

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, 11th December 2022 3rd Sunday of Advent– Year A

Welcome to the celebration of the mass.

Entrance Antiphon. *Phil 4:4-5*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading *Is 35:1-6, 10*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, ‘Courage! Do not be afraid.

‘Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.’

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm. *Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4*

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R.)**
3. It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion’s God, from age to age. **(R.)**

Second Reading *Jas 5:7-10*

A reading from the letter of St James

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord’s coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord’s coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation [Is 61:1 \(Lk 4:18\)](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Mt 11:2-11](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

Communion Antiphon [Cf. Is 35:4](#)

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

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IF GOD IS ALL YOU HAVE,
you have all you need.
JOHN 14:8

BAPTISMS:

Congratulations to Maxwell Gatt, Eva Clark and Azahlia Duarte who will be baptised this 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 Alex Haddad and Monica Heidtmann, and for those whose anniversaries are at this time: Stephen Walker, Patrick Hughes and Michael Joseph Flanagan. We pray that 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, Henry O'Malley, Elisabeth Robens, Marion Betker, Andrew Keenan 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: Courtney Hamilton

Courtney has been at OLOW for about 3 years. She volunteers as a data projectionist and a reader at mass. Courtney loves the sense of community at OLOW. Her favourite food is 'cheesecake or apple crumble'. Her favourite colour is blue. Courtney plays the violin. She likes the songs "Power of Your Love" and "I am the Bread of Life". St Catherine of Sienna is her confirmation saint. Courtney's favourite words based on scripture (John 14:8, Psalm 16:5) are "If God is all you have, then you have all you need." She has just finished Year 12 and is thinking of going to university to study speech pathology. Courtney will also continue playing in the Western Sydney youth orchestra. She would like to go to Europe one day.



Parish Notices:

Christmas Reconciliation- There will be additional times for the sacrament of reconciliation in the week prior to Christmas.

Tues 20th 5.00-5.45pm
 Wed 21st 9.30-10.00am
 Thurs 22nd 9.30-10.00am
 Fri 23rd 9.30-10.00am

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.

Christmas Choir rehearsals: If you would like to be part of the choir for the 6pm Christmas vigil mass, please join us for rehearsals on **Tuesday evenings, 7.30pm.**

Playgroup has now finished for the year and will recommence on Tuesday 7th February 2023.

WHO IS JESUS in the portrait that St Matthew provides for us? **Coming EARLY 2023**- Facilitated small groups, day and evening, meeting for 1.5 hours, fortnightly. Our primary guide and companion: Michael Fallon MSC – his Commentary, helping us to know the heart of Jesus & deepen our relationship with him. See OLOW Facebook / Website. Inquiries welcome: Jim Potts 0421 125 722

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.

Liturgical Ministry Formation Course: This course will commence in **February 2023** and is for those interested in serving our Parish as a Reader, Extraordinary Minister of Communion and/or a Minister of the Altar. Please visit <https://officeforworship.org.au/> or contact the Parish Office to pick up an application form.

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.

Sacramental news:

Baptism for Primary School- This Saturday, 10th Dec, 9 beautiful children from our local primary schools were baptised by Fr. Michael. Praise God! We congratulate them and their families who have supported them. Thank you too for your prayers as they prepared for this special day in their spiritual life. Thanks to Sue, Wolfgang, Margaret, Mario, Mary, Lyn and Dave Green for their help in this program.

Reconciliation 2023 – The sacrament of Reconciliation will be held in Term 1 next year, for children who will be in Yr 4 and above in 2023. If you would like your child to make this sacrament, please contact Cate on 4735 1041 or emuplains@parracatholic.org, Blessings, Cate.

Reader's Roster: Have your circumstances changed? Do you know someone who would like to join the roster? If you have been a reader in the past, but would like to be a Commentator, then we would also love to hear from you. If we don't hear from you, the current roster will continue. **New people welcome.** Please contact Marianne on 0431 966365.

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
10/11 December	John Cowen Anne Deutscher JS: Alex Tuballa C: Deborah Gleeson R: Trish Ryan	Matthew Topp Barbara Ryan JS: Jessica Topp C: Geraldine Waters R: Helen Larsen	Hartley Dhyon Kevin Balkin Kay Walker (Visit) JS: N/A C: Marianne Castor R: Denise Robens
17/18 December	Stevenie Harman Michael Manton JS: Alex Tuballa C: Christie Wood R: Mary Balam	Mark Norbury Noeline Bangel JS: Evie Milroy C: Gabe Manouk R: Kay Walker	Lara Raser Connie Reid David Green Heather Barlow (Visit only) JS: N/A C: Trish Boyle R: Matthew Hamilton

Parish Information

Parish office open Tuesday to Friday from 9:30am to 3pm. (ph: 4735 1041)

Parish priest: Fr Michael G. Gathuku
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) for information on reconciliation, communion and confirmation.

Diocese of Parramatta Notices:

2022 Christmas Mass and Reconciliation Times: Christmas Mass and Reconciliation times from parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are available now on our Diocesan website (www.parracatholic.org), on Catholic Outlook (www.catholicoutlook.org) and on our Diocesan social media channels. Merry Christmas from the Diocese of Parramatta.

Diocese of Parramatta WYD23 Pilgrimage Registrations Open!

Registration for WYD23 in Lisbon has now opened. Young people aged 16-35 can now view our itinerary, inclusions, indicative pricing, register and pay their \$800 deposit to secure their place. Limited spaces still available to join our team of 170 pilgrims with Bishop Vincent. Visit www.parrawyd.org

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. Thank you.

Glenwood-Stanhope Gardens Parish Carols by Candlelight: 17 December

St John XXIII Parish, Glenwood-Stanhope Gardens, invites you to their annual Carols by Candlelight evening on Saturday 17 December at 7.30pm in the grounds of St John XXIII Catholic College, Stanhope Gardens. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 8883 5981

Share joy this Christmas with a gift that can change a life: If you would like to give the gift of hope this Christmas, why not buy a Global Gift? Global Gifts are Caritas Australia's charitable Christmas cards that reflect real items that support vulnerable communities around the globe. Visit www.globalgifts.org.au or call 1800 024 413 toll free to browse our range of Global Gifts cards today.

ACBC Advent Appeal for Ukraine: The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is supporting a special Advent appeal for the people of Ukraine, following a request from Bishop Mykola Bychok CSsR, Eparch of Sts Peter and Paul for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia. Collections in dioceses, eparchies and parishes on the Second and/or Third Sunday of Advent will support *Mudra Sprava* (Wise Action), a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation in Ukraine. The organisation has three focus areas: Evacuation of people from frontline territories; Food packages for people in need; Shelters for internally displaced persons. Find out more at: www.catholic.au

Saints of the week:

12th December – Our Lady of Guadalupe
13th December – St Lucy, martyr
14th December – St John of the cross, doctor.
15th December – St Virginia Centurione-Bracelli
16th December – St Adelaide
17th December – St Florian

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