

# 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, 12th November 2023. 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

### **Entrance Antiphon** Cf Psalm 87:3

Let my prayer come into your presence.  
Incline your ear to my cry for help,  
O Lord.

### **First Reading** Wisdom 6:12-16

A reading from the book of Wisdom

*Wisdom is found by those who look for it.*



Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim. By those who love her she is readily seen, and found by those who look for her. Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them. Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates. Even to think about her is understanding fully grown; be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you. She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

### **Responsorial Psalm.** Ps 62:2-8. R. v.2

**(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.**

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting.  
My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. **(R.)**

2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary. to see your strength and your glory. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. **(R.)**
3. So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. **(R.)**
4. On my bed I remember you. On you I muse through the night for you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. **(R.)**

### **Second Reading** 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

*Those who died as Christians, God will bring to life with Jesus.*

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the

archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

**Gospel Acclamation** [Matthew 24:42. 44](#)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Be watchful and ready:  
you know not when the Son of Man is coming.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel** [Matthew 25:1-13](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.*

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry,

"The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

**Communion Antiphon.** [Cf Psalm 22:1-2](#)

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.

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**Let us pray:** We pray for recently deceased Rebecca Cook; and for Steve Stindl and Desmond Donoghue 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, Laurie Dooan, Deacon



George Bryan, Kaye Bryan, Irene Donley, Desley Mulock, June Wilson, Kristina Majstorovic, Leo Bahlmann, Trish McGettigan, Pauline Balkin, Mary Goyed, Valerie Plummer, Shirley Harman, Dot Gray, June Sultana, Stuart Cameron, Mary Rose, Maria Mercieca, Marta Mederos, Lucy Mikosic, Margaret Houlahan, Henry O'Malley, Elisabeth Robens, Marion Betker, 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:

### Welcome back Fr. Michael!

We thank Fr Vincent Musindalo from the Pennant Hills Parish, and priests from the Penrith and Kingswood Parishes who celebrated Mass with us in Fr Michael's absence. Also, thank you to Deacon Batsirai and our Senior Servers who have been doing many extra duties during this time.

**Weekday Mass and reconciliation will now be back to their normal time.**

**Christmas Choir** practice will be in the Church starting at 7.30 on Tuesday evening 29<sup>th</sup> November. All welcome.

**Cuppa and a Chat:** Please join us for a cuppa and a bite to eat after Mass. This month, we will be gathering on:



11<sup>th</sup> November (after 6pm Mass – please note this has changed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat for this month only).

12<sup>th</sup> November (after the 9:30am Mass)

19<sup>th</sup> November (after the 8:00am Mass)

26<sup>th</sup> November (after the 9:30am Mass)

**If you are also able to help out on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, please call the Parish Office on 4735 1041.**

**Playgroup:** Playgroup runs fortnightly at 10am Tuesday in the Parish Hall. Next meeting is Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November. 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 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
11/12 November	John Cowen Debra Gleeson JS: Alex Tuballa & Josie Henderson C: Loise Goderie R: Mary Balam	Mark Norbury Pat Edwards JS: Evie Milroy C: Maria Sirotti R: Kay Walker	Deacon Batsirai Matthew Topp Rebecca Carberry (Visit) JS: Matthew Hamilton & Jonah Ellis C: Lisa Samojlowicz R: Courtney Hamilton
18/19 November	Stevenie Harman Michael Manton JS: Alex Tuballa C: Lynne Castellari R: Marie McLennan	Mark Norbury Noeline Bangel JS: Evie Milroy C: Paul Ryan R: Jessica Topp	Deacon Batsirai Lara Roser Kay Walker (Visit) JS: Matthew Hamilton & Nicholas Hamilton C: Marianne Castor R: Denise Robens

**Catholic Care Emergency Food Drive.** Many thanks for your continuing generous response to our food drive. Catholic Care Centre at Springwood is delighted with our response and gratefully receives your donations to help those in need.

**Next Food Drive** is next weekend 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> November. This month Catholic Care are especially asking for personal care items (toothpaste and brushes, deodorant, toilet paper, tissues). Just a few items from each of us provides much appreciated relief for needy families. Thank you.

**NOVEMBER MASSES:** In November we remember the Faithful Departed – those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith.

*“And because he considered that they who had fallen asleep with Godliness, had great grace laid up for them. It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins.” 2 Maccabees 12:45-46.*

We have the **Remembrance Book** at the front of the church. You are welcome to put the names of your departed family and friends in the box provided. They will be remembered at the Masses throughout November.

**November Mass intention envelopes** are also available at the front and rear of the church. The priest will say a Mass daily for a specific person when a stipend Mass is offered - suggested donation is \$20. These envelopes can be placed in the purple box at the front of the church, in the collection basket or brought to the Parish Office.

**Sacramental news:** Please join me in praying for the children and their families who are preparing for the Sacrament of Baptism.

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

**Infant Baptisms:** We warmly welcome the following children into our Faith Community – Eva and Thomas Atherton, Olivia and Chloe Helderman and Dakota Hosking. May God bless these children and their families.



### 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:  
Peta Sparkes (Acting Principal) (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:

**Charismatic Healing Mass.** Mass will be followed by individual prayer for healing. Celebrant: Fr Brian Steele MGL. Sunday 19 November 2023, 2:00 pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, St Marys.

**Donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Appeal** Following a series of surprise attacks against Israel by Hamas in early October, Caritas Australia is supporting partner agencies on the ground to provide emergency cash, shelter, and psychosocial support to those affected by the violence. To support this appeal, visit [www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/gaza-crisis/](http://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/gaza-crisis/) or call 1800 024 413 toll free.

**ADVENT SERIES:** On each Wednesday before the Sundays of Advent, Br Barry Donaghue cfc, D Min, will host 4 presentations in preparation for the commemoration of the birth of Jesus.

Dates: Nov 29. Dec 6, 13, 20. Time: 7.30 – 9.00 pm.

Place: Edmund Rice Centre, Winbourne, 1315 Mulgoa Rd, Mulgoa, NSW 2745. Cost: Donation.

The talks will be based on the Advent scriptures, including time for questions, reflection and discussion.

Next door parking; wheelchair accessible. For catering purposes, please call or text Br Barry on 0478408337 or email him at [bqdonaghue@edmundrice.org](mailto:bqdonaghue@edmundrice.org)

**Diocesan outreach assistants – Aid to the Church in need (ACN)** is recruiting for a number of Diocesan Outreach Assistants who will deliver monthly presentations in parishes across Sydney, Broken Bay and Maitland-Newcastle. For more information and to view the full job ad go to:

<https://aidtochurch.org/work-with-us>

**Mass and prayers for deceased clergy: 17 November** The Diocese of Parramatta invites you to its second annual Mass for our deceased clergy on Friday 17 November at 10.30am at St Aidan's Parish, Rooty Hill, followed by prayers at the gravesites of clergy buried in Pinegrove Cemetery. All are welcome to attend and give your gift of prayer to those whose lives were dedicated to bringing us all closer to Christ. We encourage each parish to offer a Mass for the deceased priests and deacons who have served in your own parish on the same day, to unite in prayer for this special intention.

### Saints of the week:

Nov 13th – St. Frances Xavier Cabrini  
Nov 14th – St. Lawrence O'Toole  
Nov 15th – St. Albert the Great, Bishop and Doctor  
Nov 16th – St. Gertrude the Great  
Nov 17th– St. Elizabeth of Hungary  
Nov 18th – St. Peter and Paul, Apostles

### 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