

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, 28th January 2024. Fourth Sunday in Ordinary time Year B.

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon *Psalm 105:47*

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

First Reading *Deuteronomy 18:15-20*

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

*I will put my words into the prophet's mouth, and he will
tell them all I command.*

Moses said to the people: ‘Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. “Do not let me hear again” you said “the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die”; and the Lord said to me, “All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.”’

Responsorial Psalm. *Ps 94:1-2, 6-9. R. v.9*

**(R.) If today, you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.**

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R.)**
2. Come in, let us kneel and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **(R.)**
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my
work.’ **(R.)**

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 7:32-35*

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

*The unmarried woman dedicates herself to the things of
the Lord, that she might be holy.*

I would like to see you free from all worry.
An unmarried man can devote himself to
the Lord’s affairs, all he need worry about
is pleasing the Lord; but a married man
has to bother about the world’s affairs
and devote himself to pleasing his wife:
he is torn two ways. In the same way an
unmarried woman, like a young girl, can
devote herself to the Lord’s affairs; all
she need worry about is being holy in

body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation [Matthew 4:16](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

A people in darkness
have seen a great light:
a radiant dawn shines on
those lost in death.

Alleluia!



Gospel [Mark 1:21-28](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

This is a new kind of teaching that speaks with authority.

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the

Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

Communion Antiphon. [Cf Psalm 30:17-18](#)

Let your face shine on your servant.

Save me in your merciful love.

O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

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Prayer for the Sacraments

Heavenly Father, we ask for blessings on all the children and families who are taking part in the sacramental program. We pray for the Holy Spirit to touch each one of them so they may experience your great love, presence and mercy in their life.

Amen

Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased Annette Hogan, John Mitchell and Ida Dowdell; and for Beryl and Edmund Spitz, Kathleen McVeigh and Irena Pieklarz 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, Greg Pigott, Deacon George Bryan, Kaye Bryan, Laurie

Dooohan, 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:

Funeral of Annette Hogan: Our beloved Annette Hogan - a Eucharistic minister for many years - sadly passed away recently. Please keep her family in your prayers. Please be advised that Annette's funeral will be held in our church OLOW on Tuesday January 30 commencing at 10.00am. Father Bob Anderson will be the principal celebrant. Burial will be at Kingswood cemetery at 11.30am.

Parish Jubilee: At Masses on the weekend of 30th/31st December 2023, our community remembered and prayed for all members of our community, past and present. We gave thanks for Fr Kevin Hannan and the founding members of our Parish and everyone over the past 50 years who worked so hard to create and nurture the community of faith which we share today.

Following the 9:30am Mass on Sunday, 31st March, many parishioners accepted the invitation to gather for morning tea. It was wonderful to see so many of our young people join us – many of them actively serving at the altar, as readers or musicians. Special thanks to Sarah Tuballa and Kristina Pincevic for assisting with the catering and to Debra Gleeson for providing a celebration cake. Kay Walker cut the cake on behalf of us all.

Other events will be organised during our Jubilee year, and **please remember to save the date on Sunday 26th May 2024 at 10:00am when Bishop Vincent will celebrate with us.** *John Cowen*

St Vincent de Paul: Thank you so much for your generosity in supporting the Vinnies Christmas Appeal and Christmas Hampers. As a result, we were able to assist many families in the area. We are very grateful for your ongoing support. *OLOW St Vincent de Paul Conference*

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
20/21 January	Stevenie Harman Anne Deutscher JS: Alex Tuballa & Josie Henderson C: Phillip Youngman R: Victor Tuballa	Mark Norbury Noeline Bangel JS: N/A C: Geraldine Waters R: Sue Mouthaan	Deacon Batsirai Hartley Dhyon David Green Heather Barlow (Visit only) JS: Matthew Hamilton & Hugo Watson C: Don Robens R: Brett Wright
27/28 January	John Cowen Debra Gleeson JS: Alex Tuballa & Josie Henderson C: Louise Goderie R: Bellinda Henderson	Deacon Batsirai Mark Norbury JS: N/A Gabe Manouk Helen Larsen	Lara Roser Connie Reid Kay Walker (Visit) JS: Jonah Ellis & Kate Fenning C: Trish Boyle R: Matthew Hamilton

Cuppa and a Chat: Please join us for a cuppa and a chat after the 9:30am Mass this weekend.

