

# 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, 25th Aug 2024. Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B.**

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

### **Entrance Antiphon** Cf Psalm 85:1-3

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

### **First Reading** [Joshua 24:1-2. 15-18](#)

A reading from the book of Joshua

*We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God.*

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God.

Then Joshua said to all the people: ‘If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.’

The people answered, ‘We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.’

### **Responsorial Psalm** [Ps 33:2-3. 16-23. R. v.9](#)

#### **(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad. **(R.)**
2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked  
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.  
The Lord turns his eyes to the just  
and his ears to their appeal. **(R.)**
3. They call and the Lord hears  
and rescues them in all their distress.  
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;  
those whose spirit is crushed he will save. **(R.)**
4. Many are the trials of the just man  
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.  
He will keep guard over all his bones,  
not one of his bones shall be broken. **(R.)**
5. Evil brings death to the wicked;  
those who hate the good are doomed.  
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.  
Those who hide in him shall not be  
condemned. **(R.)**

### **Second Reading** [Ephesians 5:21-32](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

*This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the Church.*

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their

wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

**Gospel Acclamation** [See John 6:63. 68](#)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life: you have the words of everlasting life.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel** [John 6:60-69](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.* After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is

intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?

'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer.

The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

**Communion Antiphon.** [Cf Psalm 103:13-15](#)

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

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**Let us pray:** We pray for recently deceased James McNulty and Carmel Skillicorn, and for Sam Gauci, Andrew Wiecek, Barry Bowden and Fred 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, Peter Brown, Kevin Lindsay, Peter McInnes, Joseph Lennon (Ireland), Trevor Ledger, Jeffrey Meads, Julie Laws, Cheryl Morgan, Nerida Fabri, Greg Pigott, Michelle Gardam, Bradley Gardam, Troy Rittila, Bob Scott, Trish Micallef, Deacon George Bryan, Kaye Bryan, Laurie Doohan, Desley Mulock, June Wilson, Kristina Majstorovic, 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, Lola Kammel, Robyn Bell, Doris Shaw, Grace Batcheldor, Pat Kennedy and Olga Vieyra. 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:

### Sacramental news

Please join me in praying for the children and their families who are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Thanks, and blessings, Cate



**Baptisms:** We warmly welcome *Matilda Roy* into our Faith Community. May God bless Matilda and her family always.

**Cuppa and a Chat:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sat after 6pm Mass, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the 9.30am Mass and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the 8.00am Mass. **Please note that during winter there will be no cuppa after 6pm mass.**

**Playgroup:** Playgroup runs fortnightly at 10am Tuesday in the Parish Hall. All welcome! Please contact the Parish Office for more info on 4735 1041.

**The next playgroup is on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August in the OLOW School Library. Entry via the school office.**

**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)

**Communion for the Sick:** If you, a family member or anyone you know is sick or is no longer able to attend Mass and would like communion in the home, please call the office on 4735 1041. We will arrange for one of our ministers of Communion to make a home visit after Mass on Sunday.

### Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
24/25 August	Stevenie Harman Beth Nowland JS: Felicity Tuballa & Josie Henderson C: Debra Gleeson R: Marie McLennan	Mark Norbury Noeline Bangel JS: Evie Milroy C: Paul Ryan R: Jessica Topp	Deacon Batsirai John Cowen Connie Reid Heather Barlow (Visit only) JS: Matthew Hamilton & Nicholas Hamilton C: Lisa Samojlowicz R: Courtney Hamilton
31 August/ 1 September	Deacon Batsirai Stevenie Harman JS: Alex Tuballa & Josie Henderson C: Louise Goderie R: Victor Tuballa	Matthew Topp Barbara Ryan JS: Evie Milroy C: Sue Mouthaan R: Geraldine Waters:	Hartley Dhyon David Green Kay Walker (Visit) JS: Jonah Ellis & Matthew Hamilton C: Brett Wright R: Don Robens

**New Tap 'n' Go Terminal:** This terminal operates differently from our previous Tap 'n' Go terminal. To make a donation, choose the amount you would like to donate - either \$5, \$10, \$20 or 'Other amount'. Then, simply tap your card. Money donated via the Tap 'n' Go is divided between the Parish and supporting the priests in the Parramatta Diocese.

