

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 July 2023 Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A.

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 67:6-7,36

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

First Reading [1 Kings 3:5.7-12](#)

A reading from the first book of the Kings

You have asked for wisdom.

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, ‘Ask what you would like me to give you.’ Solomon replied, ‘Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?’ It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. ‘Since you have asked for this’ the Lord said ‘and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.’

Responsorial Psalm.

[Ps 118:57. 72. 76-77. 127-130. R. v.97](#)

(R.) Lord, I love your commands.

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than silver and gold. **(R.)**
2. Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live
for your law is my delight. **(R.)**
3. That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold.
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:
I hate false ways. **(R.)**
4. Your will is wonderful indeed;
therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light
and teaches the simple. **(R.)**

Second Reading

[Romans 8:28-30](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

He predestined us to become true images of his Son.

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

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 13:44-52](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

Communion Antiphon.

[Psalm 102:2](#)

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.

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Prayer after Communion before a crucifix.

*"Look down upon me,
good and gentle Jesus,
While before Thy face I humbly kneel
And with burning soul, pray and beseech
Thee, To fix deep in my heart,
Lively sentiments of faith, hope and charity,
True contrition for my sins
And a firm purpose of amendment.
While I contemplate with great love and
tender pity,
Thy five most precious wounds,
Pondering over them within me,
And calling to mind the words that David,
Thy prophet, said of Thee , my Jesus,
"They have pierced My hands and feet,
They have numbered all my bones."*

<https://www.catholic.org/prayers/prayer.php?p=1929>

Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased Michael Mercieca and Frances Payne; and for Margaret Murray 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, George Dacornia, 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:

Become a Catechist: Sharing the Gospel with students in our public schools is an important ministry at our Parish. It may sound daunting, but it is very rewarding spending time with young people sharing our faith. You will be joining a supportive team and curriculum materials and ongoing training is provided. We'd love for you to join us! To enquire/enrol, speak to our Parish Catechist Coordinator, Mary Marsh, on 0408 212 437. Training commences in August at St Finbar's, Glenbrook.

Playgroup: Please be advised that playgroup has now recommenced and will run fortnightly. The next date will be **Tuesday 8th August 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).

Cleaners Required: We need cleaners to help in the church, once a fortnight, after the Friday morning Mass. Even if you can spend a short amount of time, we would be most grateful. The next day is 4th August. Many thanks.

Free English and Citizenship Classes
Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are offering English and Citizenship classes at Mamre House, 181 Mamre Rd, Orchard Hills, on a Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am to 2pm during school terms. Free childcare available. Please contact Mamre Crèche on (02) 8843 2506 or Nepean Community College (02) 4724 9000.

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
29/30 July	<i>John Cowen</i> <i>Anne Deutscher</i> JS: Alex Tuballa C: Lynne Castellari R: Marie McLennan	<i>Deacon Batsirai</i> <i>Matthew Topp</i> JS: Evie Milroy C: Paul Ryan R: Jessica Topp	<i>Lara Roser</i> Connie Reid Kay Walker (Visit) JS: Matthew Hamilton C: Marianne Castor R: Denise Robens
5/6 August	<i>Deacon Batsirai</i> <i>Stevenie Harman</i> JS: Alex Tuballa C: Phillip Young man R: Victor Tuballa	<i>Jessica Topp</i> <i>Barbara Ryan</i> JS: Evie Milroy C: Geraldine Waters R: Sue Mouthaan	<i>Hartley Dhyon</i> Noeline Bagne! David Green Heather Barlow (Visit only) JS: Matthew Hamilton C: Don Robens R: Brett Wright

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.**

Caring for our common

home: Recycling at our Parish: A collection box for your **clean dry & empty** dental hygiene items will be outside the main doors of the church at all Masses NEXT weekend 5-6 August then every FIRST weekend of each month going forward. Jim (0421 125 722).



Sacramental news: The preparation program for the Sacrament of Confirmation begins on Wednesday 2nd August. This program is open to children in Year 6 and above and the dates can be found on the board in the foyer. If you would like your child to receive this sacrament or you need more information, please contact the Sacramental Coordinator on 47351041 or emuplains@parracatholic.org

Congratulations to Josie Mazurkiewicz who received the Eucharist for the first time at Mass last Saturday evening (22nd July 23). May her love of Jesus grow throughout her life. A big congratulations to all our young parishioners receiving Holy Communion for the first time last month. Also, a big thank you to Cate, our amazing Sacramental Coordinator who helps to make all this happen.



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:

Follow our World Youth Day pilgrimage from home!

170 young people from Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains have officially taken off to World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal for an experience of a lifetime. Our pilgrimage will travel through some of the most beautiful and sacred parts of Europe and you are invited to follow along from home. We will be posting videos, photos and articles throughout the trip, so you can see and hear what our pilgrims are experiencing. Sign up today by visiting catholicoutlook.info/WYD23News or scanning the QR code.

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 20 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

Saint of the Week: St. John Vianney – patron saint of priests

St. John Vianney was born in 1786 in a small French town called Dardilly. In 1790, the French Revolution started and many of the priests were hiding. When John Vianney saw these priests risking their lives everyday, he thought of them as heroes. This made him want to follow in their footsteps. Because of the French Revolution, Vianney received little education and struggled with Latin, but eventually became a priest in 1815. In 1818 he became priest of the small village of Ars, which he made a model parish and from which reports of his holiness and his supernatural powers soon spread. He was known for his devotion to Mary and to St. Philomena and was dedicated to the sacrament of reconciliation (confession) for his parishioners. From 1824 he suffered attacks from the Devil, who allegedly on one occasion set fire to Vianney's bed. By 1827 Ars had become a pilgrimage site, and, every year from 1845 until Vianney's death, about 20,000 persons visited Ars to see Vianney and especially to make their confession to him. He spent as many as 12 or 15 hours daily in his confessional. St. John Vianney died on August 4, 1818. The body of Saint John Vianney was found to be incorrupt and is entombed above the main altar in the Basilica of Ars, France.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Jean-Baptiste-Marie-Vianney>

Saints of the week:

July 31st – St. Ignatius of Loyola

Aug 1st – St. Alphonsus Liguori

Aug 2nd – St Peter Faber; Our Lady of the Angels

Aug 3rd – St. Dominic

Aug 4th – St. John Vianney

Aug 5th – Our Lady of Snows.

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