

# 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, 10th September 2023 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

### **Entrance Antiphon**

*Psalm 118:137, 124*

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

### **First Reading**

*Ezekiel 33:7-9*

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

*If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.*

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, ‘Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.’

### **Responsorial Psalm.**

*Ps 94:1-2,6-9. R. v.8*

**(R.) O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.**

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)
3. O that today you would listen to his voice! ‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.’ (R.)

### **Second Reading**

*Romans 13:8-10*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*Love is the fulfilment of the Law.*

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

*2 Corinthians 5:19*

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

**Alleluia!**

## **Gospel** [Matthew 18:15-20](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew



*If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

## **Communion Antiphon.** [Cf Psalm 41:2-3](#)

Like the deer that yearns for running streams,  
so my soul is yearning for you, my God;  
my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

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## **The Triumph of the Cross.**

On 13 September 335, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher (also called the Church of the Resurrection) was dedicated. The following day, the cross that Empress Helena had discovered on 14 September 320, was venerated in a solemn ceremony. In 614, the Persian King, Chosroes II, waged war on the Romans. After conquering Jerusalem, he confiscated many treasures, among which was the Cross of Jesus. The Byzantine emperor Heraclius initiated peace negotiations, but was rejected. He then waged war and won near Nineveh, asking for the restitution of the Cross, which then returned to Jerusalem. Today, the cruelty of the Cross is not what is exalted, but the Love that God manifested to humanity by accepting death on the Cross: "Who, though in the form of God, emptied himself, taking the form of a slave. This is the glory of the Cross of Jesus!"  
(Pope Francis)

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/liturgical-holidays/feast-of-the-exaltation-of-the-holy-cross.html>

## **Prayer:**

*We adore you,  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
here, and in all your churches  
throughout the whole world,  
and we bless you,  
for by your holy cross you  
have redeemed the world.*

(Saint Francis of Assisi)

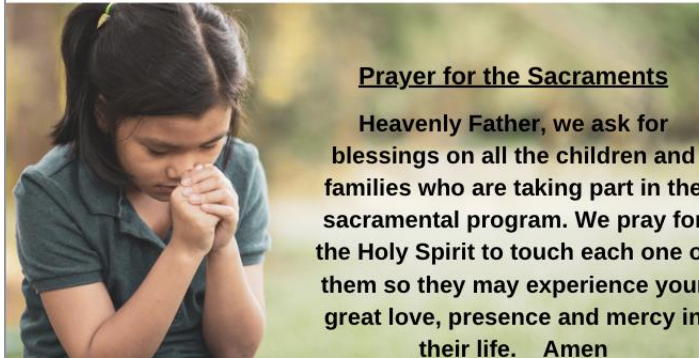
**Let us pray:** We pray for recently deceased Lynnette Beltran, Jacquellyne Baumgartner, Frank Matanic, Rhoda Johnson and Christine Jeffery; and for John Vanderloo, Glorene Petty, Ron Mulock, Brian Maher and Keith Goderie whose death anniversaries are at this time. We pray that their families find comfort 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, Kristina Majstorovic, Kaye Simpson, 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 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:**

Please be advised that there will be **no morning tea** after the 9:30am Mass this weekend due to the **Sacrament of Confirmation**.

**Sacramental news:** Please join me in praying for the children who are receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday. 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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).

**Australian Catholic Bishops Conference:** The Australian Catholic Bishops have issued a statement regarding an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament. Copies of the statement along with the Uluru Statement from the Heart and prayer cards are available at the back of the church.

**Daily Mass Book for 2024:** If you would like to purchase a Daily Mass Book for 2024, please contact the Parish Office on 4735 1041 as soon as possible. Many thanks.

