

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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Email: emuplains@parracatholic.org
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Sunday, 31st March 2024. Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord.

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 138:18,5-6

I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia.
You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia.
Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.



First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 10:34. 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: ‘You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the

dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.’

Responsorial Psalm. *Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R. v.24*

(R.) This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say:
‘His love has no end.’ (R.)
2. The Lord’s right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. (R.)
3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. (R.)

Second Reading *Colossians 3:1-4*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians
Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God’s right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because

you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

Gospel Acclamation [1 Corinthians 5:7-8](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel [John 20:1-9](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
The teaching of scripture is that he must rise from the dead.

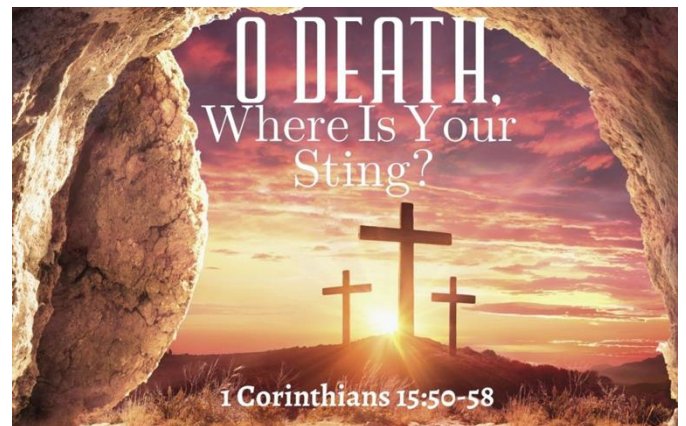
It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb’ she said ‘and we don’t know where they have put him.’ So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the

ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Communion Antiphon. [1 Corinthians 5:7-8](#)

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.

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<https://southrun.org/sermons/o-death-where-is-your-sting>

Let us pray: We pray for those recently deceased; and for Mary Ann Mifsud and Karen McInnes 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, Michelle Gardam, Troy Rittila, Bob Scott, Trish Micallef, 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, Sr Patricia Holligan, Lucy Mikosic, Bernadette Hoolahan, 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:

The Parish joyfully welcomes **Shania Clark, Bruce Scott and Jordan Winckle** who have been part of our RCIA journey this year, together with their sponsors. **May God bless them and their families, this Easter and always.**

Jubilee Polo Shirts: A final order for the commemorative polo shirts will be placed on **April 15th**. If you are interested in purchasing a shirt, please contact the parish office with your name, colour and size. Full payment required up front, with no returns once embroidered, so please be sure of your size when ordering. Thank you for your understanding.

Safeguarding: Mandatory Safeguarding training for Modules 4 and 5 will be held at **Our Lady of the Way** on **Saturday 27 April** from 10am-1.30pm. Please contact the Parish Office on 4735 1041 or email emuplains@parracatholic.org to register for this event

Cuppa and a Chat: 1st Sat after 6pm Mass, 2nd & 4th Sunday after the 9.30am Mass and 3rd Sunday after the 8.00am Mass.

Playgroup: Playgroup runs fortnightly at 10am Tuesday in the Parish Hall. All welcome! **Next playgroup is on 2nd April**. 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
30/31 March Easter	7.00pm Easter Vigil Deacon Batsirai John Cowen Thurifer: Stevenie Harman JS: Alex Tuballa & Josie Henderson C: Phillip Youngman R1: Bellinda Henderson R2: Victor Tuballa R2: Trish Ryan R4: Sarah Tuballa	Matthew Topp C: Gabriel Manouk R: Kevin Balkin JS: Soraya Laurendet	Lara Roser David Green Denise Robens JS: Matthew Hamilton & Nicholas Hamilton C: Lisa Samojlowicz R1: Geraldine Waters R2: Marianne Castor
6/7 April	Deacon Batsirai John Cowen JS: Alex Tuballa & Josie Henderson C: Debra Gleeson R: Marie McLennan	Mark Norbury Barbara Ryan JS: Evie Milroy & Soraya Laurendet C: Paul Ryan R: Sue Mouthaan	Lara Roser Connie Reid Rebecca Carberry (Visit) JS: Jonah Ellis & Hugo Watson C: Marianne Castor R: Denise Robens

Parish Jubilee Projects - Can you help?

