

Dear friends,

WHERE IS THE CHURCH?

With such a dramatic and unprecedented court sentencing involving a cardinal of the Church, many are understandably left shaking their heads wondering the way ahead. I've shared some reflections about this in recent weeks and won't write more here – except to honour the deep vulnerabilities of many in the Church and wider society. Whether that's a vulnerability of tapping into issues; a vulnerability of deep sadness, or of anger, or of confusion; a vulnerability of questioning, or of anxiety or insecurity – Wherever each of us or others of our society may be, in response to this heavy agenda, let us ask the God who never ceases to be, to allow us to honour each others' vulnerabilities.

WHERE ARE WE? A SPECIAL LISTENING EVENING OPPORTUNITY

As a parish, the gathering outlined below on **27th March** is just one step to assist the expression of where our hearts and minds may be, especially in light of issues of historical sexual abuse in the Church – and its history of response.

In the parish hall, with 7pm hospitality for a 7.30pm start, the Institute for Mission team of the diocese is supporting our parish to host OLOW parishioners and neighbouring parish guests to a special listening evening. Vic and Liz O'Callaghan are experienced facilitators in processes known as 'Restorative Practice'. Using the simple, respectful principles of this practice, they have already facilitated such 'listening evenings' at both Springwood and Greystanes parishes. The process enables people to come together to express and listen to others' responses, as people of the Church. The heart of their practiced process is the use of listening circles, each circle with an accompanier who has been well prepared. And the circles then feed into a process of reflection in the larger gathering. In the process, there is no pressure to speak and each person can participate as they wish. The process is not a magic answer, but a safe and united time to enable the respected expressing and hearing of thoughts and feelings. Through such processes a good number of people have experienced a solidarity in faith and friendship for their next step forward.

The gathering needs to be by RSVP in order to ensure preparation of the necessary number of group accompaniers and also for set-up and hospitality. There will be refreshments, welcome and nibbles from 7pm and the process will begin at 7.30pm.



OUR LADY OF THE WAY

What does the LORD require of you but to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God. MICAH 6:8

Listening Evening - Issues of the Church

Wednesday 27th March 2019
Parish hall - 19 Troy St Emu Plains
7pm hospitality for a 7.30pm start

Please RSVP to: emuplains@parracatholic.org marked 'Listening evening' and with the number attending **OR** call the parish office on 47351041 **OR** see the [sign up sheet](#) in the foyer.

Happy week ahead.

With friendship in God's mission,

fr Paul

PLENARY 2020: A copy of Parish Gathering report and feedback on the Noticeboard for your information. Some copies also available on the bench in the front of the church. There is a '**Parish Feedback and Thoughts Ahead**' box in the church foyer for your input.

Enrolments are now open for Kindergarten 2020 :OUR LADY OF THE WAY.

There will be an OPEN MORNING on Friday 22nd March 2019 from 9.15-10.15am

Come along, tour the school and visit our learning spaces. Morning tea will be provided for Parents and pre-schoolers. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by Wednesday 6th March, 2019 to Julie Irvine on 4777 7200 or email jirvine@parra.catholic.edu.au

MCCARTHY CATHOLIC COLLEGE: Enrolling now for 2020. Open Evening—Tuesday

19 March 2019 Time: 5.00pm—8.00pm. Meet the Principal, staff and student leaders, Tours of the College; Enrolment packages available; Presentations at 5.15pm, 6pm & 6.45pm Enquiries: 4728 8100 Website: www.mccarthyemuplains.catholic.edu.au Like us on Facebook.

EASTER CHOIR: Choir practice for Easter will commence on Monday 25th March at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome!

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 or
emuplains@parracatholic.org

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

Please pray for Recently Deceased Noel Irvin and the Anniversaries of Joe & John Said and Cliff Pacey and members of the Fitzgerald & Molloy family .



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

PARISH TEAM

Fr. Paul Roberts
Parish Priest

Chris Rannaste
Parish Secretary

John Cowen
Parish Pastoral 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