**Readers/ Commentators roster:**

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
9/10 Sept	John Cowen Anne Deutscher JS: Alex Tuballa C: Lynne Castellari R: Bellinda Henderson	Mark Norbury Pat Edwards JS: Evie Milroy C: Gabe Manouk R: Helen Larsen	Deacon Batsirai Lara Roser Kay Walker (Visit) JS: Hugo Watson & Kate Fenning C: Trish Boyle R: Matthew Hamilton
16/17 Sept	Stevenie Harman Beth Nowland JS: Alex Tuballa & Josie Henderson C: Phillip Youngman R: Mary Balam	Deacon Batsirai Jessica Topp JS: Evie Milroy C: Maria Sirotti R: Kay Walker	Hartley Dhyon David Green Denise Robens (Visit) JS: Matthew Hamilton & Nicholas Hamilton C: Lisa Samojlowicz R: Courtney Hamilton

**Catholic Care Refugee Sponsorship**

**Program:** You are invited to join Rita Hakkoum from Catholic Care Refugee Sponsorship Program on **24<sup>th</sup> 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 this to one of the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it to me”, Mt:25:40.

Looking forward to seeing you.

**Catholic Care Emergency Food Drive-**

**16th /17th Sept:** 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 the church **next weekend**. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

**Bishop’s Father’s Day Appeal:** Thankyou for your generous support of our Clergy Support Foundation’s Bishop’s Father’s Day Appeal. Your donations will enable our Clergy Health and Wellbeing team to provide our ageing clergy with the personal, professional, and practical care and guidance needed to transition to a dignified and well-deserved retirement. For those who haven’t had a chance to support our retired clergy, please complete the giving envelope and place your gift in one of the collection baskets. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible and will be received.

**Charismatic Healing Mass – 17<sup>th</sup> September:** Fr Hugh Thomas will be celebrating Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, St Marys, at 2pm. Mass will be followed by individual prayer for healing. All welcome!

**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 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  
Filipino Mass, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:emuplains@parracatholic.org)) for information  
on reconciliation, communion and confirmation.

## Diocese of Parramatta Notices:

### **Glenmore Park St Padre Pio Feast Day Celebrations**

You are invited for a three-day Novena in anticipation of celebrating the feast of St Padre Pio. There are numerous blessings received by his intercession.

#### **Three Day Triduum:**

- Thursday 21 September – 7.00pm Novena to St Padre Pio and Mass
- Friday 22 September – 7.00pm Novena to St Padre Pio and Mass
- Saturday 23 September – 5.30pm Novena to St Padre Pio and Vigil Mass

**Feast Day: Sunday 24 September. At 10am: Solemn Procession with the Relic of St. Padre Pio, Solemn Feast Day Mass, Veneration and Blessing by the Relic of St. Padre, Other festivities.**

**Address:** 34 William Howell Drive, Glenmore Park. Enquiries: (02) 4789 2232 or  
[glenmorepark@parracatholic.org](mailto:glenmorepark@parracatholic.org)

### **Rydalmere Parish Perpetual Adoration Chapel now open**

Holy Name of Mary Parish, Rydalmere, has a new Adoration Chapel that is open to the public 24/7 located at 4 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere. Fr Chadi welcomes everyone to the Chapel. For after-hours access please contact the Parish Office or Blake on (02) 9684 1541 or [admin@holymary.org.au](mailto:admin@holymary.org.au)

**Dads at the Shrine** is a monthly hour of adoration held at the Schoenstatt Shrine in Mulgoa, next held **Wednesday 13 September**. The hour begins with a brief reflection before a period of personal silent prayer. Confessions are available. The evening finishes with a simple cup of tea. All dads are welcome. No RSVP is necessary. Any questions, contact Bernard, 0416 106 871.

### **Parish of Richmond St Monica's Spring Fair: 16 September**

All are invited to celebrate the St Monica's Spring Fair on Saturday 16 September at 32 Francis Street, Richmond. Enjoy a delightful day with kids and family, featuring an array of entertaining activities. Indulge in exciting games, delicious treats, captivating performances, and more! Mark your calendars for this joyous community event that promises laughter and memories for all. See you there!

## Saints of the week:

Sept 11th – St. Daniel  
Sept 12th – Most Holy Name of Mary  
Sept 13th – St. John Chrysostom  
Sept 14th – The Exaltation of the Holy Cross  
Sept 15th – Our Lady of Sorrows  
Sept 16th – Ss. Cornelius, Pope & Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

## 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