

Dear friends,

Thanksgiving

Sometimes kind and generous things happen and most who benefit from the actions don't know how or when they happened. I bet plenty of parents and others could relate to being the 'do-ers' of such actions - and might even add the comment that sometimes, some who benefit mightn't even notice that it happened at all.

In that spirit of unseen service, I want to make this week's thanksgiving message from us to a small group of regulars: It's those who carefully wash and iron altar linen for the church and sacraments, who tidy and rearrange flowers and decorations and attend to the subtle and particular aspects of tidiness and organisation around the church building. Thank you from us all for your caring service. Such unseen service as that, is no doubt done right out of the core of your goodness. As we briefly highlight you in this week's bulletin, we can also say THANK YOU for the way your service in the background can encourage many others for whatever service in the background might be part of their lives too. I bet many who are reading this have parts of their lives that can sometimes push them a bit towards the limits of perseverance; or parts of life in which the slogging away can feel discouraging.

May Jesus, the one who came to serve more than to be served, give you a knowing wink; may he walk lightly and joyfully with you in each next step of your 'yes', in the humble service that's part of your alive and loving faith in 2020.

Faith enrichment – opportunities – and the current priest of Emu Plains

As you know, part of my coming to Emu Plains parish was about the Bishop's and diocese's desire for the Institute for Mission to trial some faith enrichment programs for the greater Penrith and lower mountains region. The latest offering was a day time mini retreat process last Wednesday for those in the second half of life. The next is an excellent night time session on the Scriptures, especially placed in Lent (Wednesday 25th March) – see the brochures in the church foyer. And the next after that is a Jesuit retreat experience that people can do mostly in their own time at home. This will begin on 19th April here in the parish, with a Jesuit priest visiting from overseas to guide the experience. More on that from next week.

I was told this week that some people are still unsure about the Diocese's Institute for Mission (IFM) where I work each day. It's a team, in which I serve as the director, that develops and offers ongoing 'life and faith formation'. We run programs and sessions and develop resources and ministry enrichment for any adults 18+ to seniors across the Diocese of Parramatta.



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

The word 'mission' in the title refers to each person's mission in life - the part we each have, as baptised Christians, in the mission of God. Our IFM base is a building at 1-5 Marion St Blacktown. You might like to check the regular updates of opportunities displayed in the church foyer – and/or check the website www.ifm.org.au - I hope this assists people's understanding. Around the middle of this year 2020, I'll be reviewing, with some reps of the parish and with the Diocese, if there seems to be a 'fit' and ongoing local desire for this IFM connection in the region here. In the meantime I'll certainly try to serve the parish however I'm able, as I also honour the various ways people are sharing in service and responsibility for the mission and operation of Our Lady of the Way.

With friendship in God's mission. fr Paul

**BISHOP'S GOOD SAMARITAN APPEAL
Saturday 21 & Sunday 22nd March 2020**

"Your compassionate gifts and prayers will help CatholicCare chaplains provide spiritual, sacramental and emotional support in the footsteps of the Good Samaritan. Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv.

Help bring comfort, faith and hope to the sick and isolated.



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. Richard is having a break this Easter and we are blessed to have Scott and Kelly on board for this Easter season.

LAWSON PARISH: Reflection morning on *"Where to after Vatican II?"*, Saturday, March 21, 2019, 9:30am, presented by Sr. Patricia Madigan OP at Santa Maria Hall, Kitchener St, Lawson. (Parking also in Lawson Catholic Church grounds). Enquiries: 0405 916 326

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

MASS TIMES

Weekend Masses
Saturday 6:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 am & 9:30 am
3rd 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
Sacraments: Reconciliation First Holy Communion and / or Confirmation
Please contact Parish Office emuplains@parracatholic.org
R.C.I.A : The process for adults interested in becoming Catholic. Office: 4735 1041

Please pray for the Anniversaries of Mary Chetcuti, Noel Irvin & Rita Hall.

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, Terry Simpkin & Nicole Unsal

