

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, 29th January 2023 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A.

Welcome to the celebration of the mass.

Entrance Antiphon Ps 105:47

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

First Reading

[Zep 2:3; 3:12-13](#)

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people.

Seek the Lord all you, the humble of the earth, who obey His commands. Seek integrity, seek humility: you may perhaps find shelter on the day of the anger of the Lord. In your midst I will leave a humble and lowly people, and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the name of the Lord. They will do no wrong, will tell no lies; and the perjured tongue will no longer be found in their mouths. But they will be able to graze and rest with no one to disturb them.

Responsorial Psalm.

[Ps 145:7-10. R. Mt 5:3](#)

**(R.) Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!**

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith forever, who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)

**(R.) Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!**

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

[1 Cor 1:26-31](#)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

God has chosen what is weak by human reckoning.

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

[Mt 5:12](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel

[Mt 5:1-12](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Happy are the poor in spirit.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

Communion Antiphon. [Cf. Ps 30:17-18](#)

Let your face shine on your servant.

Save me in your merciful love.

O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

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WELCOME DEACON BATSIRAI MARINGEHOSI

Bishop Vincent has appointed Rev. Deacon Batsirai Maringehosi to our Parish, commencing on 1st February 2023. We welcome Deacon Batsirai to our Community; below is a brief personal Introduction of Deacon.



My name is Batsirai Maringehosi. I am married to Charity and we have three children, a boy Itai and two girls Tafadzwa and Joyce. We moved to Australia from Zimbabwe in 2004 and were parishioners of Our

Lady of Mt Carmel, Wentworthville for 14years. I did my pastoral placement at Our Lady of the Rosary, St Marys. I was ordained on Saturday 10 December 2022 at St Patricks Cathedral, Parramatta. I briefly joined Corpus Christi Parish in Cranebrook for two years before moving to Our Lady of the Rosary, it is my connection with Our Lady that is talking to me. She is very much part of my spiritual journey.

I am excited to join the community of Our Lady of the Way, Emu Plains and am looking forward to interacting with every member. May Our Lady bring us together and direct us to her son, Jesus Christ.



Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased Alexandra Haddad, Yvonne Sheekey, June Rayner and Joseph Plzak, and for those whose anniversaries are at this time: Anne Sloman and Carol Swane. 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.

Parishioners of the week: The church cleaners

If you ever stay back long enough after the 9am Friday morning mass, you will be met by a glorious sound. A symphony of praise! Well, that's how God sees it.

I decided to stay back after mass last Friday for a quiet time of prayer. My silence was interrupted by a kind face gently asking me if it was ok if he turned on the vacuum cleaner. "Of course", I nodded. I know that Martha and Mary must meet...and here I was

seeing it in practise. God loves all our acts of love towards Him. As I heard the vacuum cleaner hum, and watched another wipe and dust, I felt God's pleasure. These acts of service are also an act of worship in our church. And the sounds go up to heaven as a symphony of praise. I



talked to the beautiful lady dusting every pew meticulously and took a photo of her hands. She told me that this is one way she prays to God and shows Him her love for Him. I felt a lump in my throat. I knew how much this beautiful woman has been through battling life-threatening health issues, yet here she was...humbly and lovingly cleaning the church. And with each brush of that duster, I felt my heart become a little cleaner, as they poured out their love by their actions.

The church is cleaned every second Friday after 9:30am mass. If you would like to join this small group led by Connie Bennett, please contact the parish office.



Parish Notices:

Change of time for Adoration: Please note that Adoration has moved from 9.30am to 8.30am on Thursday morning. Benediction will be on the last Thursday of the month.

Sacramental news: Reconciliation 2023

The sacrament of Reconciliation will be held in term 1 this year, for children who will be in year 4 and above in 2023. If you would like your child to make this sacrament, please contact Cate on 47351041 or emuplains@parracatholic.org

Hospitality notice: Hospitality after Mass will commence in **February**. If you can assist, please contact the Parish Office on 4735 1041.

Liturgical Ministry Formation Course: This will commence in February and is for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries. If you are interested, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or mary.gale@parracatholic.org. Alternatively, please contact the Parish Office on 4735 1041.

