

# 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, 23rd July 2023 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A.**

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

### **Entrance Antiphon** [Psalm 53:6,8](#)

See, I have God for my help.  
The Lord sustains my soul.  
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,  
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

### **First Reading** [Wisdom 12:13.16-19](#)

A reading from the book of Wisdom

*In the place of sin, you give repentance.*

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there. By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

### **Responsorial Psalm.**

[Ps 85:5-6. 9-10. 15-16. R. v.5](#)

**(R.) Lord, you are good and forgiving.**

1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving,  
full of love to all who call.  
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer  
and attend to the sound of my voice. **(R.)**

2. All the nations shall come to adore you  
and glorify your name, O Lord:  
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,  
you who alone are God. **(R.)**

3. But you, God of mercy and compassion,  
slow to anger, O Lord,  
abounding in love and truth,  
turn and take pity on me. **(R.)**

### **Second Reading**

[Romans 8:26-27](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.*

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

[See Matthew 11:25](#)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Blessed are you, Father,  
Lord of heaven and earth;  
you have revealed to little ones  
the mysteries of the kingdom.

**Alleluia!**



## **Gospel** [Matthew 13:24-43](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Let them grow together until the harvest.*

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."

He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfill the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables  
and expound things hidden since the  
foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

## **Communion Antiphon.**

[Psalm 110:4-5](#)

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful,  
has made a memorial of his wonders;  
he gives food to those who fear him.

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**Let us pray:** We pray for recently deceased Joyce Dukes and Frances Payne; and for Alice



Massey 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, Valerie Plummer, Shirley Harman, Dot Gray, June Sultana, Frank Sirotti, Mary Rose, Maria Mercieca, Marta Mederos, Margaret Houlahan, Lucy Mikosic, 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:

**Please join us for some morning tea after the 9:30am Mass this weekend.**



**Baptisms:** The Parish joyfully welcomes Grammi Theoharous and Kenzi Romer into our Faith Community. May God bless these children and their families.

**Sacramental news:** The preparation program for the Sacrament of Confirmation begins on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August. This program is open to children in Year 6 and above, and the dates can be found hung up on the notice board in the foyer. If you would like your child to receive this sacrament or for more information, please contact the Parish Office on 47351041 or [emuplains@parracatholic.org](mailto:emuplains@parracatholic.org)

### 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, 4<sup>th</sup> August, 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 this 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
22/23 July	Stevenie Harman Debra Gleeson JS: Alex Tuballa C: Louise Goderie R: Mary Balam	Mark Norbury John Lo Cascio JS: Evie Milroy C: Maria Sirotti R: Kay Walker	Deacon Batsirai John Cowen Denise Robens (Visit) JS: Matthew Hamilton C: Lisa Samojlowicz R: Courtney Hamilton
29/30 July	John Cowen Anne Deutscher JS: Alex Tuballa C: Lynne Castellari R: Marie McLennan	Deacon Batsirai Matthew Topp JS: Evie Milroy C: Paul Ryan R: Jessica Topp	Lara Roser Connie Reid Kay Walker (Visit) JS: Matthew Hamilton C: Marianne Castor R: Denise Robens

**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.**

**Liturgical ministry: Have you considered joining one of our ministries?** The Liturgical Ministry Formation Course commences on the 4<sup>th</sup> September in Blacktown. The sessions include: Minister of the Word, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying, and Ministers at the Altar. For more information and to pick up an application form, please contact the Parish Office on 4735 1041 or [emuplains@parracatholic.org](mailto:emuplains@parracatholic.org).

**World Youth Day:** The WYD pilgrims departed on the 21<sup>st</sup> July. If you would like to follow their journey, you are welcome to scan the QR code on the WYD poster in the church foyer. Updates can also be found on the WYD pilgrimage website [parrawyd.org](http://parrawyd.org), their Facebook, Instagram and YouTube pages, as well as on Catholic Outlook. Please continue to pray for the pilgrims as they embark on this life-changing experience.

### Prayer before reconciliation:

*O Holy Spirit. Source of all light, Spirit of wisdom, of understanding, and of knowledge, come to my assistance and enable me to make a good confession. Enlighten me, and help me now to know my sins as one day I shall be forced to recognize them before Thy judgment seat. Bring to my mind the evil which I have done and the good which I have neglected. Permit me not to be blinded by self-love. Grant me, moreover, heartfelt sorrow for my transgressions, and the grace of a sincere confession, so that I may be forgiven and admitted into Thy friendship.*

<https://www.ourcatholicprayers.com/prayers-before-confession.html>



### Parish Information

**Parish office open Tuesday to Friday from 9:00am to 3:00pm. (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:

**Divine Retreat Centre offerings in July:** The Divine Retreat Centre in Somersby, NSW is hosting a variety of single-day and weekend retreats, including its healing services, a Family Growth retreat and its monthly one-day pilgrimage. For more information and bookings, please contact (02) 43721598 or email [drcsydney@gmail.com](mailto:drcsydney@gmail.com) to confirm attendance. Visit [www.divineretreatcentre.org](http://www.divineretreatcentre.org) for more information.

**Catholic Religious Australia National Justice Seminar: 26 July** You are invited to attend the Catholic Religious Australia National Justice Seminar on Wednesday 26 July from 9.30am to 3.30pm at the Peter Cosgrove Centre at the ACU North Sydney Campus. Be inspired, challenged and uplifted as we approach the referendum on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament. Registrations for CRA members is \$160 per person, non-members are \$180 per person and include morning tea and lunch. Register by Thursday 20 July by visiting <https://events.humanitix.com/cra-national-justice-seminar-lift-your-voice>

**Jesus Light of the World Community Day Retreat: 29 July** The Jesus Light of the World Community invites you to a day retreat on Saturday 29 July from 9.30am to 4.30pm at St Joseph's Parish Hall, Rockdale. Marina George, a Catholic preacher, will share about her deep relationship with God the Father, the love of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. A free lunch and afternoon tea will be provided. Bookings are essential via [lowcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:lowcommunity@gmail.com). Contact Helen on 0433 455 114 or Ida on 0424 267 500.

**Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend: 5 – 6 August** 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 5 – 6 August. To register, visit [www.engagedencounter.org.au/](http://www.engagedencounter.org.au/)

### **Missionaries of God's Love Overshadowed Retreat: 18-20 August**

Join the MGL Sisters in a weekend retreat exploring what happens when we say 'yes' to the Holy Spirit. Experience the life-changing power of deepening in God's love, surrendering to Jesus and living under the grace of the Holy Spirit. The retreat will be held at Carmel House, 345 St Andrews Rd, Varroville NSW, from Friday 18 to Sunday 30 August. Bookings can be made before 11 August by visiting <http://www.trybooking.com/CFBQX>. For more information, please contact Katherine on [mqlsisters.sydney@gmail.com](mailto:mqlsisters.sydney@gmail.com)

### Saints of the week:

July 24th – St. Charbel Makhlof  
July 25th – St. James, Apostle  
July 26th – Ss. Joachim & Anne, Mary's parents  
July 27th – Ss. Natalie & Aurelius  
July 28th – St. Alphonsa of India  
July 29th – Ss. Martha, Mary & Lazarus

### 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