

Dear friends,  
**CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS TO PARENTS**

Another weekend with children celebrating First Eucharist – and further cause for us all to honour and encourage parents! The ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus apparently said: *'Good character is not formed in a week or a month. It is created little by little, day by day.'* Those brief words strike me as being super applicable to parents, who in co-creating children with God, then in raising and forming those children every day, surely have the most sacred vocation on earth. Congratulations parents from us all on your faith leadership with your children. Please know that your presence in the faith community is a gift, both for your children in their ongoing journey - and for us all! The blessings of being part of a faith community don't just happen. It takes people to say yes to being that community – to say yes to the stuff of life that's bigger than just ourselves. Allow your children's beautiful step in faith to affirm your own continuing 'yes' to being the community of faith. Thank you from us all - for you! And together, may we be a community of faith marked by active welcome, connection and meaningful mission that makes a difference - a community that's worth being part of.

**FIRST EUCHARIST IN SOME OF THE NORMAL MASSES**

As you probably know we've had First Eucharist at a couple of special 11.30am Mass times over these weekends - and which has been the past practice at OLOW. We decided to offer the opportunity this time also in a couple of the usual Mass times, which proved popular. One senior parishioner said to me last week: *'It's a long time since my kids made First Communion and it was great to be able to join in with today's families doing that at the parish Mass time!'* The Eucharist is a Sacrament of Initiation and so it would seem to make sense to offer First Eucharist in the context of the normal community worship – the worship and community into which the initiation is taking place. Ongoing thoughts welcome.

**YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

Maybe we can use this time of First Eucharist with our children as a chance to share some thoughts for wider best steps ahead too. The Parish Pastoral Council and I would be keen to hear from you. Unlike some other parishes, we don't currently have the funds to take on a Sacraments Coordinator, as the parish previously had, or to have a Youth Minister. Nevertheless, how might we encourage and enthuse our children in the journey of life in faith? What's possible via the shared efforts of parishioners? How can OLOW parish enhance its commitment to supporting children and families in the journey of life in faith?

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



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

**CATHOLIC FOUNDATION APPEAL:** Thank you for your generous donation of \$ 3,921.85 which will assist the training of 15 young men to be true shepherds of Christ's flock and future priests for the Diocese of Parramatta. Our Parish Quota in support of this appeal is \$5,581.00. For those who may have missed the appeal it is not too late to contribute—envelopes are still available at the front of the church or online donations at: [yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal)

**Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses**

The Office for Worship is taking enrolments for its Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses for those who are interested in being Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion or Bringing Communion to the Sick and Dying. The course will be at the Institute for Mission (Downstairs Hall). **NOTE: Introduction Session on 12 August is compulsory. Enrolments close on 5 August 2019.** Please see your Parish Office for a form or for more information, contact 02 8838 3456 or [ingrid.vergano@parracatholic.org](mailto:ingrid.vergano@parracatholic.org)

**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.

**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**  
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 Email  
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 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 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](mailto:emuplains@parracatholic.org)  
**R.C.I.A :** The process for adults interested in becoming Catholic. Office: 4735 1041

Please pray for **Recently Deceased Jose Alonzo & Sopelia Alonzo and for the Anniversaries of Arturo Zamora, Tyler Spurr and deceased members of the Fitzgerald & Molloy Families.**  
  
**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.