

PARISH INFORMATION

OFFICE OPENING TIMES:

TUESDAY TO FRIDAY 9.30AM TO 3.00PM

Phone: 4735 1041(Answering Machine Available)

Email: emuplains@parracatholic.org

Fr. Michael G. Gathuku: Parish Priest

George Bryan: Deacon

Michele Norbury: Parish Office Administrator

Cate Kensey: Sacramental Co-ordinator

John Cowen: Parish Pastoral Council, Chairperson

Jim Prendergast: Parish Finance, Chairperson

Donna McFadzean: Our Lady of the Way Principal
Ph: 4777 7200

Jim Fanning: Penola Catholic College Principal
Ph: 4728 8100

MASS TIMES AND COMMUNION SERVICES

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 6:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 am & 9:30 am

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday 6.00 pm
Wednesday, 9.00am

COMMUNION SERVICES

Thursday and Friday 9.00am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

after the Thursday 9.00am Mass till 10.00am.

Anointing of Sick on the First Friday of each month at the 9.00am Mass.

RECONCILIATION:

Saturday 5 pm - 5:45 pm

SACRAMENTS:

Baptisms: By appointment

Weddings: By appointment

Reconciliation

First Holy Communion

Confirmation

Please contact Parish Office
emuplains@parracatholic.org



What does the LORD require of you
but to act justly, to love tenderly, and
to walk humbly with your God.

MICAH 6:8



OUR LADY OF THE WAY PARISH, EMU PLAINS

Sunday 17th April 2022

The Resurrection of the Lord

EASTER VIGIL

· 1st Reading **Gen 1:1-2:2**

Responsorial Psalm

**(R.) Lord, send out your Spirit,
and renew the face of the earth.**

· 2nd Reading **Exodus 14: 1-15:1**

Responsorial Psalm

**(R.) Let us sing to the Lord;
he has covered himself in glory.**

· 3rd Reading **Isaiah 55:1-11**

Responsorial Psalm

**(R.) You will draw water joyfully from the
springs of salvation.**

· Epistle **Roman 6:3-11**

Gospel [Lk 24:1-12](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Why look among the dead for someone who is alive?

On the first day of the week, at the first sign of dawn, the women went to the tomb with the spices they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb, but on entering discovered that the body of the Lord Jesus was not there. As they stood there not knowing what to think, two men in brilliant clothes suddenly appeared at their side. Terrified, the women lowered their eyes. But the two men said to them, 'Why look among the dead for someone who is alive? He is not here; he has risen. Remember what he told you when he was still in Galilee: that the Son of Man had to be handed over into the power of sinful men and be crucified, and rise again on the third day?' And they remembered his words.

When the women returned from the tomb they told all this to the Eleven and to all the others. The women were Mary of Magdala, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James. The other women with them also told the apostles, but this story of theirs seemed pure nonsense, and they did not believe them.

Peter, however, went running to the tomb. He bent down and saw the binding cloths, but nothing else; he then went back home, amazed at what had happened.

EASTER SUNDAY

First Reading: [Acts 10:34. 37-43](#)

Peter recounts the deeds of Jesus.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R. v.24](#)

**(R.) This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.**

Second Reading: [Col 3:1-4](#)

Set your heart on the greater gifts.

Gospel Acclamation [1 Cor 5:7-8](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;
let us feast with joy in the Lord.**

Alleluia!

Gospel

[Jn 20:1-9](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The teaching of scripture is that he must rise from the dead.

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Diocese of Parramatta Notices

Our Lady of the Rosary, St Marys is establishing perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, beginning on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 24th 2022. Are you willing to commit one hour per week, day or night. Please complete the forms placed in the foyer and send to St Mary's Parish.

Bishop Vincent's Easter Message 2022: Bishop Vincent has released his video message for Easter 2022 to the people of the Diocese of Parramatta. The letter can be watched on YouTube on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6j2ONDyCH1c> or read via <https://catholicoutlook.org/bishop-vincents-easter-message-for-2022/>

Marriage Preparation Courses in 2022: Getting married in 2022? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit www.parracatholic.org/pmp to view weekend course dates, to book and pay. An online preparation called *SmartLoving* can also be booked via the website. For more information, email met@parracatholic.org or phone Karin on 0403 305 431 or Marisa on 0412 280 017.

Catholic schools across the Diocese are enrolling now! Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Parramatta are enrolling now for 2023. To learn more please contact your local Catholic school or visit our website www.parra.catholic.edu.au/our-schools/find-a-school.

Life Ascending Group

Our Life Ascending meeting will be held at the home of Kay Walker (197 River Rd Leonay) on Wednesday, 20th April at 10am. **Note the change of venue!** Come along and join our discussions, support, friendship and gather strength spiritually. Please bring a small plate to share. Both men and women are most welcome. **Bring a friend.**



PARISH BANK DETAILS:

For online banking only!
EMU PLAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH.
BSB 067 950 Ac No. 00000289.

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EASTER MESSAGE FROM FR MICHAEL

Dear sisters and brothers,

May I on behalf of the PPC, Michele, Cate and myself wish you all a blessed Easter. May the Easter celebration deepen our faith that Jesus is truly risen. Having conquered death, He invites us to share in His risen life. What we celebrate at Easter lies at the very heart of our faith, the belief that our Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead, and through this we have a gift of new life on this earth and eternity with Him in heaven. Easter's big message is that the power of death has been utterly destroyed and the gift of life reclaimed. Today our Saviour destroys the sting of death by enduring death himself to give us new life.

Notwithstanding the ongoing difficulties and challenges, we face, let us embrace this unfading, light of Christ that comes to us this night. Let us rejoice in the light of the resurrection and share the radiant Paschal joy to those around us, because Easter is about hope.

