

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, 27th August 2023 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 85:1-3

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
save the servant who trusts in you, my
God.

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to
you all the day long.

First Reading Isaiah:22:19-23

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna,
the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.

I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.

I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;

should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.

I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;

he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

Responsorial Psalm.

Ps 137:1-3,6, 8. R.v.8

**(R.) Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your
hands.**

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. **(R.)**

2. I thank you for your faithfulness and
love which excel all we ever knew of
you.

On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul.

(R.)

3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the
lowly and the haughty he knows from
afar.

Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. **(R.)**

Second Reading Romans 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

How rich are the depths of God – how
deep his wisdom and knowledge – and
how impossible to penetrate his motives
or understand his methods! Who could
ever know the mind of the Lord? Who
could ever be his counsellor? Who
could ever give him anything or lend him
anything? All that exists comes from
him; all is by him and for him. To him be
glory for ever! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 16:13-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

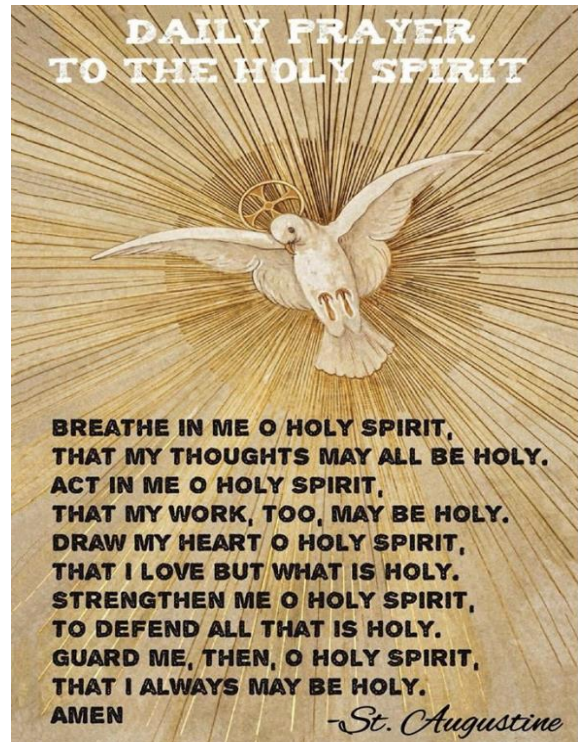
You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

Communion Antiphon. Cf Psalm 103:13-15

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

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Pope's Quote:

"We cannot be part-time Christians! We should seek to live our faith at every moment of every day." **Pope Francis**

Let us pray: We pray for those recently deceased, and for Sam Gauci, Drew Wiecek, Barry Bowden and Fred Lydamore whose death anniversaries are at this time. We pray that their

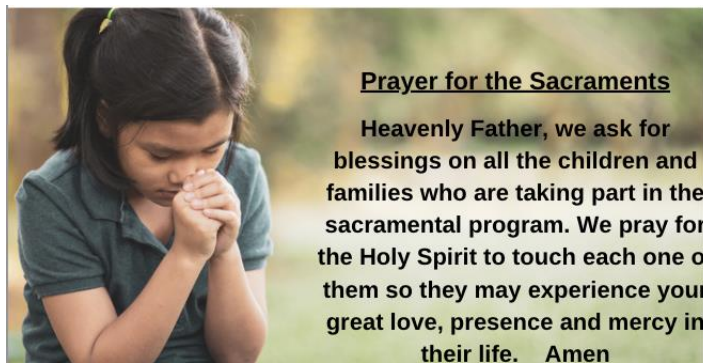


families find comfort in the fact that they are safely in the arms of their loving Lord. We also pray for all our brothers and sisters in our community who are unwell, especially, Trish McGettigan, Pauline Balkin, Mary Goyed, Valerie Plummer, Shirley Harman, Greg Wood, Dot Gray, June Sultana, Stuart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

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.

