



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_loleehotmail.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
hfymtdruitt@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. 9// Sunday 2nd March 2025

Reflection from Sr Carlene for the Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Year C

WISDOM OF HEART

In today's gospel (Lk 6: 39-45) we see that Jesus was a great teacher and story-teller. To get his points across and to re-inforce his lessons, he sometimes used wisdom sayings and parables. These are found in diverse places in Matthew's gospel, but Luke has selected a few of them and strung them together in the extract (6: 39-45) which is today's reading and part of his account of the Sermon on the Plain (Lk - chapter 6).

So... turning to today's gospel, we have Jesus instructing his disciples (and us!) With a touch of humour and use of a popular literary technique of the time, Jesus poses a probing question: "Can one blind person guide another?"

Moving us to think about what and how we see, Jesus the carpenter's son provokes us to admit our own areas of blindness. Hence, he reverts to exaggeration, staunchly condemning hypocrisy, and bidding us to "first take the log out" of our own eyes. Well may we pause and ask:

- Do we question the opinions we hold?
- Are we cautious about where we look for guidance?
- Do we really take a good look at ourselves and our true motives?

Turning back to the gospel, we notice that between the two mini-parables about sight, Jesus sandwiches a verse of wisdom: "a disciple is not above the teacher." ... We get the message - some of us are on L-plates; others are on P-plates! Nevertheless, there is hope and opportunity for us all. Jesus adds that "everyone who is fully qualified will be like their teacher." Using the image of fruit trees, he points out good teachers can be recognised by how their teaching nourishes others and how their lives illustrate what they proclaim.

Jesus sums up his whole instruction saying, "it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks."

- Perhaps we can begin by speaking less and listening more?

**God of love,
help us to remove the log in our own eyes
so we may serve others more sincerely.
Grant us the wisdom to listen compassionately,
to judge gently,
and to walk humbly along life's pathway,
keeping our eyes on Jesus,
our guide.
Amen.**

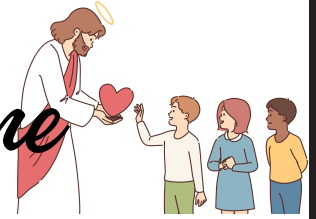
**- Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March -
- For families in crisis -**

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.



SCRIPTURE READINGS - YEAR C

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time



LET US HEAR AND RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD

Collect:

Grant us, O Lord, we pray, that the course of our world may be directed by your peaceful rule and that your Church may rejoice, untroubled in her devotion. 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: Sirach 27: 4-7

When a sieve is shaken, the refuse appears; so do one's faults when one speaks. The kiln tests the potter's vessels; so the test of the just person is in tribulation. Its fruits disclose the cultivation of a tree; so a person's speech discloses the cultivation of the mind. Do not praise someone before they speak, for this is the way the people are tested.

Responsorial Psalm 91 (92): 2-3, 13-16.

R: Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night. R.

The righteous flourish like the palm tree,
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
They are planted in the house of the Lord;
they flourish in the courts of our God. R.

In old age they still produce fruit;
they are always green and full of sap,
showing that the Lord is upright;
he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him. R.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 54-58

Brothers and sisters: When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS

LIST OF THE SICK: Pope Francis, Randy Sing, Hazel Hodges, 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.

RECENT ANNIVERSARIES:

RECENT DEATHS: Raymond Leslie, Neville Jones, Luke Callope

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 6: 39-45

Jesus told his disciples a parable: "Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully qualified will be like their teacher. Why do you see the speck in your neighbour's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbour, 'Friend, let me take out the speck in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbour's eye. No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; for each tree is known by its own fruit. Figs are not gathered from thorns, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. Out of the good treasure of the heart, the good person produces good, and out of evil treasure, the evil person produces evil; for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks.

Prayer After Communion:

Nourished by your saving gifts, we beseech your mercy, Lord, that by this same Sacrament with which you feed us in the present age, you may make us partakers of life eternal. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lent... is upon us.

