

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*



19 Troy St, Emu Plains
Phone: 4735 1041
Email: emuplains@parracatholic.org
Web: <https://catholicparishemuplains.org.au/>

Sunday, 17th September 2023 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon Cf Sirach 36:18

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,
that your prophets be found true.
Hear the prayers of your servant,
and of your people Israel.

First Reading Sirach 27:30 – 28:7

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

*Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your
sins will be forgiven.*

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

Responsorial Psalm.

Ps 102:1-4. 9-12. R. v.8

**(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion.**

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and
compassion. (R.)
3. His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults (R.)
4. For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins. (R.)

Second Reading Romans 14:7-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Gospel Acclamation John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Matthew 18:21-35](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would

not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

Communion Antiphon.

Cf Psalm 35:8

How precious is your mercy, O God!
The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.



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Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased Lynnette Beltran and Jacquellyne Baumgartner; and for Glorene Petty, Ron Mulock, 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, Leo Bahlmann, 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 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:

Sacramental news: A big thank you to all the parishioners of OLOW for your prayers for the 45 children who were confirmed last Sunday. It was a very grace-filled and blessed Mass. I am so grateful for so many wonderful volunteers we have in this parish who generously gave of their gifts and time to assist with the practical running of the program: Sue, Wolfgang, Helen, the Snedden family, Maria, Jackie, Jan, Jo, Margaret, Marcia and David, Mary, Stevenie, John, Hugo, Kate, Evie, Chris, Thea, Courtney, Mario and Lynne and James. Les, who does all the church decorating, received a wonderful compliment from Bishop Vincent saying, "it's the best I've seen"! Blessings, Cate

Playgroup: Please be advised that Playgroup has recommenced and will run fortnightly. The next date will be **Tuesday 19th 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). and discuss the scriptures and our faith.

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 20th September**, commencing 10am, at Kay Walker's home- 197 River Rd Leonay. You are all welcome.



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

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
16/17 Sept	<u>Stevenie Harman</u> <u>Beth Nowland</u> JS: Alex Tuballa & Josie Henderson C: Phillip Youngman R: Mary Balam	<u>Deacon Batsirai</u> <u>Jessica Topp</u> JS: Evie Milroy C: Maria Sirotti R: Kay Walker	<u>Hartley Dhyon</u> <u>David Green</u> Denise Robens (Visit) JS: Matthew Hamilton & Nicholas Hamilton C: Lisa Samojlowicz R: Courtney Hamilton
23/24 Sept	<u>Deacon Batsirai</u> <u>Stevenie Harman</u> JS: Alex Tuballa C: Trish Ryan R: Marie McLennan	<u>Mark Norbury</u> <u>John Lo Cascio</u> JS: Evie Milroy & Soraya Laurendet C: Paul Ryan R: Jessica Topp	<u>Lara Roser</u> <u>Noeline Bangel</u> Connie Reid Heather Barlow (Visit only) JS: Jonah Ellis & Hugo Watson C: Marianne Castor R: Denise Robens

109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees – Sunday 24th September: Next Sunday is the international day set aside for us to consider the plight of migrants and refugees.

Fr Michael has invited Rita Hakkoum from Catholic Care to speak with us, and we invite you to join us in the hall on **24th September, following the 9:30am Mass**, to learn more about refugees and how you can get involved. The goal of Catholic Care is to help refugee families start a new life in a caring and supportive community. During the event, you will have the opportunity to hear from our speaker, and refugees who have benefitted from the Catholic Care program. Rita has assisted many groups from different parishes in the diocese and will share her own experience with you. You will be able to ask Rita any questions or express your concern. *We look forward to seeing you there!* Please see our [Facebook page](#) for the stories of two families who have been supported by the Anglican Church in Springwood.

Catholic Care Emergency Food Drive: This weekend we are collecting items for our monthly 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 the rear of the church. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. *The next food drive weekend will be 14th/15th October.*

Season of Creation - 3rd September to 4th October: helping us focus on the need to care for Creation.



2023 theme is **Let Justice and Peace Flow. More information** at <https://laudatosimovement.org/season-of-creation/>

Care for our Common Home: Penrith City



Council **Bushcare: Tuesday 19th September**, 9am Hollier Reserve (M4 end of Troy St - enter via Tattersall PI). Volunteers needed. Jim 0421 125 722.

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.

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:

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

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/>

Ordination to the Presbyterate: 21 September: Bishop Vincent Long and the Diocese of Parramatta invite you to the Ordination to the Presbyterate of Tom Green on Thursday 21 September at 7.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Please RSVP to hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org if you can attend. We hope you will be able to join us at this joyous event for our Diocese and our faith community.

Thank you for caring for our retired priests who have always cared for us



Because of your compassion, our Bishop's Father's Day Appeal has raised funds to help care for our retired priests and clergy in ill-health. Your generosity enables our Clergy Support Foundation to nurture our retired priests' physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing, and provide for daily living essentials and medical expenses for our ageing priests. If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit

parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or scan this QR code. Thank you.

Saints of the week:

Sept 18th – St. Joseph of Cupertino

Sept 19th – St Januarius, Bishop and Martyr

Sept 20th – St. Andrew Kim Tagon, Paul Chong Hasang and companions

Sept 21st – St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Sept 22nd – Our Lady, Queen of Peace

Sept 21st – St. Pio of Pietrelcina

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