

# 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, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023 Fifth Sunday of Easter Year A.

Welcome to the celebration of the mass.

### **Entrance Antiphon** Cf. Ps 97:1-2

O sing a new song to the Lord,  
for he has worked wonders;  
in the sight of the nations  
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

### **First Reading** Acts 6:1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.*

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

### **Responsorial Psalm.**

*Ps 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. v.22*

### **(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. (R.)
2. For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. (R.)
3. The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. (R.)

### **Second Reading** 1 Pt 2:4-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

*You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.*

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved

to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

### **Gospel Acclamation** [Jn 14:6](#)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me.

**Alleluia!**

### **Gospel** [Jn 14:1-12](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*I am the way, the truth, and the life.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father’s house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.’

Thomas said, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?’ Jesus said:

‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.’

Philip said, ‘Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.’ ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip,’ said Jesus to him ‘and you still do not know me?’

‘To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, “Let us see the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. ‘I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.’

### **Communion Antiphon.**

[Cf. Jn 15:1,5](#)

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

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**Let us pray:** We pray for recently deceased James Clarke (funeral 8<sup>th</sup> May at 10:30am), for the deceased members of the McIlvenna and Dobranski families and for Joseph Singh whose death anniversary 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, Robert Hatch, Tammy Horan, 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:**

*Cuppa after Saturday 6pm mass this weekend.*

**Church Warden Volunteers needed** – We are in need of a couple of 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.



**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 17<sup>th</sup> May**, commencing 10am, at Kay Walker’s home- 197 River Rd Leonay. You are all welcome.

**Care for our Common Home:** You are invited to donate your clean, dry and empty dental hygiene items (box at the entrance to the church) for recycling through a local dentist.

**Readers/ Commentators roster:**

| Dates:    | 6.00pm   | 8.00am   | 9.30am   |
|-----------|--|--|--|
| 6/7 May   | Deacon <u>Batsirai</u><br>Stevenie <u>Harman</u><br>JS: Alex <u>Tuballa</u><br>C: Deborah <u>Gleeson</u><br>R: Marie <u>McLennan</u> | Mark <u>Norbury</u><br>Pat <u>Edwards</u><br>JS: Evie <u>Milroy</u><br>C: Paul <u>Ryan</u><br>R: Jessica <u>Topp</u>             | Hartley <u>Dhyon</u><br>Connie <u>Reid</u><br>Kevin <u>Balkin</u><br>Heather <u>Barlow</u> (Visit only)<br>JS: Matthew <u>Hamilton</u><br>C: Marianne <u>Castor</u><br>R: Denise <u>Robens</u> |
| 13/14 May | Stevenie <u>Harman</u><br>Anne <u>Deutscher</u><br>JS: Alex <u>Tuballa</u><br>C: Louise <u>Goderie</u><br>R: Victor <u>Tuballa</u>   | Deacon <u>Batsirai</u><br>Matthew <u>Topp</u><br>JS: Jessica <u>Topp</u><br>C: Geraldine <u>Waters</u><br>R: Sue <u>Mouthaan</u> | Lara <u>Roser</u><br>David <u>Green</u><br>Kay <u>Walker</u> (Visit)<br>JS: Matthew <u>Hamilton</u><br>C: Don <u>Robens</u><br>R: Brett <u>Wright</u>  |

**Be part of the journey towards our DIOCESAN SYNOD!** Have your voice heard and listen to how the Spirit is guiding us here in the Diocese of Parramatta at this Deanery Listening Consultation. **You are invited!** 20<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm to 9.30pm, Springwood. Bishop Vincent will attend. RSVP by registering on this link [https://parracatholic.org/synod\\_getinvolved/](https://parracatholic.org/synod_getinvolved/) Inquires Kay (0430 193 000) or Jim (0421 125 722), Parish Reps for Deanery.

**Further Opportunities on What is a Diocesan Synod:** Zoom Sessions - Monday, 8 May from 6.30pm to 7.30pm; or Thursday 11 May from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. [https://parracatholic.org/synod2023\\_registration\\_informationssession/](https://parracatholic.org/synod2023_registration_informationssession/)

**Prayer for Refugees:**  
Lord, protect all refugees in their travels.  
May they find a friend in me  
And so make me worthy  
Of the refuge I have found in you.  
Amen.

<https://www.crs.org/resource-center/moment-grace-prayer-refugees>



## 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.

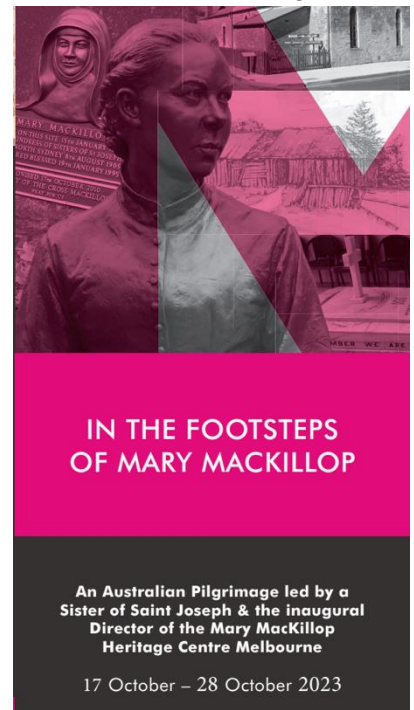
## Diocese of Parramatta Notices:

**Marriage Preparation Courses in 2023** Getting married in 2023? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit [www.parracatholic.org/pmp](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:catherine.bourne@parracatholic.org) or 0400 427 605.

**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](http://parracatholic.org/diocesanfooddrive) or call JRS on (02) 9356 3888 or HoW on (02) 9727 9290.

The **Sisters of Saint Joseph** have prepared an **Australian Pilgrimage**, "In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop" commencing in Melbourne on 17 October, journeying through Victoria and South Australia, and ending at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney on 28 October 2023. During the pilgrimage we visit many places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry. For itinerary and application form, contact [national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au](mailto:national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au) or on 89124818.



## Saints of the week:

May 8th – St. Boniface IV, pope

May 9th – St. George Preca

May 10th – St. Damien de Veuster of Molokai

May 11th – St. Walter

May 12th – St. Pancras, Martyr

May 13th – Our Lady of Fatima

## 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