

# 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, 16th July 2023 Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A.**

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

### **Entrance Antiphon** Cf. Ps 16:15

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;  
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

### **First Reading** [Is 55:10-11](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The rain makes the earth fruitful.*

Thus says the Lord: ‘As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.’

### **Responsorial Psalm.**

[Ps 64:10-14. R. Lk 8:8](#)

**(R.) The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.**

1. You care for the earth, give it water, you fill it with riches.  
Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain. **(R.)**
2. And thus you provide for the earth; you drench its furrows, you level it, soften it with showers, you bless its growth. **(R.)**

3. You crown the year with your goodness. Abundance flows in your steps, in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **(R.)**

4. The hills are girded with joy, the meadows covered with flocks, the valleys are decked with wheat. They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **(R.)**

### **Second Reading**

[Rom 8:18-23](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.*

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.



## **Gospel Acclamation**

### **Alleluia, alleluia!**

The seed is the word of God,  
Christ is the sower;  
all who come to him will live for ever.

### **Alleluia!**

## **Gospel** Mt 13:1-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.  
*A sower went out to sow.*

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing,

and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

## **Communion Antiphon.** Cf. Ps 83:4-5

The sparrow finds a home,  
and the swallow a nest for her young:  
by your altars, O Lord of hosts,  
my King and my God.  
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,  
for ever singing your praise.

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**Let us pray:** We pray for recently deceased Shelley Sutcliffe, Joyce Dukes (funeral to be held 17/7/23 at 10.30am), and Frances Payne (funeral to be held 20/7/23 at 11am); and for Don Cameron and Aaron Youngman 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, Valerie Plummer, Shirley Harman, Dot Gray, June Sultana, Frank Sirotti, Mary Rose, Maria Mercieca,

Marta Mederos, Lucy Mikosic, 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:**

**Liturgical ministry:** Are you 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.

### **Urgently Required - Cleaners.**

We need cleaners to help in the church. If you can spare a little time after Friday morning Mass, **once per fortnight**, we would be most grateful. The next day is Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July at 9.30am. People who can handle a vacuum are particularly encouraged to come along! Many thanks.

**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 (0452 665 844).

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

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
15/16 July	<i>Stevenie Harman</i> <i>Beth Nowland</i> JS: N/A C: Louise Goderie R: Bellinda Henderson	<i>Deacon Batsirai</i> <i>Jessica Topp</i> JS: Evie Milroy C: Gabe Manouk R: Helen Larsen	<i>Lara Roser</i> David Green Noeline Bagnel <b>Heather Barlow (Visit only)</b> JS: N/A C: Trish Boyle R: Matthew Hamilton
22/23 July	<i>Stevenie Harman</i> <i>Debra Gleeson</i> JS: Alex Tuballa C: Louise Goderie R: Mary Balam	<i>Mark Norbury</i> John Lo Cascio JS: Evie Milroy C: Maria Sirotti R: Kay Walker	<i>Deacon Batsirai</i> <i>John Cowen</i> <b>Denise Robens (Visit)</b> JS: Matthew Hamilton C: Lisa Samojlowicz R: Courtney Hamilton

**NATSICC Indigenous Voice Website – One Journey Together** NATSICC and Caritas Australia have launched [www.indigenousvoice.church](http://www.indigenousvoice.church) - a website that empowers Catholics to make an informed decision at the 2023 Indigenous Voice to Parliament Referendum. The site contains a collation of statements of Catholic Organisations, resources to assist in *discernment* and the voices of First Australians and our Catholic Leaders.



**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 19<sup>th</sup> July, commencing 10am, at Kay Walker's home - 197 River Rd Leonay. All welcome.

**The opportunity to make submissions to the Diocesan Synod ends on 31 July.** You are invited to consider asking members of your family, friends or others you know who may no longer be engaged with Church, to take part in a conversation using the following informal guidelines, which allows them to have a voice through making a submission. Go to <https://parracatholic.org/synod2023/> and click on Resources and **Family/ Friends.**

### **MET Marriage Retrouvaille Program Information Session: 25 August**

The Diocese of Parramatta aims to offer the Retrouvaille program for couples who are having difficulties in their marriage. We are looking for married couples who are committed to helping others heal their marriage relationships. You will be trained to facilitate this program. An information evening will be held on 25 August at 7.30pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Contact Karin on (02) 8838 3460 or register at [marriage@parracatholic.org](mailto:marriage@parracatholic.org)

### **Rouse Hill Parish Family Fiesta: 6 August**

The Annual Our Lady of the Angels Family Fiesta will be on Sunday 6 August at 1 Wellgate Avenue, North Kellyville. Celebrations commence with Mass at 11am followed by a procession. Rides, Entertainment, Petting Zoo and wonderful International Food will be available from 1pm and continue throughout the afternoon with a fireworks display to finish at 6pm. This is a wonderful event for all the family and we hope to see you there!

**St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust** offers scholarships to enable lay people to further their understanding and skills in leadership/ministry or a specialised activity, such as promoting faith enhancement, social justice and pastoral care. More information on our website: [pallottine.org.au/svpscholarship](http://pallottine.org.au/svpscholarship). Applications close 4 August 2023.

## 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](mailto:emuplains@parracatholic.org)) for information on reconciliation, communion and confirmation.

## Diocese of Parramatta Notices:

This month *Aid to the Church in Need* is raising money to build a parish house in Sierra Leone. The parishioners of the parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour have been trying to help their priest who is living in a house that is decaying due to heavy rainfall and salt-laden sea air but they themselves are poor and have little to give. ACN has promised to help but we need your help to make this possible. To learn more and to make an offering visit [www.aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject](http://www.aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject).

**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](http://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](mailto:m.tupaea@houseofwelcome.com.au).

**Quakers Hill Parish Bingo Night: 5 August**

Due to popular demand, BINGO will be held again on **5 August at Mary Immaculate Parish** (in the MPA). Doors open at **6:30pm for a 7pm start**. Please BYO Food and Drinks. Hot and cool beverages will be available on the night for a small fee. There will be more cash and prizes to be won! Please RSVP by phone or email by 3 August to book your seat(s) on (02) 9626 3326 or [parishoffice@maryimmac.org.au](mailto:parishoffice@maryimmac.org.au). Come one come all!

**Castle Hill Parish an Evening of Sacred Music: 25 August**

St Bernadette's Parish, Castle Hill, will be hosting an evening of Sacred Music on Friday 25 August at 7:30pm. The event will be a night of performances by choirs, music groups and soloists from around the Diocese, performing a selection of hymns and choral music. Tickets are \$5 per person and can be purchased at <https://www.trybooking.com/CJJSM>. Entry includes light refreshments during intermission. For more information, please contact the parish office on (02) 9634 2622 or email [admin@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:admin@stbernadette.org.au)

## Saints of the week:

July 17th – St. Marcelina

July 18th – St. Simon of Lipnica

July 19th – St. John Plessington

July 20th – St. Apollinaris of Ravenna

July 21st – St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Doctor

July 22nd – St. Mary Magdalene

## 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