

Dear friends,

PLENARY GATHERING – PARISH VISION

As you probably know, the Church in Australia is heading towards a significant review process known as the Plenary 2020. The parish has had a beautiful committee backing the many groups around the parish that have been asking the key question of what they believe God is asking of us in Australia at this time. And the committee has summarised the responses ready for the next step of a parish gathering on Sunday 24th Feb. See the notice and flier for details. I just want to stress here that we will use that gathering on 24th not only for feedback into the national Plenary 2020 process – but we will use it to directly assist the setting of our own parish priorities ahead. As someone new to the parish, I'm really keen for this opportunity to sense where people are in their vision for the Gospel through OLOW.

PARISH ENVELOPES

It might seem strange that I have a habit of not thanking people for their financial sharing in parish collections! What I mean is that I don't say thank you from me – because I feel that can imply a hint of it being my mission and my money and my parish! Rather, I will give public thanks on behalf of us all – and to God – and to us all. Financial sharing is integral to the Christian life and faith and has been since the earliest New Testament days. Those earliest missionaries needed their journeys and work supported – and people who were struggling and cared about by that earliest Church had that care made concrete by people's sharing of resources. Let's give thanks to God for every gesture of OLOW people to support and extend the mission which is just as real – just as needed and faith-filled - and just as much of God – today, as it was immediately after the Ascension of Jesus! I look forward with anticipation that we will be able to quite seriously extend the mission here at OLOW – for our vision not to minimise because funds are low but to believe in our ability to better address the challenges of our day for Christ's hands, heart and hope to be experienced. Thanks from us all – to God – and to everyone who is on board with sharing how they can for God's mission in this place.

INSTITUTE FOR MISSION (IFM) FAITH DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

During Mass times this weekend I'll briefly mention a couple of upcoming opportunities for people to do some faith formation with the IFM where I work at Blacktown. Please talk to me personally if you'd like to chew over possibilities further and you can check out www.ifm.org.au as well. Part of the purpose of my coming to Emu Plains is with the hope that this parish might become an expanded venue and leading parish for the work of the Institute for Mission in our diocese. This thought was part of the parish consultation as the diocese was discussing and considering a next priest for OLOW. It would be great to think that in time we could host some



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

other people and parish groups with opportunities for their development, faith formation and evangelisation skills. Naturally if that's to be our vision here, we need to first enjoy becoming familiar with and making those IFM enrichment opportunities our own. So, here's the first invitation for some people to take interest and unleash their passion in this way.

Happy week ahead.

With friendship in God's mission, fr Paul

OLOW SCHOOL MASS: The opening school Mass will be next week—Wednesday 13th February at 9.15am. As a community we are invited to join together in prayer for God's blessings in our lives and for all the members of our faith community, for 2019.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES: Please collect your new envelopes which commence on the 3rd March. Thank you for your faithful and ongoing generosity. If you would like to donate through our Planned Giving—Envelopes, Direct Deposit or Credit card deposit please contact the Parish Office of fill out the **yellow Gifting Cards** in the church foyer.

PLENARY 2020 NEWS! SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday 24th February 2019; after the 9.30am Mass. All Welcome!

Please take home the flyer which includes an update of our Parish

Plenary Process. A Light lunch will be provided. For catering purposes please sign

RSVP sheet in the church foyer of contact the Parish Office on 4735 1041. **RSVP 19th Feb.**

Plenary Website: <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/have-your-say/>



PARISH LIBRARY BOOKS: The Parish Library is no longer in operation. There will be a display of books at each of the Masses for the next few weeks. Please browse and purchase a book for a gold coin donation. Thankyou again to Marilyn and all those who served in the Library for many years.

CATECHIST VOLUNTEERS: We are in need of more volunteers to help share our faith with our children in the local State schools. Please prayerfully consider this very important ministry and contact the Parish Office on 4735 1041.

PARISH TEAM

Fr. Paul Roberts
Parish Priest

Chris Rannaste
Parish Secretary

John Cowen
Parish Council
Chairperson

Jim Prendergast
Finance Committee
Chairperson

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 11:00 am

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 4.30 pm-5:30 pm

Baptisms: By appointment

Weddings: By appointment

First Holy Communion and / or Confirmation

Please contact Parish Office
olowpar@pnc.com.au

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

***We pray for the Anniversaries of Wendy Hall, Michael Hogan
Pearl & Paul Portelli.***

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, Patty & 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, (baby—Jordan Edwards) Moira
Thomas Joyce Dukes, Beryl Page, Frances Payne, Val Smith Bernadette
Dearie & Barbara Grant.*

