



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

Sunday: 7.30am

(8 Carteret Ave, Willmot NSW 2770)

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. 14 // Sunday 7th April, 2024

Reflection from the Parish Priest for

Divine Mercy Sunday (2nd Sunday of Easter)

The Divine Mercy Sunday was proclaimed by Pope St. John Paul II at the end of the Canonization Mass of St. Faustina Kowalska in 2000. This Sunday's readings refer to God's mercy, the necessity for trusting faith, and our need for the forgiveness of sins.

During Lent, by our acts of penitence and charity, we allow God to utterly clean our sins by the ocean of divine mercy! But it is not our actions that, as Pope St. John Paul II says, "trample down our sins and toss them into the depths of the sea." It is the grace of God, the merciful Father, that causes the effects of sin to be crushed and swept away so that we can live freely and share in the abundance of God's love.

God's love and mercy is shown through the Sacrament of Penance. Pope St. John Paul II says, Confession is not about ourselves and our sins, but about God and his mercy. Confession is the Sacrament of Resurrection, pure mercy.

Recently, Pope Francis invited us to "celebrate and experience" God's love and forgiveness. Jesus showed his disciples, especially Thomas, his wounds. By those wounds we were healed. Like Thomas, we can learn that God has loved us to the end. God has made our wounds his own and borne our weaknesses in his own body. His wounds are open channels between him and us, shedding mercy upon our misery. His wounds are pathways opened for us to receive his tender love and actually "touch" who he is. Let us never doubt his mercy!

God's mercy is also manifested at every Mass, where Jesus offers us his wounded and risen Body. We touch him and he touches our lives. His radiant wounds dispel the darkness we carry within. Like Thomas, we discover God; we realize how close he is to us and we are moved to exclaim, "My Lord and my God!" (Jn 20:28). Everything comes from the grace of receiving mercy. This is the starting-point of our Christian journey. However, if we trust in our own abilities and the efficiency of our structures and projects, we will not go far. Only if we accept the love of God, will we be able to offer something new to the world.

In reality, this is what the disciples did: receiving mercy, they in turn became merciful. The Acts of the Apostles say that "no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common" (4:32). This is not communism, but pure Christianity! It is all the more surprising when we think that these were the same disciples who had earlier argued about prizes and rewards, and about who was the greatest among them (cf. Mt 10:37; Lk 22:24). Now they share everything; they are "of one heart and soul" (Acts 4:32). They see in others the same mercy that has changed their own lives. They discover that they shared the mission, the forgiveness and the Body of Jesus, and so it seems natural to share their earthly possessions. The text continues: "There was not a needy person among them" (v. 34). Their fears have been dispelled by touching the Lord's wounds. Now they are unafraid to heal the wounds of those in need because they see Jesus there in the wounds of those in need.

May the Light of God's salvation through Christ shine on us and strengthen our faith firmly in Him.

Fr Nguyen Van Cao SJ



SCRIPTURE READINGS - YEAR B

Second Sunday of Easter

LET US HEAR AND RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD

**Collect:**

God of everlasting mercy, who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast kindle the faith of the people you have made your own, increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose Blood they have been redeemed. 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 4: 32-35

The whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the Apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and through the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the Apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Responsorial psalm : Ps 117: 2-4, 15-18, 22-24**Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Let the house of Aaron say,

"His steadfast love endures forever."

Let those who fear the Lord say,

"His steadfast love endures forever." R.

The right hand of the Lord is exalted;
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly."

I shall not die, but I shall live,

and recount the deeds of the Lord.

The Lord has punished me severely,

but he did not give me over to death." R.

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

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

This is the day that the Lord has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it. R.

Second Reading: 1 John 5: 1-6

Beloved: Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child.

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this victory that conquers the world, our faith.

Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Gospel Acclamation:**Alleluia, alleluia!**

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!**Gospel: John 20: 19-31**

It was evening on the day Jesus rose from the dead, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas, who was called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

After eight days his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who not seen and yet have come to believe.

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Prayer after Communion:

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that our reception of this paschal Sacrament may have a continuing effect in our minds and hearts. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS

LIST OF THE SICK: 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, Janice Angela Lawrence, Emma Lawrence, Maria Llave, Maria Belisario, Fara Vargas, Fe Llave, Stella Edwards, Boyet Llave.

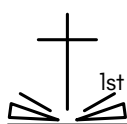
RECENT ANNIVERSARIES: Rosita Flores, Baby Julian Epondulan.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Maureen Berger.

Readings for Sunday 14th April, 2024:**Third Sunday of Easter**

1st Reading: Acts 3: 13-15, 17-19 / 2nd Reading 1 John 2: 1-5

Gospel Luke: 24: 35-48



Parish Collection for Holy Week 2024

Holy Thursday 28/03/24 (for the parish)	\$ 577.10
Good Friday Holy Land Appeal 29/03/24	\$ 1,271.90
Easter Vigil/ Easter Sunday 1st Collection:	\$ 1,158.80
Easter Vigil/ Easter Sunday 2nd Collection:	\$ 3,513.75

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 donation, please send your contact information to the Parish Office.

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

Today, on the 7th April, we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday.