ASH WEDNESDAY



5th MARCH
MASS TIMES
8AM & 6PM

Second Rite of Reconciliation

Wednesday 2nd April
6.45pm in the church

Readings for Sunday 9th March, 2025: First Sunday of Lent in Year C

\\ 1st Reading: Deuteronomy 26: 4-10 // \\ 2nd Reading: Romans 10: 8-13 // \\ Gospel: Luke 4: 1-13 //



Parish Collection for the weekend of the 22nd/23rd February 2025:

1st Collection (for the priests of the diocese) \$ 1,013.85
 2nd Collection (for parish expenses) \$ 2,112.25

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.

Parish Pastoral Council Extended Meeting

You are warmly invited to an extended Parish Pastoral Council Meeting on Sunday, March 2nd, from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Holy Family Centre.

This meeting will be an opportunity to discuss the plans for the upcoming year, address any pressing issues, and explore ways to enrich the life of our parish community.

Your participation is highly encouraged, as it is vital to fostering a vibrant and inclusive parish environment. We look forward to your valuable input and hope you will join us in shaping the future of our parish.

Everyone is welcome!

Join the Diocese of Parramatta's Jubilee Youth Pilgrimage

Young people (18-35) across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are invited to embark on an 18-day pilgrimage to the Jubilee of Youth in Rome from 19 July - 5 August 2025. The journey includes a visit to Greece, tracing the footsteps of Saint Paul, before heading to Rome for the celebration. Express your interest today at parracatholic.org/jubileeyouth2025

M A N D A T O R Y

Safeguarding Training

For those who completed Cycle 1 training in 2023, we have arranged a **Cycle 2 face-to-face Safeguarding training session on Saturday, 3rd May, from 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM in the School Hall.**

To register for this session, please use the QR code or contact the parish office.



Additionally, if you prefer, you can complete the training online at <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au/>.

Please note, completion of the three mandatory modules is required, totaling six points.

Together, we can ensure a safe and welcoming environment for all. Your participation in safeguarding efforts is essential, and we look forward to seeing you at the training.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:**Sunday March 2**

- Holy Family Tongan Catholic Communion Blacktown/Mt Druitt, 12pm - 3pm (MMR)
- St Ignatius Tongan Sunday School, 12pm-3pm (SSR)
- Samoan Divine Mercy, 3.30pm-5.30pm (MMR)
- PPC Extended mtg, 4pm-7pm (SICR)

Monday March 3

- High School Children Sacramental Process, 5pm (SICR)
- RCIA Process, 6.45pm (SICR)
- AA mtg, 7pm (MMR)

Tuesday March 4

- Funeral Service for the late RAYMOND LESLIE, 10.30am (Church)
- Staff Meeting, 3pm-5pm (SICR)
- NA mtg, 6.30pm-8pm (MMR)

ASH WEDNESDAY March 5

- Ash Wednesday Masses: 8.00am & 6.00pm (Church)
- Christian meditation, 6.30pm-8pm (MMR)

Thursday March 6

- Lenten Program, 6pm - 7.30pm (SSR)

Friday March 7

- Funeral Service for the late NEVILLE JONES, 12pm (Church)
- 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 March 8

- Legion of Mary, 10am - 12pm (MMR)
- Divine Mercy, 12pm-2pm (MMR)
- 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 15th March	Catholic Youth Parramatta LIFTED Sports Day
Tuesday 18th March	Mass and Anointing, 11.30am 12 Avoca St, Ropes Crossing NSW 2760 ALL ARE WELCOME!
Tuesday 25th March	Mass for Seniors, 11.30am. ALL ARE WELCOME. RSVP required by 12/03/2025
Wednesday 2nd April	Second Rite of Reconciliation 6.45pm in the church
Sunday 13th April	PALM SUNDAY
Monday 14th - Saturday 19th April	HOLY WEEK
Friday 18th April	Catholic Youth Parramatta Good Friday Night Walk from Blacktown to Parramatta 10pm - 6am
Sunday 20th April	EASTER SUNDAY
Saturday 3rd May	Cycle 2 Mandatory Safeguarding Training for Volunteers who completed Level 1 Training in 2023. 10am-1.30pm
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

Mass for Seniors and Anointing of the Sick

Join us for a special

**Mass for Seniors and Anointing of the Sick:
Tuesday, 25th March at 11:30am in the church.**

This is a wonderful opportunity for prayer, reflection, and community support.