For the past few years our world has been overcome by the darkness of the pandemic. We now have the Russia-Ukraine war. Our world is always tainted by darkness but there is always an opportunity for the light of hope, Easter brings that light. It is about bringing hope despite the veil of darkness. This message of hope is the reason for our celebration. Today we are invited to be a beacon of that hope, as we light our candle from the Easter candle we are called to brighten the darkness in our lives and other people's lives, and darkness in the world.

Dear Parishioners also I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all. You have been that beacon of hope in our Parish. With your contribution over the last couples of years, you have made it possible for the parish to continue to function despite Covid. I would like to thank all the volunteers who have given their valuable time and resources to keep the parish moving. Without mentioning names, I want to thank the Covid team, which tirelessly guided us with Covid protocol all those times we were in lockdown. I would like to thank the musicians, projectionists, readers, acolytes and altar servers, eucharistic ministers, welcomers and wardens, catechist, cleaners, and the maintenance team among other volunteers. You have been an enormous help. Only the risen Lord can repay you. We as a Parish owe you a lot. May God Bless you for your contributions.

On this note, from our Parish gathering last week we are in need of more volunteers in all the above areas. We also need new members of Parish Pastoral Council. I encourage you to consider volunteering in one or more of the areas mentioned above, where you feel comfortable. Over the last couple of years, we have lost a considerable amount of people due to various reasons. So, please consider coming on board so that we can "keep the beacon of light burning".

There are forms in the foyer for you to complete and express your interest in the area you would like to assist. There is also a form for nomination for members of the Parish Pastoral Council. You may either nominate yourself or nominate someone else to become a member of Parish Pastoral Council.

May the Risen Lord bless you all now and forever.

Fr Michael G Gathuku

PP Our Lady of The Way Emu Plains.

Please note, Fr Michael is on leave till the end of May, 2022

We pray for all our unwell parishioners and we remember all the dead relatives and friends. If you have someone who needs prayers, please contact the Parish Office on 4735 1041.

Parishioner of the week: Fr Michael Gathuku

Fr Michael was born in Kenya: from a small town called Eldoret. His parents had cows, sheep and goats. His favourite food in Kenya was ugali. (It tastes a bit like Italian polenta). He was raised in a Catholic family, one of 9 children. Fr Michael became a priest 27 years ago. He is now 56 years old. He was a priest in Kenya. Came to Australia first in 2013 to do a 6 month course at Castle Hill, went to St Patrick's cathedral for 2 months. He went back to Kenya till July 2014, then came back to Australia. He has worked at St Patricks cathedral, Castle Hill and Springwood. He came to Emu Plains in December 2020. He loves barramundi fish. His favourite scripture is Matt 11:28 "Come to me all who are weary and heavily burdened and I will give you rest". And his favourite song is "Come as you are, that's how I want you."



Farewell to Harold and Nathalie Pirotta

We wish Harold and Nathalie Pirotta every blessing as they leave Our Lady of the Way Parish and Emu Plains. They have served faithfully for many years and will be sadly missed!

Enjoy the next chapter of your journey and remember you are always welcome home.

Lenten Group Reflection

I am pleased that I had the opportunity to attend the recent Lenten Group in our parish. It was a wonderful opportunity to follow the weekly scripture readings with others and to hear their reflections and stories. What a lovely way to meet new people who I can now greet as friends when I attend mass. Thanks to Kay Walker for organising this group. Carol Burke. There is an opportunity for those over the age of 55 to reflect on scripture and share with others in the Life Ascending Group, which meets monthly. Why not come along on Wed 20th April at 10am to share spiritual growth and fellowship with others? The meeting is held at 197 River Rd Leonay.

St Nicholas Parish Penrith: Divine Mercy

All parishioners are welcome to attend an afternoon of prayer and adoration at St Nicholas of Myra church Penrith. Starting at 2:30pm, Sunday 24th April. Proceedings include recitation of the chaplet of Divine Mercy, Stations of the cross, homily and Benediction, reconciliation till 5pm, afternoon tea and mass at 6pm. Contact Louise Goderie on 0434434385 for more information.



JESUS I TRUST IN YOU

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY COME & CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY WITH OUR PARISH AT

ST NICHOLAS OF MYRA CHURCH,
326 HIGH ST, PENRITH
2:30PM on 24th APRIL 2022

- ✦ Blessing of Divine Mercy Image
- ✦ Chaplet of Divine Mercy
- ✦ Stations of the Cross
- ✦ Homily and Benediction
- ✦ Reconciliation till 5PM
- ✦ Afternoon Tea from 4:15PM – 5:15PM
- ✦ Divine Mercy Mass 6PM

Jesus Promised – "I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My mercy." Diary 1109

Register for Mandatory Safeguarding Training.

It is NOW time to register for Safeguarding training if you haven't already done so. Thank you to those who have already registered. **Who should register for Mandatory Safeguarding Training?**

- Are you involved in a ministry that works directly with children?
- Do you have a working with children check?
- Are you involved in a ministry that operates through liturgies and parish events?
- Are you involved in a ministry that may directly or indirectly come into contact with children and/or vulnerable adults?
- Are you curious and would like to know more about keeping parishes safe?

CONTACT Mary Marsh starmgm@gmail.com and register for the Mandatory Safeguarding Training sessions online or Face-to-Face!

Module 1– Introduction to Safeguarding begins on Wednesday 18th May at 10am (60 min)

Mandatory training will continue weekly:

Module 2 –Understanding Child Abuse and Reportable Conduct: Wednesday 25th May at 10am (90 min)

Module 3—Safeguarding Adults at Risk: Wednesday 1st June at 10am (90 min).

Where will the sessions be held? The Parish Hall after morning mass.