

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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Web: <https://catholicparishemuplains.org.au/>

Sunday, 1st December, 2024. First Sunday of Advent, Year C.

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 24:1-3

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

First Reading [Jeremiah 33:14-16](#)

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah
I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.
See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah: ‘In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.’

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 24:4-5. 8-9. 10. 14. R. v.1](#)

(R.) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. (R.)

2. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

3. His ways are faithfulness and love for those who keep his covenant and will. The Lord’s friendship is for those who revere him; to them he reveals his covenant. (R.)

Second Reading [1 Thessalonians 3:12 – 4:2](#)

A reading from first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians
When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts in holiness.

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation [Psalm 84:8](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Luke 21:25-28. 34-36](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.
Your redemption is near at hand.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

Communion Antiphon. [Psalm 84:13](#)

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

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Epiphany Pilgrimage 2025

Our parish community will be hosting the Epiphany Pilgrimage group again in 2025 as they journey up the mountains from 2 - 9 January and celebrate 10 years of pilgrimage through our deanery. In preparation for the pilgrimage, you are invited to write any prayer requests on the cards provided and place them in the Epiphany Pilgrimage prayer box to be prayed each day by the pilgrims. **Please join the pilgrimage group for their Commissioning Mass at 8.30am on 2 January at Our Lady of the Way, followed by morning tea.** To participate in some or all of the pilgrimage - including walks, Mass, Adoration / prayer sessions and meals - visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org. Please note that Day 1 is a family-friendly day, with the option for a children's pilgrimage finishing with the Finnies Fiesta at St Finbars. If you are able to assist with hospitality on the 2nd January, please contact the parish office on 4735 1041.

Let us pray: We pray for those recently deceased, and for Joseph and Christina Reeves, and Alexandra Hadad 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, Vengie Pangilinan, Shane Muller, June Davidson, Jo Von Schomburg, Dion Detterer, June Davidson, Maureen and Denis McNamara, Sr Patricia Holligan, Hayley Green, Peter Brown, Joseph Lennon (Ireland), Julie Laws, Cheryl Morgan, Nerida Fabri, Greg Pigott, Michelle 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 Gayed, Shirley Harman, Dot Gray, June Sultana, Stuart Cameron, Mary Rose, Maria Mercieca, Marta Mederos, Lucy Mikosic, Bernadette Hoolahan, Margaret Houlihan, Henry O'Malley, Elisabeth Robens, Marion Betker, Lola Kammel, Robyn Bell, Doris Shaw, Grace Batcheldor, Pat Kennedy, 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:

Choir practise, for the Christmas Vigil 6pm Mass: Tuesday 3rd December, 7.30pm in the church. All welcome!

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.

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.

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)

Playgroup: Playgroup runs fortnightly at 10am Tuesday in the Parish Hall. The next playgroup will be **Tuesday 3rd December (this will be the last playgroup for 2024)**. All welcome! Please contact the Parish Office for more info on 4735 1041.

Limited copies of 2025 **Daily Mass Books** are available to purchase for \$30 each. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like one.

Advent Reflection with Deacon Batsirai to commence on Friday 6th December at 6pm in the church. If you would like to attend, please contact the Parish Office on 4735 1041.

We wish Jenny Griffiths a very happy 90th birthday. May God bless her on this special occasion.



Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
Nov 30/Dec 1	Deacon Batsirai Stevenie Harman JS: Felicity Tuballa & Josie Henderson C: Phillip Youngman R: Bellinda Henderson	Matthew Topp Barbara Ryan JS: Evie Milroy C: Gabe Manouk R: Paul Ryan	Hartley Dhyon Rebecca Carberry (Visit) David Green JS: Nicholas Hamilton & Jonah Ellis C: Trish Boyle R: Matthew Hamilton
Dec 7/8	Stevenie Harman Michael Manton JS: Felicity Tuballa & Alex Tuballa C: Trish Ryan R: Mary Balam	Mary Marsh John Lo Cascio JS: Evie Milroy C: Maria Sirotti R: Kay Walker	Deacon Batsirai Lara Roser Beth Nowland Visit) JS: Hugo Watson C: Marianne Castor R: Denise Robens

Scripture Ministry: We are reaching out to seek your generous support in aiding our scripture students at the public schools by providing them with workbooks used in their weekly scripture classes. **How can you help?** For a contribution of \$5, you can buy an angel. Each angel comes with a notelet on which you can write a prayer intention. Place your prayer in the box provided and hang your angel on the tree. This box will be then taken up with the offertory at each Mass. **Angels will be available to purchase from 30th November for 3 weeks.** Many thanks for your support. Mary and the Catechist Team.

