

# 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, 9th April 2023 Easter Sunday Year A.

Welcome to the celebration of the mass.

### Entrance Antiphon

*Cf. Ps 138:18,5-6*

I have risen, and I am with you still alleluia. You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia. Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.



### First Reading *Acts 10:34. 37-43*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.*

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: ‘You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell

them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.’

### Responsorial Psalm. *Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R. v.24*

**(R.) This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.**

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.  
Let the sons of Israel say:  
‘His love has no end.’ **(R.)**
2. The Lord’s right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up.  
I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. **(R.)**
3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. **(R.)**

### Second Reading *Col 3:1-4*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

*Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.*

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God’s right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

## Gospel Acclamation

[1 Cor 5:7-8](#)

### **Alleluia, alleluia!**

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord. **Alleluia!**

## Gospel [Jn 20:1-9](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
*The teaching of scripture is that he must rise from the dead.*

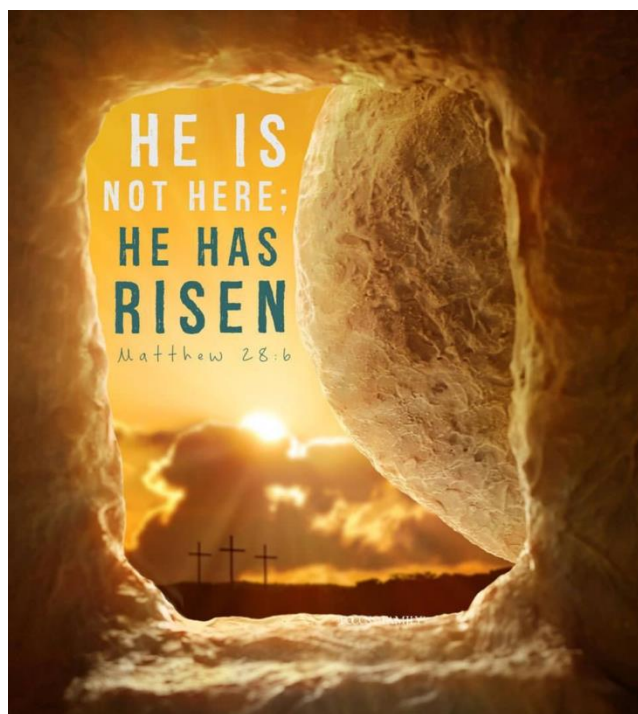
It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

## Communion Antiphon. [1 Cor 5:7-8](#)

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.

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**Divine Mercy Sunday:** Come and celebrate the Feast of Divine Mercy at St Nicholas of Myra Church, Penrith on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> 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 (4.15 pm – 5:15pm)



**Let us pray:** We pray for recently deceased, Phil Haley and Joy Ureta Jochico. Joselyn McNielly and Mary Ann Mifsud 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, Maria Mercieca, 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.

## Parish Notices:

The Parish joyfully welcomes Andrew Gabriel into our Faith Community who was baptised and confirmed at the Easter Vigil Mass. Andrew was part of our RCIA program. May God bless him and his family this Easter and always.

**Easter Offertory:** Easter is a special time when we come together as a parish family to remember the death and Resurrection of our saviour, Jesus Christ. Our parish relies on the generosity of our faith community to sustain our liturgical, sacramental, pastoral, and charitable ministries and we are ever grateful for your support. Please consider an Easter Offertory gift. Our Tap to Give has been pre-set with a gift amount of \$10. If you wish to give more, please tap multiple times to increase your giving. Alternatively, please visit our website or donate online via [parracatholic.org/easter-offertory](http://parracatholic.org/easter-offertory). Your gift will nurture the spiritual vitality of our parish and will ensure that we can continue to provide Christian pastoral care that brings hope and joy to our community.

**OLOW playgroup : Urgent request-** If you are interested in running the OLOW playgroup, please contact the Parish office on 4735 1041.

**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).

### **Referendum on a First People's Voice to Federal Parliament / Executive Government.**

Copies with links to web pages and QR codes are available in the church foyer.

