

**Dear friends,**

### **Growing in work roles, relationships, interests and family life**

*Many parts of life require ongoing learning and updating. Lots of people would have done reading and skilling or shared mutual insights about parenting or family life, work and career steps, hobbies and interests. Being aware of our own growth and development can certainly be a blessing in our purpose and esteem.*

*As the great St John Henry Newman said (canonised just last year) – To live is to change and to be perfect is to have changed often. Perhaps that line could be an encouragement for whatever each of our goals of growth and learning are for 2020.*

### **Invitation for continuing faith formation**

*One of the areas of growth that a lot of people seek but can also wonder what to do about, is their connection of life and faith. When I ask what's different now about my faith compared to last year, it can be a hard one to answer. Recently, one person from another place honestly shared " ..... I feel my faith is mostly the same as five years ago. I wish I sensed God more relevantly!"*

### **A couple of opportunities**

*You'll notice in the church foyer a stand with some fliers on it. It's from the Institute for Mission (IFM) of our Diocese of Parramatta. There are two really enriching life and faith opportunities shown there. You are welcome to take a flier and welcome also to talk to me more about either of those programs: Reflective Ministry and Themes of Faith. The Blacktown location of the IFM where those particular programs occur is a very easy drive from Emu plains, especially in the evening – and some people even from up in the mountains who work east of Blacktown have blended such programs with their travel home.*



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*

### **My role in the diocese and parish**

*Newer parishioners may not know that my full time ministry is (and will be continuing ) at the Institute for Mission (IFM) - our Diocese's centre for adult life and faith formation. I am the director of that place - a not for profit organisation tasked to develop programs, media and resources to serve the whole Diocese.*

*My coming to Emu Plains a year ago was based on two connected questions:*

- 1. to see if I could adequately assist the parish needs here in addition to my IFM role – especially as it was possible Emu Plains might not have a priest otherwise and*
- 2. to see if there was a possibility to expand the IFM work towards greater Penrith and the Mountains. The answers to both are still about 50/50 but here's to trying. I admit I struggled with 2019's pressures and I know that some parishioners have not been happy with things, preferring other ways and arrangements. At the same time I'm thankful for the understanding of many, (including some who'd prefer another priest without a role in the Diocese). As the year unfolds and I continue to discern what's possible ahead, I'll certainly hold in prayer the hopes, goals and challenges of many in the parish also embracing next steps of life and faith in 2020.*

**With friendship in God's mission, fr Paul**

**Catholic Care Penrith** will be running a Parenting Program in late February in Penrith. Flyers will be available soon for anyone interested.

#### 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 Recently Deceased and for the 30th Anniversary of Margaret Osbourne**

**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.

