



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
carlene@holyfamily.org.au

Site Manager: Ray Donaldson
ray@holyfamily.org.au

Parish Secretary: Malia Lolesio
enquiry@holyfamily.org.au

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. 12// Sunday 23rd March 2025

Reflection from Sr Carlene for the Third Sunday of Lent

EXODUS 3: 1-8a, 13-15

Have you ever noticed how God works through ordinary people going about their usual tasks in life?

Moses is a case in point. From the Book of Exodus we learn that he was a Hebrew who grew up in Pharaoh's household. As a young adult, he became involved in strife and killed an Egyptian. Afraid of the consequences, he fled into the desert. There he met Jethro, "a priest of Midian" who gave him a job as a shepherd. Hence, in today's First Reading, we have Moses "looking after the flock" and arriving at "Horeb, the mountain of God."

There on this mountain Moses has a momentous encounter with God through a burning bush. Moses is curious and his curiosity moves him to action. He talks to God, and when God calls, Moses responds, "Here I am." At this point, we may be prompted to ask ourselves:

- In the midst of ordinary tasks do we recognise the presence and voice of God?
- How are we answering God's call today, and during this Lenten season?

The story continues: God loves Moses, bidding him, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." Again, we pause and ask:

- Like Moses, do we remove our sandals [habitual ways of seeing and doing] and experience all of life as "holy ground"?
- Do we review the persons and events of each day and pray about them, seeing them as "holy ground"?

As God states his identity and divine plan, Moses seems captivated by God's revelation of a name that is both a riddle and a promise: "I will be who I am/ I am I will be." God's name seems to mean God is in everything at once. From ancient times and throughout all times, GOD IS!

Obviously, Moses gets caught up in the mystery of who God is and he becomes the messenger of God. He learns that God understands what the people are going through, and he knows that God will act on their behalf.

As for the ordinary people like us, let us remember that God aims to attract us during our entire life span. God wants to bring us into a Moses-like cycle of loving Him in and through creation, and of loving our neighbour by sharing our hopes and joys, griefs and anxieties... So, let's get caught up in the mystery of who God is, and be pilgrims of hope, allowing God to transform us especially during this Jubilee Year!

- 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

Third Sunday of Lent

LET US HEAR AND RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD

*It may bear fruit in the future***The Barren
Fig Tree****Collect:**

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. 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: Exodus 3: 1-8, 13-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; Moses looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that Moses had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." Then God said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." God said further, "I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?', what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and this my memorial for all generations."

Responsorial Psalm 102 (103): 1-4, 6-8, 11**R: The Lord is kind and merciful.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits. R.

It is the Lord who forgives all your iniquity.,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy. R.

The Lord works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel. R.

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him. R.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud; all passed through the sea; all were baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall.

Gospel Acclamation:**Glorify to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

Repent, says the Lord;

the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Glorify to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**Gospel: Luke 13: 1-9**

Jesus was teaching the crowds; some of those present told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. Jesus asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them - do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.' Then Jesus told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on the fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil? The gardener replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Prayer After Communion:

As we receive the pledge of things yet hidden in heaven and are nourished while still on earth with the Bread that comes from on high, we humbly entreat you, O Lord, that what is being brought about in us in mystery may come to true completion. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS

LIST OF THE SICK: Pope Francis, 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:**

Readings for Sunday 30th March, 2025:

Fourth Sunday of Lent in Year C

\\ 1st Reading: Exodus 3: 1-8, 13-15 // \\ 2nd Reading: 1
Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12 // \\ Gospel: Luke 13: 1-9 //



Parish Collection for the weekend of the 15th/16th March 2025:

1st Collection (for the priests of the diocese) \$ 904.55
 2nd Collection (for parish expenses) \$ 1,591.10

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.

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.

Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal at parracatholic.org/appeal or scan this QR code.

We will have this appeal next weekend, at all our Masses on 29/30 March.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

**Volunteers Needed for Stations of the Cross on Good Friday!**

We are calling for volunteers to be part of this year's Stations of the Cross. We need actors, ushers, and welcomers to help bring this beautiful tradition to life.

First Meeting: Sunday, 23rd March, after the 10:30 AM Mass in the school grounds.

This Year's Location:

The Stations of the Cross will be held in the school grounds on Good Friday. Help is needed to set up and assist with the event on the day.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Parish Office for more details.

Thank you for your participation! 🙏

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 joined the parish between 1965 and 2005, please send us:

- Your name, phone number, email, and the year you joined the parish
- Any memorabilia, such as photos, newspaper articles, or other items

Please submit your details by 21st April 2025 to the parish office for inclusion in our Jubilee publication. More information to come.

Thank you for helping us celebrate our parish history!