### **Readers/ Commentators roster:**

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
EASTER ROSTER			
LITURGY	HOLY THURSDAY 7.30PM	GOOD FRIDAY 3.00PM	SERVICE OF LIGHT 7.00PM
	EASTER SUNDAY 8.00AM	EASTER SUNDAY 9.30AM	
	Deacon Batsirai Mark Norbury Denise Robens Stevenie Harman Thurifer JS: Matthew Hamilton JS: Alex Tuballa	Deacon Batsirai John Cowen Kay Walker JS: Stevenie Harman JS: Matthew Hamilton	Deacon Batsirai John Cowen Stevenie Harman Thurifer JS: Alex Tuballa
	Matthew Topp Barbara Ryan JS: Evie Milroy	Lara Roser David Green Denise Robens	
15/16 April	Deacon Batsirai John Cowen JS: Alex Tuballa C: Lynne Castellari R: Victor Tuballa	Mark Norbury Barbara Ryan JS: Evie Milroy C: Geraldine Waters R: Sue Mouthaan	Lara Roser Kevin Balkin Connie Reid <b>Heather Barlow (Visit only)</b> JS: Matthew Hamilton C: Don Robens R: Brett Wright

## Easter Message to parishioners 2023

Dear Parishioners,  
I wish you all a very happy and blessed Easter 2023. Welcome to all the visitors who have joined us this Easter to celebrate with us the basics of our Christian faith. May Easter deepen our faith, and may we realise that Jesus is truly risen. He has conquered death and has invited all of us into His risen life. May Easter help us understand and appreciate life, and more appreciate times of dying and rising to new life in our earthly journey.

Every Good Friday, our lives can be transformed into an Easter Sunday. No pain, no sorrow, not even death need defeat us; all is made new in our Risen Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The Easter story is one of hope and infinite love. We notice this in Mary of Magdala coming to the tomb looking for Jesus but only realising she was looking at the wrong place; Mary's attention was on the wrong place, namely the tomb. It was time for her to set her eyes on victory and new life; Jesus had left the silence of the tomb to new life. The apostles Peter and John also set their eyes on the wrong place too, the tomb. They didn't realise their eyes were supposed to focus on Jesus' resurrection. Jesus had defeated death and brought freedom and hope.

Mary of Magdala, Peter and James made an intentional choice to look for Jesus, but they looked for Him in the wrong place to begin with. They didn't realise that the horrific moments of His passion and death had been conquered by the resurrection. Through His resurrection, Jesus unleashed the power of love. Easter is the time we are invited to seize that power in the spirit of victory. We make victory our story and diffuse it into our neighbourhood and especially to our brothers and sisters who are hopeless. We're called to ignite hope in them.

May this Easter be for all in our church and community a glimpse of the true reality won for us by Christ, which will never pass away. Let us pray that the Risen Lord in His infinite mercy and compassion will look upon our world and bring peace and harmony.

Once again, I wish you and your families a Happy Easter.

**Fr Michael G Gathuku PP**

Our Lady of the Way, Emu Plains.

## Parish Information

**The Parish office will be closed from Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April to be reopened on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April.**  
**For emergency, please contact 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 **No Mass**

Wednesday **Communion Service**

Thursday and Friday Mass as usual at 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.

## Diocese of Parramatta Notices:

**Liturgical Music Workshop: 4 May** Musicians, Clergy & Liturgy Planners are invited to attend a Music Workshop Presented by Eric Grella on Singing the Psalms & Chant on Thursday 4 May from 7pm - 8:30pm at 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown. RSVP by 1 May to [hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org](mailto:hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org)

**Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend: 6 – 7 May** How prepared are you for marriage? Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life. We give you a chance to spend time together to strengthen and enrich your relationship. The next Engaged Encounter Weekend will be held on 6 – 7 May. If COVID restrictions prevent a face-to-face weekend, it will be held via Zoom. For further information and to register, visit [www.engagedencounter.org.au/](http://www.engagedencounter.org.au/)

**Palms Australia: Change their lives and yours:** Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills with those who have less opportunity to develop their talents. Explore 35 positions by scanning the QR code below. On our website, you can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand. Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know: (02) 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567 or visit [www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au)



## **The FaithFeed On The Move: 7 May**

Have questions about life & faith? Join with others on the search at The FaithFeed live studio audience - hosted by Glenbrook in the Mountains Deanery – all are welcome! The FaithFeed will be on Sunday 7 May 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>

**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:

10<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Monday  
11<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Tuesday  
12<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Wednesday  
13<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Thursday  
14<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Friday  
15<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Saturday  
16<sup>th</sup> April – Divine Mercy Sunday



## 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