

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



19 Troy St, Emu Plains
Phone: 4735 1041
Email: emuplains@parracatholic.org
Web: <https://catholicparishemuplains.org.au/>

Sunday, 2nd July 2023 Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A.

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon [Ps 46:2](#)

All peoples, clap your hands.
Cry to God with shouts of joy!

First Reading [2 Kgs 4:8-11. 14-16](#)

A reading from the second book of the Kings

That is the holy man of God, let him remain there.

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, ‘Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.’

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. ‘What can be done for her?’ he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, ‘Well, she has no son and her husband is old.’ Elisha said, ‘Call her.’ The servant called her and she stood at the door. ‘This time next year,’ Elisha said ‘you will hold a son in your arms.’

Responsorial Psalm.

[Ps 88:2-3. 16-19. R. v.2](#)

(R.) Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **(R.)**

2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss. **(R.)**

3. For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength; it is by your favour that our might is exalted: for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord; our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel. **(R.)**

Second Reading [Rom 6:3-4. 8-11](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Having been buried with him through baptism, we shall walk in a new life.

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father’s glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation [1 Pt 2:9](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people. Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light.

Alleluia!



Gospel [Mt 10:37-42](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Anyone who does not accept his cross is not worthy of me. Anyone who welcomes you, welcomes me.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.

'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward.

'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

Communion Antiphon. [Cf. Ps 102:1](#)

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all within me, his holy name.

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved

Saints quotes on Holy Communion:

St. Thomas Aquinas: "The Eucharist is the sacrament of love: It signifies love, it produces love. The Eucharist is the consummation of the whole spiritual life."

St. Maximilian Kolbe: "If angels could be jealous of men, they would be so for one reason: holy Communion."

St. Pio of Pietrelcina: "A thousand years of enjoying human glory is not worth even an hour spent sweetly communing with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament."

St. Angela of Foligno: "If we paused for a moment to consider attentively what takes place in this Sacrament, I am sure that the thought of Christ's love for us would transform the coldness of our hearts into a fire of love and gratitude."

St. Francis of Assisi: "O sublime humility! O humble sublimity! That the Lord of the whole universe, God and the Son of God, should humble himself like this and hide under the form of a little bread, for our salvation."

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/251543/corpus-christi-sunday-2022-inspiring-words-from-the-saints-on-the-eucharist>

Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased, John Davison and Peter Bell; and for John Dent, Annette Axiak and Helen McInnes, 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, Dot Gray, Des Fitzgerald, June Sultana, Frank Sirotti, Shelly Sutcliffe, Mary Rose, Robert Hatch, Tammy Horan, Maria Mercieca, Marta Mederos, Lucy Mikosic, Bernadette Houlahan, 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:

You are Invited: Sunday 9th July in the Parish Hall after Mass, beginning with a cuppa You will be respected for who you are and warmly welcomed when you join one of the small groups of 5 parishioners in this morning gathering. **Come and experience** God alive through listening to the experiences of others and sharing what draws your attention from this listening. This will be a prayerful and reflective time. **Prompt start at 11am, finishes 12.30 pm. Arrive early. RSVP** By SMS to **Kay 0430 193 000 or Jim 0421 125 722 at any time with your name OR register on the table provided in the foyer of the Church before or after any Mass.**

Liturgical Ministry: Are you are interested in joining one of our **ministries** - a Minister of the Word, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying or Minister at the Altar? The Liturgical Ministry Formation Course is running again starting on 4th of September in Blacktown. Application forms are available from the Parish Office.



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 19th July**, commencing 10am, at Kay Walker's home- 197 River Rd Leonay. You are all welcome.

