

# 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, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Sixth Sunday in Ordinary time Year B.**

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

### **Entrance Antiphon** Cf Psalm 30:3-4

Be my protector, O God,  
a mighty stronghold to save me.  
For you are my rock, my stronghold!  
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

### **First Reading** [Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46](#)

A reading from the book of Leviticus

*As long as he is unclean, he must live alone, outside the camp.*

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, ‘If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man’s skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

‘The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, “Unclean, unclean”. As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.’

### **Responsorial Psalm.** [Ps 31:1-2. 5. 11. R. v.7](#)

**(R.) I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.**

1. Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,  
whose sin is remitted. O happy the man to  
whom the Lord imputes no guilt,  
in whose spirit is no guile. **(R.)**

2. But now I have acknowledged my sins;  
my guilt I did not hide.

I said: ‘I will confess  
my offence to the Lord.’  
And you, Lord, have forgiven  
the guilt of my sin. **(R.)**

3. Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,  
exult, you just!

O come, ring out your joy,  
all you upright of heart. **(R.)**

### **Second Reading**

[1 Corinthians 10:31 – 11:1](#)

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

*Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink,  
whatever you do at all, do it for the glory  
of God. Never do anything offensive to  
anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the  
Church of God; just as I try to be helpful  
to everyone at all times, not anxious for  
my own advantage but for the advantage  
of everybody else, so that they may be  
saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

[Luke 7:16](#)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

A great prophet has appeared among us;  
God has visited his people.

**Alleluia!**

## **Gospel** [Mark 1:40-45](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*The leprosy left him and he was cured.*

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

**Baptisms:** We warmly welcome Miles Feltham into our Faith Community. May God bless Miles and his family.

## **Communion Antiphon.**

[Cf Psalm 77:29-30](#)

They ate and had their fill,  
and what they craved the Lord gave them;  
they were not disappointed in what they craved.

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We mark our foreheads with ashes to remind ourselves that **we are not of this world** and are made for **eternity with God.**

**Where do the ashes come from?**  
The ashes are made from the **blessed palms** used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year.

**WHY THE ASHES?**

Ashes are a public sign of our intent to **die to our worldly desires** and **live in Christ.**

As our foreheads are marked with ashes, these words are said: **"Remember, that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return."**

**Ashes were used as a sign of repentance in the Old Testament:**  
"Then I turned to the Lord God, to seek an answer by prayer and supplication with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession"  
-Daniel 9: 3-4

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**Let us pray:** We pray for recently deceased Fr Kevin Bates and Annette Hogan; and for Catherine Allabyrne and Rodney Wilson 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, Bernadette Hoolahan, Greg Pigott, Deacon George Bryan, Kaye Bryan, Laurie Doohan, 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 Houlihan, 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:

**Ash Wednesday- 14<sup>th</sup> February, Day of Fasting and Abstinence: Mass at OLOW will be at 9am only.** There will be no evening mass at OLOW. If you would like to attend evening Mass, please visit one of our neighbouring Parishes:  
 St Finbar's, Glenbrook – 7:30pm  
 St Nicholas of Myra, Penrith – 7:00pm  
 St Joseph's, Kingswood – 7:00pm

**OLOW JUBILEE:** For those who have ordered a **commemorative polo shirt**, payment of \$45 can be made in one of three ways: (i) Cash to the Parish Office, (ii) Bank transfer (see bank details at back of bulletin) or (iii) Tap & Go eftpos facility on the weekends of 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> Feb. We kindly ask that payment be made by the 18<sup>th</sup> Feb. Please contact Sarah Tuballa (0439 467797) or the Parish Office (4735 1041) for more information.

A **Garage Sale** will be held on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March**. If you are able to start gathering suitable items to donate, that would be greatly appreciated. *Please note that we are unable to accept furniture or electrical items.* Also available to purchase on the day will be baked goods, drinks and sausage sandwiches. If you are able to assist with the BBQ on the day or for more information, please contact Debra Gleeson (0418 259757) or Sarah Tuballa (0439 467797).

**Catholic Care Food Drive:** A friendly reminder that the next collection will be on the 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> February.

