

# 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, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023 Fifth Sunday of Lent Year A.

Welcome to the celebration of the mass.

### **Entrance Antiphon** Cf. Ps 42:1-2

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

### **First Reading** Ez 37:12-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

*I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.*

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

### **Responsorial Psalm.**

*Ps 129. R. v.7*

**(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice!  
O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. (R.)
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?  
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. (R.)

3. My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word.  
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. (Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.) (R.)

4. Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. (R.)

### **Second Reading** Rom 8:8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.*

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

### **Gospel Acclamation** See Jn 11:25, 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

## **Gospel** [Jn 11:1-45](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John



*I am the resurrection and the life.*

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. – It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, ‘Lord, the man you love is ill.’ On receiving the message, Jesus said, ‘This sickness will end not in death but in God’s glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.’

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, ‘Let us go to Judaea.’ The disciples said, ‘Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?’ Jesus replied:

‘Are there not twelve hours in the day?

A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by; but if he walks at night he stumbles, because there is no light to guide him.’

He said that and then added, ‘Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.’ The disciples said to him, ‘Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.’ The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by ‘rest’ he meant ‘sleep’, so Jesus put it plainly, ‘Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.’ Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, ‘Let us go too, and die with him.’

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, ‘If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.’ ‘Your brother’ said Jesus to her ‘will rise again.’ Martha said, ‘I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said:

‘I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,  
and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?’

‘Yes, Lord,’ she said ‘I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.’

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, ‘The Master is here and wants to see you.’ Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’ At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, ‘Where have you put him?’ They said, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus wept; and the Jews said, ‘See how much he loved him!’ But there were some who remarked, ‘He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man’s death?’ Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, ‘Take the stone away.’ Martha said to him, ‘Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.’ Jesus replied, ‘Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

‘Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me,  
but I speak

for the sake of all these who stand round me,  
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.’

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, here! Come out!’ The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, let him go free.’

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.



## **Communion Antiphon.** [Cf. Jn 11:26](#)

Everyone who lives and believes in me  
will not die for ever, says the Lord.

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**Let us pray:** We pray for recently deceased Angus McNab and 19 year old Joseph Kennedy. John Finn and members of the Stipic 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, Helen O'Connor, Mato Stipic, Marta Mederos, Bernadette Hoolahan, Margaret 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: We need you!**

If you would like to be parishioner of the week or would like to volunteer a friend (with their permission), we would like to hear from you. Please email Louise at [louise.goderie@gmail.com](mailto:louise.goderie@gmail.com) with a photo and a brief description of yourself.

**Parish Notices:**

**Stations of the Cross** – Every Friday during Lent commencing at 6pm at OLOW church.

**Lenten Program** -Deacon Batsirai is running a Lenten reflection group on Fridays 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.

**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 and Commentators for Holy Week:** We are requesting current readers and commentators to add their name to the roster for Palm Sunday and Holy Week liturgies. The sign-up sheet is in the church foyer if you would like to be involved.

**Readers/ Commentators roster:**

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
23/26 March	Stevie 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 Roser Denise Robens (Visit) JS: Matthew Hamilton C: Lisa Samojlowicz R: Courtney Hamilton
1 /2 April	Stevie Harman Michael Manton JS: Alex Tuballa C: Louise Goderie R: Marie McLennan	Deacon Batsirai Mark Norbury JS: Evie Milroy C: Paul Ryan R: Jessica Topp	John Cowen David Green Kay Walker (Visit) JS: Matthew Hamilton C: Marianne Castor R: Denise Robens

**Please note that Daylight Savings ends in NSW on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 3am. Please move your clocks back one hour.**

**BAPTISMS:** The Parish joyfully welcomes Elijah Dimech, Azahlia Duarte and Holly Hughes into our Faith Community. May God bless these children and their families.

**FIRST RECONCILIATION:**

On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March, 43 children made their first reconciliation. It was a very beautiful and grace filled night – thank you for all your prayers and support. I would especially like to thank the volunteers who assisted in the program – Sue, Wolfgang, Margaret, Mary, Mario and Lyn, Jackie, Les and Helen. Blessings, Cate

**Parish SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP:** Our Diocese has a Peace, Justice and Ecology Coordinator (Dr Sebastian Salaske-Lentern) and Team based in Parramatta. <https://parracatholic.org/socialjustice/> Jim 0421 125 722

**CYP Good Friday Night Walk: 7 April**

Young people are invited to join Catholic Youth Parramatta and Bishop Vincent for the annual 21km Good Friday Night Walk from Blacktown to the Cathedral. For more information and to register visit <https://parracatholic.org/goodfridaywalk/>

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2023-**

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for future generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/ envelopes, by visiting [caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://caritas.org.au/projectcompassion), 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](mailto:emuplains@parracatholic.org)) for information on reconciliation, communion and confirmation.

## Masses and Reconciliation

<b>Palm Sunday 01/04/23</b> <b>02/04/23</b>	6.00pm Vigil Mass 8.00am Mass 9.30am Mass
<b>Tuesday 04/04/23</b>	5.00pm Reconciliation 6.00pm Evening Mass
<b>Wednesday 05/04/23</b>	9.30am Reconciliation 9.00am Morning Mass
<b>Thursday 06/04/23</b>	9.00am Reconciliation 7.30pm The Lord's Supper
<b>Friday (Good Friday) 07/04/23</b>	10.00am Stations of the Cross 3.00pm Passion of Our Lord
<b>Saturday 08/04/23</b>	7.00pm The Easter Vigil
<b>Easter Sunday 09/04/23</b>	8.00am Mass 9.30am Mass

## Diocese of Parramatta Notices:

**Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal for our Holy Spirit Seminarians:** Our Holy Spirit Seminary in Harris Park is preparing men who have been called by God to be good shepherds to serve His people. Will you support our seminarians to humbly serve our faith community? Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal at [yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal)

## Saints of the week:

27<sup>th</sup> March – St. Rupert

28<sup>th</sup> March – St. Tutilo

29<sup>th</sup> March – St. Gladys

30<sup>th</sup> March – St. Fergus

31<sup>st</sup> March – St. Benjamin

1<sup>st</sup> April – St. Ludovic Pavoni.



## 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