

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



19 Troy St, Emu Plains
Phone: 4735 1041
Email: emuplains@parracatholic.org
Web: <https://catholicparishemuplains.org.au/>

Sunday, 15th May 2022

Fifth Sunday of Easter – Year C

Welcome for the celebration of the Word and the Eucharist.

Entrance Antiphon. Cf. Ps 97:1-2

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

First Reading

Acts 14:21-27

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them.

Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. ‘We all have to experience many hardships’ they said ‘before we enter the kingdom of God.’ In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:8-13. R. cf. v.1

(R.) I will praise your name for ever, my King and my God.

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. **(R.)**
2. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing. They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God, to make known to men your mighty deeds and the glorious splendour of your reign. **(R.)**
3. Yours is an everlasting kingdom; your rule lasts from age to age. **(R.)**

Second Reading Rv 21:1-5

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

He will wipe away all the tears from their eyes.

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, ‘You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.’ Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: ‘Now I am making the whole of creation new.’

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!
I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!



Gospel

Jn 13:31-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I give you a new commandment: love one another.

When Judas had gone Jesus said:

'Now has the Son of Man been glorified, and in him God has been glorified.

If God has been glorified in him, God will in turn glorify him in himself, and will glorify him very soon.

My little children, I shall not be with you much longer.

I give you a new commandment: love one another; just as I have loved you, you also must love one another.

By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples.'

R.I.P. Michael Sayer

We pray for the repose of the soul of our good friend, Mike Sayer, who died this week. Mike and his late wife, Pam, were long-term parishioners of St. Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook before moving to Emu Plains. They both became very involved with activities in our community, especially money-counting and fund-raising events. Mike served on the Parish Pastoral Council and was the Deputy Chairperson for a number of years. He was also a member of the Finance Committee. Mike was a Minister of the Eucharist and made himself available to take Holy Communion to housebound members of our community regularly.

We give thanks for the time that both Mike and Pam were members of our parish community and the fine example they set by their involvement in so many ways. We offer our sincere condolences to their family as we pray for them on Mike's passing.

Mike will be buried from OLOW on Tuesday 17th May at 11.00am

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Jn 15:1,5

I am the true vine and you are the branches,
says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears
fruit in plenty, alleluia.

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LIFE ASCENDING GROUP

Our Life Ascending meeting will be held

At the home of Kay Walker 197 River Rd Leonay

On **TUESDAY 17th May** at 10.00am. **Note change of day & 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

Vale Bernie Le Breton -

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Bernie who passed away peacefully in the company of Robyne. Bernie a foundation member of our parish, was awarded the Diocesan Medal of Honour for his services to our parish & community. Bernie was the first editor of our Parish bulletin. For many years Bernie held the licence to conduct housie on behalf of our parish. This allowed us to construct the primary school, Church hall & our beautiful Church debt free. Excess funds assisted in development of Penola Catholic College (McCarthy College), Caroline Chisholm College & St. Clair Parish. Our Lady of The Way Parish is indebted to Bernie & Robyne. Bernie has left a wonderful legacy and was buried from this church on Friday 13th May 2022. Rest in peace Bernie.



Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased Bernie Le Breton and Mike Sayer, and for those whose anniversaries are at this time. We also pray for all our brothers and sisters in our community who are unwell, especially Catherine Allabyrne.



Parishioner of the week: Debra Gleeson

Debra is married to Patrick (who leads worship on some Saturday nights). They have been in OLOW parish for 10 years.

Debra reads the word at mass and is a special minister of the Eucharist. Debra was in religious life (a good Samaritan nun) for two years from 1985-87. Her parents dedicated her to the Lord in the womb. She has loved the Lord all her life. They have been foster-parents and have welcomed many others in their home over the years. Her favourite colour is red and her favourite saints are St Jude, St Anthony and Padre Pio. The bible passage is "the joy of the Lord is my strength". Patrick and Debra love the song "Shout to the Lord", which was their wedding song.

Debra was trained as an accountant, and then moved to diversional therapy. She is getting "crafty" and enjoys art therapy and craft classes and is thinking about starting a social group in her house. Anyone who wants to do craft or a social outing can chat to her after Saturday night mass. Debra really loves the people of OLOW and felt very close to them during covid. She appreciates all the lovely relationships that have grown over the past few years.

Debra has a pet toy poodle named Suzy Q. She has been to Jerusalem 5 times.



Parish Notices:

Wrap with love knitters group meet Thursdays from 9am-12pm in the parish hall. Donations of 8ply wool gratefully accepted. New members welcome. Contact Judy Prendergast 0407101254 or Julie Hayes 0452655844.

Feedback from 3rd April workshop: Music was another of the 5 workshops that met on Sunday 3 April at Springwood, as part of Blue Mountains Catholics "Take Action" (Gathering of Talents). There was an engaging discussion on the role and importance of music in the liturgy. Valid observations were made about involving youth in this ministry and music's role in ecumenical initiatives. Specific proposals were: 1. The creation of a deanery music group to meet 4 times a year; 2. Plan and implement regular deanery youth Masses; 3. Investigate an ecumenical music event e.g. Christmas carols.

Safeguarding date changes:

Unfortunately, the dates for Safeguarding at OLOW Parish had to be changed due to unforeseen circumstances.

