

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, 10th December 2023. Second Sunday of Advent, Year B.

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon Cf Isaiah 30:19,30

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

First Reading [Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Prepare the way for the Lord.



‘Console my people, console them’ says your God. ‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.’ A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’ Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God.’ Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering

lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm. [Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8](#)

(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R.)**
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. **(R.)**
3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. **(R.)**

Second Reading [2 Peter 3:8-14](#)

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of

the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel Acclamation [Luke 3:4. 6](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Mark 1:1-8](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Communion Antiphon. [Baruch 5:5; 4:36](#)

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved

Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased John Doyle, Lorraine Lindsay, Valerie Plummer and Annie Eivers; and for Stephen Walker, Barry Hilder, Michael Joseph Flanagan, Monica Pigott and Janice Lowe 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, 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 evenings. All are welcome.



Cuppa and a Chat: Please join us for a cuppa and a chat after Mass. This month we will be gathering on: 10th December, after the 9:30am Mass
17th December, after the 8:00am Mass

Playgroup: Playgroup will resume after the school holidays, and will continue to run every second Tuesday at 10am in the Parish Hall. The commencement date is to be advised. 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).

Volunteers Thankyou Gathering: All the volunteers are invited on 15th December at 7pm in the Parish Hall to collectively say thankyou to God for the services and ministry you have been providing to Our Lady of the Way Community. If you are able to attend, please RSVP by Monday by either phoning 4735 1041 or email emuplains@parracatholic.org.

St Vincent de Paul Society: Christmas will look different this year for struggling families with more and more people living in poverty. If you are able to help, please use the poor box (located at the rear of the church). Alternatively, you can visit vinnies.org.au, call 131812 or scan the QR code on the poster at the rear of the church. Thankyou.
Vinnies Christmas Cards are also available to purchase for \$10 per pack.

Baptisms: We warmly welcome Emersyn Curry, Hudson Morgan and Evie McGriskin into our Faith Community. May God bless these children and their families.

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
9/10 December	<p><i>Stevenie Harman</i> <i>Beth Nowland</i> JS: Alex Tuballa & Josie Henderson C: Debra Gleeson R: Mary Balam</p>	<p><i>Jessica Topp</i> <i>John Lo Cascio</i> JS: Soraya Laurendet C: Maria Sirotti R: Kay Walker</p>	<p><i>Deacon Batsirai</i> <i>John Cowen</i> Rebecca Carberry (Visit) JS: Kate Fenning & Jonah Ellis C: Lisa Samojlowicz R: Courtney Hamilton</p>
16/17 December	<p><i>Deacon Batsirai</i> <i>John Cowen</i> JS: Alex Tuballa & Josie Henderson C: Louise Goderie R: Marie McLennan</p>	<p><i>Mark Norbury</i> <i>Barbara Ryan</i> JS: Evie Milroy C: Paul Ryan R: Jessica Topp</p>	<p><i>Lara Roser</i> David Green Connie Reid Heather Barlow (Visit only) JS: Matthew Hamilton & Nicholas Hamilton C: Marianne Castor R: Denise Robens</p>

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

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 Parish Office on 4735 104. We will arrange for one of our ministers of Communion to make a home visit after Mass on Sunday.

Catholic Care Emergency Food

Drive 16th/17th Dec: Next weekend we will be collecting grocery items for those in need. Catholic Care will provide Christmas Hampers, but there is still an urgent need for basic necessities. Please consider popping an extra pantry item or toiletry product (eg Cereal, tinned fish, deodorant, soap) 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**

OLOW 50th Jubilee Anniversary: This will held on **26th May 2024** with Mass at 10am, celebrated by Bishop Vincent, followed by the sharing of refreshments in the hall. If you have any stories and/or photos that showcase our last 50 years, please drop them into the suggestion box at the rear of the church. We also welcome any suggestions on how to celebrate this event.

Commemorative polo shirts will also be available to order. Please register an expression of interest.

Epiphany Pilgrimage and Fiesta 2024

Commit the first fruits of your new year to Christ with the 2024 Epiphany Pilgrimage (2 - 9 Jan 2024). Enjoy 7 days of bushwalking, fellowship and prayer as we journey from Emu Plains to the top of the Blue Mountains, experiencing the wonderful hospitality of parish communities along the way. For more information and to register for all or part of the journey, visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org.
Prayer requests can be placed in the Epiphany Pilgrimage box located at the rear of the church.

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

Daily Mass Books 2024: These books are available to purchase for \$26. Please contact the Parish Office on 4735 1041 or emuplains@parracatholic.org

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 (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:

Positions Vacant:

- Facilitator: Catholic Youth Parramatta – Mission Enhancement Team, Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 12pm Monday 11 December 2023 (see description below).**
- Governance, Risk and Compliance Administrative Support – Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 10pm Tuesday 12 December 2023.**

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

Join our CYP team! The Diocese of Parramatta's Mission Enhancement Team (MET) is looking to expand and deepen the work of Catholic Youth Parramatta in 2024. You have the opportunity to impact the lives of thousands of youth and young adults in our ever-growing ministry, especially in schools. Forward your current CV, refer to the position description, and record a 2-3 minute video addressing your passion, skills and experience for the role to parracatholicjobs@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.

Future Church, Our Church: The recent Church Synods in Rome and Parramatta are about our future as Church, the people of God. You are invited to an informal discussion on these Synods in the view of breaking open what they mean for us in our own parishes. The first discussion will dip into the Synthesis Report of the Synod on Synodality, further discussions will take place in the coming months. The discussion is an initiative of the Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council (Blackheath, Megalong Valley, Mt Victoria) and is an open invitation to all Mountain's Parishes (and beyond!). **Please register** your interest by contacting Clive at the email address below.

Date: Saturday December 23 + Saturday Jan 27 (tbc)

Time: 2:00 – 3:30pm

Venue: Parish Hall 165 Wentworth St, Blackheath . **Contact:** Clive at c_kanes@yahoo.com.au

Saints of the week:

Dec 11th – St Damasus I, Pope
Dec 12th – Our Lady of Guadalupe
Dec 13th – St Lucy, Martyr
Dec 14th – St. John of the Cross, Doctor
Dec 15th – St Virginia Centurione- Bracelli
Dec 16th – St Adelaide

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