

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



19 Troy St, Emu Plains
Phone: 4735 1041
Email: emuplains@parracatholic.org
Web: <https://catholicparishemuplains.org.au/>

Sunday, 26th February 2023 First Sunday of Lent Year A.

Welcome to the celebration of the mass.

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ps 90:15-16

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

First Reading [Gen 2:7-9: 3:1-7](#)

A reading from the book of Genesis

Creation of our first parents, and sin.

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.'

The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it.

Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

Responsorial Psalm. [Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. see v.3](#)

(R.) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin. **(R.)**
2. My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done. **(R.)**
3. A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **(R.)**
4. Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise. **(R.)**

Second Reading

[Rom 5:12-19](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous.

Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel Mt 4:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

Communion Antiphon. Mt 4:4

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

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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, Margaret Houlahan, 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.

GOD STILL HEALS TODAY! (Written by Kristina - Antony's mum)

On December 18th, 3 days before his 21st birthday, Antony (a parishioner from OLOW) was in a very serious car accident that left him with a fractured wrist, foot and lacerations on his body. The fracture in the foot was situated very close to his blood supply and possible surgery was discussed by the specialists. After viewing the initial scans, the doctors told Antony that he would not be able to drive for at least 6 months. Undeterred by this news, his family and friends (including from OLOW) laid their hands on Antony and prayed for a miraculous recovery and that is exactly what Antony received! Subsequent scans (4 weeks later) showed a completely healed hand and foot. The Orthopaedic Surgeon (whom Antony was referred to), was taken aback and had to call the hospital requesting the initial scans to verify that indeed there had actually been a fracture - so complete was the healing!!!

All glory and honour to Our God (Jehovah Rapha) who heals yesterday, today and forever!
"Heal me, O Lord and I shall be healed, save me and I shall be saved, for you are my praise." Jeremiah 17:14



Parish Notices:

Baptisms: The Parish joyfully welcomes Quinn McAllister into our Faith Community. May God bless Quinn and her family.

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**. Please complete the form in the church foyer if you are interested in attending the Lenten group.

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. Please contact Judy Prendergast (0407101254) or Julia Hayes (0452655844).

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
25/26 February	<u>John Cowen</u> <u>Anne Deutscher</u> JS: Alex <u>Tuballa</u> C: Debra Gleeson R: Marie McLennan	<u>Mark Norbury</u> John Lo Cascio JS: Evie Milroy C: Maria <u>Sirotti</u> R: Kay Walker	<u>Hartley Dhyon</u> David Green Denise Robens (Visit) JS: N/A C: Lisa <u>Samojlowicz</u> R: Courtney Hamilton
4/5 March	<u>Stevie Harman</u> Debra Gleeson JS: Alex <u>Tuballa</u> C: Louise Goderie R: Victor <u>Tuballa</u>	<u>Mark Norbury</u> Noeline Bangel JS: Evie Milroy C: Paul Ryan R: Jessica <u>Topp</u>	<u>Lara Roser</u> Connie Read Kay Walker Heather Barlow (Visit only) JS: Matthew Hamilton C: Marianne Castor R: Denise <u>Robens</u>

Plan Giving Envelopes: The 2023/2024 Plan Giving envelopes are out. We are sorry for delaying them, this was due to a minor technical hitch. Please be informed, due to the fact that many people no longer use plan giving or have left the parish, some numbers have changed. Please check on your name, not necessarily the number. Those affected your record remains intact. In case we have missed your name or you're joining for the first time, please let us know.

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.



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



Please donate to Project Compassion 2023. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

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:

Glenbrook Parish Lenten Biblical Studies: Starts 28 February; exploring the Gospel of Matthew and the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus. Presented by parish priest Fr Joseph Lam, - 28 February, 7 March and 28 March from 7.30pm at the parish. RSVP, secretary@stfinbars.org.au

Clean up Diocese of Parramatta Day: 5 March Catholic Youth Parramatta and MET – Peace, Justice and Ecology invite you to take action! On Clean Up Australia Day, Sunday 5 March, witness to the call to take care of God's creation. Join or organise a group to clean up a site in your local area. Express your interest today by visiting <https://parracatholic.org/cleanup/>

Parish SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP: Is anyone interested in being part of such a group? Our Diocese has a Peace, Justice and Ecology Coordinator (**Dr Sebastian Salaske-Lentern**) and Team based in Parramatta. <https://parracatholic.org/socialjustice/> Easy to subscribe to their monthly Newsletter too from that website. Jim 0421 125 722

Palm Sunday Welcome Refugees Rally: 2nd April from 2 - 4pm at Lawson Catholic Church. Contact Julie Brackenreg 0401 516 482 or see Blue Mtns Refugee Support Group <https://bmrsq.org.au/>

MET FaithLIFE Scripture Course: Starting 23 February Want to learn more about the Bible? Sign up for the FaithLIFE 3-night short course on Scripture with Dr Michele Connolly rsj, brought to you by the Mission Enhancement Team (MET). 6:30PM to 8:30PM on three Thursdays: 23 February, 2 March and 9 March. Downstairs at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown. RSVP via <https://pfparra.org.au/faithlife/>

A Message From the 2023 Epiphany Pilgrims: Thank you for making us feel so welcome at Our Lady of the Way during our recent Epiphany Pilgrimage - we were so blessed by the hospitality of your community. A particular thanks to all those who assisted with the Commissioning Mass and morning tea, urging us onward and upward for our first of seven days of pilgrimage through the bushland of the mountains. Thank you to Fr Michael and Joanne for their assistance, and to Chris, Lyn and Stevenie for helping to make Mass so beautiful. Thanks especially to John Cowen for coordinating our time with your community and to all those parishioners who joined us for the celebrations and made us feel so welcome. What a joy and privilege it was to begin 2023 in prayer and friendship with one another in Christ as we journeyed in the spiritual footsteps of the Magi. You can check out some photos from the pilgrimage by scanning the QR code or visiting <https://www.epiphanypilgrimage.org/photos-2023.html>

Saints of the week:

27th February – St. Gregory of Narek
28th February – St. Hilary, Pope
1st March – St. David
2nd March – St. Angela of the Cross Guerrero
3rd March – St. Katherine Drexel
4th March – St. Casimir of Poland

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