our spiritual lives, committing to leave past burdens behind and to actively pursue a closer relationship with God. Let us also be convinced that the promise of God's presence and the reward of the "upward call" remain steadfast despite sufferings and difficulties in life journey.

- Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for April -
- For the use of new technologies -



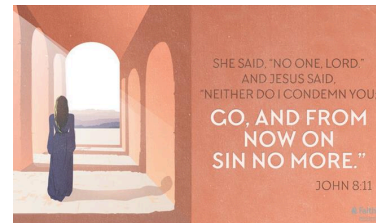
Let us pray that the use of the new technologies
will not replace human relationships,
will respect the dignity of the person,
and will help us face the crises of our times.



SCRIPTURE READINGS - YEAR C

Fifth Sunday of Lent

LET US HEAR AND RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD

**Collect:**

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. 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: Isaiah 43: 16-21

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: "Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed myself so that they might declare my praise."

Responsorial Psalm 125 (126)

**R: The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.**

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy. R.

Then it was said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."
The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced. R.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses in the desert of the Negev.
May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy. R.

Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves. R.

Second Reading: Philippians 3: 8-14

Brothers and sisters: I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
Return to me with all your heart, says the Lord,
for I am gracious and merciful.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel: John 8: 1-11

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before the people, they said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. In the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They said this to test Jesus, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When the scribes and Pharisees kept on questioning him, Jesus straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And once again Jesus bent down and wrote on the ground. When the scribes and Pharisees heard what Jesus had said, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

Prayer After Communion:

May your holy gifts, O Lord, we pray, give us life by making us new, and, by sanctifying us, lead us to things eternal.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS

LIST OF THE SICK: Pope Francis, John Casey, Marjorie Ritchie, Pat Phelan, John Murray, Lemisio Fa'ulua, Lourdes Bustamante, Antony Pepin, Pippa O'Neal, Maureen Clements, Mathew Sieders, Jose Manalo, Fely Dela Paz Manalo, Maria Barbara, Sylvia Greene, Mayda Attachian, Faye Iffland, Tim Meagher, Zarouf Mallouk, Gloria Cutcliffe, Emma Lawrence, Maria Llave, Maria Belisario, Fara Vargas, Fe Llave, Stella Edwards, Boyet Llave.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**PALM SUNDAY 12/13 APRIL**

5.30pm Vigil / 7.30am (Willmot) / 9am / 10.30am

HOLY THURSDAY 17 APRIL

Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7.30pm

GOOD FRIDAY 18 APRIL

The Way of the Cross: 10.00am (School Grounds)
Celebration of the Lord's Passion: 3.00pm

HOLY SATURDAY: 19 APRIL

Easter Vigil: 7.00pm

EASTER SUNDAY: 20 APRIL

7.30am (Willmot) / 9am / 10.30am

Parish Collection for the weekend of the 29th/30th March 2025:

1st Collection (for the priests of the diocese)	\$ 877.45
2nd Collection (for parish expenses)	\$ 1,802.85
Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal	\$ 713.25

DIRECT PARISH DONATIONSOnline 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.

Planned Giving 2025/2026

We're ordering envelopes for the next financial year. To join the Planned Giving program, fill out the form at the back of the church or use the online QR code.

For updates to your details, contact the parish office.

Thank you for your continued support!

**Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal for Catholic Care's chaplaincy services.**

This Lent, will you be a pilgrim of hope to people who may break in the face of suffering? Your kind-hearted gift and prayers will help our chaplains at Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains offer pastoral care, comfort and Christian companionship that can bring healing and transformation.

You still have a change to give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal at parracatholic.org/appeal or scan this QR code.

**Insurance Appeal Donations:**

Envelopes are available for those who wish to contribute to our insurance appeal. The appeal runs until the end of June. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Our insurance bill for Feb 2025 - March 2026:

\$48,440.29**Special Appeal for Myanmar Earthquake Victims:**

We are waiting on further details from Jesuit Mission Australia, but if you would like to support the victims of the Myanmar earthquake, donation envelopes are available at the back of the church.

