

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, 4th December 2022 2nd Sunday of Advent– Year A

Welcome to the celebration of the mass.

Entrance Antiphon. Cf. Is 30:19,30

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice
heard in the joy of your heart.

First Reading [Is 11:1-10](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

He judges the poor with justice.

A shoot springs from the stock
of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of
the Lord.

(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)
He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict for the
poor of the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the
ruthless, his sentences bring death to
the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb,
the panther lies down with the kid,
calf and lion cub feed together
with a little boy to lead them.
The cow and the bear make friends,
their young lie down together.
The lion eats straw like the ox.

The infant plays over the cobra's hole;
into the viper's lair
the young child puts his hand.
They do no hurt, no harm,
on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the knowledge
of the Lord
as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse
shall stand as a signal to the peoples.
It will be sought out by the nations
and its home will be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17.](#) R. cf. v.7

**(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and
fullness of peace for ever.**

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. **(R.)**
2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to the earth's
bounds. **(R.)**
3. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. **(R.)**
4. May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. **(R.)**

Second Reading [Rom 15:4-9](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

Gospel Acclamation [Lk 3:4.6](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Mt 3:1-12](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

Communion Antiphon

[Bar 5:5; 4:36](#)

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

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PARISHIONER OF THE WEEK: Trish Boyle

Trish has been at OLOW for about 40 years. She loves the community. Trish worked for Fr Hannan as parish cook, and all the other priests afterwards at OLOW for 35 years. No-one complained about her cooking! She says 'they were very easy to get along with'. Trish has also been reading at mass for over 30 years. Her favourite food is chicken and favourite colour is blue. The hymn "Our Lady of the Way" always brings a lump to her throat. She was named after St Patrick, of course. Trish and her husband John have lived in the mountains for about 50 years, having moved from Sydney. An interesting fact about Trish is that she climbed halfway up Ayers Rock. She also grew up on the beach.



Parish Notices:

Baptisms:

Congratulations to **Spencer Kobryn, Ava Leggatt, Daniel Maguire** and **Giselle Tickle** who will be baptised this weekend – we warmly welcome them into our Faith Community. May God bless these children and their families.

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 evening at 7.30pm.

Church cleaning: We are currently in need of someone to assist with dusting **every second Friday, after the 9.30am Mass**. If you have an hour 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.

Who is Jesus? Australian Scripture Scholar Michael Fallon (Missionary of the Sacred Heart priest) has produced a beautiful Commentary on Matthew's Gospel. This will assist our personal preparation for our local facilitated small group conversations early next year. *You are invited to ponder this question: Would you like to learn more about how to read and understand this gospel within the context it was written?* **More information next week. Inquiries welcome: Jim Potts 0421 125 722** (see previous Bulletin/ Parish Facebook for more information)

Lowanna Study Centre will be hosting **Christmas Carols** in the Parish Hall, following the **6pm Mass on Sat 3rd 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.

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
3 /4 December	Stevenie Harman Deborah Gleeson JS: Alex Tuballa C Phillip Youngman R: Bellinda Henderson	Mary Marsh Kay Walker JS: Evie Milroy C: Paul Ryan R: Sue Mouthaan	Hartley Dhyon Connie Reid Denise Robens (Visit) JS: Matthew Hamilton C: Don Robens R: Lara Roser
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

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.



Prayer Requests: Let us pray for recently deceased Carmelo Mederos, Noela Goodwin, Trevor and Kaye Correy, and for those whose anniversaries are at this time: Joseph Charles Reeves, Christina Mary Reeves, Monica Mary Pigott, and Judy Clements. We pray that their families find comfort in the fact that they are safely in the arms of their loving Lord. Let us also pray for all our brothers and sisters in our community who are unwell, especially, 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.

Diocese of Parramatta Notices:

Palms Australia has trained Australians to live and work within cultures and communities overseas since 1961. Now four days of that training will be available for parishioners interested to assist harness the diverse gifts of our community and make it stronger. Enquire about Palms Orientation for mission via www.palms.org.au or call 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567.

Glenbrook Parish Advent Retreat: 10 December You are invited to join St Finbar's Parish 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

Positions vacant: Parish Office Coordinator (part-time) – St Andrew the Apostle Parish, Marayong – Applications close 10pm Sunday 4 Dec 2022. Parish Bookkeeper (part-time) - Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Wentworthville – Applications close 10pm Tuesday 6 Dec 22.

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.

Epiphany Pilgrimage + Fiesta 2022:

Celebrate the joy of the Christmas Season with the Epiphany Pilgrimage and Fiesta! For more information and to register visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org. You are invited to write a **prayer intention** that will be carried throughout the pilgrimage. Prayer Intention cards are available in the Church foyer.

Saints of the week:

5th December – St Philip Rinaldi
6th December – St Nicholas, bishop
7th December – St Ambrose, bishop and doctor.
8th December – The Immaculate Conception of BVM
9th December – St Juan Diego
10th December – St Gregory II, pope. Our Lady of Loreto.

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