



PARISH INFO:
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Email:
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 Fr. Michael G. Gathuku
 Parish Priest.
 George Bryan
 Deacon
 Michele Norbury
 Parish Secretary
 John Cowen
 Parish Pastoral Council
 Chairperson.
 Jim Prendergast
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 Chairperson
 Donna McFadzean
 Our Lady of the Way
 Principal 4777 7200
 Penola Catholic College
 Principal 4728 8100

Christmas Message 2022

Merry Christmas everyone. I hope this message will find you and your families safe and well. This year has been challenging, we thank the Lord it's coming to an end, it has been a lengthy one, I think because of what we have had. The good news is, despite all that we have gone through in the year, we are still standing and by God's Grace we have a lot to look forward to and celebrate. We celebrate the light of the world coming to us in the birth of our Lord. Let us pause for a moment and see this light and feel its warmth and celebrate it as it comes to our lives.

Dear Parishioners, may the Love, Joy and Peace of the baby Jesus be in your hearts. As we come together at this time of the year a time of family and friends let us take some time and reflect on the reasons of what and why we are celebrating. Christmas is the time we celebrate the birth of Jesus, a gift of the Father's love to us. For God loved the us so much, that he gave his only begotten son to us, that whoever believes in him will have everlasting life. The son is the word made flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary and dwells amongst us.

May the Joy of the birth of Christ inspire our world that had been lost in darkness due to pandemic and other calamities. With the light of Christ let us welcome family, friends, and strangers especially those on the fringes of the society. Let us resonate in their lives the word of the angels, Glory to God in the highest and Peace to people of good will. Christmas is a time of bringing peace and joy to others.

If you are returning to Church today from a long absence due to Covid or otherwise, let the joy of the Christmas celebration fill you and know we need you. Let the light of Christ into your life and in your heart, may it grow and become beacon of joy to others.

Thanks to everyone for supporting our lovely Parish throughout the year, you have been witnesses of God's love. Your commitment and contributions have made the parish continue running, despite the lockdowns. Your prayers and material support allowed others to be reached and hope ignited in them. Your generosity will extend God's love throughout the diocese and our parish and I thank you for that.

May your heart be filled with the joy of Christ birth; may you continue to be missionaries of that joy and may you, your family and friends experience the peace of the newborn King.

May the Virgin Mary and her infant son Jesus, King of peace, fill your hearts, your lives, and home with the choicest of Christmas joy and the blessings throughout new year.

Sincerely yours in Christ, **Fr Michael Gitau Gathuku.**

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM FRIDAY 24TH DEC 2021 UNTIL TUESDAY 11TH JANUARY 2022 . Mass and Reconciliation times remain the same. THERE WILL NOT BE ANY BULLETINS DURING THIS TIME. THE DIOCESAN WEBSITE WILL KEEP YOU UPDATED WITH WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE WIDER CHURCH. IN AN EMERGENCY ONLY PLEASE CALL 4735 1041.

MASS TIMES
Weekend Masses:
 Saturday 6:00 pm
 Sunday 8:00 am & 9:30 am
Weekday Masses:
 Tuesday—6.00 pm
 Wednesday, Thursday and
 Friday 9.00am
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after the
 Thurs 9.00am Mass till 10.00am.
Anointing of Sick on the First Friday of each month at the 9.00am Mass.
Mass will be held at 9.00 am on Saturday 1st January 2022 to pray for the Lord's Blessings over our New Year.
RECONCILIATION:
 Saturday 4.45pm-5:30 pm
Baptisms: By appointment
Weddings: By appointment
SACRAMENTS:
Reconciliation
First Holy Communion and / or Confirmation
 Please contact Parish Office
emu Plains@parracatholic.org

LITURGICAL MINISTRY FORMATION COURSES 2022.
 If you are interested in becoming
 A—Minister of the Word.
 Extraordinary Minister of
 Communion
 or Minister at the Altar.
 Please contact the parish office.
 47351041.

Parish Account Details:
Online banking only!!!!
EMU PLAINS
CATHOLIC CHURCH.
BSB 067 950
A/c No 00000289.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCERY On 20th March 2020 Catholics from the Diocese of Paramatta were dispensed from their Sunday Mass obligation until further notice (Canon 1248#2 and CCC 2181) By virtue of a decree issued by Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv. From 15th December 2021 this decree is now revoked, and Sunday obligation is now imposed once again given that the public health order no longer requires adherence to density limits in our church. Sent by Very Rev Peter G Williams Vicar General & Moderator of the curia. 14/12/2021

  
MAY WE BECOME THE DWELLING PLACE OF JESUS THIS CHRISTMAS AND ALWAYS.
MAY THE LORD BLESS US AND KEEP US. MAY THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE SHINE UPON US AND BRING US PEACE.
BLESSINGS TO ALL FROM: FR. MICHAEL, THE PARISH OFFICE STAFF & YOUR PARISH COUNCIL.

Please collect a Welcome Home Card from the Foyer so you can participate in the Process of the Synod, either as a group or as an individual. Use the Scancode or Internet address on the back of the card to access information on being part of the Listening Church!

WE PRAY FOR ALL OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO ARE UNWELL, ESPECIALLY GRAEME HARDY. WE ALSO PRAY FOR STEPHEN WALKER, PATRICK HUGHES, MADELINE OXLEY AND FRANK BARGLIK WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES WE REMEMBER AT THIS TIME.

Blue Mountains Epiphany Pilgrimage and Fiesta 2022.
 Blue Mountains Pilgrimage and Fiesta! Choose from a classic pilgrimage experience or family adventure pilgrimage on Sunday, Jan 2 then delight in the afternoon and evening festivities including the Feast of the Epiphany Mass, a festive meal, games and movie night for the kids as well as praise, worship and Adoration for youth and adults. Stay overnight at St Finbars, Glenbrook in the hall or camp on site, then continue the celebrations on Monday, Jan 3 with a morning pilgrimage and Mass in the bush.
 For more information and to register visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org. To follow the journey see <https://www.facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage/>.

PARISH MINISTRIES IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS.
 We give thanks for the many parishioners who have faithfully served in a variety of ministries for many years. We are in need for new people to step up. Please consider prayerfully if you are able to commit to one of these very important ministries, and contact the Parish Office 4735.1041

