

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



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Sunday, 8th May 2022

Fourth Sunday of Easter – Year C

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 32:5-6

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

First Reading

Acts 13:14, 43-52

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

We are now turning to the gentiles.

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats.

When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them. The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

I have made you a light for the nations,
so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.'

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 99:1-3. 5. R. v.3

(R.) We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy. **(R.)**
2. Know that he, the Lord, is God.
He made us, we belong to him,
we are his people, the sheep of his flock. **(R.)**
3. Indeed, how good is the Lord,
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age. **(R.)**



Second Reading

Rv 7:9, 14-17

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

The Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water.

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Jn 10:27-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I give my sheep eternal life.

Jesus said:

'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;

I know them and they follow me.

I give them eternal life;

they will never be lost

and no one will ever steal them

from me.

The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone,

and no one can steal from the Father.

The Father and I are one.'

Communion Antiphon

The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.



<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/0c/a4/d6/0ca4d605ad74ac82cfc87505a6523ae9.png>

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Let us pray:

We pray for recently deceased Matthew Lawlor and Mary Smith, and for those whose anniversaries are at this time. We also pray for all our brothers and sisters in our community who are unwell. If you know someone who needs prayers, please contact the parish office on 4735 1041 and we will add them to our prayer list.

Happy Mother's Day!

We would like to bless all those mothers, grandmothers and carers today. We pray especially for those who are grieving the loss of a mother, their child or someone who has mothered them in a special way. We pray that the love of God would fill their hearts and give them peace and joy today. We especially thank Mary, the mother of God for her 'yes' to giving birth to Jesus, the Saviour of us all.

<https://bg-nftc.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Mothers-day.png>



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.

Readers: New readers are welcome to contact Marianne on 0431 966365 or the parish office. Existing readers should also contact Marianne if their availability has changed.



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

Community Wellbeing (Hear the Cry of the Poor) was the name of one of the 5 workshops that met on Sunday 3 April at Springwood, as part of Blue Mountains Catholics 'Take Action' (Gathering of Talents) gathering across the 6 parishes of our Deanery. We listened to community needs in our Deanery and learnt about areas of help from Celia, the CatholicCare co-ordinator. We each came up with areas of need for further action, such as transporting someone to an appointment or visiting an aged care facility to those needing a community approach (caring for the environment and supporting refugees). We are hopeful that OLOW parish will become active in one or more of these areas. Jim and Kay.

Safeguarding:

The dates for Safeguarding at OLOW have been changed:

Module 1: Wednesday 25th May

Module 2: Wednesday 1st June

Module 3: Wednesday 15th June.

Please contact Mary Marsh if you have further enquiries: ph: 0408212437, email: starmgm@gmail.com

Sacrament news - First Holy Communion

Here are the dates for First Holy Communion. Children who are in year 4 and above and have already made their Reconciliation are invited to take this next step in their spiritual journey. Please contact the parish office if you would like your child to make their First Holy Communion.

Information Night: Wednesday 18th May 2022 in the Parish Hall at **7.30pm** (Parents only)

Blessing Weekend: Sunday 21st/22 May 2022 – families to attend one of the weekend Masses – Sat 6pm Vigil, Sunday 8.00am or 9.30am.

Session 1: Wednesday 25th May 2022 at 7pm.

Session 2: Wednesday 1st June 2022 at 7 pm

Session 3: Wednesday 8th June 2022 at 7pm

Rehearsal /Recap – Wed 15th June 2022 at 7pm.

SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: SATURDAY 18TH JUNE AT 4PM. To be in the church at 3.45pm to prepare.

Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be in term 3 for those children in year 6 and above who have received the other sacraments of initiation. Please contact the office if you would like your child to receive this sacrament and for more information. Blessings, Cate

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>.

Springwood East Timor Support Group Trivia Night Fundraiser: 21 May

The Springwood East Timor Support Group invite you to the 23rd anniversary Trivia Night to aid the Timorese people with medical and educational initiatives. Saturday 21 May from 7pm for a 7.30pm start at St Thomas Aquinas School Hall, Springwood. Pre-reservation of your attendance is essential to Dennis Farrar on 0425 209 840.

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

Peace Justice and Ecology Sharing on Zoom – Wednesday 11 May Join an online gathering with others interested in Social Justice, Care for Creation or Global Peace. Wednesday 11 May, 6:30-8:00pm. To receive a zoom link, please RSVP to MET@parracatholic.org

Adult Confirmation 2022 will be held on 1 September 2022 at 7:30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral with the Catechesis and Formation Day to be held on Saturday 20 August at 9:30am at the Bede Heather Centre (formerly known as the IFM). Adult Confirmation is a community celebration for those who have reached the age of 16 years and have received both the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist, but are yet to receive the Confirmation. Contact the Office for Worship on (02) 8838 3456 or anne.stanton@parracatholic.org.

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.

St Marys Parish Perpetual Adoration: Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, St Marys, is looking for Eucharistic Adorers to commit to a rostered weekly hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in their Perpetual Adoration Chapel. Those who would like to assist can contact either Steven Buhagiar on 0415 600 290, Stella Buhagiar on 0415 600 103, or the parish office directly on (02) 9623 1962.

Saints of the week:

Friday 13th May
– Our Lady of Fatima
Saturday 14th May
– St Matthias, apostle



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