

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, 13th August 2023 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 73:20,19,22,23

Look to your covenant, O Lord,
and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever.
Arise, O God, and defend your cause,
and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

First Reading 1 Kings 19:9,11-13

A reading from the first book of the Kings

Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord God.

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, ‘Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.’ Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Responsorial Psalm. Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R.)**

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. **(R.)**

3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. **(R.)**

Second Reading Romans 9:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

I would willingly be condemned if it could help my people.

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation Psalm 129:5

Alleluia, alleluia!
I hope in the Lord,
I trust in his word.
Alleluia!

Gospel [Matthew 14:22-33](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Command me to come to you over the water.

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

Communion Antiphon. [Psalm 147:12,14](#)

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord,
who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

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Catholic Care Refugee Sponsorship Program:

You are invited to join Rita Hakkoum from Catholic Care Refugee Sponsorship Program on 24th September after the 9:30am Mass to learn about the program and how you can help. Rita has assisted many groups from different Parishes in the Diocese and will share her experience.

"Whenever you did this to one of the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it to me", Mt:25:40.

Looking forward to seeing you.



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 16th August, commencing 10am, at Kay Walker's home - 197 River Rd Leonay.

All welcome.

Let us pray: We pray for those recently deceased, and for Moira Thomas, Belinda Cameron, Margaret White and Herbert White whose death anniversaries are at this time. We pray that their

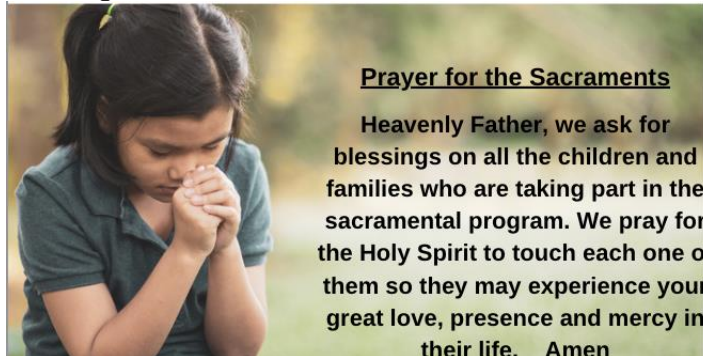


families find comfort in the fact that they are safely in the arms of their loving Lord. We also pray for all our brothers and sisters in our community who are unwell, especially, Valerie Plummer, Shirley Harman, Greg Wood, Dot Gray, June Sultana, Stuart Cameron, Frank Sirotti, Mary Rose, Maria Mercieca, Marta Mederos, Lucy Mikosic, Margaret Houlahan, Henry O'Malley, Elisabeth Robens, Marion Betker, George Dacronia, 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:

Mass for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be at 9am and 6pm on, 15th August.

Sacramental news: Please join me in praying for the children and their families who are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Thanks, and blessings, Cate



Prayer for the Sacraments

Heavenly Father, we ask for blessings on all the children and families who are taking part in the sacramental program. We pray for the Holy Spirit to touch each one of them so they may experience your great love, presence and mercy in their life. Amen

Baptisms: The Parish joyfully welcomes Norah Clout, Brooklyn Stubbs and Darcy Worthy into our Faith Community. May God bless these children and their families.

Playgroup: Please be advised that Playgroup has recommenced and will run fortnightly. The next date will be **Tuesday 22nd 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).

Become a Catechist: Sharing the Gospel with students in our public schools is an important ministry in our Parish. 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, please speak to our Parish Catechist Coordinator, Mary Marsh, on 0408 212 437.

Readers/ Commentators roster:

| Dates: | 6.00pm | 8.00am | 9.30am |
|--------------|--|--|---|
| 12/13 August | John Cowen Beth Nowland JS: Alex Tuballa C: Trish Ryan R: Bellinda Henderson | Mark Norbury Pat Edwards JS: Evie Milroy Gabe Manouk Helen Larsen | Lara Roser Connie Reid Kay Walker (Visit) JS: N/A C: Trish Boyle R: Matthew Hamilton |
| 19/20 August | Stevenie Harman Anne Deutscher JS: Alex Tuballa C: Debra Gleeson R: Mary Balam | Matthew Topp John Lo Cascio JS: N/A C: Maria Sirotti R: Kay Walker | Hartley Dhyon Kevin Balkin Denise Robens (Visit) JS: Matthew Hamilton C: Lisa Samojlowicz R: Courtney Hamilton |

Catholic Care Blue Mountains are in need of food donations at their emergency drop-in centre. We have offered to help and are holding a monthly food drive, starting next weekend 19/20 Aug. Please consider popping an extra pantry item or two (eg Cereal, tinned fish,) in your weekly shopping basket to help those in need, then place it in the container at rear of church. A list of required grocery items is available at the rear of the church. We also need volunteers to assist in sorting and delivering food on Monday 21st Aug. Please call Carol Burke on 0432982773 if you are able to help. Thank you.

