

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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Monday, 25th December 2023

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD: MASS OF THE DAY

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon Cf Isaiah 9:5

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

First Reading Is 52:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of our God.

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, ‘Your God is king!’ Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Responsorial Psalm. Ps 97:1-6. R. v.3

(R.) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. (R.)

2. The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. (R.)

3. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. (R.)

4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music. With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord. (R.)

Second Reading Heb 1:1-6

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

In our own time, God speaks to us through his Son.

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God’s glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name. God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

Gospel Acclamation [Mt 1:23](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us.
Come you nations and adore the Lord.
Today a great light has come upon the earth.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Jn 1:1-18](#)

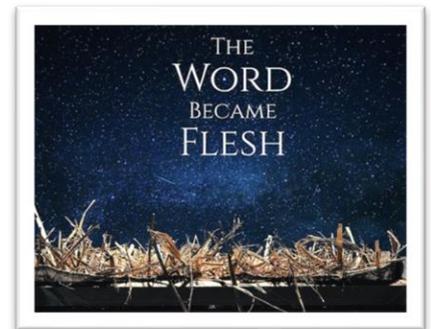
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory.

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him.

He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. John appears as his witness, He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.' Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased Giovanni Velcich; and for Alexandra Haddad, Maria & Stan Mikuszewski and Helen & Marian Adamcewicz whose death anniversary occurs 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, Kai Weyman (1 yr old), Deacon George Bryan, Kaye Bryan, Laurie Doohan, Irene Donley, Desley Mulock, June Wilson, Kristina Majstorovic, Leo Bahlmann, Trish McGettigan, Pauline Balkin, Mary Goyed, 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 CHRISTMAS WALL HANGING:

Our Christmas wall hanging was created in December 1986 by parishioners Margaret Merrick, Carol Burke and Lorraine Stratton. It was hung up in time for the last school mass of that year. Margaret designed the banner and it is made of taffeta fabric. All three ladies cut out the fabric and Carol joined all the pieces together on her sewing machine, which took many hours. Lorraine incorporated some patchwork and applique techniques to give the banner a three-dimensional appearance. The banner took six weeks to complete and was featured in the Penrith Press at the time.



Parish Notices:

Office Hours:

The Parish Office will be closed from Tuesday 27th December 2023 until Tuesday 2nd January 2024. Please visit www.parracatholic.org to keep updated on what is happening in the Diocese. In an emergency, email joseph.lam@parracatholic.org.

Communion for the Sick If you, a family member or anyone you know is sick or is no longer able to attend mass and would like communion in the home, please call the office on 4735 1041. We will then arrange for one of our Ministers of Communion to make a home visit after mass on Sunday.

Sacramental news Reconciliation Term 1 2024

The preparation program for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will begin very early in Term 1 next year. If your child is in year 4 or above in 2024 and would like to receive this sacrament, please contact the parish office on 47351041 or emuplains@parracatholic.org

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
Christmas Masses	6.00pm Vigil Matthew Topp John Cowen Pat Edwards Anne Deutscher Barbara Ryan JS: Matthew Hamilton JS: Hugo Watson C: Trish Ryan R1: Phillip Youngman R2: Sue Mouthaan	8.00pm Family Mass Lara Roser Stevenie Harman Kay Walker JS: Josie Henderson JS: SorayaLaurendet C: Mary Balam R1: Bellinda Henderson R2: Gabriel Manouk	9.30am Christmas Day John Cowen Denise Robens Connie Reid JS: Evie Milroy JS: Jonah Ellis C: Marianne Castor R1: Trish Boyle R2: TBA
Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
30/31 December	Stevenie Harman Anne Deutscher JS: Alex Tuballa & Josie Henderson C: Phillip Youngman R: Belinda Henderson	Matthew Topp Pat Edwards JS: Evie Milroy C: Gabe Manouk R: Helen Larsen	Lara Roser Connie Reid Denise Robens (Visit) JS: Hugo Watson & Nicholas Hamilton C: Trish Boyle R: Matthew Hamilton

No New Year's day Mass at OLOW

St Nicholas of Myra, Penrith has Mass at 9:30am on Monday 1st January, 2024.

CHANGES TO WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

In the month of January, Mass will be celebrated on Tues 2nd at 8:30am, Wed 24th and Wed 31st. In February, Masses will resume as normal from Tues 20th. However, Mass will also be celebrated on Wed 7th and Wed 14th. Communion Services will be held Wed-Fri from Wed 3rd Jan, with the exception of the dates above.

Parish Jubilee: Next weekend marks the 50th Anniversary of the inception of our Parish. From 1972, Sunday Masses were held in Melrose Hall and were celebrated by priests from Penrith Parish. In January, 1974, Fr Kevin Hannan was appointed the first Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Way and celebrated the Sunday Masses in Melrose Hall. Next weekend, we will remember and pray for the members of our community, past and present. We will give special thanks for the founding members of our Parish who worked so hard to create the facilities we enjoy today.

Everyone is invited to a morning tea after the 9:30am Mass.

Our Jubilee Anniversary Mass will be on the 26th May 2024 at 10:00am when Bishop Vincent will celebrate with us.

Commemorative Polo Shirts: If you would like to order a polo shirt or for general enquiries, please phone Sarah Tuballa on 0439 467 797.

Wanted – mobile phones, ipads and laptops (unlocked) One of our parishioners is going on mission to Uganda with “Bridge for Peace” charity on 30th December. Contact Louise (0434434385).

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:

Peta Sparkes (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:

Please note changes on previous page.

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.

Father Michael's Christmas message:

Dear Parishioners,

Merry Christmas to you, your family, and all special people in your lives.

I am very delighted to wish you all my Prayerful Greetings as we enter the Christmas Season. The story of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ reminds us all that God came to live among us and be one like us, experiencing what we go through in life and walking with us in our life journey. The Christmas story is ever new and always true despite all the challenges we face in life.

We are again celebrating Christmas when many people are suffering the horror of wars, pandemic, and other catastrophes. In mind is the continuous wars in the middle East, tensions in some of the African and eastern European countries among others. But the promise of God remains sure and steadfast in our lives. Like the angel and Mary, we are reminded: "do not be afraid", fear not. In the midst of our current challenges and concerns, the love of God the Father is made manifest to us in the wonderful gift of His son, Jesus.

As we celebrate the Nativity of Jesus this year yet again let us remain eternally grateful to God for all the blessings, especially for the gifts of life, family, faith community, friends, and neighbours. I take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely as you have been such a blessing to our parish by being active and supporting us with your gifts of time, talents, and timely financial help. Thank you for your commitments, specifically for your financial support. Your enormous support has made us go through yet another challenging year.

Special gratitude goes to all the volunteers in our different ministries who do such a wonderful job in serving the various needs of our parish with much enthusiasm and commitment. I hope and pray that you will have a wonderful and blessed time during this Christmas Season. With the office staff, we wish you all a blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May God bless you abundantly during this Christmas Season as well as during the New Year.

Merry Christmas!

Fr Michael.

Saints of the week:

26th Dec – St Stephen, first martyr

27th Dec – St John, apostle and evangelist

28th Dec – The Holy Innocents

29th Dec – St Thomas a Becket, Archbishop and martyr

30th Dec – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

31st Dec – St Sylvester I, Pope.

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