

**Dear friends,
Confirmation – and a strange term**

Special thoughts this week for our parish children celebrating Confirmation. The Minister of Confirmation will be Fr Chris de Souza. Fr. Chris is the parish priest of Harris Park and is also appointed to a role known as 'vicar general'. For those who don't know that strange sounding term, the term 'vicar' means to represent or to act in someone's place. The bishop of every diocese appoints a priest as 'vicar general' which means his 'main representative' to share his responsibilities. So, we can look forward to welcoming Fr Chris de Souza, as vicar general, for Confirmation. Co-incidentally of course, Bishop Vincent is with us for the regular parish Mass on Saturday evening of this weekend. He likes to move around the diocese and blend in with the normal activity of people's lives and faith rather than only focus on the 'special event' agenda that so easily crams out a bishop's schedule. Thanks to Bishop Vincent for this gesture of ordinary life.

Stories, hopes and experiences of parents

For each of the three sacraments celebrated with groups of young people this year (Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation) I've valued the chance to hear from the parents. As we know, it's only a very small minority of those parents and children who have a participation in sacramental life here in the parish as a regular part of their lives. Whilst that's a trend in most places, I can say that since being at Emu Plains just this year I've noticed that this minority here in our parish is quite a bit smaller than I've seen or see elsewhere. Our starting point in knowing why or responding to this could be a number of approaches and the parish pastoral council will be making it a priority agenda item. How can we keep growing meaningful connections for the journey of life and faith – for the sacramental life – for enjoyable faith community belonging?

I don't claim to know the answers to these questions. My own first step with the sacramental group parents this year has been quite simply to ask and hear something of their experiences and stories, their perceptions and hopes. And I can now say that I am moved by the yearning, the love and the faith of these parents – including many who for whatever reason don't connect to parish sacramental life. I'm moved by their ongoing openness to God. I'm moved by the presence of God's goodness in and through them. And I'm moved to now have a very long list of their comments that I've typed up (12 jam-packed typed pages) in response to various faith and life questions from which I've received their written responses. I hope these responses can also help to serve us as a parish; help us to ask good questions and share faith-filled discernment as to how we might keep striving to respond as a parish for God and God's people in the particular challenges and opportunities of today.

With friendship in God's mission, Paul—Parish Priest.



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

BISHOP'S FATHERS' DAY APPEAL

We do this appeal each year to look after retired clergy who've given their lives and care. Envelopes are available in the foyer for people's sharing. This appeal will be held next weekend the 21/22 September.

Plenary Council 2020

The Plenary Council invites people to continue to participate in the journey towards the Council sessions in 2020 and 2021. The "Listening and Discernment" phase recently opened and a guide has been developed to encourage groups to take part in communal discernment on the National Themes for Discernment. Learn more about the Christian practice of discernment and download the guide, "Let's Listen and Discern", at www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

Australian Catholic Youth Festival, Perth: 7 – 11 December 2019

Time is running out to register to join Bishop Vincent and Catholic Youth Parramatta at ACYF19 in Perth. ACYF19 is a biennial national gathering of Catholic young people established by the Bishops of Australia. If you are a school student that missed out on being selected, you can register to join a diocesan small group with a guardian. Free twin-share hotel accommodation is still available, but for a limited time. For more information and to register visit www.catholicyouthparramatta.org



International Day of Peace Interfaith Peace Service: 21 September

The Parramatta Mission is hosting an interfaith peace service on the International Day of Peace, Saturday 21 September from 2pm at the Fellowship Centre, Parramatta Mission, 119 Macquarie St, Parramatta. Professor Peter Shergold, Chancellor, Western Sydney University will speak during the service, which will include time for prayer and silent reflection. For further information, contact Rev Dr Manas Ghosh on 0429 892 548 or manas.ghosh@parramattamission.org.au

SPECIAL THANKS –To everyone who assisted with the *Big Morning Tea and our Pizza Picnic Rehearsal evening.* To those who set up, washed up, & provided food for our Confirmation families may you be truly blessed for your generosity and service. Thank you.

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 Marie Corney and the Anniversaries of Daisy & William Hatch & William Waters.



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), Joyce Dukes, Beryl Page, Frances Payne, Val Smith, Barbara Grant, Gregory Clare, William Simmonds, Judy Chesters, Maria Apap, Paul Cudmore, Angela Lonergan, Ken Skillicorn, Frank Cummins, Emma Woods, Brian O'Hara & Bruce Gillett