

Dear friends,
Sri Lanka and the recent trauma

You will recall that on Easter Sunday, a number of bombs were detonated in Sri Lanka, with three going off in the midst of Mass and three in large hotels where people and families were gathering to celebrate Easter. The Church in Sri Lanka is deeply grieving with so many cases of parents losing children, children losing parents and every other shape of loss including whole families killed. The Sri Lankan Catholic community is a small percentage of the total population but almost 100% attend Mass. You can imagine the heavy security in churches now as well as the number of people too frightened to attend. With nearly 50 churches of thriving congregations in the capital alone, where worship is central to life and community connection, what a huge added and ongoing social impact this trauma has brought. Put that on top of the grief and devastation and no words can capture the reality.

A connection from Emu Plains

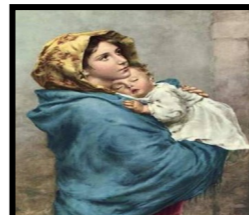
An Australian family, the Holmicks, connected locally here (and with a parishioner mum, Louise Debeck) has been living and working in Sri Lanka for seven years (the only home their children have known). By chance they were here visiting family when the disaster struck and are connected to many who have suffered loss. They decided to stay for a period before their return to Sri Lanka (in two weeks) and we were glad to be able to welcome this delightful family into our parish school, into our recent First Eucharist celebration and into worshipping here with us.

A simple missionary opportunity

The word 'missionary' means to be a disciple who is 'sent'; sent across boundaries as a channel of God's connection. We can be missionary in many ways As the Holmicks return to Sri Lanka, there's a chance for us to be missionary – by sending written prayers and wishes across the sea from one faith community to another – in this case to St Sebastian's Church in Negombo, Sri Lanka, where nearly a hundred parishioners were killed. The Holmick family will hand deliver our expressions to the parish priest and community that's grieving and regrouping there in Negombo. And so, on the tables in the foyer, this weekend and next, we are invited to stop and take a missionary moment to write something from the heart to the special people of faith in that place. As we pray for Jacinta and Luke and their children for their return and readjustment, we thank them for this chance to express a missionary heart of faith and unity across boundaries, between faith communities.

I have also noted this in my blog with a few pics from Sri Lanka including St. Sebastian's church. See - paulfromifm.org.au

With friendship in God's mission, fr Paul



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*

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

FAITH IN MARRIAGE

The 2019 'Faith in Marriage' Seminar will be held on Friday 30 August at 7.30pm. Guest Speaker is Catholic American Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers. He will speak on the topic of 'Building Strong Marriages'. All parishioners are warmly welcome to attend. Venue: St Paul's Catholic College Hall – 198 Old Prospect Rd Greystanes. Parking is available in the Church grounds of Our Lady Queen of Peace Greystanes. Follow the signs to the Hall. Free entry, light supper served. RSVP to lmf@parracatholic.org or (02) 8838 3460.

LAWSON REFLECTION MORNINGS 2019: *The Way of Dialogue in the Future Church* - August 17. 9.30am—12.30pm Santa Maria Hall Lawson Catholic Church. Seeking renewal through conversation presented by Gerard Kelly a priest in the Sydney Archdiocese and co chair of the Lutheran-Roman Catholic Dialogue in Australia and of the Faith and Unity Commission of the national Council of Churches in Australia.

Contact Carol Teodori: 4758 7549 for more information

DISCIPLES OF JESUS COMMUNITY : *Christ in you the Hope of Glory*

Charismatic Healing Mass celebrated by Fr. Tony Alex *Missionary of God's Love* - 2pm Sunday 21 July at Our Lady of the Rosary Church Cnr Mamre Road and Swanston Street, St. Marys. For more information contact Costandi Bastoli 4754 4625

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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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 the Anniversary of Sandra Levinge

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.