1. Do you have any photos or videos of events in our parish since its beginnings in 1974? Can you please scan these and send them to the Parish office? We would like to make a video for our Jubilee celebrations. Any contributions valued.
2. Do you or one of your family have expertise in making videos from photos and video clips? We could use your help. Please contact Marianne Castor (0431 966365) on the Parish Pastoral Council to discuss this.

Catholic Care Emergency Food Drive: Catholic Care have once again expressed their gratitude for the monthly delivery of food from OLOW. So far this year we have collected and delivered 97 bags of non-perishable goods. **Many thanks for your continuing generosity** and to our four faithful drivers for transporting the donations. **Next collection 20/21 April**. There is a special request for toilet paper this month.

Caring for our common home: A collection box for your **clean dry & empty dental hygiene items** and **used blister packs** will be outside the main doors of the church at all Masses on the **FIRST** weekend of each month. Dental is taken to Bupa in the Plaza, Used blister packs to Blooms in High St. Jim (0421 125 722).

Divine Mercy Sunday: Come and celebrate the Feast of the Divine Mercy on the **7th April at St Nicholas of Myra Church, Penrith**, commencing at 2:30pm. The celebration includes: Blessing of Divine Mercy Image, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Stations of the Cross, Homily and Benediction, Reconciliation till 5pm, Afternoon Tea (4:15-5:15pm) and Divine Mercy Mass at 6:00pm. *"I desire that the first Sunday after Easter be the Feast of Mercy"* (diary 299).

In the words of Pope Francis, let's pray in Easter 2024 that the risen Jesus of Nazareth:
"May open us to the newness that transforms, to the beautiful surprises of God. May He help us to feel His presence as the One who is alive and at work in our midst. And may He teach us each day, dear brothers and sisters, not to look among the dead for the Living One."
 Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

*Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv
 (Bishop of Parramatta)*

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, 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.

Fr Michael's Easter Message

Dear Parishioners, I wish you all a very Happy and a blessed Easter 2024. We have come to the end of a long and solemn Holy week culminating in the celebration of Easter. Easter gives us the meaning, strength, and power to transform the world and the environments in which we live in.

St Teresa of Avila was once confronted by the devils disguised as Jesus, St Terasa wasn't fooled for even a second, she dismissed the devil. Before leaving, the devil asked her, "How could you be sure I wasn't Jesus?" "You didn't have any wounds- Christ has wounds", Teresa responded.

One of the most striking elements of our Gospel's resurrection stories is that Jesus was wounded in all of them. The crucifixion wounds do not heal. They remain open, eternally. The resurrected body of Christ remains wounded and marked by earthly suffering.

In many of the Gospel stories, it is not until the disciple saw the wounds of Christ that they recognise Jesus for who he is. Yes, Christ has wounds and so do we. Our Catholic faith refuses to ignore that basic view of human life without wounds. We will be wounded. But, as people of the resurrection, our promise is that our wounds can begin to heal if we embrace the very Christ who was wounded because of our transgressions.

The wounded and risen Christ appears among us, in the hopelessness of humanity looking for meaning in life, on those in the margins of society. Easter brings hope to all, the light of Easter does not wane even in the nights of solitude in our lives.

Let us allow the Risen Lord to roll away the rocks that hinder us to experience the light in our hearts, rocks that may block the power of his presence and love in our lives and in our families. May the light of the Risen Christ that streams from glorified wounds bring joy, healing, and peace to all.

Once again, I wish you and your family a Happy Easter.
Fr Michael G Gathuku pp Our Lady of the Way, Emu Plains.

Saints of the week:

April 1st – Easter Monday. St Ceallach, bishop.
April 2nd – St. Francis of Paola, Hermit.
April 3rd – St. Irene
April 4th – St. Isidore, Bishop and Doctor of the Church.
April 5th – St. Vincent Ferrer
April 6th – St. Celestine I, pope.

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