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:**Sunday March 23**

- Baptism, 11.30am (Church)
- Stations of the Cross initial gathering, 11.30am (Primary School grounds)
- Holy Family Tongan Catholic Communion Blacktown/Mt Druitt, 12pm - 3pm (MMR)
- St Ignatius Tongan Sunday School, 12pm-3pm (HFC)
- Samoan Divine Mercy, 3.30pm-5.30pm (MMR)

Monday March 24

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

Tuesday March 25

- Mass for Seniors & Anointing of the Sick, 11.30am (Church)
- Staff Meeting, 3pm-5pm (SICR)
- NA mtg, 6.30pm-8pm (MMR)
- St VdP Emerton Conference, 7pm-8.30pm (SSR)

Wednesday March 26

- Free Community Podiatry, 10am-3pm (HFC)

Thursday March 27

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

Friday March 28

- Holy Family Site Mtg, 10am-11am (SICR)
- 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 29

- 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 29th/ Sunday 30th March	Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal (Catholic Foundation Appeal)
Wednesday 2nd April	Second Rite of Reconciliation 6.45pm in the church <i>Embrace the grace of God's love and mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation'</i>
Sunday 13th April	PALM SUNDAY - beginning of Holy Week
Thursday 17th April	HOLY THURSDAY, 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Friday 18th April	The Way of the Cross - 10.00am Celebration of the Lord's Passion - 3.00pm Good Friday Walk - Blacktown - Parramatta 10pm - 6am
Saturday 19th April	EASTER VIGIL - 7pm NOTE: There will be NO MASS at 9.00am
Sunday 20th April	EASTER SUNDAY
Saturday 26th April	Autumn Holiday Program Activity
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

Third Sunday of Lent

Gospel: Luke 13: 1-9

The fruitless fig tree.

**How is my life bearing fruit?
How does God want me to invest my time,
energies and love?
How will I have grown in unity with my faith family
by this time next year?**

LENTEN PRAYER HELPS

CENTERING PRAYER: THE VERY BASICS

Centering Prayer....is a very simple method for reconnecting us with that natural aptitude for the inner life which, over time, of its own accord, leads to personal self-emptying and a more unitive outer life.

HOW TO "DO" CENTERING PRAYER:

- Find a quiet space where you are unlikely to be disturbed.
- Sit in a way that allows you to be relaxed in body and alert in mind. Use a chair, meditation cushion or prayer rug, according to your own physical needs and preferences.
- Gently close your eyes.
- "Allow your heart to open toward that invisible but always present Origin of all that exists"
- Whenever you become aware of a thought, no matter what its nature, let it go.
- Use a "sacred word".

This is a word or short phrase that helps you to let go of thoughts. It is a reminder of your intention to remain open to the silence. Generally sacred words fall into one of 2 categories: "God" words/phrases such as "Abba", "Jesu", "Mary", "Reality", "Come Lord" or "state" words/phrases such as "love", "peace", "be still". Sacred words are not used as mantras, as in constantly repeating them, but as a reminder of your intention to remain open.

- Continue this practice for 20 minutes. At the end of the time get up and go about your business, leaving the practice behind, in the same way you let go of your thoughts.

- People who are just beginning, and are particularly restless in mind and body, may find it easier to start off with shorter prayer periods, perhaps only 5 minutes per sit to start. Then after a few days extend the time to 10 minutes and so on until you are able to sit for 20 minutes. Give the practice at least 2 weeks before you decide if it is right for you.

- Two 20-30 minute sits per day are considered ideal.

ABOUT PRAYER AND WORK - SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

*"Pray as if everything depends on you,
and work as if everything depends on God."*

This means that prayer has to be urgent: God has to do something dramatic if everything depends on me. It also puts our work in the right perspective: if it depends on God, we can let it go. We can work hard but leave the outcome up to him. If God is in charge we can tolerate mixed results and endure failure.

- By Fr Renato

SCRUTINIES

- Scrutinies are RITES held during Lent for SELF SEARCHING and REPENTANCE. They are not just meant for people in the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)... They are not just meant for THE ELECT (persons going forward for Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the EASTER VIGIL). Scrutinies are meant for all of us. Yes, both you and me!!
- Lent is a time of SPIRITUAL STOCKTAKING... A time when we all are asked to SCRUTINISE our lives in the light of God's great love for us.
- We PRAY together for God's help to UNCOVER and HEAL "all that is weak, defective and sinful in our hearts" and in the hearts of THE ELECT. At the same time, we pray together for the grace to be UPFRONT and "strengthen" all that is upright, strong and good" in all our hearts!
- In the RCIA Process, it is customary to have the First Scrutiny on this Third Sunday of Lent. Hence, at the 10.30am Mass we are invited to join together in prayer for: CAROLINE, MELE, and JEREMIAH, who are THE ELECT. They have been formally accepted into and by the Church [at the Rite of Election, by Bishop Vincent]. Now they are intensifying their preparation for the SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION at our EASTER VIGIL.



Third Sunday of Lent 22nd and 23rd of March 2025



Lam is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Through the I-SHINE program Lam completed a six-month course developing his graphic design skills. He now runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income.



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

Care for Creation 2025 Lenten Calendar Pilgrims of Hope

SUSTENANCE SUNDAYS

23rd March - "Be praised, my Lord, for brother wind and the air and clouds, clear skies and all weathers by which you give sustenance to your creatures."

MEATLESS MONDAYS

24th March - Having fish instead of meat tonight? Check out the sustainability of the various fish or seafood species at [GoodFish](#)

TALK ENERGY TUESDAYS

25th March - SWITCH! Reduce your carbon footprint dramatically by switching your home electricity to a clean, renewable source.

WISDOM WEDNESDAYS

26th March - "My work is loving the world. Here the sunflowers, there the humming bird - equal seekers of sweetness." Mary Oliver

TURNAROUND THURSDAYS

27th March - Think about our children's future. Let's continue to advocate for policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

FISH & FOOTPRINT FRIDAYS

28th March - Reducing our carbon footprint is best, but for the more difficult challenges of our lives i.e. Flying, we can buy carbon offsets to support CO2 reduction projects.

SUSTAINABILITY SATURDAYS

29th March Experience the beauty and variety of creation. Visit your local botanic gardens or the beach. Sit in a park and listen to the birds. Be present.