**Season of Creation: Diocesan Season of Creation Mass: 1 September :** The Diocese of Parramatta's Laudato Si' Action Team and Sacred Heart Parish Blackheath invite you to Mass with Bishop Vincent Long to launch the Season of Creation 2024 (1 September – 4 October) on Sunday 1 September at Sacred Heart Church, Blackheath, at 9.30am. Morning tea will be served after Mass. Let us join in praise and celebrate the gifts and wonders that God bestows on us.

### Bishop's Father's Day Appeal supporting our retired priests



This Father's Day, let us show our thanks and appreciation for our priests' lifelong gifts of faithful service. They have dedicated their lives to guiding us spiritually and emotionally, often at great personal sacrifice. Your compassionate donation cares for our clergy's health and wellbeing during sickness and retirement. Please give generously to the Bishop's Father's Day Appeal at [parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal](http://parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal) or scan this QR code. Alternatively, envelopes are available in the church foyer and can be returned next week. Thank you.

**Social Justice Statement:** Limited copies of this year's Statement can be found in the church foyer. Also available for download:

<https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/>



### THANK YOU!

We warmly thank Dan and Connie de Guzman for their contribution to Our Lady of the Way over the past 30 years. During this time, Dan has given so humbly to the music ministry and provided valuable technological assistance. We are also very grateful to Connie for her service in the hospitality ministry. We pray that God will bless them and their family abundantly as they embark on new endeavours in the Northern Territory.

## 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: Joanne Hamilton  
Sacramental Co-ordinator: Cate Kensey  
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:**

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](mailto:emuplains@parracatholic.org)) for information  
on reconciliation, communion and confirmation.

## Diocese of Parramatta Notices:

**Glenmore Park St Padre Pio Feast Day Celebrations** Everyone is invited to join Glenmore Park Parish for the parochial feast of St Padre Pio. The parish will be celebrating a three day Triduum:

- Thursday 19 September – 7.00pm Novena to *St Padre Pio* and Mass
- Friday 20 September – 7.00pm Novena to *St Padre Pio* and Mass
- Saturday 21 September – 5.30pm Novena to *St Padre Pio* and Vigil Mass

With the feast day celebrations on Sunday 22 September from 10am with a solemn procession with the relic, Mass, veneration and blessing of the relic. For enquiries, contact the parish office on (02) 4789 2232 or [glenmorepark@parracatholic.org](mailto:glenmorepark@parracatholic.org)

**ACBC 2024-2025 Social Justice Statement** The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has formally launched its 2024-2025 Social Justice Statement, 'Truth & Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World'. In the statement, Australia's Bishops scrutinise the signs of our own troubled times, observe the violence around us, and ask why it is so. Download your copy of the Statement and a range of resources by visiting <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/>

**Vale Bishop Kevin Manning** On Friday 2 August, the Diocese of Parramatta bid a fond farewell to Bishop Emeritus Kevin Manning, the second Bishop of Parramatta, during a moving service at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Visit [catholicoutlook.org](http://catholicoutlook.org) for stories, images and video from Bishop Manning's funeral. You can also share your memories of Bishop Manning via our online condolence book via <https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/NR3o0u4X>. We continue to pray for the repose of his soul and give thanks to God for his earthly life.

**Mount Schoenstatt Shrine Time Holy Hour for Youth and Young Adults** The Mount Schoenstatt community invite young and young adults for Holy Hour every fourth Sunday of the month from 7pm to 8pm at the Mt Schoenstatt Shrine, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa, followed by a social gathering afterwards. There will be opportunities for praise and worship, prayer, reflection, confession and benediction. For more information, please contact Sr M Rita on 0493 026 628 or [srrita@schoenstatt.org.au](mailto:srrita@schoenstatt.org.au)

## Saints of the week:

Aug 26th – Our Lady of Czestochowa  
Aug 27th – St. Monica  
Aug 28th – St. Augustine of Hippo, bishop and doctor  
Aug 29th – Our Lady of Good Health  
Aug 30th – St Richard Martin  
Aug 31st – St. Aidan of Lindisfarne

## 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