

# 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, 15th December, 2024. Third Sunday of Advent, Year C.**

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

### **Entrance Antiphon** Cf [Philippians 4:4-5](#)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

### **First Reading** [Zephaniah 3:14-18](#)

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah  
*With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.*

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

### **Responsorial Psalm** [Is 12:2-6 R. v.6](#)

**(R.) Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.**

1. Truly, God is my salvation,  
I trust, I shall not fear.  
For the Lord is my strength, my song,  
he became my saviour.  
With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation. (R.)

2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! Declare the greatness of his name. (R.)

3. Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (R.)

### **Second Reading** [Philippians 4:4-7](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*The Lord is near.*

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

### **Gospel Acclamation** [Isaiah 61:1 \(Lk 4:18\)](#)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
He sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

**Alleluia!**



Gospel [Luke 3:10-18](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke *What, then, must we do?*

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

Thank You Message from Fr Michael

Dear everyone,

As we come toward the close of our Golden Jubilee year, I want to take this moment to thank you all for your contribution for the success of the year. I know how much time, energy and love you put into this, it was such a blessing to know how we depended on each other for the success of the whole event.

Thank you all for the time, effort and resources you spent in planning for the year and especially the main event in May.

Allow me to say a special thank you to the Jubilee committee who were instrumental in the planning, organising and execution of the various events. Thank also for Parish Pastoral council members and the liturgy committee among others.

I know you all offered a lot to the success of the event that is why this letter can't repay you for what you've given, but I hope it will suffice as a token of my gratitude.

I want to inform you that, next weekend, we will officially close our Jubilee year and there will be a launching of our new ministry booklet. Thank you to Marianne Castor and Chris Welch who have worked tirelessly to produce this booklet. After 9.30am Mass, we will have a cuppa in the hall.

Once again, thank you everyone for making our year such a success. As we now start to head towards our centenary celebration, please come on board and let us assist each other to build our community of Our Lady of The Way.

Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased Julie Laws, and for Stephen David Walker, Patrick Hughes and Barry Hilder 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, Maureen and Denis McNamara, Sr Patricia Holligan, Hayley Green, Peter Brown, Joseph Lennon (Ireland), Cheryl Morgan, Nerida Fabri, Greg Pigott, Michelle Gardam, Bradley Gardam, Chris Hall, 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:

### **Christmas Mass Times:**

**Christmas Eve: 6pm and 8.30pm**

**Christmas Day 9.30am**

### **Reconciliation:**

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec: 9.30-10.00am

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec: 9.30-10.00am

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec: 5.00-5.45pm

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec: 9.15-10.00am

**Changes to weekday Mass times:** Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec - Mass at 9.15am (OLOW school attending). No 6pm Mass this day. Then no Tuesday 6pm Mass until 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.

**Choir practice,** for the Christmas Vigil 6pm Mass: Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Dec, 7.30pm in the church. All welcome!

**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.

**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 resumes in February 2025.

### **Sacramental news: Reconciliation 2025**

Children who will be in Yr 4 in 2025, are invited to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The preparation program will begin on 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025 and the dates of the program can be found in foyer of the church. If you would like your child to receive this sacrament or have any questions, please contact the parish office. Blessings, Cate.

**Congratulations to Tom Barlow** who is to be awarded a Lifetime Membership Award for over 20 years of service to the St Vincent de Paul Society. Thank you Tom- you are a blessing to our Parish.

### **Readers/ Commentators roster:**

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
Dec 14/15	Stevenie Harman Beth Nowland JS: Josie Henderson & Alex Tuballa C: Debra Gleeson R: Marie McLennan	Deacon Batsirai Mary Marsh JS: N/A C: Paul Ryan R: Geraldine Waters	John Cowen <b>Rebecca Carberry (Visit)</b> Connie Reid JS: Matthew Hamilton & Nicholas Hamilton C: Lisa Samoilowicz R: Courtney Hamilton
Dec 21/22	Stevenie Harman Anne Deutscher JS: Felicity Tuballa & Josie Henderson C: Louise Goderie R: Victor Tuballa	Matthew Topp Pat Edwards JS: Evie Milroy C: Sue Mouthaan R: Paul Devlin	Deacon Batsirai Lara Roser <b>Denise Robens (Visit)</b> JS: Hugo Watson & Matthew Hamilton C: Brett Wright R: Don Robens

### **Third Week of Advent - The candle of joy**

A great deal of story and legend is attached to plants, and it is said that when the Magi, the three wise men from the East, arrived with their precious gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for the Christ Child, a poor shepherd girl called Madelon was standing outside the stable. She was in tears for she had no gift for the baby Jesus.

An angel saw her tears and gently brushed aside a soft blanket of snowflakes to reveal white Christmas Roses tipped with pink, a symbol of joy, a perfect gift for the Christ Child.

Christmas Roses are beautiful flowers which bloom and brighten the gardens of the United Kingdom in the cold and darkness of mid-winter. What a perfect gift for a small infant child.

If we had been that small shepherd girl, what could we have given as a gift? God only asks that we give of ourselves as best we can – this would surely be a wonderful gift this Christmas. We can look forward to spending time together as we await the coming of the Christ Child given to us by God – the ultimate gift in whatever language we speak wherever we speak it. The journey continues ..... enshrouded with hope for a better future

**Advent Reflection with Deacon Batsirai,** every Friday in Advent at 6pm in the church. All welcome.

**Catholic Care Emergency Food Drive is this weekend.** Your donations of pantry food and basic toiletries to help those in need are greatly appreciated. Gifts of vouchers, chocolates, toys and books supporting the Women's and Children's Shelter in Katoomba are also appreciated.

**Vinnies Christmas Appeal is this weekend.** Your generous donations will help provide hampers and vouchers to the needy in our Parish. If you are able to assist, please donate through the Poor Box, or the Vinnies 'Tap & Go' terminal. Thank you for your support..

### **Bishop Vincent's Visit top OLOW- 7<sup>th</sup> December**





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

### Diocese of Parramatta Notices:

**Christmas Mass Times around the Diocese :** There are many ways to celebrate the Christmas Season across the Diocese. At [parracatholic.org](http://parracatholic.org) you can find Christmas and New Year Mass times, Reconciliation and Adoration Near Me, and Christmas Carols and Nativity plays. Go to: [parracatholic.org/connect/find-a-mass/](http://parracatholic.org/connect/find-a-mass/)

**Bishop's Christmas Appeal:** Thank You for Supporting our Catholic Care's Houses to Homes. Fr Fernando Montano, Parramatta Catholic Foundation, and Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains thank you for your generous support of homeless mothers and children. Our Bishop's Christmas Appeal has raised funds ensuring Catholic Care can continue to provide homeless mothers and children safety, support, and a place to call home. If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit [parracatholic.org/appeal](http://parracatholic.org/appeal) or take home an envelope (at the rear of the church) and return to the Parish Office. Thank you.

**Epiphany Pilgrimage and Fiesta: 2-9 January 2025** Our Lady of the Way 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](http://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.

**Mount Schoenstatt Advent and Christmas Carols:** 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. website: <https://schoenstatt.org.au/>

### Saints of the week:

Dec 16th – St. Adelaide  
Dec 17th – St. Florian  
Dec 18th – St. Peter Truat  
Dec 19th – St. Darius  
Dec 20th – St. Dominic of Silos  
Dec 21st – St. Peter Canisus, Doctor

### 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