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
1/ 2 July	Stevenie Harman Deborah Gleeson JS: N/A C: Phillip Youngman R: Marie McLennan	Deacon Barsirai Mark Norbury JS: Evie Milroy C: Paul Ryan R: Jessica Topp	Lara Roser David Green Kay Walker (Visit) JS: Matthew Hamilton C: Marianne Castor R: Denise Robens
8/9 July	Stevenie Harman Anne Deutscher JS: Alex Tuballa C: Trish Ryan R: Victor Tuballa	John Cowen Noeline Bangel JS: Evie Milroy C: Geraldine Waters R: Sue Mouthaan	Deacon Batsirai Lara Roser Denise Robens (Visit) JS: Matthew Hamilton C: Don Robens R: Brett Wright

VINNIES WINTER APPEAL: A big thankyou to the Parish community who donated to the appeal over the past 2 weekends. It was very successful and raised much needed funds to support those in need in the local community. For those who took an envelope home, or if you would still like to donate, we would be most grateful if you could place it in the Poor Box this weekend.

Playgroup Recommencing: Please be advised that Playgroup will recommence on Tuesday 25th July at 10am in the Parish Hall. No fees are payable. All welcome! Please contact the Parish Office for more information 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).

2023 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday 2 July: Every year, on the first Sunday in July, Catholics come together across Australia to acknowledge and celebrate the gifts of Australia's First Peoples in the Catholic Church. In Australia we are blessed to be home to the world's oldest continuing Culture. For more information and resources, please visit <https://www.natsicc.org.au/2023-atsi-sunday.html>

Families called to share their stories with the first Diocesan Synod Bishop Vincent wants to hear from families and households across Western to discuss important matters relating to the life and mission Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Your stories will inform the direction of our local Church into the future through what is known as a synod. Our Diocesan Synod is both an event and a process where people gather of the Church. Synods are transformative experiences that lead to renewal in the Church's life. The success of the Synod relies on your participation. Families and households are encouraged to participate in the Synod at home using the resources 'Synod at Home' found here:

https://parracatholic.org/synod2023_resources/

Parish Information

Parish office open Tuesday to Friday from 9:00am 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)
CathWest Innovation College principal:
Paul Stenning (ph: 02 8886 9500)
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:

Save Calvary Hospital There is a petition to the Members of the ACT Legislative Assembly to reverse a decision of the ACT government to compulsorily acquire Calvary Hospital in Canberra. This removes the ownership and management from Calvary Health Care – a Catholic operator – and gives the ownership to the government-run, non-faith-based Canberra Health Services instead. To find out more about the implications of this decision and to sign the petition please visit: www.savecalvary.com.au

One of the major works of **Aid to the Church in Need** is providing transport to priests, sisters, and catechists to reach the faithful, who are often at great distances and must go through difficult terrain. In 2022, ACN provided 1,253 pastoral vehicles. This included 564 cars, 406 bicycles, 252 motorcycles, 16 boats, 11 buses, and 4 trucks for the pastoral work of the Church – particularly in Latin America and Africa. Can you help us supply transport to priests and religious again in 2023?

Visit www.aidtochurch.org/transport or scan the QR code to make an offering and learn more.



Diocesan Adult Confirmation: 5 September Adult Confirmation 2023 will be held on Tuesday 5 September at 7:30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral with the Catechesis and Formation Day to be held on Saturday 2 September at 9:30am – 2pm at the Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown (formerly known as the IFM). Adult Confirmation is a community celebration for those who have reached the age of 16 years and have received both the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist but are yet to receive the Confirmation. If you would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org.

Get #Active4Vocations in the City2Surf: 13 August Join the Parramatta Catholic Foundation #Active4Vocations team. Walk, stroll, jog, or run with our Holy Spirit seminarians, deacons, priests, and community. Scan this QR code or visit tinyurl.com/Active4Vocations to register or donate. Funds raised support our Diocese's seminarians to become priests.



Volunteer for the House of Welcome : Volunteers are needed by the House of Welcome to do odd jobs around properties which house refugees and people seeking asylum. If you are a handyman or woman with a few hours you can donate, contact Maricar at m.tupaea@houseofwelcome.com.au.

Saints of the week:

July 3rd – St. Thomas, Apostle
July 4th – St. Elizabeth of Portugal
July 5th – St Anthony Zaccaria
July 6th – St Maria Goretti, Martyr
July 7th – Bl. Peter To Rot, Martyr
July 8th – St. Priscilla

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