

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, 3rd December 2023. First Sunday of Advent, Year B.

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 24:1-3

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

First Reading [Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.



You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm. [Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4](#)

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. **(R.)**
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. **(R.)**

Second Reading [1 Corinthians 1:3-9](#)

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

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our

Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Gospel Acclamation [Psalm 84:8](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Mark 13:33-37](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

Communion Antiphon. [Psalm 84:13](#)

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

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ADVENT WREATHS are traditionally made from evergreen branches. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent—three candles are purple, and one is a rose colour. The purple represents prayer, penance, and preparation for the coming of Christ.



Historically, Advent was known as a "little Lent," which is why the penitential colour of purple is used. During Lent, we prepare for the resurrection of Christ on Easter. Similarly, during Advent, we prepare for the coming of Christ, both on Christmas and at the second coming. The rose candle is illuminated on the third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday. It is a day for rejoicing and joy as the faithful draw near to the birth of Jesus, and it marks the midpoint of Advent. The progressive lighting of the candles represents the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead. During the Advent season, the faithful will also notice a common theme in the Gospel readings. The readings focus on preparation, penance, and fasting. All of these things remind us of the importance of preparing our hearts for the Lord and making room for his presence in our lives. The circle of the Advent wreath is a geometric figure that has neither a beginning nor an end. It reminds us that God does not have a beginning or an end either, which reflects his unity and eternity. The green colour of the wreath represents hope and life. The Advent wreath reminds us that Christ is alive among us, and that we must cultivate a life of grace, spiritual growth, and hope.

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/249703/everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-advent-wreath>
https://i.etsystatic.com/11982028/r/il/ae1344/1732658657/il_fullxfull.1732658657_kpj3.jpg

Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased John Doyle (funeral 8th Dec at 10am), Annie Eivers, Felipa Paraguaya and Sr Elizabeth Amputch RSCJ (sister of John Amputch); and for Stanislaw Pieklarz, Joseph Charles Reeves and Christina Mary Reeves 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, Lorraine Lindsay, Giovanni Velcich, 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 evenings. All welcome.

Cuppa and a Chat: Please join us for a cuppa and a chat after Mass. This month, we will be gathering on:
 2nd Dec, after the 6.00pm Mass
 10th Dec, after the 9.30am Mass
 17th Dec, after the 8.00am Mass

Playgroup: Playgroup runs fortnightly at 10am Tuesday in the Parish Hall. The next meeting is the 5th December. Please note that this will be the last meeting for the year.

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).

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.

Deanery Pastoral Council Vacancy: Deanery Pastoral Councils (DPC's) have been active in our diocese for the last 6 years, with two parishioners representing our parish during this time. Members of our DPC have been involved with organising our parish response to events such as the Plenary Council and recently the diocesan Synod. We now wish to appoint another parishioner to the DPC. This is a rewarding opportunity to be a voice for our parish and to work with other parishioners in our local deanery. If you are interested, please speak with Fr Michael or call the office on 47351041.

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

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
2/3 December	<i>Stevenie Harman</i> <i>Michael Manton</i> JS: Alex Tuballa & Josie Henderson C: Trish Ryan R: Bellinda Henderson	<i>Deacon Batsirai</i> <i>Mark Norbury</i> JS: Evie Milroy Gabe Manouk Helen Larsen	<i>Lara Roser</i> <i>Connie Reid</i> Denise Robens (Visit) JS: Nicholas Hamilton & Hugo Watson C: Trish Boyle R: Matthew Hamilton
9/10 December	<i>Stevenie Harman</i> <i>Beth Nowland</i> JS: Alex Tuballa & Josie Henderson C: Debra Gleeson R: Mary Balam	<i>Jessica Topp</i> <i>John Lo Cascio</i> JS: Evie Milroy & Soraya Laurentet C: Maria Sirotti R: Kay Walker	<i>Deacon Batsirai</i> <i>John Cowen</i> Rebecca Carberry (Visit) JS: Kate Fenning & Jonah Ellis C: Lisa Samojlowicz R: Courtney Hamilton

Sacramental News: Last Saturday, Saxon (yr6) and Nikayla (yr 7) made their first reconciliation. It was such a special occasion and both were very happy afterwards. They are now preparing for their first holy communion. Please continue to keep them in your prayers. Blessings, Cate



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 after Mass.

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. It involves one 30 minute class per week plus a little time to prepare the lesson. You are most welcome to begin as an assistant catechist. To enquire/enrol, please speak to our Parish Catechist Coordinator, Mary Marsh, on 0408 212 437.

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. Day 1 is a family-friendly day, with the option for a children's pilgrimage finishing with the Finnies Fiesta at St Finbar's Glenbrook. For more information and to register for all or part of the journey, visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.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:

Glenbrook Parish Christmas concert: 10 December St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, invite you to their annual Christmas concert event on Sunday 10 December at 7.30pm in the parish church. Suggested donations for entry are \$15 for individuals and \$35 for families. For enquiries, please contact 0421 105 017.

Bishop's Christmas Appeal for Catholic Care chaplaincy services: 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 or scan this QR code. Thank you.

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: 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

Australian Brandenburg Orchestra St Patrick's Cathedral Concert: 12 December. Reel in the festive season with the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra and Choir on Tuesday 12 December, 7:30PM at St Patrick's Cathedral for their annual Christmas concert, *Noë!! Noë!!*. Gather your loved ones and join us for this beloved festive tradition, as the Brandenburg perform stunning choral works and Christmas classics, conducted by Artistic Director Paul Dyer. **SPECIAL OFFER: Get four tickets for just \$149!** There are less than 200 tickets remaining, so head to brandenburg.com.au or call 1300 782 856 to book your tickets now.

Saints of the week:

Dec 4th – St John Damascene, Doctor
Dec 5th – St Philip Rinaldi
Dec 6th – St Nicholas, Bishop
Dec 7th – St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor
Dec 8th – The Immaculate Conception of the BVM
Dec 9th – St Juan Diego

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