

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, 19th February 2023 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A.

Welcome to the celebration of the mass.

Entrance Antiphon Ps 12:6

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

First Reading Lv 19:1-2, 17-18

A reading from the book of Leviticus

You must love your neighbour, as yourself.

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said:
‘Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: “Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.
“You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord.”’

Responsorial Psalm.

Ps 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13, R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and
compassion. (R.)

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

3. The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)
4. As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. (R.)

Second Reading

1 Cor 3:16-23

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

All things are yours, but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

Gospel Acclamation [1 Jn 2:5](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Whoever keeps the word of Christ,
grows perfect in the love of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Mt 5:38-48](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Love your enemies.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit?

Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

Communion Antiphon. [Ps 9:2-3](#)

I will recount all your wonders,
I will rejoice in you and be glad,
and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

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Project Compassion Sunday



Please take home a Project Compassion box or a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and **For All Future Generations**. With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction to build a better future for all. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.



Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased Catherine Allabyrne and Alex Peters, and for those whose 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 and Andrew Keenan. 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: Doris Field

Doris has been a parishioner of OLOW for 4½ years, before that she was in Glenbrook for 47 years. When she came here, she didn't know anyone, but quickly made friends in the knitting group. She loves the parish because 'everyone is so friendly'. Doris generally goes to 8am Sunday mass. She has 4 children, grandchildren, and some great grandchildren. Doris loves reading, especially mystery stories. Her favourite colour is red and her favourite food is chocolate. She loves the bible story about the workers in the vineyard, because she remembers a person she knew 'who wasn't very nice' but when they had a heart attack and were dying, they got baptised just in time. Then she felt God say to her: 'remember the workers in the vineyard' and she remembered this scripture story about God's mercy. Doris loves the hymn "Faith of our Fathers" and her favourite saint is St. Joseph. An interesting fact about Doris is that she was a receptionist for Allen's sweets. Also her daughter lived in New Guinea and she has visited her there. She has travelled to quite a few countries, including Hawaii, Hong Kong and New Zealand.



Parish Notices:

Ash Wednesday 22/2/23- Mass at 9am & 6.30pm. Stations of the Cross start on 24/2/23 followed by the Lenten Reflection Program

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.

OLOW Playgroup on Tuesdays at 9.30am. 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. For more information, please contact Judy Prendergast (0407101254) or Julie Hayes (0452655844).

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
18/19 February	<u>Stevenie Harman</u> Beth Nowland JS: Alex Tuballa C: Trish Ryan R: Mary Balam	<u>Matthew Topp</u> Pat Edwards JS: Jessica Topp. Gabe Manouk Helen Larsen	<u>Lara Roser</u> Kevin Balkin Kay Walker (Visit) JS: N/A C: Trish Boyle R: Matthew Hamilton
25/26 February	<u>John Cowen</u> <u>Anne Deutscher</u> JS: Alex Tuballa C: Debra Gleeson R: Marie McLennan	<u>Mark Norbury</u> John Lo Cascio JS: Evie Milroy C: Maria Sirotti R: Kay Walker	<u>Hartley Dhyon</u> David Green Denise Robens (Visit) JS: N/A C: Lisa Samojlowicz R: Courtney Hamilton

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

UPDATE: Matthew's Gospel small groups begin **Wednesday 1st March** (afternoon group 2pm, evening group 7pm – in homes, for 1.5 hours). Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. There are 6 spare Commentaries (10 already taken) for the reading needed prior to 1st March. Enquiries Jim 0421 125 722.

Hospitality notice: We have resumed our hospitality beginning this month on the 2nd & 4th Sunday after the 9.30am Mass. We are still looking for a group or persons for the 1st & 3rd Sunday. If you can assist in any way please contact the parish office. We also have a person organising hospitality after the 8am Mass on the 1st and 3rd Sunday.

Sacramental News: The Sacrament of Reconciliation commenced last week. Please join us in praying for the 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

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 Administration 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.

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

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

A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia: ACN is the Pontifical Foundation dedicated to supporting the suffering and persecuted Church. **HELP SYRIA.** *Aid to the Church in Need* (ACN) has launched an emergency appeal for the people in northern Syria desperate for help following the devastating earthquakes. ACN is begging for funds to support their long-time local project partners on the ground in Syria. To read more about what ACN is doing and to make an offering please visit www.aidtochurch.org/syriaearthquake or scan the QR code.



Our Lady of the Way School Enrolments

There will be two Enrolment Information Sessions for families interested in enrolling their child in Kindergarten 2024. Tuesday 7 March from 9.30am – 10.45am or Thursday 9 March from 3.30pm - 4.30pm. Come and see all the exciting things happening at Our Lady of the Way. There are also some vacancies in other grades. Please email the school office on olow@parra.catholic.edu.au or phone 4777 2700 to RSVP for the information sessions or for any further information regarding enrolments.

Saints of the week:

20th February – Sts. Jacinta and Francisco Marto
21st February – St. Peter Damian, bishop and doctor
22nd February – Ash Wednesday – fast and abstinence
23rd February – St. Polycarp of Smyrna, Bishop and Martyr
24th February – St. Montanus
25th February – St. Tarasius

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