

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 March 2023 Fourth Sunday of Lent Year A.

Welcome to the celebration of the mass.

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Is 66:10-11

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First Reading [1 Sm 16:1, 6-7, 10-13](#)

A reading from the first book of Samuel

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, ‘Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.’ When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, ‘Surely the Lord’s anointed one stands there before him,’ but the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.’ Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, ‘The Lord has not chosen these.’ He then asked Jesse, ‘Are these all the sons you have?’ He answered, ‘There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.’

Then Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.’ Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, ‘Come, anoint him, for this is the one.’ At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his

brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Responsorial Psalm. [Ps 22 R. v.1](#)

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **(R.)**
2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **(R.)**
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
In the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **(R.)**
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord’s own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **(R.)**

Second Reading [Eph 5:8-14](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile

works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel Acclamation [Jn 8:12](#)

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel [Jn 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Communion Antiphon. [Cf. Jn 9:11,38](#)

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

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Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased Donald Brennan, and for Karen McInnes, Noel Irvin & Mary Chetcuti 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, 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.

Parishioners of the week: Jim Prendergast and the grounds team

Jim Prendergast is one of the original parish members at Our Lady of the Way and is part of the parish grounds team. He is married to Judy who runs the parish knitters' group. Jim says he has been 'wondering around mowing lawns here' for the past 40 years. Thank-you for your service Jim!

His favourite colour is blue and his favourite food is chicken schnitzel. All the people in the parish have become part of his life - 'like an extended family'. Interesting facts about Jim are that he was 41 years in the NSW police force and represented the country in triathlons. He has travelled the world with this sport and was president of the Panthers triathlon club for 15 years. His best saying is 'the older you get, the better I was'.

There are four teams working on the church grounds on Saturdays (on a rotating roster). They do general lawn maintenance and anything else that needs fixing in the parish – blocked toilets, broken lights, etc. If you are interested in joining Jim and the grounds team please contact the parish office.



Parish Notices:

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

Lenten Program - Deacon Batsirai is running a Lenten reflection group on Friday at 5pm, prior to the Stations of the Cross. All are welcome.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023- 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/ envelopes, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

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.

Choir rehearsals for Easter: If you would like to be part of the choir for the Easter Vigil, please join us for rehearsals on **Tuesday evening at 7.30pm**.

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
18/19 March	Deacon Batsirai Stevenie Harman JS: Alex Tuballa C: Phillip Youngman R: Trish Ryan	Mark Norbury Pat Edwards JS: Evie Milroy C: Gabe Manouk R: Helen Larsen	Hartley Dhyon David Green Connie Reid Heather Barlow Visit only. JS: N/A C: Trish Boyle R: Matthew Hamilton
23/26 March	Stevenie Harman Beth Nowland JS: Alex Tuballa C: Deborah Gleeson R: Mary Balam	Matthew Topp John Lo Cascio JS: Jessica Topp C: Maria Sirotti R: Kay Walker	Deacon Batsirai Lara Raser Denise Robens (Visit) JS: Matthew Hamilton C: Lisa Samojlowicz R: Courtney Hamilton

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).

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.

Divine Mercy Sunday: Come and celebrate the Feast of Divine Mercy at St Nicholas of Myra Church, Penrith on **Sunday 16 April at 2.30pm**. The afternoon will include: Blessing of Divine Mercy Image, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Stations of the Cross, Homily and Benediction, Reconciliation (until 5pm), Afternoon Tea (4.14pm-5.15pm) and Divine Mercy Mass at 6pm. All are welcome.

Charismatic Healing Mass: Mass will be followed by individual prayer for healing. Celebrant: Robin Koning SJ, **Sunday 19 March 2023, 2pm** at St Nicholas of Myra Church, Penrith.

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:

Bush School Cambodia - Fundraiser with **live musical entertainment**. 7pm Saturday 25th March, St Finbar's Church, Glenbrook. Ph Doug: 0403 303 943

MGL Sisters Consecrated Life Discernment Weekend: 25 – 26 March

The Missionaries of God's Love Sisters are creating an opportunity for single women aged 16-35 to come and listen for the voice of Jesus, ask questions and experience prayer, talks, sisterhood and times of sharing to help you discern your vocation. 25-26 March at the Sisters' home in Varroville. For more information, and to register, email mqlsisters.sydney@gmail.com

Caritas Australia Turkey and Syria Earthquake Emergency Appeal: A 7.8 magnitude earthquake has unleashed devastation on Türkiye and Syria. Over 50,000 people have been killed, with many more injured and left homeless. We must act NOW and help those affected by this catastrophe. Your generous donation means our partners in Türkiye and Syria can respond swiftly to support the survivors of this unimaginable tragedy. Visit: www.caritas.org.au/syria-turkey or call 1800 024 413 toll free to donate now.

Divine Retreat Centre offerings in March: The Divine Retreat Centre in Somersby, NSW is hosting a variety of single-day and weekend retreats throughout March, including a Lenten Growth retreat and its monthly one-day pilgrimage. For more information and bookings, please contact 0468 486 782 or email drcsydney@gmail.com to confirm attendance. Visit www.divineretreatcentre.org.au for more information.

****NEW DATE** MET Worship RCIA Workshop: 29 March** Parish teams involved in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults at Easter are invited to a workshop hosted by the MET Worship team on Wednesday 29 March at 7pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Parish teams will learn how to prepare for the Rites on Holy Saturday and where to after Easter. To RSVP, please contact hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org

Parramatta Catholic Foundation: Next weekend will be the **Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal**. Your generosity will enable our Holy Spirit Seminary in Harris Park to provide for the education and formation of the faithful men who have answered God's call to become priests.

As our Diocese continues to grow, we need to train more visionary young men to join our 11 seminarians in becoming good shepherds of Christ's flock. We invite you to be the extended formation community for our seminarians on their journey to becoming priests.

Your prayerful support and accompaniment will enable our seminarians, to pursue their vocation of a life of humble service as priests for our Diocese.

Saints of the week:

20th March – St. Joseph, Spouse of Mary

21st March – St. Enda

22nd March – St. Lea

23rd March – St. Rafqa

24th March – St. Oscar Romero

25th March – The Annunciation of the Lord

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