

# 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, 27th Nov 2022** **First Sunday of Advent– Year A**

Welcome to the celebration of the mass.

### **Entrance Antiphon.** Cf. Ps 24:1-3

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.  
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.  
Nor let my enemies exult over me;  
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

### **First Reading** [Is 2:1-5](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.*

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz,  
concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come the mountain of  
the Temple of the Lord shall tower  
above the mountains and be lifted  
higher than the hills. All the nations will  
stream to it, peoples without number  
will come to it; and they will say:  
‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of  
the Lord, to the Temple of the God  
of Jacob that he may teach us his  
ways

so that we may walk in his paths;  
since the Law will go out from Zion,  
and the oracle of the Lord  
from Jerusalem.’

He will wield authority over the nations  
and adjudicate between many peoples;  
these will hammer their swords into  
ploughshares, their spears into sickles.  
Nation will not lift sword against nation,  
there will be no more training for war.  
O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in  
the light of the Lord.

### **Responsorial Psalm** (R.) [Ps 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9](#). R. [see v.1.](#)

#### **(R.) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say:  
‘Let us go to God’s house.’  
And now our feet are standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem. (R.)
2. It is there that the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the Lord.  
For Israel’s law it is,  
there to praise the Lord’s name.  
There were set the thrones of judgement  
of the house of David. (R.)
3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray:  
‘Peace be to your homes!  
May peace reign in your walls,  
in your palaces, peace!’ (R.)
4. For love of my brethren and friends  
I say: ‘Peace upon you!’  
For love of the house of the Lord  
I will ask for your good. (R.)

### **Second Reading** [Rom 13:11-14](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*The time has come, our salvation is near.*

You know ‘the time’ has come: you must  
wake up now: our salvation is even nearer  
than it was when we were converted. The  
night is almost over, it will be daylight soon  
– let us give up all the things we prefer to  
do under the cover of the dark; let us arm  
ourselves and appear in the light. Let us  
live decently as people do in the daytime:  
no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or  
licentiousness, and no wrangling or  
jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord  
Jesus Christ.

## Gospel Acclamation

[Ps 84:8](#)

### **Alleluia, alleluia!**

Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.

### **Alleluia!**

## Gospel

[Mt 24:37-44](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

*Stay awake, you must be ready.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

## Communion Antiphon

[Ps 84:13](#)

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and  
our earth shall yield its increase.

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## Parish notice:

Lowanna Study Centre will be hosting **Christmas Carols** in the Parish Hall, following the **6pm Mass on Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> December**. A Nativity play will also be performed on the night. Food will be available to purchase. *All welcome to this family event!* Please contact Sarah Tuballa on 0439467797 for further information.

## Baptisms:

Congratulations to **Saxon Lockhart** and **Lenny Power** who will be baptised on Sunday – we warmly welcome them into our Faith Community. May God bless these children and their families.



**Let us pray:** We pray for recently deceased Noela Goodwin, Trevor and Kaye Correy and Mary Robb, and for those whose anniversaries are at this time. May their families find comfort in the fact that they are safely in the arms of their loving Lord. We also pray for all our brothers and sisters in our community who are unwell, especially, Carmelo Mederos, Elisabeth Robens, Marion Betker, Andrew Keenan, Alex Haddad and Catherine Allabyrne. If you know someone who needs prayers, please contact the parish office on 4735 1041 and we will add them to our prayer list.

**PARISHIONER OF THE WEEK: Matthew Hamilton**

Matthew has been at OLOW for three years and has been an altar server since he was in Year 3. He is now 15 years old and is in year 9 at St Dominic's college. He has 3 siblings. His favourite colour is red and his favourite bible passage is the Good Samaritan. Matthew likes the welcoming people at OLOW and all the opportunities to get closer to God. His favourite food is homemade burgers. Matthew has played representative cricket for Penrith for the last 3 years. He has been selected for the NSW academy squad. He is looking forward to going to Tasmania at the end of the year.



**Parish Notices:**

**Christmas Choir rehearsals:** If you would like to be part of the choir for the 6pm Christmas vigil mass, please join us for rehearsals commencing Tuesday evening, 7.30pm, on 29<sup>th</sup> November.

**OLOW Playgroup: Tuesday's 9.30am to 11.00am** – school term only. Phone 4735 1041 or email ([emuplains@parracatholic.org](mailto:emuplains@parracatholic.org))

**Farewell Deacon George**

You are all invited for morning tea this weekend after the 9.30am Mass to farewell Deacon George and Kaye. "Deacon George, we say farewell not goodbye". Thank you for all you have done for us, and for your love and dedication to Our Lady of the Way Community - we will always treasure you. Good luck in your next chapter and be blessed. OLOW Community.

**Recycling at our Parish:** A collection box for your **clean dry & empty** dental hygiene items will be outside the main doors of the church. Jim (0421 125 722) and Kay.

**Who is Jesus?**

Would you like to be part of a facilitated small group early next year to share your reflections and ask your questions on Matthew's Gospel? Day and evening groups are offered. We will have an authoritative Commentary at hand to guide us. More information next week. Inquiries: Jim Potts 0421 125 722

**Church cleaning:** We are currently in need of someone to assist with church cleaning **every second Friday, after the 9.30am Mass**. If you have a little bit of time to spare, please contact the Parish Office.

