

Dear friends,

Thanksgiving – Holy Communion to those not mobile

This week I want to suggest a thanksgiving for those members of the parish who take the Eucharist - Holy Communion – to those who are sick or not able to be mobile to come to the church. Let me start an example description of such visits from what we see in the church: The parishioner taking the Eucharist (the Eucharistic minister) collects consecrated hosts at Mass straight after Holy Communion and is commissioned on behalf of the community to go and do the visit. The words we hear for that commissioning are:

Commissioning

'Name', we ask you to take the Eucharist to those unable to be here with us today. Give them our greetings and our love – and assure them of Christ's presence with them in Word and Sacrament

Note the greetings and love part. The person visited and greeted is given a reminder that he/she is a member of this faith community, even though unable to be present. He/she is present through the visiting parishioner and through the sharing of the common bread of the Eucharist that we consecrate and share back in the church just before that visit.

Notice too in those words of commissioning above that it mentions not only Christ's presence in 'Sacrament' but in 'Word'. Each Eucharistic minister, as part of the experience with the person being visited, uses a piece of scripture, such as the Gospel of the day. And so the structure of the visit becomes a bit like a small sequence of the Mass, as the minister greets, shares a 'Lord have mercy' piece, some scripture, shared prayer, Lord's prayer, holy communion, thanksgiving and closing prayer.

Sacraments and life connection

One of our Eucharistic ministers shared with me recently how precious is the chat before and afterwards, with the person being visited. He said that it's the personal chat that often can further bring alive the experience of prayer and sacrament. So, for our Eucharistic ministers and those they visit, there can be a real sense of relationship built up which makes the visit for the Eucharist like a true experience of mini community; an accompaniment of life, in friendship. As I mention this, let's give thanks for those parishioners who also really strive to make the bigger experience of parish community something similar; parishioners who go out of their way to connect with people they don't know and build the spirit of belonging; who build a spirit of shared life and welcome in the faith community.

As one parishioner gets older ...

Another parishioner shared this recently: *'As I get older, thinking about the areas of service and ministry I can do in the parish, I hope the one that I can keep doing for as long as possible, is taking Communion to people.*



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

It's such a privilege. 'I was so moved by that parishioner's comment as a beautiful example of someone seeing parish ministry as much more than a task but as something that expressed and enriched his own faith.

Thanksgiving from us all for our Eucharistic ministers

And with friendship in God's mission,

Fr Paul

ASH WEDNESDAY – 9.15am and 7.15pm

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. Two Parish Masses with distribution of ashes will be celebrated here: 9.15am and 7.15pm

OPEN MORNINGS: Our Lady of the Way School Enrolments.

There will be **open mornings on Sunday 1st March after 9.30am Mass and on Wednesday 4th 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.

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)

CUPPA & A CHAT after the Vigil Mass this weekend in the Parish Hall. All welcome.

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.

REST IN PEACE: The funeral service for William Nass will take place at Our Lady of the Way on Friday 28th February at 11.00am. We offer our prayers and condolences to William's family and friends at this sad time.

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

Please pray for Recently Deceased Melissa Reardon & William Nass

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.

