

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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Phone: 4735 1041
Email: emuplains@parracatholic.org
Web: <https://catholicparishemuplains.org.au/>

Sunday, 4th February 2024. Fifth Sunday in Ordinary time Year B.

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon *Psalm 94:6-7*

O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God.

First Reading *Job 7:1-4. 6-7*

A reading from the book of Job

I am filled with sorrow all day long.

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more
than pressed service, his time no better
than hired drudgery?

Like the slave, sighing for the shade,
or the workman with no thought but his
wages, months of delusion I have
assigned to me, nothing for my own but
nights of grief. Lying in bed I wonder,
'When will it be day?' Risen I think,
'How slowly evening comes!'
Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.

Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days
have passed, and vanished, leaving no
hope behind. Remember that my life is
but a breath, and that my eyes will
never again see joy.

Responsorial Psalm. *Ps 146:1-6. R. v.3*

**(R.) Praise the Lord who heals the
broken-hearted.**

1. Praise the Lord for he is good;
sing to our God for he is loving:
to him our praise is due. **(R.)**

2. The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and brings back Israel's exiles,
he heals the broken-hearted,
he binds up all their wounds.
He fixes the number of the stars;
he calls each one by its name. **(R.)**
3. Our Lord is great and almighty;
his wisdom can never be measured.
The Lord raises the lowly;
he humbles the wicked to the dust. **(R.)**

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 9:16-19. 22-23*

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

Punishment will come to me if I do not preach the Gospel.

I do not boast of preaching the gospel,
since it is a duty which has been laid on
me; I should be punished if I did not
preach it! If I had chosen this work
myself, I might have been paid for it, but
as I have not, it is a responsibility which
has been put into my hands. Do you
know what my reward is? It is this: in my
preaching, to be able to offer the Good
News free, and not insist on the rights
which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I
have made myself the slave of everyone
so as to win as many as I could. For the
weak I made myself weak. I made myself
all things to all men in order to save some
at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake
of the gospel, to have a share in its
blessings.

Gospel Acclamation [Matthew 8:17](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

He bore our sickness,
and endured our suffering.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Mark 1:29-39](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another.

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

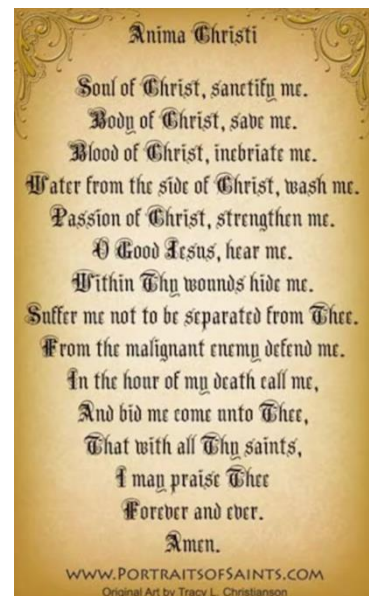
In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him

they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

Communion Antiphon. [Cf Psalm 106:8-9](#)

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,
his wonders for the children of men,
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,
and the hungry he fills with good things.

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Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased Fr Kevin Bates, Annette Hogan and John Mitchell; and for Anne Sloman, Jim Daly and Mrs H. Lydamore 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 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:

Cuppa: Please join us for a cuppa and a chat after the 6:00pm 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).

Catholic Care Food Drive: To Our Lady of the Way Parishioners, thank you for your food bag generosity. As we did not require your bags this time, we return them to you so they may continue to serve you. Your bags are available to collect from your church foyer. *Our blessings, Catholic Care Springwood.*



Please note that the next Food Drive collection will be on the 17th/18th February.

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 10th/11th and 17th/18th Feb. We kindly ask that payment be made by the 18th Feb. Please contact Sarah Tuballa on 0439 467797 for more information.

A **Garage Sale** will be held on **Saturday 16th March.** If you are able to start gathering suitable items to donate, that would be greatly appreciated. *Please note that collections of these items will not be until March.* Also available to purchase on the day will be baked goods, drinks and sausage sandwiches.

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
3 /4 February	Stevie Harman Michael Manton JS: Alex Tuballa & Josie Henderson C: Trish Ryan R: Mary Balam	Matthew Topp Barbara Ryan JS: Evie Milroy C: Maria Sirotti R: Kay Walker	Deacon Batsirai Hartley Dyhon Denise Robens (Visit) JS: Matthew Hamilton & Nicholas Hamilton C: Lisa Samojlowicz R: Courtney Hamilton
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

Ash Wednesday: Mass for Ash Wednesday will be at 9:00am. Please note that due to Fr Michael being on leave, there will be **no evening Mass** this year.

LENTEN REFLECTION PROGRAM 2024:

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.

Friday 16 February @ 5:30pm

THEME: Prayer - A journey into the wilderness. *“The Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days”_ (Mark 1:12)*

Friday 23 February @ 5:30pm

THEME: It is wonderful to be in the presence of Christ. *“Rabbi, he said ‘it is wonderful to be here...’_ (Mark 9:5)*

Friday 1 March @ 5:30pm

THEME : My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. *“Take all of this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market”_ (John 2:16)*

Friday 8 March @ 5:30pm

THEME : I believe. *“No one who believes in him will be condemned”_ (John 3:18)*

Friday 15 March @ 5:30pm

THEME : My life, where are you? *“Anyone who loves his life loses it”_ (John 12:25)*

Parish Youth Mass: On **Sunday 18th February at the 9:30am Mass**, we will be having a Youth Mass. We are hoping for the youth of our Parish to be involved in a variety of ministries on the day, for example, choristers, ushers, readers, collection. If you are up to 25 years of age and would like to be involved, please contact Bellinda Henderson on 0481 454191.

Sacramental news Reconciliation Program starting soon. The preparation program for the Sacrament of Reconciliation begins **this Wednesday 7th Feb at 7.30pm.** If your child is in Year 4 or above and would like to receive this sacrament, please contact the parish office on 47351041 or emuplains@parrcatholic.org



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, 3rd Sunday of the month: 1pm

Weekday Masses and Communion

Services for this week:

Mass Wed 7th Feb 9am

Communion Service Thurs 8th & Fri 9th 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) for information on reconciliation, communion and confirmation.

Diocese of Parramatta Notices:

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.

Diocesan World Day of the Sick Mass: 10 February. A Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on Saturday 10 February 2024 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. RSVPs are required by 6 February 2024 to mary.gale@parracatholic.org

Formation for those in Catholic healthcare: 10 February. Those interested in the healthcare ministry of the Church or are currently in healthcare are invited to a formation session exploring the importance of healing relationships in healthcare on Saturday 10 February at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. High school students and young adults considering professional careers in healthcare are especially welcome to attend this session. Please register your attendance by emailing met@parracatholic.org or contact Michael.Tan@parracatholic.org

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities

Opportunities for face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre Blacktown this coming February.

- Monday 5 February (9.30am – 2.30pm) – Modules 1-3: For those new to Parish Ministry or for those who have not yet completed the initial Cycle 1 training, or
- Monday 12 February (10am – 1.30pm) – Modules 4-5: Renewal Safeguarding Training is for those in Parish Ministry who commenced Cycle 1 Training two years ago.

Please register for this training by emailing Maria Kervin at: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

Saints of the week:

Feb 5th – St Agatha, Martyr

Feb 6th – St. Paul Miki & companions, martyrs

Feb 7th – St. Richard the King

Feb 8th – St. Josephine Bakhita

Feb 9th – Bl. Anne Catherine Emmerich

Feb 10th – St. Scholastica

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