

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, 19th November 2023. 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon [Jeremiah 29:11,12,14](#)

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

First Reading [Proverbs 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31](#)

A reading from the book of Proverbs

Give her a share in what she has worked for.

A perfect wife – who can find her?
She is far beyond the price of pearls.
Her husband’s heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit.
Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

Responsorial Psalm. [Ps 127:1-5. R. v.1](#)

(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways! By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. **(R.)**

2. Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. **(R.)**

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion in a happy Jerusalem all the days of your life. **(R.)**

Second Reading [1 Thessalonians 5:1-6](#)

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

The day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night.

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about ‘times and seasons’, since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, ‘How quiet and peaceful it is’ that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

Gospel Acclamation [John 15:4. 5](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Matthew 25:14-30](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Because you have been faithful over a few things, enter into the joy of the Lord.

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir", he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he

said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."

Communion Antiphon. [Psalm 72:28](#)

To be near God is my happiness,
to place my hope in God the Lord.

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Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased Robert Malouf; and for Steve Stindl, Judy Clements and Noela Goodwin 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, Deacon George Bryan, Kaye Bryan, Laurie Doohan, 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:

Christmas Choir practice will be in the Church starting at 7.30 on Tuesday evening 29th 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:

19th November (after the 8:00am Mass)

26th November (after the 9:30am Mass)

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

Playgroup: Playgroup runs fortnightly at 10am Tuesday in the Parish Hall. Next meeting is Tuesday 21st November. All welcome! Please contact the Parish Office for more info 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.

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. **This weekend we will be collecting grocery items and, in particular, 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.

Care for our Common Home: Penrith City Council **Bushcare: Tuesday 21st November**, 9am Hollier Reserve (M4 end of Troy St - enter via Tattersall PI). Volunteers needed. Jim 0421 125 722

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
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
25/26 November	John Cowen Anne Deutscher JS: Alex Tuballa & Josie Henderson C: Phillip Youngman R: Victor Tuballa	Jessica Topp John Lo Cascio JS: Evie Milroy C: Geraldine Waters R: Sue Mouthaan	Deacon Batsirai Matthew Topp David Green Heather Barlow (Visit only) JS: Jonah Ellis & Kate Fenning C: Don Robens R: Brett Wright

Sacramental news: On Saturday 11th November, 8 primary school children (and a 3yr-old brother) were received into the church through Baptism. Despite the crazy heat, it was a very beautiful and blessed celebration. Thank you for your prayers and if you see them at Mass, please introduce yourself to them. A special thanks to those who helped with the program and Mass: Sue, Wolfgang, Helen, Marcia and Dave, Jo, Nicholas, John, Chris and Thea, Courtney, James and Lynne. Blessings, Cate



Infant Baptisms: We warmly welcome Kai Weyman into our Faith Community. May God bless him and his family at this special time.

Bishop's Christmas Appeal for Catholic Care chaplaincy services: 25th & 26th November

Will you support our chaplains to listen with the ear of the heart? Your compassionate generosity and prayers will help our 15 Catholic Care chaplains to provide pastoral, spiritual, and sacramental support to seriously ill, lonely, and distraught people this Christmas.

Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal 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.

Columban Calendars are now available to purchase for \$10 each at the rear of the church.

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, 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:

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.

Local World Youth Day and Leaders Commissioning Mass: 26 November Catholic Youth Parramatta invites all youth leaders, new school leaders and young people to the annual Local World Youth Day & Leaders Commissioning Mass, on Sunday 26 November (Feast of Christ the King) at 3.30pm at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes. Family, friends and community members are all invited to join in this celebration. For catering purposes, please RSVP to met@parracatholic.org.

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/ 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 bgdonaghue@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>

Positions Vacant: * Liturgy Administration Support – Mission Enhancement Team, Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 24 November 2023.** *Youth Coordinator (part-time) - St Bernadette's Parish, Castle Hill – **Applications close Thursday 30 November 2023.** parracatholic.org/employment

Saints of the week:

Nov 20th – St. Leo of Nonantula

Nov 21st – The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Nov 22nd – St. Cecilia, Martyr

Nov 23rd – St. Columban, Bl. Miguel Pro.

Nov 24th– St. Andrew Dung Lac & Companions

Nov 25th – St. Catherine of Alexandria

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