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

Playgroup: Please be advised that Playgroup has recommenced and will run fortnightly. The next date will be **Tuesday 5th September 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
26/27 August	<i>Stevenie Harman</i> <i>Debra Gleeson</i> JS: Alex Tuballa C: Louise Goderie R: Marie McLennan	<i>Mark Norbury</i> <i>Barbara Ryan</i> JS: N/A C: Paul Ryan R: Jessica Topp	<i>Lara Roser</i> David Green Noeline Bagnel Heather Barlow (Visit only) JS: Matthew Hamilton C: Marianne Castor R: Denise Robens
2 /3 September	<i>John Cowen</i> <i>Beth Nowland</i> JS: Alex Tuballa C: Lynne Castellari R: Victor Tuballa	<i>Matthew Topp</i> <i>Pat Edwards</i> JS: Evie Milroy C: Geraldine Waters R: Sue Mouthaan	<i>Hartley Dhyon</i> Kevin Balkin Kay Walker (Visit) JS: Matthew Hamilton C: Don Robens R: Brett Wright

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.

Feast of Our Lady of Penafrancia

3rd Triduum Novena and Mass
Sat 2nd Sept: St Joseph's Church, 12 Richmond Rd, Kingswood.
Novena -8:00am; Mass 8:30am
17th Anniversary Celebration, Sat 9th Sept, commencing at 9:30am.

Please invite your family and friends.

Catholic Care Emergency Food Drive:

Many thanks for your generous response to our food drive last weekend. We collected around 25 bags of food to go to the Catholic Care Centre at Mamre for distribution to those in need in our area. Thanks also to our 3 drivers who have volunteered to transport the food to the centre at St Mary's. If you would like to join our small team of volunteers, please call **Carol Burke on 0432982773**.

Next Food Drive 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 at rear of church on the weekend **16th/17th Sept**. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. **Thank you**

Arise Women's Retreat: 16 September

St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, is hosting a day of reflection, inspiration and encounter with Christ at this year's Arise Women's Retreat: 'Arise – Talitha Koum – Little girl, I say ARISE' on Saturday 16 September from 8.30am to 8.30pm. The retreat will include Mass, meditation, talks, praise and worship, creative expression, spiritual direction and healing Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. All meals are included. For bookings and more information, please visit

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1078404>

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:

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. 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. If you would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org.

The Sisters of Saint Joseph have prepared an **Australian Pilgrimage, "In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop"** commencing in Melbourne on 17 October, journeying through Victoria and South Australia, and ending at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney on 28 October 2023. During the pilgrimage we visit many places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry. I am happy to answer any questions and provide an itinerary and application form, and may be contacted at national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au or on 89124818. Sr Annie Bond.

World Day of Migrant and Refugees celebration: 16 September

You're warmly invited to a family-friendly event with Bishop Vincent and our migrant communities for the World Day of Migrants & Refugees on Saturday 16 September, 2pm – 5.30pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Seven Hills. Come hear stories, enjoy free entertainment and activities. RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/celebrating-world-day-of-refugees-and-migrants-tickets-675662363317?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Bishop's Father's Day Appeal: Caring for those who have cared for us

Our priests never stop giving their lives in service to our community. They dedicate themselves to carrying out God's ministry for as long as they are able. This Father's Day, let us show our thanks and appreciation for our priests' lifelong gifts of faithful service. Your compassionate donation will help our Clergy Support Foundation to care for our priests, and provide them with personalised health and wellbeing support. Please give generously to the Bishop's Father's Day Appeal at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or scan this QR code. Thank you.



Saints of the week:

Aug 28th – St. Augustine of Hippo, bishop and doctor.
Aug 29th – Our Lady of Good Health
Aug 30th – St. Richard Martin
Aug 31st – St. Aidan of Lindisfarne
Sept 1st – St. Anna the Prophetess
Sept 2nd – St. Ingrid of Sweden

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