

Dear friends,

**ISSUES OF THE CHURCH - LISTENING EVENING THIS WEDNESDAY – 7 for 7.30pm**

A final reminder and welcome for the special Wednesday **27<sup>th</sup> March** listening evening. The dark issues of historical abuse have affected people via personal hurt, raising of questions about the Church's shape or future, challenges to trust and in various other ways. The visiting facilitators this Wednesday night **here in the parish hall** have conducted such processes in Greystanes and Springwood parishes already. It's not pretending to be a magic answer, but many have experienced this process as a step of solidarity, honesty and hope. Each person can respond however they're comfortable and there's no compulsion to talk at all if you'd rather just listen. Nibbles and refreshments will be on from **7pm ready for a 7.30 start – Kindly RSVP via [emuplains@parracatholic.org](mailto:emuplains@parracatholic.org) OR call the parish office on 47351041 OR see the sign up sheet in the foyer.**

**NEW READERS AND COMMENTATORS – BLESSINGS TO YOU TO STEP UP**

Would you like to be a reader or commentator sometimes at Mass? Maybe you've got a good reading voice already or are keen for some training tips for your confidence and effectiveness? People from high school age to seniors are encouraged to participate in this special ministry. (Currently the 8am Mass is in particular need of more to share) Chat to me after Mass if you're keen to be involved – or call Chrissy at the parish office (47351041) or Marianne Castor (after hours 47356630). A new 6 month roster will start the weekend after Easter – existing readers also welcome to let us know if you'd like some extra training or if your availability has changed.

**REQUEST FROM OUR PARISH PLENARY GROUP DISCUSSIONS:** A strong priority expressed through the groups and at our Sunday gathering in February was the desire for **more life/faith nourishment and formation opportunities.** See the 'IFM and the Parish' comment below – and I'm glad to report the response so far includes;

- Thursday night 4 session scripture program now in progress with booked out numbers
- This Wednesday night listening forum ready to run (*hosted by IFM, OLOW parish and visiting facilitators*)
- Tuesday April 9 evening in the hall – fantastic opportunity to welcome the vice chancellor of Bethlehem University and hear first hand of the Palestinian situation. (*see the poster and take away fliers in foyer*)

**IFM, MY ROLES AND THE PARISH**

As I've shared, when the bishop appointed me to Emu Plains, it was also for another reason that parish reps were consulted about before I accepted to come here.

**PARISH TEAM**

**Fr. Paul Roberts**  
Parish Priest

**Chris Rannaste**  
Parish Secretary

**John Cowen**  
Parish Pastoral Council  
Chairperson

**Jim Prendergast**  
Finance Committee  
Chairperson

**CONTACT US**

**Parish Office**  
15 Troy Street,  
Emu Plains NSW 2750  
PO Box 27 Emu Plains  
Ph: 02 4735 1041  
Email  
olowpar@pnc.com.au OR  
emuplains@parra.catholic.org  
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 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



**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*

The proposal was that OLOW might want to become a periodic, wider western host parish and venue for the diocese's Institute for Mission (IFM) work where I am the full time director. The IFM focuses on providing life/faith nourishment programs and formation for people of the diocese. I've certainly found it a solid challenge since December trying to work out how to balance two full roles but I welcome your feedback on ideas and initiatives so far. There's a feedback box in the foyer or chat with me after Mass. Happy week ahead.

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

**JESUIT RETREAT FOR THE PARISHES OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS:**

An invitation has been extended to Lawson parish to experience a Jesuit Retreat: the First Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. Fr. Paul Slyney from Lawson is extending this same opportunity to all the parishes in the Blue Mountains to be held **April 28 to May 25**. The retreat takes the form of small groups (of 6-8 persons) facilitated by a Jesuit priest meeting once per week over four weeks. Options for Group Times will be available. The Priest who will be conducting the First Spiritual Exercises Retreat is **Fr. Meyo Obwanda** from Kenya. He is 45 years old and presently a high school principal. He did some studies in the UK and is fluent in English.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TO THE BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL:**

Your kind hearted support will provide chaplaincy and pastoral care for the vulnerable and isolated in homes, hospitals, prison and aged care facilities.

**EASTER GIRLS CAMP @ MT SCHOENSTATT:** For Girls Aged 10-13 (See Flyer on Noticeboard)

**When:** Thursday 25 April 2019 7pm—Saturday 27 April 7pm.

**Where:** "Home of Light 230 Fairlight Rd Mulgoa. **Cost:** \$95.00 **RSVP** Friday 11 April 2019

**EASTER CHOIR: Choir practice for Easter will commence this 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](mailto:emuplains@parracatholic.org)

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

Please pray for the Anniversaries of **Mary Chetcuti, Anthony Richard Caws, Fernando De Fretas, Moya Turner, Mary Ann Mifsud, John Finn & John Powell.**



**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.*