

Dear friends

Shared ministry – where does it come from?

A lot of background reflection has been going on in recent times with the parish pastoral council and finance committee. I look forward to some step by step opportunities to share more with you and tap your interest and response. For starters, I'll keep it brief and just mention, broadly speaking, that we've been carefully looking at what would assist the parish to take its next steps in purpose and shared ministry in 2020. Shared ministry, of course, comes from the fact that we are baptised – and as such, we each are given an identity in the ministry of Jesus. Hence, for the baptised person responding in faith, it's not a matter of 'will I or won't I?' join in ministry – but rather, 'what are my possibilities and energies and what ministry will I use them in?' Such ministries include the priceless work of raising and guiding families – they include special areas of service in the wider world – and they include our shared response to building and operating faith communities that bring life and welcome into neighbourhoods like ours in Emu Plains and surrounds. Pope Benedict referred to our shared response, as baptised people in parishes / faith communities as being 'co-responsible', which really cuts through the far too over-used distinction of 'laity' and 'clergy'. Yes, there are special contributions from our different core vocations etc .. but the core foundation for the Church needs to be that we are all baptised into the identity and ministry of Jesus. More ahead about how we might further apply this here in our faith community of Our Lady of the Way.

The Epiphany Pilgrimage – starting at our parish

Anyone feel like a pilgrimage? OR you can even just join it for a day or for a day and one of the overnight stays. OR you might be good enough to mark the 8.15am Thursday Mass on your calendar for 2nd January to support the start of the pilgrimage .. and if you can stay to share breakfast with the pilgrims here in our hall before they depart, even better.

The Epiphany Pilgrimage, through the Blue Mountains, is a not-for-profit event of the Diocese of Parramatta and outreach of the Blue Mountains Deanery. Beginning at Our Lady of the Way, Emu Plains on 2 January and finishing 7 days later at Bell, pilgrims walk 110km through the beautiful Blue Mountains bushland, celebrating the Christmas season with each parish along the way. Registration and details at epiphanypilgrimage.org and facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage

Christmas sharing from our parish

So good that ALL the St. Vincent de Paul gift tags went in less than 24hrs last weekend. We'll see the gifts back by the weekend of 14/15 Dec ready to be shared with those in need. Our major sharing, along with all our neighbouring parishes, is the Bishop's Christmas Appeal.



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

This time our sharing will boost the beautiful ministry of CatholicCare helping vulnerable people in crisis or in personal or family turmoil. This work is MUCH bigger than any one parish, so as we share, let's pray with thanks for all of our brothers and sisters of faith from other parishes who join us in this great work – a mission sharing to feel proud of!

With friendship in God's mission, fr Paul

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL: The appeal will run throughout December. Envelopes available on the seat or for online donations as follows: yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal



VINNIES Bushfire Appeal - in order to help those who have suffered in the recent bushfires Vinnies is conducting a special appeal. Donations can be made on line by searching for Vinnies Bushfire Appeal or by calling 131812.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS CARDS: Available for sale in the church foyer. The price for each pack is \$7.00. Please place money in the special container provided and not in the poor box. Thank you for your generous response. Barry Harris. **Note: presents to be returned by next weekend.** If anyone missed out on a tag and would like to contribute to the hampers please donate an item of food for the hampers . Thank you, Emu Plains conference

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS MEETING: SUNDAY 15th DECEMBER at 11.00 am in the Parish

CHRISTMAS MASSES & RECONCILIATION TIMETABLE:

Vigil Tuesday 24 December—6.00pm Mass—Carols commence at 5.30pm

Midnight Mass—Carols commence at 11.30pm.

Christmas Day 9.30am Mass

RECONCILIATION: (Extra times available) 1st Rite (One to One)

Monday 16th December 6pm—8 pm. & Sunday 22nd December 4pm—6pm

2nd Rite Wednesday 18th December at 7.30pm -2nd Rite—Combined with St. Finbar's—46 Levy St. Glenbrook



CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE: Will commence on Tuesday



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

First Holy Communion and / or Confirmation

Please contact Parish Office
olowpar@pnc.com.au or
emuplains@parracatholic.org

R.C.I.A : The process for adults interested in becoming Catholic. Office: 4735 1041

Please pray for Recently Deceased Reg Herbert and for the Anniversaries of Monica Pigott & Michael Flanagan

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, Bernie Payne, Shirley & Les Coburn, Graham & Christine Hall, Michelle Gardam, Melissa Reardon, 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, Chris Thompson, Ken Skillicorn, Ray Dukes, Lyn Hodder, Barbara Grant & Mavis Thompson.