Please join us for our celebration:

- Prayers from 12pm
- Sacrament of Reconciliation 2pm
- Mass at 3pm.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:**Sunday April 7:**

- Baptism, 11.30am, in the church
- Holy Family Tongan Community, 12pm-3pm (MMR)
- St Ignatius Tongan Sunday School, 12pm-3pm (SSR)
- Jesus the True Vine, 3pm-6pm (SSR)

Monday April 8:

- Funeral for the late, MAUREEN BERGER, 1.30pm, West Chapel, Pinegrove Memorial Park, Minchinbury.

Tuesday April 9:

- Staff prayer & meeting, 9.15am-11.15am (SICR)
- Mt Druitt & District Reconciliation Group mtg, 5.30pm (HFC)
- St Vincent De Paul Emerton Conference, 7pm-8.30pm (SICR)

Wednesday April 10:

- Christian Meditation, 6.30pm-7.30pm (MMR)

Thursday April 11:

- Liturgy meeting, 7pm (SICR)

Friday April 12:**Saturday April 13:**

- Holy Family Tongan choir prac, 2pm-5pm (SSR)
- Samoan choir prac, 3pm-4.30pm (church)
- Baptism during 5.30pm Vigil Mass (church)

Meeting Rooms: SSR - Schoenstatt Sisters Room; SICR St Ignatius Conference Room; MMR Mary Mackillop Meeting Room,

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **SRE Recruitment appeal** - 13th/14th of April
- **Baabayn Young Mum Book Launch** - Tuesday 16th April, 10am-3pm, Baabayn Centre.
- **Catholic Foundation - Good Shepherd Appeal** - 20th/21st April
- **Mass and Anointing (Ropes Crossing)** - Tuesday 23rd April, 11.30am, Rochford Place, Ropes Crossing. All are welcome.
- **ANZAC Day - Public Holiday** - Thursday 25th 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.
- **Catholic Foundation - Good Samaritan Appeal** - 25th/26th May

HELP NEEDED:

- **Become a Catechist, A Special Religious Education teacher!**

- **We need Professional Advice to assist the Parish with:**
 1. Improving ventilation in the church
 2. Finding sustainable, cost-saving options to reduce the parish's power bills.

- **Reception/ Administration Support (Volunteer)**
Days desired in the office: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

- **Volunteer at the Parish's Piety Store (weekends only)**
We need volunteers to assist with sales at the Piety Store, before and after our weekend Masses.

- **Advertise your Business in the Bulletin**
We are welcoming small businesses to advertise in the parish bulletin, and published on website/ Facebook page.

If you are interested, or have any questions or concerns with any of the above, please contact the Parish Office.

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

- **MET FaithLIFE Theology Short Course: from 16 April**

Considering learning about theology? Wanting to expand your language for expressing your faith? Seeking ways to deepen the way you put your faith into practice? Sign up now for the 3-session FaithLIFE Theology short course with Dr John Collins on Tuesdays 16 + 23 + 30 April! Registration and more dates and details via met@parracatholic.org

- **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

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

This workshop is perfect for all parish musicians and also for anyone who wishes to learn more about music for the Solemnities after Easter.

- 30 April at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown from 7pm
- 2 May at St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith from 7pm

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

HOLY FAMILY PARISH, MT DRUITT

Autumn Family Holiday Program

IT'S TIME TO TURN OFF YOUR SCREENS, AND THOSE GADGETS, AND SIMPLY EMBRACE THE OUTDOORS GIVING BACK TO AND BUILDING COMMUNITY.

FRIDAY 19TH APRIL 2024 - COMMUNITY WORKING BEE
10.00AM - 2.00PM
HOLY FAMILY CENTRE, 11 EMERT PDE EMERTON

ARRIVE 9.30AM FOR REGISTRATION
LUNCH & GARDENING TOOLS PROVIDED.
BYO HAT + WEAR CLOSED COMFORTABLE SHOES.

WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL 2024 - PICNIC DAY
10.00AM - 2.00PM
NURRAGINGY RESERVE, DOONSIDE

EXACT LOCATION TO BE ADVISED CLOSER TO THE DATE.
WHAT TO EXPECT: FUN / FOOD / FELLOWSHIP

GOLD COIN DONATION

TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE
0497 966 277 OR EMAIL ENQUIRY@HOLYFAMILY.ORG.AU



ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE!

Contact the Parish Office for more
information (02) 9628 7272.



PARRAMATTA
CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

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!

**Catholic Foundation - Bishop's Good Shepherd
Appeal - 20th/21st April**



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March —'For the new martyrs'

"We pray for those around the world who risk their lives for the Gospel, to inspire the Church with their courage and missionary zeal."

SPECIAL PARISH APPEAL

This weekend we are having a special parish appeal to boost our own parish funds, because we need to pay our own insurance in one lump sum instead of instalments. We truly appreciate your generosity which we have often experienced in the past.

- Invitation -

- We are gathering next Thursday, 7.00pm-8.15pm, in the Parish Centre, for a LITURGY MEETING. All Parishioners are WELCOME to JOIN us. Our main agenda item will be a REVIEW of our liturgies throughout Lent ... and during the Easter Triduum.
- Please phone the Parish Office by Thursday noon, if you are able to join us.
- We welcome your feedback, comments, and practical suggestions. Please email or leave your written ideas at the Parish Office if you cannot join us on 11th April, but would like to be a part of our future gatherings.

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

