

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 March 2023 Third Sunday of Lent Year A.

Welcome to the celebration of the mass.

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ps 24:15-16

My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.

First Reading Ex 17:3-7

A reading from the book of Exodus

Give us water to drink.

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. ‘Why did you bring us out of Egypt?’ they said. ‘Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?’ Moses appealed to the Lord. ‘How am I to deal with this people?’ he said. ‘A little more and they will stone me!’ The Lord said to Moses, ‘Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.’ This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, ‘Is the Lord with us, or not?’

Responsorial Psalm. Ps 94:1-2, 6-9. R. v.8

**(R.) If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.**

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R.)**
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **(R.)**
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my
work.’ **(R.)**

Second Reading Rom 5:1-2, 5-8

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God’s glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel Acclamation [See Jn 4:42. 15](#)

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, that I may never thirst
again. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus
Christ!

Gospel [Jn 4:5-15. 19-26. 39-42](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering
and who it is that is saying to you:
Give me a drink,
you would have been the one to ask,
and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again: but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

Communion Antiphon. [Jn 4:13-14](#)

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,
the water I shall give will become in him
a spring welling up to eternal life.

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Let us pray: We pray for Fr Mick, Arthur Reid and Joseph Aaron whose death anniversaries are at this time. We also pray for all our brothers and sisters in our community who are unwell, especially, Marta Mederos, Bernadette Hoolahan, 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.

Parishioner of the week: Judy Prendergast

Judy has been married to Jim for 50 years - Happy Wedding Anniversary for the 17th March Judy and Jim! They have been involved with OLOW since 1973. Jim used to work at Bingo on Thursday nights and housie down at the Police Boys Club. They also used to clean bricks to build the hall. Judy also went to craft mornings to make craft for school fetes so they could build more school rooms. She used to help students with reading in the classrooms at OLOW on Wednesdays. Her son Scott and daughter Kim went to OLOW primary school and now her 6 grandchildren go here. Judy just loves being a part of this community. She loves the 'wrapped with love' knitting ladies because 'they want to make a difference'. She loves their faithfulness, coming each week to knit blankets, etc. for those in need. Judy's favourite colour is green and her favourite saint is St Patrick whose feast day is 17th March. Her favourite hymn is 'Here I am Lord' and she loves Italian food. An interesting fact about Judy is that she worked for the Commonwealth bank as a customs service officer for over 30 years. She would like to see Vatican city one day.



Parish Notices:

Stations of the Cross - Every Friday during Lent, commencing at 6pm.

Lenten Program - Deacon Batsirai is running a Lenten reflection group. Please be advised that this will now be on **Friday at 5pm** prior to the Stations of the Cross. All are welcome.

Volunteers Needed: GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS. We are requesting people to volunteer to lead on Good Friday Stations of the Cross. Any age or capability is welcome. The Stations of the Cross will be performed in tableau form. Good Friday is on **7th April 2023** and the Stations of the Cross will be at **10am**. For more information, contact Debra on 0418259757.

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 Julia Hayes (0452655844).

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
11/12 March	<i>John Cowen</i> Michael Manton JS: Alex Tuballa C: Lynne Castellari R: Bellinda Henderson	<i>Matthew Topp</i> Barbara Ryan JS: Jessica Topp C: Geraldine Waters R: Sue Mouthaan	<i>Hartley Dhyon</i> David Green Kay Walker (Visit) JS: Matthew Hamilton C: Don Robens R: Brett Wright
18/19 March	<i>Deacon Batsirai</i> <i>Stevenie Harman</i> JS: Alex Tuballa C: Phillip Youngman R: Trish Ryan	<i>Mark Norbury</i> Pat Edwards JS: Evie Milroy C: Gabe Manouk R: Helen Larsen	<i>Hartley Dhyon</i> David Green Connie Reid Heather Barlow Visit only. JS: N/A C: Trish Boyle R: Matthew Hamilton

Baptisms: The Parish joyfully welcomes Amy McAuley, Alexander Cremona, Jaxon Crawford and Beau Cunningham into our Faith Community. May God bless these children and their families.

Choir rehearsals for Easter: If you would like to be part of the choir for the Easter Vigil, please join us for rehearsals commencing Tuesday 14th March at 7.30pm.

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. For more information, visit <https://parracatholic.org/socialjustice/> You can also subscribe to their monthly newsletter from this website. Jim 0421 125 722.



Care for our Common Home:
Penrith City Council **Bushcare:**

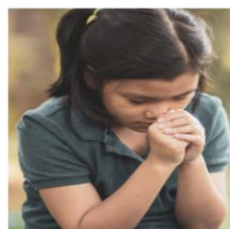
Starts 21 March, 9am Hollier Reserve (M4 end of Troy St). Volunteers needed. Jim 0421 125 722.



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 next meeting is on **Wednesday 15th March**, commencing 10am, at Kay Walker's home- 197 River Rd Leonay. You are all welcome.



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:

Holy Hour for Vocations – Wednesday 15 March. Join Fr Chris del Rosario and the Vocations Team in praying for Vocations - 7pm at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta.

Charismatic Healing Mass- Sunday 19 March. Mass will be followed by individual prayer for healing. Celebrant: Robin Koning SJ, 2:00 pm at St Nicholas of Myra Church, 326 High Street, Penrith (Car Park entry via Higgins St)

The FaithFeed "On the move" - Greystanes, Sunday 26 March

Have questions about life & faith? Join with others on the search at The FaithFeed live studio audience - hosted by Greystanes in the Central Deanery – all are welcome! The FaithFeed will be on Sunday 26 March at the parish hall after the 6PM mass. Doors open 7:00PM for a 7:30PM start. The night will feature faith stories + live music + activities + great conversation. **Book now:** <https://tinyurl.com/tffrego>

Masterclass for Sponsor Married Couples - Friday, 24 March The Diocese is looking to more deeply accompany couples preparing to be married. Have you been married for more than 5 years? Committed to living the sacrament of Marriage? Willing to give time limited assistance to couples preparing for marriage? Join us for a Masterclass on Friday 24 March at 7.30pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown, on mentoring engaged couples in your Parish using the SmartLoving Engaged Online program. To book your attendance or to ask further questions, please **email** met@parracatholic.org or **phone** Marisa on (02) 8838 3460.

Mt Schoenstatt 24 Hours for the Lord: 17 – 18 March Come and spend some time with Our Lord and Our Lady in the Mt Schoenstatt Shrine, Mulgoa, beginning with 6pm Mass on Friday 17 March, followed by Reconciliation from 7:15pm – 10pm. On Saturday, Reconciliation will be held at 10am-12pm, and at 3pm-4.45pm with a Vigil Mass at 5pm. The Shrine will be welcoming people for prayer for the full 24 Hours. Groups to lead prayer are welcome. Contact paulandramani@gmail.com

Jesus and Forgiveness – Sunday 2 April 12-2pm at Lawson with Dr Laurie Woods, Scripture scholar. Please see our parish noticeboard for more information.

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://bmrsg.org.au/>

Saints of the week:

13th March – St. Patricia of Nicomedia

14th March – St. Matilda

15th March – St. Clement Hofbauer

16th March – St. Julian of Antioch

17th March – St. Patrick, bishop

18th March – St. Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop and doctor



<https://www.holytrinity.org/holy-trinity-church/updates/updates/2021/03/18-Patrick-2.jpg>

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