Parish Jubilee Celebration - Call for Information

As we prepare for our Parish Jubilee Celebration on 1st June 2025, we're gathering information to help build the history of our parish. If you have:

- Any memorabilia, such as photos, newspaper articles, or other items

Please submit memorabilia to jubilee@hollyfamily.org.au by 21st April 2025 to the parish office for inclusion in our Jubilee publication.

Thank you for helping us celebrate our parish history!

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:**Sunday April 6**

- Stations of the Cross rehearsals, 11.30am (Primary School grounds)
- Holy Family Tongan Catholic Communion Blacktown/Mt Druitt, 12pm - 3pm (MMR)
- St Ignatius Tongan Sunday School, 12pm-3pm (HFC)
- Samoa Divine Mercy, 3.30pm-5.30pm (MMR)
- Jesus the True Vine, 3.30pm-6.30pm (SSR)
- Parish Pastoral Council Mtg, 4.30pm (SICR)

Monday April 7

- RCIA Process, 6.45pm (SICR)
- AA mtg, 7pm (MMR)

Tuesday April 8

- Staff Meeting, 3pm-5pm (SICR)
- St VdP Emerton Conference, 7pm-8.30pm (SSR)
- NA mtg, 6.30pm-8pm (MMR)

Wednesday April 9

- Second Rite of Reconciliation, 6.45pm (Church)
- Parish Choir,

Thursday April 10

- Liturgy Group mtg, 5.30pm (Church)
- Lenten Prayer Group, 6pm - 7.30pm (SSR) - *All are welcome and encouraged to participate.*
- Parish Choir, 7.30pm-9pm (Church)

Friday April 11

- Stations of the Cross in English, 5pm (Church)
- Stations of the Cross in Tongan, 7pm (Church)
- AA mtg, 6.30pm-8pm (MMR)
- Parish Young Adults Lenten Program, 7.30pm-9.30pm (SSR)

Saturday April 12

- Mass and Anointing, 9am (Chapel)
- Holy Family Tongan choir, 2pm-4.30pm (SSR)
- AA mtg, 7pm (MMR)

Meeting Rooms:**SSR** - Schoenstatt Sisters Room;**SICR** - St Ignatius Conference Room;**MMR** - Mary Mackillop Meeting Room,**HFC** - Holy Family Centre**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

DATE	DETAILS
Saturday 26th April	Autumn Holiday Program Activity: . Wiggles Bouncing Balls Tour, Sydney Coliseum Theatre, West HQ
Saturday 3rd May	Cycle 2 Mandatory Safeguarding Training for Volunteers who completed Level 1 Training in 2023. 10am-1.30pm Register online via QR code:
Wednesday 14th May	Parents/Carers Information Session for the Sacrament of Confirmation, 7pm in the church.
Sunday 1st June	Holy Family Parish 60 Year Anniversary Celebration Mass 10.30am

Calling All Altar Servers!**Boys and girls, we need you!**

If your child has already received their First Holy Communion and attends Sunday Mass regularly, pick up a registration form at the back of the church. This is for children aged 12 years or older.

Eucharistic Adoration after Holy Thursday Mass:

After the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, the Altar of Repose will be moved to the school for Eucharistic Adoration. It will be available until 7 AM on Good Friday. We encourage individuals, families, and groups to commit to a time of prayer. Please sign up on the roster at the back of the church.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Gospel: John 8:1-11

Let the one without sin be the first to throw a stone.

**How am I judgmental?
Pray for the grace of compassion.
How often is criticism part of my conversation?
Choose to affirm.**



Fifth Sunday of Lent
5th and 6th of April 2025

**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

The life-changing work of Caritas Australia is only made possible by the unwavering generosity of our supporters and the dedication of our local partners on the ground.

Our partners are the true heroes, working tirelessly on the frontlines every day to transform lives and build brighter, more hopeful futures for their communities.