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

**Playgroup:** Playgroup runs fortnightly at 10am Tuesday in the Parish Hall. All are welcome! The next gathering will be the 20<sup>th</sup> February. 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)

## Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
10/11 February	John Cowen Beth Nowland JS: Alex Tuballa & Josie Henderson C: Debra Gleeson R: Marie McLennan	Mark Norbury John Lo Cascio JS: Evie Milroy C: Paul Ryan R: Jessica Topp	Deacon Batsirai Lara Roser David Green Heather Barlow (Visit only) JS: Jonah Ellis & Kate Fenning C: Marianne Castor R: Denise Robens
17/18 February	Deacon Batsirai Stevenie Harman JS: Alex Tuballa & Josie Henderson C: Louise Goderie R: Victor Tuballa	Matthew Topp Pat Edwards JS: Evie Milroy C: Geraldine Waters R: Sue Mouthaan	Hartley Dhyon Denise Robens Rebecca Carberry (Visit) JS: Hugo Watson & Matthew Hamilton C: Don Robens R: Brett Wright

**Lenten Reflection Program:** In preparation for Holy Week, Deacon Batsirai will be running a Lenten Reflection Program. These sessions will be on Friday's during Lent commencing at 5:30pm. Please meet in the church foyer. For more information, please contact the Parish Office on 4735 1041. This Friday's theme is:

*Prayer - A journey into the wilderness.*

*\_"The Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days"\_ (Mark 1:12)*



Please take home a Project Compassion box or donation envelope to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and for all future generations. You can also scan the QR code, visit [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or call 1800 024 413.



**Parish Youth Mass:** On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 9:30am Mass, we are having a youth Mass. We are hoping for the youth of our Parish to be involved in a variety of ministries on the day: e.g. singing, ushers, readers, collection. If you are under 25 years of age and would like to be involved, please contact Bellinda Henderson on 0481 454 191.

**Safeguarding:** All volunteers in our parish need to complete the Mandatory Safeguarding Training Modules 1, 2 and 3. It can be completed online or at face-to-face meetings. **For those who need to renew** (that is, if you completed Modules 1-3 in 2021-2022), Modules 4 and 5 will be offered at St Nicholas of Myra Parish on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> Feb from 7:00pm-8:30pm. A day session will be held at Holy Spirit Parish, St Clair on 2<sup>nd</sup> March from 10:00am-1:30pm.

To register for the **Face-to-Face Training Sessions**, please visit <https://parracatholic.org/safeguarding/training> and click on a cycle that is convenient for you. Alternatively, you can email [safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org.au](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org.au). **Online training for all of the Modules can be completed at any time by going to <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>.**

Please contact the Parish Office on 4735 1041 for additional information or assistance.



### 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**



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

## **Weekday Masses and Communion**

### **Services for this week:**

Mass Wed 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 9am; Communion

Service Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> & Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Feb.

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:

**Mount Schoenstatt Young Women's Lenten Reflection Day: 25 February.** The Mount Schoenstatt Girls and Young Women ministry invite young women to a Lenten Reflection Day on Sunday 25 February from 10.30am to 8.30pm at the Mt Schoenstatt Retreat Centre, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa. Cost is \$25 including afternoon tea and dinner. BYO lunch. Register by Thurs 15 February: to Sr M Rita on 0493 026 628 or [srrita@schoenstatt.org.au](mailto:srrita@schoenstatt.org.au)

### **Bishop Vincent presents a conversation with Monsignor Tomas Halik: 12 February**

The Diocese of Parramatta invites you to a conversation with Czech priest and theologian Monsignor Tomas Halik on Monday 12 February at 6pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Join the waitlist or register for the livestream by visiting <https://parracatholic.org/events/tomashalik/>.

### **MET Natural Fertility Sympto-Thermal Method Introductory Session: 13 February**

This year, MET Natural Fertility will be holding Initial Instructions and Introductory Sessions for our three methods of Natural Family Planning (NFP) available in the Diocese of Parramatta. The first session on the Sympto-Thermal Method (STM) will be held via Zoom on Tuesday 13 February from 7pm to 8pm. Contact [catherine.bourne@parracatholic.org](mailto:catherine.bourne@parracatholic.org) or on 0400 427 605.

**Charismatic Healing Mass: 18 February,** 2:00pm.at Our Lady of the Rosary Church St Marys. Mass will be followed by individual prayer for healing. Celebrant: Fr Hugh Thomas CSsR. All are welcome.

**Youth Mass 'Round the Diocese: 25 February** Looking for some young adults to worship with? Hunting for an excuse to catch up with Jesus and friends? Wondering what goes on around our Diocese? Mass 'Round the Diocese is just that! Our young people are visiting different churches around the Diocese for Mass and fellowship afterwards with new and known friends. The next Mass will be at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes, on Sunday 25 February for 6pm Mass. For more information, please contact Laura on [laura@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:laura@stbernadette.org.au)

## Saints of the week:

Feb 12th – St Damian

Feb 13th – St. Julian of Lyons

Feb 14th – ASH WEDNESDAY (fast and abstinence)

Feb 15th – St. Michael Sopocko

Feb 16th – St. Jeremy

Feb 17th – The Seven Founders of the Order of Servites.

## 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