Triduum Novena and Mass Feast of Our Lady of Penafrancia

The Australian Devotees of Our Lady of Penafrancia is inviting the parishioners to please join us in the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Penafrancia with the 1st Triduum Novena and Mass to be held at Our Lady of the Way Church. WHAT: 1st Triduum Novena and Mass Our Lady of Penafrancia and El Divino Rostro

WHEN: Saturday 19th August

TIME: 11am- Novena

11:30am- Mass,

Celebrant: Fr Michael Gathuku

Please invite your family and friends.

Vinnies Community Sleepout – 25th Aug, 23:

Help Vinnies break the cycle of homelessness by joining our Western Sydney Vinnies Community Sleepout and braving the cold for one night! This will take place at Western Sydney University, Parramatta Sth Campus (Rydalmere). All funds raised will go towards supporting Vinnies Support Centres in Penrith, Blacktown, Emerton and Harris Park. For more information, please contact Tom Cook (ph. 0421197838) or Melissa Topp (0425301525). Flyers are also available in the church foyer.

Welcome Basil the Guide

dog: One of our families in the church community have been raising a guide dog for the last eleven months. He will be coming to church with the family over the next couple of weeks so please be as understanding as you can.



Property to Rent - URGENT: If you have a property, or know of a property, that is able to accommodate 3 females, please contact the Parish Office on 4735 1041.

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
Filipino Mass, 3rd Sunday of the month: 1pm

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:

Nominations open for Papal, Civil and Diocesan Awards: From today until Thursday 7 September 2023, you can nominate an outstanding individual who has contributed to the Catholic Church and society for a Papal Honours Award, Civil Award or Diocesan Award. Please visit parracatholic.org/awards. The Awards Ceremony will be held in November. More details to come.

Nine-Week Novena for the Diocesan Synod: All are invited to pray a Nine-Week Novena for the Diocesan Synod. The Novena will begin the week of Sunday 13 August and conclude the week of Sunday 8 October in the lead-up to the Synod Assembly: Friday 13 to Sunday 15 October. You are invited to pray once a week as a parish community, with your family, ministry groups or during personal prayer. More information: <https://parracatholic.org/synod2023/>

This month *Aid to the Church in Need* is raising money to support Sisters in Paraguay. These Sisters not only care for the young people in Paraguay but they also support the families, visit the sick and the elderly, bring Holy Communion to those in need, give catechetical instruction and support disadvantaged with practical help and advice. To learn more and to make an offering visit www.aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject.

Saint of the Week: St Maximilian Kolbe

St. Maximilian Kolbe was a 47-year-old Franciscan Conventual priest who volunteered to die in place of a stranger 82 years ago on August 14, at the German Nazi concentration and death camp of Auschwitz in Poland. In the face of the fury and hatred of Nazi persecution: Kolbe said: "Hate is not a creative force: only love is". In Auschwitz, he was forced to do the most humiliating jobs, such as carrying dead bodies to the crematorium. Nevertheless, he continued his charity and priestly ministry, for which he was subjected to violent beatings by the guards.

When a prisoner escaped from Auschwitz, the deputy camp commander picked up 10 men to be starved to death in an underground bunker to deter further escape attempts. Kolbe volunteered to die in the place of a man who cried out that he had a wife and children. They were locked up in a "starvation bunker" without food and water. According to an eyewitness, who was an assistant janitor at that time, Kolbe led the prisoners in prayer. Prison guards found him standing or kneeling in the cell and looking calmly at those who entered. After they had been starved and deprived of water for two weeks, Kolbe remained alive. He was killed by lethal injection.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2021-08/saint-maximilian-kolbe-martyr-august14-1941-80-years.html>

Saints of the week:

Aug 14th – St. Maximilian Kolbe
Aug 15th – The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Aug 16th – St. Stephen of Hungary
Aug 17th – Our Lady of Knock
Aug 18th – St. Helen
Aug 19th – St. John Eudes

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