Module 1 Wednesday 25th May

Module 2 Wednesday 1st June

Module 3 Wednesday 15th June

If you have any problems with the date changes

Please let me know by phone **0408 212 437** or

email starmgm@gmail.com **Sorry for any inconvenience.**

Mary Marsh

Volunteers Needed - First Holy Communion

The program for First Holy Communion is starting this week (18th May) and running on Wednesdays for the next 5 weeks. I need some volunteers to help with a number of things, including hall set up, greeters, registration and hospitality. If you are able to assist, please fill in the form at the back of the church. You should only be required for 30-45 mins. Thank you and blessings, Cate

Reflection from Deacon George:

I spent a week on deployment in Murwillumbah with the Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy.

Murwillumbah was one of many towns in the Northern Rivers severely effected in the recent floods.

I worked mostly on my own. The floods affected a large area and Chaplaincy was really stretched trying to meet this almost unprecedented demand.

There are many horrific stories I could relate about this week, about people trapped making what they thought was their last phone call to their loved ones. Stories about husbands and wives sitting on their roof in the dark listening to their live stock drowning and thinking they too were about to drown. But there's one story I would like to share. I was asked to talk with a lady who was too distraught to even come into the Centre. I sat with her in the park opposite. We must have talked for an hour. She told me she had just come from a funeral for her friend who had drowned. He had been drowned while trying to cross a river to get urgent medical supplies for his wife. She said he was a very fit young man, however the police said it looked like he'd been hit by a log and washed off the bridge. At the end of our conversation she asked: Why do you do this, why put yourself through this? I have no idea where the answer came from but I found myself saying: You are Christ to me. Then I repeated to her that beautiful line from the Closing Prayer for Christian Meditation: "To serve all who come and receive them as Christ himself". She said you are a wonderful man. To which I replied as always: "I'm just the arms and legs."

My beautiful wife Kaye has taken me away for a 'reset break' to Port Douglas in Far North Queensland. I've snorkeled on the Outer Great Barrier Reef and walked in the Daintree Rainforest. Our God is a God of absolute beauty. And I see that beauty everywhere even in the face of that woman in that park in Murwillumbah.

Parish Information

Parish office open Tuesday to Friday from 9:30am to 3pm. (ph: 4735 1041)
Parish priest: Fr Michael G. Gathuku
Deacon: George Bryan
Parish Office Administrator: Michele Norbury
Sacramental Co-ordinator: Cate Kensey
Parish Pastoral council chairperson: John Cowen
Parish finance chairperson: Jim Prendergast
Our Lady of the Way principal:
Donna McFadzean (ph: 4777 7200)
Penola Catholic college principal:
Jim Fanning (ph: 4728 8100)

Weekend mass times:

Saturday 6 pm, Sunday 8am, 9:30am

Weekday masses:

Tuesday 6pm, Wednesday 9am

Communion services: Thursday and Friday 9am

Reconciliation: No reconciliation till Fr Michael returns

Sacraments: baptisms and weddings by appointment. Please contact the parish office (emuplains@parracatholic.org) for information on reconciliation, communion and confirmation.

Diocese of Parramatta Notices:

Pregnant? Worried, confused, feeling alone? Want to chat? Call our 24/7 support line 1300 792 798 or visit our website <http://www.pregnancyhelpsydney.com>.

LIFTED Live featuring Gen Bryant

Friday May 20, 7:30-10pm WEST HQ, Rooty Hill

Youth, young adults and families are invited to join Catholic Youth Parramatta for a Holy Spirit inspired night of praise and worship. Register at <https://parracatholic.org/liftedlive/>

The **Diocese of Parramatta** is embarking on a seven-year journey towards achieving seven **Laudato Si' Goals**, which means to care more deeply for God's creation and our sisters and brothers in need. Laudato Si week starts May 16th and is celebrated globally. Find out more by connecting to the Laudato Si Action Video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s3YkNMuj7_0
Parishioners are invited to join in the **easy Fairfax Heritage Track Walk** commencing at **Blue Mountains National Park Heritage Centre** 270 G0vett's Leap Road Blackheath on **Monday May 16th at 10.30am. BYO picnic lunch and join discussion** in the grounds of **Sacred Heart Catholic Church** 18 Inconstant St Blackheath.

Annual Schoenstatt May Pilgrimage will be held on Sunday 15th May. The program begins at 9.30 am to approx. 3.30 pm. Bishop Vincent will celebrate Holy Mass at 10.30 am outside, please bring your own chairs. Come for an hour or come for the day, everyone is welcome. Food is available to purchase or bring a picnic lunch. Details available at www.schoenstatt.org.au

Health Care Ministry Formation Session: 21 May. Those working in the health care ministry in the Diocese are invited to attend a formation session entitled "Let the littles ones come to me" on care of the sick and the dying child. The session will be held on Saturday 21 May at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta, from 2pm to 3pm. To register and for further enquiries, please email met@parracatholic.org or michael.tan@parracatholic.org

Mary Help of Christians Procession: The Servants of Mary, Help of Christians and the Archdiocese of Sydney are hosting a procession for the Feast of Our Lady, Help of Christians on Saturday 21 May. The pilgrimage will begin at St Peter's Church, Surry Hills at 10.30am with a blessing, and will conclude with Mass and prayers for world peace at St Mary's Cathedral at 12pm midday. Parish banners and flags are welcome.

Saints of the week:

Wednesday, May 18th

– St John I, pope and martyr.

Friday, May 20th

- St Bernadine of Sienna

Saturday, May 21st

– St Christopher Magallanes and companions.



Parish bank details:

If you would like to support our priest and church financially through **online banking:**

Name: Emu Plains Catholic church

BSB: 067 950

Account Number: 00000289