

Dear friends,

First Eucharist and parents

How special it is to be celebrating First Eucharist this weekend - and next - with a good number of our parish young people. On behalf of the parish, I want to especially honour the parents who've made this decision for their children and who've guided them in preparation.

'Obligation'?

In former days, there was stronger sense of obligation when it came to participation in the Sacraments. Like a lot of things in life, however, the territory shifts and in the shift there can be new invitation and possibility – even if that newness and possibility isn't quite obvious. Yes, as Catholic Christians, we still speak of obligation – for God is no less God than ever before - and we have no less reason for thanking God for the gift of life and of victory over death than in former times – and we have no less access to God's grace through the Sacraments than people before us – but for a variety of reasons, the territory has shifted. And indeed one of those reasons is the scandal of the Church's own dysfunction. How sad that the goodness of so many people who have been - and are – God's Church – is overshadowed by the damage that's been enabled to fester.

New invitation and possibility

One of the possibilities today is to recognise the power of what our faith story calls 'the incarnation'; the amazing part of our faith that God chose to come to the earth in our human form – in flesh and blood! And the divine was channelled through that humanity. Say that again – 'the divine was channelled through that humanity'. I heard a speaker say recently 'if you want to be a bit more like God, be as fully human as you can be!' What a beautiful spin on 'human' that was! So easily we can say 'I'm only human' – as if that's not so good. But that speaker I heard would say it more like 'Wow, you're human!' So, perhaps the new invitation and possibility is to recognise anew that WE are the 'incarnation' today – WE are the Body of Christ – and that it's through our humanity, our gestures, our friendship, our welcome, our accompaniment of each other, our interest in each others' stories, that divine things can be channelled. Please God that through such intentional humanity many people who don't feel a strong belonging in God's network of the Church today may find a vibrant welcome, blessing and purpose. **And so**

without space here to chat on more about why the 'obligation' to the Sacraments has lessened, let's get on with enjoying our capacity to be hugely human for each other as we celebrate being God's Church – God's intentional network on earth. Let's enjoy being the human channels that assist each other to experience glimpses of our divine connection. *Continued over page.*



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

And as we celebrate First Eucharist with many precious children over these two weeks, let's enjoy the possibilities ahead of being the Body of Christ together – a human community of people of faith who bless each other in order that we may shine a light of goodness outwards on the world God loves.

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

PARISH PLAYGROUP: For children up to 5 years of age. Playgroup has been operating out of the Parish Hall for 25 years and prior to that from the little cottage in the school playground. Playgroup is a wonderful way for children to learn how to interact with other children before they commence school. Spread the word to any young families that they would be **very welcome** to come and join in the activities each Tuesday from 9.30am—12 during the school terms. Many life long friendships have been formed at Playgroup. For more information please contact the Parish Office on 4735 1041.

SERVING AT THE ALTAR: Ongoing Formation day for Adult Servers and Acolytes.

Saturday 3rd August—9.30am with registration and concludes at 2.30pm at the Institute for Mission - 1-5 Marion Street Blacktown. RSVP 29TH July—Phone 9938 3456
Email: ingrid.vergano@parracatholic.org Morning tea and lunch provided.

CYP LIFTED RETREAT 2019 5-7 JULY: CYP invites young adults aged 18-35 to attend the annual LIFTED Retreat from 5-7 July at the Benedict XVI Retreat Centre, Grose Vale. You can expect great guest speakers, stimulating discussions, adoration, daily Mass, Reconciliation, soul-stirring music and delicious food. The theme is inspired by Pope Francis—"Dare to be Different"
register now at: <https://parracatholic.org/cyp-lifted-retreat/>

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
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

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
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 Kristie Scibilia and the Anniversary of Jane Pawlyk & Donald Hogno.

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, Barbara Grant, Gregory Clare, William Simmonds, Judy Chesters & Maria Apap.