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
28/29 January	<u>Stevenie Harman</u> Beth Nowland JS: Alex Tuballa C: Louise Goderie R: Marie McLennan	<u>Matthew Topp</u> John Lo Cascio JS: Jessica Topp C: Maria Sirotti R: Kay Walker	<u>Lara Roser</u> David Green Denise Robens (Visit) JS: N/A C: Lisa Samojowicz R: Courtney Hamilton
4/5 February	<u>Stevenie Harman</u> Debra Gleeson JS: Alex Tuballa C: Lynne Castellari R: Victor Tuballa	<u>Mark Norbury</u> Noeline Bangel JS: Evie Milroy C: Paul Ryan R: Jessica Topp	<u>Hartley Dhyon</u> Kevin Balkin Kay Walker (Visit) JS: N/A C: Marianne Castor R: Denise Robens

R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults):

R.C.I.A. is the process by which the Catholic Church welcomes people into the faith. Our parish R.C.I.A. team would like to hear from your family members or friends who might be interested in becoming members of the Catholic Church. Please ask them to contact the Parish Office (4735 1041) or emuplains@parracatholic.org and a member of the team will contact them.

You are invited to an **ENQUIRY SESSION on TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY**: About regular small group meetings on Matthew's gospel with Commentary (by MSC Michael Fallon). You are also invited to join **Dr Laurie Woods**, spiritual writer and Scripture scholar, for an interactive exploration of: **Living the Spirituality of Matthew's Gospel in 2023. Saturday 25th February, 9am-12.30 pm** Parish Hall, Emu Plains. **RSVP** 18 February to Jim Potts 0421 125 722.

Glenbrook Parish Shroud of Turin Presentation and Talk: 21 February

St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, is hosting a presentation by local parishioner and former journalist William West on the Shroud of Turin on Tuesday 21 February at 7.30pm. William will discuss the history of the Shroud, which he explores in his book *Riddles of the Shroud – Questions Science Can't Answer*. Entry is via gold coin donation. To RSVP, please contact secretary@stfinbars.org.au

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
Parish Admin Assistant: Jo Hamilton

Our Lady of the Way principal:
Phillip Kapitanow (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 at 8.30am
Thursday before mass. Benediction last
Thursday of the month.

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:

Ordination to the Presbyterate: 2 February Bishop Vincent Long and the Diocese of Parramatta invite you to the Ordination to the Presbyterate of Adam Carlow, Matthew Dimian and Jack Elkazzi on Thursday 2 February at 7.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Please RSVP to the Cathedral Parish team at secretary@stpatscathedral.com.au if you are able to attend. We hope you will be able to join us at this joyous event for our Diocese and our faith community.

MET Natural Fertility assisting couples in 2023: a NATURAL option to plan their families.

It is suitable for:

- Women wanting to know more about what their cycles reveal.
- Those preparing for marriage.
- Breastfeeding women.
- Couples having difficulties conceiving.
- Couples looking for an effective, natural option to space their children.
- Couples wanting to cease contraception.
- Peri menopausal women.

For more information or to book an appointment, contact Catherine on 0400 427 605, email catherine.bourne@parracatholic.org or visit <https://parralmf.org.au/fertility/>

Aid to the Church in Need is asking for support to aid sisters in Kenya in building a new mother house and formation centre for their local community. Hunger, illiteracy, and lack of medical provision, combined with desperately poor roads and a lack of clean drinking water make life incredibly difficult for many people in Kenya. The diocesan congregation of the "Visitation Daughters of the Immaculate Heart" were established in order to help this needy population - but to continue their work they need your help! The sisters' work includes caring for expectant mothers, acting as midwives, providing counselling, caring for the sick and looking after the elderly and orphans who are frequently abandoned by society. Your support will help these sisters to continue their mission by providing them with a permanent convent. To make an offering and learn more visit <https://aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject> or scan the Qr code.



Diocesan Food and Toiletries Drive for Refugees

Each week, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) and the House of Welcome (HoW) provide much needed food and toiletry items to hundreds of Refugees from across the Diocese of Parramatta. For more information at parracatholic.org/diocesanfooddrive or call JRS on (02) 9356 3888 or HoW on (02) 9727 9290.

Saints of the week:

30th January – St. Martina
31st January – St. John Bosco
1st February – St. Brigid of Ireland
2nd February – Presentation of the Lord
3rd February – St. Ansgar, St. Bains, Bishop and Martyr
4th February – St. Hoan of Valois

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