Playgroup: Playgroup will **resume on the 6th February** and will continue to run every second Tuesday at 10am in the Parish Hall. If you are interested in joining next year, or for more information, please contact the Parish Office 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).

Safeguarding Training Opportunities

Cycle 1 - Modules 1 - 3:

Are you new to ministry or have not yet had an opportunity to complete your Cycle 1 of Safeguarding Training (Mods 1-3)?

Please register for a Face-to-Face Training Session that is convenient for you:

1. Monday 5th February (9.30am-2.30pm) at Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown, or
2. Saturday 17th February (10.00am- 3.00pm) at Sacred Heart Parish, 9 Ropes Creek Rd, Mt Druitt.

Cycle 2 - Modules 4 – 5:

Did you complete Modules 1-3 in 2021-2022? Safeguarding Training is valid for two years.

Please register for your Renewal Modules at a Face-to-Face session convenient to you:

1. Monday 12th February (10.00am-1.30pm) at Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown, or
2. Thursdays (7.00pm-8.30pm) on 22nd (Mod 4) & 29th February (Mod 5) at St Nicholas of Myra Parish, 326 High St, Penrith; or
3. Saturday 2nd March ((10.00am-1.30pm) at Holy Spirit Parish, Cnr Todd & Moore St, St Clair

You can register for these Face-to-Face Safeguarding Training Sessions on the Diocese of Parramatta 'In-Person Training' link

on: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>

or email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

You are also welcome to complete this training independently on our online training platform

at: <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>

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:
Jim Fanning (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:

Young Adult Faith Formation Sessions: Recommence on Sunday 4th February at The Hustle (Unit 4, 4-6 Purdy Rd, Minchinbury) at 7pm. The speaker is Dr Mariusz Biliniewicz who will talk about and lead discussion on the **Principles of Catholic Moral Thinking**. All adults 18-35 are encouraged to come along and enjoy some faith formation, pizza and fellowship. If you have any questions, please call Mark Buhagiar on 0477004687.

****NEW DATE** Music for Lent Workshop: 8 February** Musicians and Liturgy Planners are invited to attend an evening exploring Music for Lent on **Thurs 8th** Feb 2024 from 7pm to 8.30pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. The session will be presented by Eric Grella, Music Formation Facilitator, Mission Enhancement Team. RSVP: lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org or call 0460 037 795.

ACU Memorial Mass and Public Lecture of St Josephine Bakhita: 8 February

Australian Catholic University and the Diocese of Parramatta are hosting a Memorial Mass on the feast day of St Josephine Bakhita, patron saint of South Sudan and victims of modern slavery and human trafficking, on Thursday 8 February at 12.30pm at ACU's St Josephine Bakhita Campus, Blacktown. Following Mass, Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv will deliver the first *St Josephine Bakhita Public Lecture* on campus. Both events are open to members of the public.

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 for 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 marriage@parracatholic.org or Marisa on 0412 280 017.

MET Natural Fertility Sympto-Thermal Method Introductory Session via zoom: 13 February

The first session on the Sympto-Thermal Method (STM) will be held via Zoom on Tuesday 13 February from 7pm to 8pm. For further information, email catherine.bourne@parracatholic.org or ph 0400 427 605.

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 or visit our website to enrol: www.parracatholic.org/contribute/volunteer/liturgical-ministry

Saints of the week:

Jan 31st – St John Bosco, priest.
Feb 1st – St Brigid
Feb 2nd – The Presentation of the Lord
Feb 3rd – St Blaise, bishop and doctor; St Ansgar, bishop

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