

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, 10th March 2024. Fourth Sunday in Lent Year B.

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon Cf Isaiah 66:10-11

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First Reading 2 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23

A reading from the second book of Chronicles

The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, ‘Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest,

until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.’

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: ‘Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, “The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up.”’

Responsorial Psalm. Ps 136. R. v.6

(R.) Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

1. By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung our harps. (R.)
2. For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy. ‘Sing to us,’ they said, ‘one of Zion’s songs.’ (R.)
3. O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! (R.)

4. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not, if I prize
not Jerusalem above all my joys! (R.)

Second Reading [Ephesians 2:4-10](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

Gospel Acclamation [John 3:16](#)

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel [John 3:14-21](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

Communion Antiphon. [Cf Psalm 121: 3-4](#)

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.

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Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased Eugene Dolan, Margaret Cooper and Molly Ierci; and for Arthur Reid whose death anniversary occurs 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, 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:

Choir Rehearsal for the Easter Vigil Mass is on Tuesdays at 7:30pm in the Church. All welcome!

Life Ascending Meeting: Next meeting will be at 10am, **March 20** at the home of Kay Walker, 197 River Rd, Leonay. Life Ascending is a group for spiritual enrichment and friendship for the over 50 yrs age group. For more information, contact Noelene Bangle on 4733 7481.

Commissioning Mass for our Special Religious Education teachers (catechists) will be on Sunday 17th March at the 8am Mass. This is a great opportunity to see who our catechists are and to pray for them in this ministry.

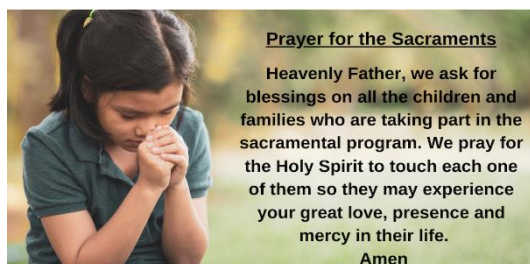
Catholic Care Emergency Food Drive

Thank you for your continuing generous donations of food to assist those living on a minimal income in our local deanery. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Next collection will be on **16/17 March**.

Cuppa: Come for a cuppa after the 9:30am Mass.

Playgroup: Join us fortnightly, 10am Tuesday's, in the Parish Hall. All welcome! **Next playgroup is on 19th March**. 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)



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

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
9/10 March	Stevenie Harman Beth Nowland JS: Alex Tuballa & Josie Henderson C: Debra Gleeson R: Marie McLennan	Mark Norbury Barbara Ryan JS: Evie Milroy & Soraya Laurendet C: Paul Ryan R: Jessica Topp	Deacon Batsirai Hartley Dhyon Rebecca Carberry (Visit) JS: Kate Fenning & Jonah Ellis C: Marianne Castor R: Denise Robens
16/17 March	John Cowen Michael Manton JS: Alex Tuballa & Josie Henderson C: Louise Goderie R: Victor Tuballa	Deacon Batsirai Matthew Topp JS: Evie Milroy C: Geraldine Waters R: Sue Mouthaan	Lara Roser David Green Denise Robens (Visit) JS: Matthew Hamilton & Hugo Watson C: Don Robens R: Brett Wright

Baptisms: We warmly welcome Amelia Brider, Eloise Carey, Leo Carey and Theodora Gilan into our Faith Community. May God bless these children and their families.

Good Friday Passion in Tableaux

The outdoor Passion play is on again this year. We need as many volunteers as possible: Participants, readers and singers needed. Please ring Debra on 0418 259 757.

Lenten Reflection Program: In preparation for Holy Week, Deacon Batsirai will be running a Lenten Reflection Program on Friday's during Lent **commencing at 5:30pm**. Please meet in the church foyer. **Theme for 15th March: My life, where are you? "Anyone who loves his life loses it" (John 12:25).**

Stations of the Cross: Every Friday during Lent, commencing at 6:30pm (following the Lenten Reflection Program). For more information, please contact the Parish Office on 4735 1041.

A **Garage Sale** will be held on **Saturday 16th March**. If you have items to donate, please bring them to the weekend Masses. *Please note that we are unable to accept furniture or electrical items. Thank you to those who have volunteered to bake and to help out on the BBQ. We are still in need of more volunteers!* Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the church foyer if you are able to assist with baking or the BBQ. *Please also note that any baked items need to come with a list of ingredients attached.* For more information, please contact Debra Gleeson (0418 259757) or Sarah Tuballa (0439 467797).



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.

Diocese of Parramatta Notices:

Pontifical Holy Land Good Friday Collection: 29 March Every year on Good Friday, a collection is taken up in every Catholic church to support the people and places of the Holy Land. The Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land have the unique responsibility of caring for the Holy Places as well as caring for the Christians living in the Holy Land. Your donation is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of people who are keeping alive the Christian presence in the land of Jesus, often in the face of great difficulty in recent years. Make your donation this Holy Week via the envelopes in your parish or donate directly via Commissariat of the Holy Land, 47 Victoria St. Waverley NSW 2024 or holyland@franciscans.org.au.

Positions Vacant:

Administration Assistant (part-time) - Sacred Heart Parish, Mt Druitt South and Permanent Diaconate community – **Applications close 10pm Monday 11 March:** parracatholic.org/about/jobs/

Penola Catholic College Open Night: 11 March 4pm-7pm. Self-guided tours and guided tours available. No bookings required. All welcome. This event provides families in our community with the opportunity to explore the educational offerings, current student experiences, and most importantly, explore the ways in which the school follows the footsteps of St Mary Mackillop promoting the values of courage, compassion, hope and integrity in every aspect of school life. Please see the flyer on the church noticeboard. Flyers also available in the church foyer.

St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, is hosting two Biblical Studies sessions on the Passion of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark on Tuesday 12 and 19 March at the parish hall from 7.30pm. Parish Priest Fr Joseph Lam OSA will lead the sessions. To RSVP please contact secretary@stfinbars.org.au

Expression of Interest: St Finbar's 15 Days Central Europe Tour in May 2025 If you are interested in this tour, please register your interest with St Finbar's Parish Office. The tour includes stops in Germany (Frankfurt-Weimar-Berlin), Polen (Poznan, Warsaw-Auschwitz-Krakow), Hungary (Budapest), Slovakia (Bratislava), Austria (Vienna), Czech Republic (Prague), Germany (Munich-Nuremberg: Hometown of Fr Joe

Saints of the week:

March 11th – St. Constantine II
March 12th – St. Luigi Orione
March 13th – St. Patricia of Nicomedia
March 14th – St. Matilda
March 15th – St. Clement Hogbauer
March 16th – St. Julian of Antioch

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