Bishop's Christmas Appeal for Catholic Care's Houses to Homes: This Christmas, will you help homeless mothers and children find a safe place to call home and rebuild their lives? Your kind-hearted gift and prayers will help Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains provide homeless mothers and their children with practical and emotional support, and a safe haven to call home. Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal at parracatholic.org/appeal, or by using the envelopes provided. Thank you.

Planned Giving/Parish Donations: Your gift to Planned Giving helps cover the running costs of the parish and also contributes towards pastoral programs in our parish community. If you would like to **contribute directly**, the parish bank details are:
BSB: 067 950
Acct No: 00000289
Acct Name: Emu Plains Catholic Church.
Please ensure you put your details in the reference section (either your envelope number or surname). If you would like to contribute through the **envelope or credit card system**, or if you would like to make an adjustment to the amount you currently give, please fill in one of the cards at the rear of the church, or contact the Parish Office on 4735 1041. If you would like to contribute through **Direct Debit**, or if you would like to make an adjustment to the amount you currently give through this method, please also contact the Parish Office on 47351041.

Collections :Why do we have two collections?
First collection- is to support the clergy in the diocese, for clergy stipends as well as the retired priests and their living expenses.
Second collection is used for the running of the Parish, eg utilities (including presbytery utilities), wages, superannuation, church and altar requirements, priest's vehicle, maintenance, office supplies and the sacramental program.

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, 3rd Sunday of the month:
12pm

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:

Faith Enrichment Role Vacancy – Our Lady Queen of Peace, Greystanes

Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish is seeking a suitably qualified and experienced person for a Faith Enrichment role, working 16 hours per week onsite. Key responsibilities include:

- Facilitating and resourcing parents as they guide their children in sacraments and faith.
- Liaising with key faith enrichment ministries.
- Assisting in opportunities for faith inquiry and parishioners' spiritual enrichment.
- Sharing relevant administrative and technical tasks with the parish team.

For more information and details on how to apply, please contact parishoffice@olqp.org.au.

Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate of Mr Charles Hyson: 7 December. Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta invites you to the Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate of Mr Charles Philip Hyson on Saturday 7 December at 10.30am at St Patrick's Cathedral on the Memorial of Saint Ambrose. Please RSVP to Hannah Portelli at Hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org if you wish to attend.

Immaculate Conception Marian Procession: 7 December

Join the parish community at Our Lady of the Rosary Kellyville as they host their 2nd annual Marian Procession for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. It begins with the 6pm Vigil Mass at the Parish Church on Saturday, December 7, followed by a candlelight procession to the Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents. Join us as we come together to pray through the intercession of Our Lady and experience a beautiful slice of Lourdes and Fatima right here in Sydney. All are welcome!

Mount Schoenstatt Advent and Christmas Carols: 14 December

Let us prepare our hearts together this year with the Advent and Christmas Carols at Mount Schoenstatt (Family Hall - 230 Fairlight Road Mulgoa 2745) on Saturday 14th December at 7pm. All children are encouraged to arrive by 6.50pm dressed as angels and shepherds. Flyer and more details can be found on the website: <https://schoenstatt.org.au/>

Saints of the week:

Dec 2nd – St. Bibiana, Virgin and Martyr

Dec 3rd – Our Lady of Victories. St Francis Xavier.

Dec 4th – St Barbara

Dec 5th – St. Philip Rinaldi

Dec 6th – St. Nicholas, Bishop

Dec 7th – St. Ambrose

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