

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, 12th February 2023 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A.

Welcome to the celebration of the mass.

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ps 30:3-4

Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

First Reading Sir 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

He never commanded anyone to be godless.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

Responsorial Psalm.

Ps 118:1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34. R. v.1

(R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law!
They are happy those who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts. (R.)
2. You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care.
May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. (R.)

(R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

3. Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word.
Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law. (R.)
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end.
Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 2:6-10

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

God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him. These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

Gospel Acclamation See Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Mt 5:17-37](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Such was said to your ancestors; but I am speaking to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

Communion Antiphon. [Cf. Ps 77:29-30](#)

They ate and had their fill,
and what they craved the Lord gave them;
they were not disappointed in what they craved.

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Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased Lily O'Brien, Ellie Goderie and Alexandra Haddad, and for Frank Attard, Coral Ryan and members of the Spitz family whose death anniversaries are at this time. 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, Bernadette Hoolahan, 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: Victor and Sarah Tuballa and family:

Victor has been a parishioner of OLOW since 1979 and went to school here as a child. He married Sarah in 2008 and joined OLOW when she started dating Victor in 2006. They like the welcoming community at OLOW, the camaraderie with other parishioners; it's their family. Victor's favourite colour is green and he loves grilled salmon. Sarah loves the colour blue and enjoys satay chicken. Her favourite hymn is "be not afraid", while Victor likes "How Great Thou Art". Victor is described by his wife as a "tragic Panthers fan". God comes first of course. They both like the psalms: Victor likes Psalm 91 and Sarah loves Psalm 23. They love the stories of the saints – Victor likes the massive turnaround of St Paul. Sarah likes St Monica, the praying mum. Victor is a naturopath, and likes to keep fit and healthy. He also does some TV segments on "House of Wellness". Sarah is interested in genealogy and has travelled twice to Europe on pilgrimages and has been to Fatima and Lourdes. They would love to go to the Holy Land one day.



Parish Notices:

Baptisms: The Parish joyfully welcomes Violet Andrews, Zoe Collimore, Micah Folino and Lenny Vella into our Faith Community. May God bless these children and their families.

Sacramental News: The Sacrament of Reconciliation starts in the parish this week. Please join us in praying for these children and their families as they prepare to receive the love and mercy of God in this sacrament. Thanks and 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

OLOW Playgroup has recommenced for 2023 at 9.30am in the parish hall. Contact the parish office on 4735 1041 for more details.

Wrap with love knitters group meets on Thursdays from 9am -12pm in the parish hall. Contact Judy Prendergast (0407101254) or Julie Hayes (0452655844) for more information.

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
11/12 February	<u>Stevenie Harman</u> Michael Manton JS: Alex <u>Tuballa</u> C: Phillip Youngman R: <u>Bellinda Henderson</u>	<u>Matthew Topp</u> Barbara Ryan JS: Jessica <u>Topp</u> C: Geraldine Waters R: Sue <u>Mouthaan</u>	<u>John Cowen</u> David Green Connie Read Heather Barlow (Visit only) JS: Matthew Hamilton C: Don <u>Roberts</u> R: Brett Wright
18/19 February	<u>Stevenie Harman</u> Beth Nowland JS: Alex <u>Tuballa</u> C: Trish Ryan R: Mary <u>Balam</u>	<u>Matthew Topp</u> Pat Edwards JS: Jessica <u>Topp</u> Gabe <u>Manouk</u> Helen Larsen	<u>Lara Roser</u> Kevin Balkin Kay Walker (Visit) JS: N/A C: Trish Boyle R: Matthew Hamilton

Hospitality notice: Hospitality will commence in the Parish Hall this Sunday following the 6pm Vigil Mass and the 9.30am Mass. All welcome.

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.

Lenten Program: Deacon Batsirai will be running a Lenten group commencing on **Friday 24th February at 7pm** in the Parish Office meeting room. This group will be preceded by the Stations of the Cross at 6pm. If you are interested in attending, please complete the form in the church foyer or contact the parish office on 4735 1041.

You are 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

Prayerful reflective Bible Study: Matthew's Gospel within a Commentary by Scripture scholar, Michael Fallon, MSC. ENQUIRY SESSION on **TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY** (day & evening offered). Day and Evening GROUPS start the week beginning 27 FEBRUARY (does a day or an evening meeting suit you?) Enquiries Jim Potts 0421 125 722



LIFE ASCENDING GROUP

Life Ascending is a Spiritual Wellbeing group for people over the age of 55. The group offers you the opportunity to reflect and discuss the scriptures and our faith

Our first meeting for 2023 is on this Wednesday 15th February, commencing 10am, at Kay Walkers home 197 River Rd Leonay. Hope to see you there.

Parish Information

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

Parish priest: Fr Michael G. Gathuku
Deacon: Batsirai Maringehosi
Parish Office Administrator: Michele Norbury
Sacramental Co-ordinator: Cate Kensey
Parish Admin Assistant: Joanne 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:

STAMP out poverty with your used stamps: Mary Mackillop Today (MMT) recycles used stamps to raise urgently needed funds to fight poverty. Your used stamps will give disabled children an education in Papua New Guinea; fund training programs for poor women to learn life skills in Peru; and provide vital health. Care to poor communities in Timor-Leste. MMT are all volunteers, so all money goes to the poor and needy. Post used stamps to John Altham. 17 Boronia St, Kyle Bay, NSW 2221. Ph 0455205804 or email johnaltham@gmail.com for more information.

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

There will be a **weekend retreat on Evolutionary Spirituality** during the weekend of 3rd March to 5th March at Oakdale, NSW. The essence of this weekend experience is to see the Holy Spirit as "Lord and giver of Life" giving life to all creation, and how we are to be carers of creation as Christians. Cost \$95. Phone 0429595231 or email antiphon@outlook.com for more information.

OPEN NIGHT **PENOLA**
CATHOLIC COLLEGE
Tuesday 7 March 2023 4pm - 7pm
Enrolling now for Year 7 2024
Self-guided & guided
tours available
no bookings required
Your local 7-12 co-educational Catholic School
Walking in the footsteps of Saint Mary MacKillop
@PenolaEmuPlains P: 02 4728 8100 www.penolaemuplains.catholic.edu.au

Saints of the week:

13th February – St. Julian of Lyons
14th February – St. Cyril and Methodius, bishops
15th February – Bl. Michael Sopocko
16th February – St. Jeremy
17th February – The Seven Founders of Orders of Servites
18th February – Bl. Fra Angelico

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