

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



19 Troy St, Emu Plains
Phone: 4735 1041
Email: emuplains@parracatholic.org
Web: <https://catholicparishemuplains.org.au/>

Sunday, 17th March 2024. Fifth Sunday in Lent Year B.

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 42:1-2

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

First Reading [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, ‘Learn to know the Lord!’ No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

Responsorial Psalm. [Ps 50:3-4, 12-15. R. v.12](#)

(R.) Create a clean heart in me, O God.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. **(R.)**
2. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **(R.)**
3. Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you. **(R.)**

Second Reading [Hebrews 5:7-9](#)

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

Gospel Acclamation [John 12:26](#)

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel [John 12:20-33](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too.'

If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.'

'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.' By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

Communion Antiphon. [John 12: 24](#)

Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

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Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased Eugene Dolan; and for Arthur Reid whose death anniversary is 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:

Garage Sale: A big thank you to those who have helped to make our Garage Sale a huge success! For those who have baked, helped on the BBQ and donated items, the Parish is very grateful. We would like to thank the Jubilee Committee for their amazing effort in planning and coordinating this event, especially Sarah Tuballa, Debra Gleeson, Kristina Pincevic and John Cowen.

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

Stations of 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.

Washing of the Feet: If you would like to participate in this ritual at the 7:30pm Mass on Holy Thursday, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the foyer.

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.

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)

Cuppa: Join us for a cuppa after the 8am Mass

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
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
23/24 March Palm Sunday	Stevenie Harman Debra Gleeson JS: Alex Tuballa & Josie Henderson N: Phillip Youngman C: Bellinda Henderson R: Trish Ryan	Mark Norbury John Lo Cascio JS: Evie Milroy & Soraya Laurendet C: Sue Mouthaan N: Gabe Manouk R: Paul Ryan	Deacon Batsirai Hartley Dhyon Connie Reid Heather Barlow (Visit only) JS: Nicholas Hamilton & Kate Fenning C: Trish Boyle N: Marianne Castor R: Matthew Hamilton

HOLY WEEK MASS TIMES AND RECONCILIATION

PALM SUNDAY

Saturday 23 March

6.00pm Mass

Sunday 24 March

8.00am & 9.30am Mass

HOLY THURSDAY

Thursday 28 March

7.30pm - The Lord's Supper (No 9am Mass)

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday 29 March

10.00am Stations of the Cross

3.00pm Passion of Our Lord

EASTER VIGIL

Saturday 30 March

7.00pm Mass

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday 31 March

8.00am & 9.30am Mass

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 23 March 5.00-5.45pm

Tuesday 26 March 5.00-5.45pm

Wednesday: 27 March 9.30-10.15am

Thursday: 28 March 9.00-10.00am

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 years age group. For more information contact Noelene Bangle on 0247337481.

Caring for our common home: Recycling at our

Parish: 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).

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. 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.

Adult Faith Formation opportunities in 2024

- Preparing for marriage or know couples who are?
- Looking to learn more about the Bible, spirituality, theology or practical skills for ministry?
- Searching for encouragement and growth by listening to life & faith stories from adults in their 20s, 30s and 40s?

View and share a copy of the 2024 adult faith formation calendar (link: <https://shorturl.at/grLV3>) OR get in touch with the team to learn about more formation opportunities via met@parracatholic.org

Penrith Parish Stations of the Cross for Cancer Patients, Families and Survivors: 22 March St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith, warmly invites cancer patients, survivors and families who have lost loved ones to cancer to participate in an Outdoor Stations of the Cross on Friday 22 March at 7pm at the Parish. During the Stations, we will give thanks to the Lord with the survivors and remember family members or friends whom we lost due to cancer. You can bring along a small cross / candle along with their names to be prayed for or join us to carry the big wooden cross. For further details, contact the parish office on (02) 4721 2509.

MET Natural Fertility Information Session: 20 March Are you looking for help to track your fertility cycle? Come and explore a Natural, Effective, Healthy and Scientific approach to achieve, space/avoid pregnancy or monitor women's health on Wednesday 20 March from 7:15pm to 8:15pm via Zoom. Engaged and married couples, single women and those wanting to know more about their menstrual cycles are welcome to attend. If you'd like to learn the Creighton Model Fertility Care System, this free session is valued at \$125 and gives you all the information you need to be ready for Session 2. To register or for more information, contact catherine.bourne@parracatholic.org or 0400 427 605.

Saints of the week:

March 18th – St. Cyril of Jerusalem

March 19th – St. Joseph, spouse of Mary

March 20th – St. Cuthbert

March 21st – St. Enda

March 22nd – St. Lea

March 23rd – St. Rafqa (Maronite)

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