RSVP by 12th March for catering purposes.

Everyone is welcome to attend, and volunteers are needed to assist with set up and serving of food, tea, and coffee.

For more details or to volunteer, please contact the parish office at 02 9628 7272.

We look forward to sharing this meaningful occasion with you!

FaithLIFE Lenten Scripture night by Dr Michele Connolly RSJ: 3 March

Are you looking to read the Bible during Lent but don't know where to start?

Consider the FREE Diocesan Lenten Scripture Night guided by Scripture scholar, Dr Michele Connolly RSJ. Monday, 3 March. 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM. 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown NSW 2148 - Mary Queen of the Family parish. RSVP via parracatholic.org/events/lenten-scripture-night/ OR email metaparracatholic.org



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Project Compassion Sunday 1st and 2nd of March 2025

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion.

Your generous support this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.



**UNITE
AGAINST
POVERTY**
this Lent

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

March 5: Ash Wednesday – Beginning of Lent

In the Church our celebrations are like pearls. They start with an itch in an oyster. The oyster surrounds the itch with layers of mother of pearl, which eventually becomes the rounded pearl we prize. Lent develops in the same way. It began with the belief that God has forgiven our sins and given us life through the death and rising of Jesus. That led Christians to dedicate a special feast to celebrate Jesus' dying and rising. That was surrounded by layers of story, prayer and other Christian practices. These included fasting, a regular part of Jewish and later Christian practice. Fasting marked seriousness. It was associated with acknowledging sin and communal renewal of faith. The fast was then surrounded by other stories relevant to Jesus' death. They included the story of God freeing the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt, which was celebrated in the Jewish feast of the Passover. The link to the Passover was also central in the Gospel story of Jesus' death.

The length of the Lent fast was also shaped by stories. The people of Israel spent forty years in the desert before entering the promised land. Jesus spent forty days fasting and praying in the desert for forty days before beginning his public ministry. In time the fast was lengthened from five weeks to forty days.

When Roman Empire tolerated Christianity and Christians returned to Jerusalem, another layer was added. During the Fast they celebrated Jesus' last days from his entrance to Jerusalem, to the Last Supper, imprisonment, and crucifixion. These ceremonies were gradually adopted by the rest of the Church.

A final layer was placed after Lent became the favoured time for people to prepare for Baptism at Easter. It symbolised their dying with Christ in baptism and rising to a new Christian life. During Lent, too, Christians also confessed publicly serious sins and dressed in sackcloth and ashes before being received back into the Church at Easter. This history is reflected in the sombre colours of Lent and in the sprinkling of ashes on Ash Wednesday, the final layer in the pearl of the celebration of Easter.

If Lent has grown like a pearl, it also brings together many journeys: first of all the large journey of God's journey with the human race through creation and through calling the people of Israel to be his own. It focuses especially on Jesus' journey with us on earth and particularly on his final journey to eat with his disciples, to the humiliation of arrest torture and death, and to rising from the dead.

Lent also marks our human journey of entering more deeply into God's journey with us through Christ. In our Lenten journey we ask ourselves what matters to us. We also reflect on God's calling to follow Jesus, on our sinfulness, and on how God overwhelmed our sins by the the gift of forgiveness. Lent is a journey of growing in love.

Finally, Lent is a shared journey. It is shared silently in our hearts in prayer. It is also shared in our association with people by reflecting together on the Gospel, joining with people who are preparing for Baptism, joining in recognising our weakness and receiving forgiveness, and by sharing in the joy and light of Easter. There the pearl layered in Lent is seen in its full lustre.

- By Andrew Hamilton SJ