

**Dear friends,**

**2020 thanksgiving theme - Pastoral Council and Finance Committee**

As many would know, each parish bulletin this year we've been giving thanks for some element of service that makes the presence and mission of the parish possible. This week, I'd like to suggest a thanksgiving for those parishioners who have formed our Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Committee.

The Pastoral Council has very keenly paralleled some of our potential parish priorities with the wisdom and yearnings that have been expressed through the Australian Church Plenary Process. Shortly they'll be encouraging some next involvements of others' gifts too. And the finance committee has exercised a stewardship of care for parish funding that was heading worryingly backwards when Fr Mick arrived in the parish and asked this committee on board to assist. We are still not in a financial position to meet typical core parish operating needs, such as a sacramental coordinator, caretaking, youth program or any role beyond our stretched three days of secretarial allocation. BUT it's good news, at least, that the auditor's feedback recently received from the diocese reported our year as 'net equal'. And that's after paying for some of the maintenance issues that have been on hold. And as part of our 'net equal' position, we also gave to our outreach priorities through the diocese's Foundation that supports the deaf, Catholic Care services and seminarians – and to Caritas, St Vincent de Paul and Catholic Mission.

These two groups, the Pastoral Council and Finance Committee, have shared some meetings of review and reflection regarding where we are as a parish and what the possibilities ahead might be. As a result, in the period ahead this year, these groups will be re-formed, along with a couple of other groups, to help coordinate what is hoped to be a blessing for the parish of some extra people finding avenues to enjoy some involvement. Hopefully that will also include a number of people who are newer to the parish.

Starting next week, we can look forward to these parish committee members inviting others to consider some possibilities of enjoyable, shared involvement. In the meantime, let's give thanks for these keen people who continue to give of their faith and energy to care for a number of priorities for our parish's continuing life here in Emu Plains.

**With friendship in God's mission**

**Fr Paul**



**OUR LADY OF THE WAY  
PARISH EMU PLAINS**

*What does the LORD require of you but to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God MICAH 6:8*

**OPEN MORNINGS: Our Lady of the Way School Enrolments.**

There will be **open mornings on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March after 9.30am Mass and on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 10am** for families interested in enrolling their child in Kindergarten 2021. There are also some vacancies in other grades. Please call the school office on 4777 2700 to RSVP for the open morning or for any further information regarding enrolments.

**EASTER CHOIR:** Choir practise will commence on Tuesday evening the 17th March at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome!! Kelly Leehy will be conducting the choir and Scott Carroll will be playing for us this Easter. We give thanks for Richard Caws who continues to serve our Parish with his beautiful music. Richard is having a break this Easter and we are blessed to have Scott and Kelly on board for this Easter season.

**LENTEN REFLECTION GROUP:** Dan and Cate Kensey will be holding a Lenten Reflection Group commencing Monday 2nd March 8pm in their home—9 Dartmoor Circuit Emu Heights. Please contact Dan 0403 995 620 to RSVP. All welcome.

**OLOW KNITTING GROUP:** Will recommence on Tuesday 3rd March at 10am. Everyone is welcome. The squares (size 25cm x 28 squares) are for a charity called "Wraps with Love". Donations of wool gratefully accepted ( 8 ply yarn preferred)

**The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine - Diocese of Parramatta**

Is offering a series of presentations on the Gospel of the Year as part of Level 3 training of catechists.

Dr Laurie Woods will present on the **Gospel of Matthew** for 5 Fridays - **March 6, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> and April 3.**

These sessions will be held from 10 am to 2pm at the Institute for Mission, Marion Street Blacktown (down stairs).

**All parishioners** are invited to attend one or more of Dr Laurie Wood's presentations.

There is no cost but please contact Maree Collis on 8838 3486 to register.

**PARISH TEAM**

**Paul Roberts**  
Parish Priest  
**George Bryan**  
Deacon  
**Chris Rannaste**  
Parish Secretary  
**John Cowen**  
Parish Pastoral Council  
Chairperson  
**Jim Prendergast**  
Finance Committee

**CONTACT US**

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**FR. PAUL'S BLOG:**  
[paulfromifm.org.au](http://paulfromifm.org.au)

**MASS TIMES**

**Weekend Masses**  
Saturday 6:00 pm  
Sunday 8:00 am & 9:30 am  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month**  
Filipino Mass 1.00 pm

**Weekday Masses**

**Wednesday 9.15 am**  
**Thursday 8.15am &**  
**Friday 7.15am.**

**Children's Liturgy**

During 9.30 am  
Mass on the  
1st & 3rd  
Sundays each  
month

**SACRAMENTS**

**Reconciliation:**  
Saturday 4.45pm-5:30 pm  
**Baptisms:** By appointment  
**Weddings:** By appointment

**First Holy Communion and / or Confirmation**  
Please contact Parish Office  
[emuplains@parracatholic.org](mailto:emuplains@parracatholic.org)  
**R.C.I.A :** The process for adults interested in becoming Catholic. Office: 4735 1041

**Please pray for those who are sick in our community:**

*Grace Perry, Kevin Rose, Karen Gulliksen, Harry Beasley, Maddison Farrugia, Leone Kirton, Vicki Wells, Mark Simmonds, Max Scott, Anita Glynn, Libby Lawson, Paul Dalton, Shirley & Les Coburn, Graham & Christine Hall, Michelle Gardam, Jacqui Walker, Mary Berkout, Patricia Knoke, Brian Payne, Mervin McCaster, Marie Mahoney, Jeffrey Ridley, Habib Kaltoum Rahme, Michael Mercieca, Carmen Smith, Beryl Page, Frances Payne, Val Smith, Barbara Grant, Gregory Clare, Judy Chesters, Paul Cudmore, Angela Lonergan, Emma Woods, Brian O'Hara, Bruce Gillett, Denis Woodward, Ray Dukes, Lyn Hodder, Barbara Grant, Mavis Thompson, Nathalie Dhyon, Pam & Mike Sayer & Nicole Unsal*