You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code OR online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion Or by calling: 1800 024 413

LENTEN PRAYER HELPS

Having prayed I do a review of my prayer-journaling

Ignatius advises that we reflect on our experience of prayer. To help us discern how God is meeting us or leading us in prayer. It also helps to see if there is an experience I need to go back and do- prayer of repetition

The purpose of journaling is not to replay your time of prayer minute by minute. Instead, after your prayer period concludes, consider the following:

- What were the significant interior movements (that is, feelings, reactions, intuitions, desires, emotions, thoughts, or insights)?
- What was the prevailing mood of my prayer: peace, agitation, excitement, boredom, confusion, calm?
- Was my prayer more about the head or the heart, or about both?
- What word, phrase, image, or memory meant most to me during prayer?
- Is there some unfinished business that I think God is calling me to return to during another time of prayer?
- Is there something happening in my life that is becoming part of my prayer? Do I feel moved to do something concrete in my life?
- Am I making the necessary preparations for my prayer? Is there anything I am doing or not doing that is getting in the way of my listening to God?

The review of prayer is not homework; do not feel bound to answer each of these questions every time you journal. Instead, consider journaling as another way of praying, of going deeper to sift through the graces. Write in a style that is comfortable for you. In your journaling, feel free to write directly to God the Father or to Jesus, as if you were writing a letter or an e-mail.

Prayer of repetition

From my prayer where I experience light I return to the experience to deepen the grace received.

Where I have experienced turmoil, discouragement, darkness, negative feelings I return to the experience that I had to seek from the Lord the grace being offered.

- By Fr Renato

Mother's Day Raffle:

Tickets are available for our Mother's Day Raffle—

\$2 each or 3 for \$5.

Tickets will be sold after Mass until Mother's Day on May 10th. This is the perfect chance to treat your mom (or yourself!) to something special.

RCIA UPDATE

The Third Scrutiny is an important part of the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) process, typically celebrated on the 5th Sunday of Lent.

It is a time for the Church to pray for the candidates, asking God to strengthen them and protect them from sin as they prepare for their initiation at Easter.

During this scrutiny, the candidates are called to reflect more deeply on their journey of conversion and commitment to Christ. It is a powerful moment of spiritual preparation as they move closer to receiving the sacraments of initiation.

Let us continue to pray for our candidates CAROLINE, MELE & JEREMIAH, that they may be open to God's grace and grow in faith as they approach their Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

Office of Tenebrae, St Patrick's Cathedral: 14 April

All are welcome to attend the annual Office of Tenebrae at St Patrick's Cathedral on Monday 14 April at 7:30pm. The Office of Tenebrae is a Holy Week reflection liturgy including Scripture, psalm chanting and motets and will feature the Cathedral Choir. As the Diocese and the global Church prepares for Holy Week, the Tenebrae service is a reminder of the eternal light and hope brought into the world through Christ's Resurrection. Catholics are invited to attend the Office of Tenebrae at least once in their life.

Care for Creation 2025 Lenten Calendar Pilgrims of Hope

SUSTENANCE SUNDAYS

6th April - "Be praised, my Lord, for brother fire by whom the night brother fire by whom the night is illumined for us. He is....full of power and strength." Fire can also do great damage in areas affected by drought

MEATLESS MONDAYS

7th April - Know your food miles, take the 200km supermarket challenge. Can you purchase only those goods that have travelled less than 200km.

TALK ENERGY TUESDAYS

8th April - Walking school buses can get us more connected with neighbours, the local environment and reduce pollution from cars and congestion around schools. Be an active transport advocate.

WISDOM WEDNESDAYS

9th April - Learn more about "God's Holy Fool", St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology. Learn about Saint Kateri, Patroness of the Environment.

TURNAROUND THURSDAYS

10th April - A lot of plastic lines our shores and ends up in the water, mistaken for food by marine life. Consider participating in the autumn and spring coastal clean-ups. It's fun and a good thing to do.

FISH & FOOTPRINT FRIDAYS

11th April - More and more packaging involves plastic...coffee pods, detergent pods, food items like cheese slices. Choose one product and write to the company to ask them to reduce the plastic in their packaging.

SUSTAINABILITY SATURDAYS

12th April - Buy a green plant. Whenever you water it, say a prayer of gratitude for the incredible beauty and variety of all God's creation. If you can, plant a tree; they are sponges for soaking up CO2.