**Money counters – URGENT REQUEST:** We are in need of money counters to assist us **once a month**. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

**Vinnies Christmas Hamper Contributions:**

Each year Vinnies distributes hampers to local families in need. These consist of a large food package and gift cards. These gift cards are donated by children and staff at Penola , OLOW and Cath West. If Parishioners would like to donate please purchase Woolworths Essentials Gift Cards in lots of \$20 and place them in an envelope on the Parish Collection Plates or the Poor Box in the church foyer. Many thanks for the donation.

**Vinnies Christmas Cards** are available in the church foyer. They are \$10 for a pack of 10. Please place the money for these cards in the container labelled Christmas Card Money and not in the Poor Box.

**Columban Art Calendars** are available in the church foyer for \$10 each. Please place the money in the envelopes labelled 'Columban Calendar' and drop them in the sacristy.

**Sacramental news:** Please join with me in prayer for the children and their families, in our primary schools who are preparing for baptism. Blessings, Cate



**Prayer for the Sacraments**

Heavenly Father, we ask for blessings on all the children and families who are taking part in the sacramental program. We pray for the Holy Spirit to touch each one of them so they may experience your great love, presence and mercy in their life.

**Amen**

**Readers/ Commentators roster:**

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
26/27 November Start of Advent NO GLORIA	<i>Stevenie Harman</i> Anne Deutscher JS: Alex Tuballa C: Lynne Castellari R: Victor Tuballa	<i>Matthew Topp</i> Pat Edwards JS: Jessica Topp C: Maria Sirotti R: Brett Wright	<i>John Cowen</i> Kevin Balkin David Green <b>Heather Barlow(Visit only)</b> JS: N/A C Lisa Samojlowicz R: Courtney Hamilton
3 /4 December	<i>Stevenie Harman</i> Deborah. Gleeson JS: Alex Tuballa C Phillip Youngman R: <u>Bellinda Henderson</u>	<i>Mary Marsh</i> Kay Walker JS: Evie Milroy C: Paul Ryan R: Sue Mouthaan	<i>Hartley Dhyon</i> Connie Reid <b>Denise Robens (Visit)</b> JS: Matthew Hamilton C: Don Robens R: Lara Roser

## 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  
Baptism Coordinator: Jo Hamilton

Our Lady of the Way principal:  
Donna McFadzean (ph: 4777 7200)  
Penola Catholic college principal:  
Jim Fanning (ph: 4728 8100)  
St Vincent de Paul Contact Centre:  
For assistance call 1800 606 724.

## **Weekend mass times:**

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

## **Weekday masses:**

Tuesday 6pm;  
Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 9am.  
Adoration of Blessed Sacrament till 10am  
Thursday after mass.  
First Fridays of the month – healing mass.

**Reconciliation:** Saturday 5pm.

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

## Diocese of Parramatta Notices:

### **“QUO VADIS?” PILGRIMAGE TO ISRAEL AND ROME: 5 – 23 SEPTEMBER 2023**

At the request of many of his previous pilgrims, Fr Wim Hoekstra is leading a pilgrimage to Israel and Rome next year. Our pilgrimage will be following in the footsteps of St Peter. Details are available for download via [this link](#) or the QR code. If you need further details, please contact Fr Wim on 0409908361 or email [wim.hoekstra@parracatholic.org](mailto:wim.hoekstra@parracatholic.org)



**Glenbrook Parish Advent Retreat: 10 December** You are invited to join St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook for their Advent Retreat, titled, 'Jesus the greatest gift from God' on Saturday 10 December from 9am to 3pm. Most Rev David Walker, Bishop Emeritus of Broken Bay, will be the guest presenter. For more information and to RSVP, please contact the parish office on (02) 4742 6958 or [secretary@stfinbars.org.au](mailto:secretary@stfinbars.org.au)

### **Epiphany Pilgrimage + Fiesta 2022:**

Celebrate the joy of the Christmas Season with the Epiphany Pilgrimage and Fiesta! It will commence at OLOW on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January with a Commissioning Mass and morning tea, and conclude on the 8<sup>th</sup> January at the Sacred Heart, Blackheath with Mass and the Feast of the Epiphany Dinner. For more information and to register visit [www.epiphanypilgrimage.org](http://www.epiphanypilgrimage.org). You are also invited to write a **prayer intention** that will be carried throughout the pilgrimage and prayed each evening before the Blessed Sacrament. Prayer Intention cards are available in our Church foyer and can be placed in the box provided.

**Bishop's Christmas Appeal for Catholic Care's Assistance with Care and Housing Service** No one should be homeless or without support. Your Christmas gift today will enable Catholic Care to give homeless people practical and emotional support, and a safe place to call home. Please give generously via the Bishop's Christmas Appeal envelopes, at [yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal). Thank you.

**Positions Vacant:** Parish Office Coordinator – St Andrew the Apostle Parish, Marayong – **Applications close 10pm Sunday 4 December 2022** More details at: [parracatholic.org/employment](http://parracatholic.org/employment)

**Memorial Mass for those bereaved by suicide: 28 November.** Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains together with the Diocese of Parramatta invite those bereaved by suicide to a celebration of Mass to honour loved ones who have taken their lives on Monday 28 November at 7.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. RSVP for catering purposes and more information to Rita Chater on (02) 8843 2500 or email [rita.chater@ccss.org.au](mailto:rita.chater@ccss.org.au)

## Saints of the week:

28th November – St Catherine Laboure  
29th November – Our Lady of the Golden Heart  
30th November – St Andrew, Apostle.  
1<sup>st</sup> December – St Edmund Campion  
2<sup>nd</sup> December – St Bibiana, virgin & martyr  
3<sup>rd</sup> December – St Francis Xavier, Our Lady of Victories

## 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