

# 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, 24th December 2023. Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B.**

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

### **Entrance Antiphon** Cf Isaiah 45:8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,  
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;  
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

### **First Reading** 2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel

*The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.*

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent’. Nathan said to the king, ‘Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.’

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

‘Go and tell my servant David, “Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel;

I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.”

### **Responsorial Psalm.** Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2

**(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)
2. ‘I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.’ (R.)
3. He will say to me: ‘You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.’ I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure. (R.)

### **Second Reading** Romans 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.*

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery

kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

**Gospel Acclamation** [Luke 1:38](#)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel** [Luke 1:26-38](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*You will conceive and bear a son.*

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The

Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

**Communion Antiphon.** [Isaiah 7:14](#)

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

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**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY:**

Congratulations to Paul and Valerie Williams who celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December. May God bless them always.

**Let us pray:** We pray for recently deceased Giovanni Velcich and John Dowling; and for Madeleine Oxley, Alexandra Haddad, Maria & Stan Mikuszewski and Helen & Marian Adamcewicz 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, 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 Notices:

**Catholic Care Emergency Food Drive.** *Our grateful thanks* for your really generous response to our pre-Christmas food drive. Catholic Care Centre at Springwood is delighted with our monthly delivery of food and is very thankful to receive your donations to help those in need. *Special thanks* to all who have contributed throughout the year and also to our drivers, Paul Dent, Jim Potts and Phillip Youngman.

**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 arrange for one of our Ministers of Communion to make a home visit after Mass on Sunday.

**Playgroup:** Playgroup will resume on the 6<sup>th</sup> February. It will continue to run fortnightly at 10am Tuesdays in the Parish Hall. All are 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. This group will resume on the 4<sup>th</sup> January. For more information, please contact Judy Prendergast (0407101254) or Julia Hayes (0452 665 844).

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

### Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
23/24 December	Stevenie Harman Anne Deutscher JS: Josie Henderson C: Lynne Castellari R: Louise Goderie	Matthew Topp Pat Edwards JS: Evie Milroy & Soraya Laurendet C: Geraldine Waters R: Sue Mouthaan	Deacon Batsirai Mark Norbury Kay Walker (Visit) JS: Hugo Watson & Kate Fenning C: Don Robens R: Brett Wright
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

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

### Christmas Vigil

**6 pm Children’s Mass** (Carols from 5:30pm). Children may like to come dressed as angels or shepherds.

### **8 pm Family Mass**

### Christmas Day

### **9:30am Mass**

### No New Year’s day Mass at OLOW

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

### **CHANGES TO WEEKDAY MASS TIMES**

In the month of January, Mass will be celebrated on Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30am, Wed 24<sup>th</sup> and Wed 31<sup>st</sup>. In February, Masses will resume as normal from Tues 20<sup>th</sup>. However, Mass will also be celebrated on Wed 7<sup>th</sup> and Wed 14<sup>th</sup>.

Communion Services will be held Wed-Fri from Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan, with the exception of the dates above.

**Parish Jubilee:** Next weekend marks the 50<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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@parrcatholic.org](mailto:emuplains@parrcatholic.org).

## 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month: 1pm

## **Weekday Masses:**

*Please note the 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](mailto:emuplains@parracatholic.org)) for information  
on reconciliation, communion and confirmation.

## Diocese of Parramatta Notices:

**NEW Diocesan website:** The new [parracatholic.org](http://parracatholic.org) website is now here with exciting new features and functionality including a comprehensive 'Find a Mass' function which includes Daily and Weekend Masses, Reconciliation and Adoration times; a centralised event calendar; Daily Mass readings and different ways you can contribute to the Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Check it out today!

**2023 Diocese of Parramatta Christmas Mass Times:** Christmas Mass and Reconciliation Times from parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are available now on our Diocesan website ([www.parracatholic.org](http://www.parracatholic.org)) and on Catholic Outlook ([www.catholicoutlook.org](http://www.catholicoutlook.org)). The Diocese of Parramatta wishes you, your families and faith communities a Merry Christmas.

**Advent and Christmas | Summer 2023 Catholic Outlook Magazine out now!** This edition features reflections on Mary's journey into the dark night, how our communities celebrate Christmas, our four new leaders in the Diocese, a handy Christmas Mass Times guide, plus so much more. Pick up your free copy from parishes and offices across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains today or read it online via [catholicoutlook.org/magazine](http://catholicoutlook.org/magazine)

**Marriage Preparation Courses in 2024** Getting married in 2024? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit [www.parracatholic.org/celebrate/marriage/marriage-preparation](http://www.parracatholic.org/celebrate/marriage/marriage-preparation) to view weekend course dates in the New Year, to book and pay. An online preparation called *SmartLoving* can also be booked via the website. For more information, email [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org) or phone Karin on 0419 242 435 or Marisa on 0412 280 017.

**Liturgical Ministry Course returns in 2024:** The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2024. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or [mary.gale@parracatholic.org](mailto:mary.gale@parracatholic.org) or visit our website to enrol: [www.parracatholic.org/contribute/volunteer/liturgical-ministry](http://www.parracatholic.org/contribute/volunteer/liturgical-ministry)

## Saints of the week:

Dec 25th – Christmas Day: The birth of Our Lord  
Dec 26th – St Stephen, First Martyr  
Dec 27th – St. John, apostle and evangelist  
Dec 28th – The Holy Innocents, Martyrs  
Dec 29<sup>th</sup> – St. Thomas a Becket, Archbishop and Martyr  
Dec 30<sup>th</sup> – St. John Alcober

## 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