

## Dear friends,

We're already more than halfway through the first month of 2020! Someone said this week he thought it would help him to mark the middle of each month on his calendar as a reminder to keep reviewing his new year's resolution. It encouraged me to review my resolution and reflect a bit more on my hopes for the next steps of growth along the journey of life. Continued blessings for your own resolutions, hopes and current new actions too.

### Parish involvement and possibilities

Late 2019, after a first year of observing the parish and hearing lots of perspectives, I prepared some draft thoughts for discussion with the parish pastoral council and finance committee. The thoughts were around how we could encourage some further involvement of parishioners in the sharing of their skills, leadership and service. In a nutshell, we discussed this under four headings, or four 'umbrellas' of parish organisation. The four umbrellas are simply ways that could help pull together and support people's involvement, as well as support and encourage those already serving the parish in a variety of ways. A number of people are away in this early part of the year, but I look forward within the next couple of weeks for us to start reflecting on these positive further possibilities.

### Sincere thanks to Sue

Our wonderful parish secretary, Chrissy Rannaste, is away on a break at the moment, due to return during this week. Some may not realise that our parishioner Sue Mouthaan has voluntarily been attending to all core office duties, including this bulletin, during Chrissy's absence. As well, since early 2019 voluntarily, Sue has been Chrissy's support person in the office for a good number of hours every week! We owe Sue a huge thank you as she continues this generous ministry in 2020.

### Plenary Council 2020 Diocesan Delegate Expressions of Interest

Various people from the Diocese's 47 parishes have given enthusiastic leadership in each step of the Plenary Council process over the past eighteen months. The process culminates in the Plenary Council itself with the first assembly in Adelaide in October and the second assembly probably in Sydney in mid 2021.

#### 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

**Parish Office**  
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www.catholicparishemuplains.org.au

**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



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*

### Plenary Council 2020 Diocesan Delegate Expressions of Interest (cont.)

Bishop Vincent is calling for expressions of interest for two extra delegates from the Diocese. Delegates need to attend a three day preparation process in EITHER Melbourne (June 18-20), Brisbane (June 25-27), Sydney (July 16-18) or Perth (July 23-25). They will then attend the assemblies in Adelaide for a full week (October 4-11) and next year for a week (June 28-July 3). Clearly it's a significant commitment and a very important one. Expressions of interest forms (due by January 25) are available at [www.parracatholic.org](http://www.parracatholic.org) – or anyone interested can speak further to me for info or to the Diocese's Pastoral Planning Office (88383441). In any case, let's pray for the Holy Spirit's blessing regarding those who will represent us all from across the country.

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

**Let's get together....** .. Share a coffee or *tea and* have a small chat after **6.30 Mass tonight** ( Saturday, 18th January) in the hall. **All welcome.**

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

**Kindly please share in prayer** for Chris Thompson (husband of Wendy from our music ministry) who is terminally ill. May he be strengthened with peace and love.

#### 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

**We pray with Maria Apap on the first anniversary of her husband,  
Nicholas' passing from this life and all those recently deceased.**

**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.*

