

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, 30th April 2023 Fourth Sunday of Easter Year A.

Welcome to the celebration of the mass.

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ps 32:5-6

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.



First Reading Acts 2:14. 36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: ‘The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.’

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, ‘What must we do, brothers?’ ‘You must repent,’ Peter answered ‘and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.’ He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, ‘Save yourselves from this perverse generation.’ They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

Responsorial Psalm. Ps 22:1-6. 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 1 Pt 2:20-25

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth.

He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation [Jn 10:14](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Jn 10:1-10](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

Communion Antiphon.

The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

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Prayer before the Crucifix
at San Damiano

Most High, glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of my heart
and give me true faith,
certain hope and perfect charity,
sense and knowledge, Lord,
that I may carry out
Your holy and true command.

<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/3b/e4/0b/3be40b9f6393176e4769fd4fb62acb2d.jpg>



Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased, Kevin Keenan, Shirley Cameron (Funeral 1st May at 11.30am) and James Clarke (Funeral 8th May at 10.30am). We pray for Harry Sloman whose anniversary of death is 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, Bernadette Hoolahan, Maria Mercieca, Marta Mederos, 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.

Parish Notices:

Position available at OLOW: Cleaner.

5 hours per fortnight cleaning the Presbytery and Parish office. Phone the Parish office on 4735 1041 for more information.

Church Warden Volunteers needed – We are in need of a couple people to temporarily take on this role at the 9:30am Mass. It includes unlocking/locking the church, welcoming, among other duties. Please see Bill and Sue Beck (current church wardens) or contact the Parish Office if you can assist with this role.

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).

OLOW playgroup : If you are interested in running the OLOW playgroup, please contact the Parish office on 4735 1041 for more details.

Grounds team: The new roster is in the church foyer, ready for collection. Thanks for all you do.

The FaithFeed On The Move: Have questions about life & faith? Would you love to be among young adults who share the same journey? Are you aged between 18-40? 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. Speaker for the evening is Steve Baird, CEO of International Justice Mission Australia.

Book now: <https://tinyurl.com/tffrego>

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
29/30 April	John Cowen Beth Nowland JS: Alex Tuballa C: Trish Ryan R: Mary Balam	Deacon Batsirai Matthew Topp JS: Jessica Topp C: Maria Sirotti R: Kay Walker	Lara Roser David Green Denise Robens (Visit) JS: Matthew Hamilton C: Lisa Samojlowicz R: Courtney Hamilton
6/7 May	Deacon Batsirai Stevenie Harman JS: Alex Tuballa C: Deborah Gleeson R: Marie McLennan	Mark Norbury Pat Edwards JS: Evie Milroy C: Paul Ryan R: Jessica Topp	Hartley Dhyon Connie Reid Kevin Balkin Heather Barlow (Visit only) JS: Matthew Hamilton C: Marianne Castor R: Denise Robens

Be part of the journey towards our

DIOCESAN SYNOD! Have your voice heard and listen to how the Holy Spirit is guiding us here in the Diocese of Parramatta. You're invited to the Blue Mountains Deanery (of which OLOW is part) Listening Consultation on Saturday 20 May from 7:30pm to 9:30pm, at Springwood. Bishop Vincent will be attending. RSVP no later than 16 May by registering on this link

https://parracatholic.org/synod_getinvolved/
Click on "Attend your Deanery Consultation".

For more information about the Synod visit www.parracatholic.org/synod2023

Inquiries Kay (0430 193 000) or Jim (0421 125 722), Parish Reps for Deanery.

Synod 2023: Group Facilitation Training.

One 2 hour session (Thursday **4 May** (evening) or Saturday **6 May** (morning and afternoon).

Details and Registration:

<https://parracatholic.org/synod2023/> and click on "Get Involved".

You can apply even if you want to experience how to have a spiritual conversation one-on-one.

Freedom in Christ Conference – Unbound:

Neal and Janet Lozano are lay Roman Catholics from US. They have served together for more than forty years in pastoral care. Their Freedom in Christ conference is a loving and reproducible model that helps people to respond to the good news of the gospel and apply the truth to their lives through prayer ministry, repentance and renunciation. Roman Catholic Bishops and Archbishops in the U.S. and in other countries have endorsed Unbound. The Lozano's will be conducting a conference in Sydney on Friday evening 5th May and Saturday 6th May 2023. For more information, please call Mark Norbury on 043 103 8258.

Ignite Conference 23: This is a conference for everyone! High-schoolers, young adults, adults 25+, leaders and first-time believers. It is 4 days of formation, renewal of faith and worship:

Brisbane 21-24 Sept; Sydney 28 Sep-1 Oct.

The conference will feature the Ignite Youth team, Fr Rob Galea, Sam Clear, Brendan Malone and Emmanuel Worship. Please see the church foyer for a flyer and/or pamphlet.

For more information, please visit igniteconference.com.au

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:

Positions Vacant:

- **Communications and Digital Manager** – Diocese of Parramatta
- **Communications Assistant** – Diocese of Parramatta
- **Lead Support** – Diocesan Synod

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

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

Marriage Preparation Courses in 2023 Getting married in 2023? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit www.parracatholic.org/pmp to view weekend course dates in the New Year, to book and pay. An online preparation called *SmartLoving* can also be booked via the website. For more information, email met@parracatholic.org or phone Karin on 0419 242 435 or Marisa on 0412 280 017.

MET Natural Fertility Seminar – Couples Hoping to Conceive: 20 May Hear about Restorative Reproductive Medicine and natural methods of achieving pregnancy. This topic is of particular interest to couples that are trying to conceive a child where they may have infertility issues and are seeking medical intervention to help them. Hear from trained professionals about a women's health science, the Creighton Model which is used in conjunction with NaProTechnology (www.fccau.org). This free event will be held on Saturday 20 May from 1pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. For more information and to register, contact catherine.bourne@parracatholic.org or 0400 427 605.

REACH Recovery Wellbeing Program Katoomba: Starting 4 May. Reach Recovery Program, designed by the Black Dog Institute. Starting on Thursday 4 May from 10am to 12pm for 9 weeks at The Carrington Hotel, 15-47 Katoomba St, Katoomba. Morning Tea will be provided. Presented by Virginia Field. To RSVP, please contact (02) 8843 2500 or email enquiries@ccss.org.au.

Diocesan Food and Toiletries Drive for Refugees Each week, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) and the House of Welcome (HoW) provide much needed food and toiletry items to hundreds of Refugees from across the Diocese of Parramatta. These services depend on donations. Find more information at parracatholic.org/diocesanfooddrive or call JRS on (02) 9356 3888 or HoW on (02) 9727 9290.

Saints of the week:

May 1st – St. Joseph the worker

May 2nd – St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor

May 3rd – Sts. Philip and James

May 4th – St. Peregrine.

May 5th – St. Angelo of Jerusalem

May 6th – St. Dominic Savio

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