

# 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, 8th December, 2024. Second Sunday of Advent, Year C.**

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

### **Entrance Antiphon** Cf Isaiah 30:19,30

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

### **First Reading** Baruch 5:1-9

A reading from the prophet Baruch  
*Jerusalem – God will show you splendour.*  
Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, ‘Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness’. Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy

by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

### **Responsorial Psalm**

[Ps 125. R. v.3](#)

**(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. (R.)
2. The heathens themselves said: ‘What marvels the Lord worked for them!’ What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. (R.)
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. (R.)
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. (R.)

### **Second Reading** [Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians *Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.*

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this

good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

**Gospel Acclamation** [Luke 3:4. 6](#)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel** [Luke 3:1-6](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
*All people shall see the salvation of God.*

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his

brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:  
A voice cries in the wilderness;  
Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight.  
Every valley will be filled in,  
every mountain and hill be laid low,  
winding ways will be straightened  
and rough roads made smooth.  
And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

**Communion Antiphon.** [Baruch 5:5; 4:36](#)

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,  
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

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

**Let us pray:** We pray for those recently deceased, and for Michael Joseph Flanagan 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, 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:

### 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.  
 No Tuesday 6pm Mass until 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.

**Choir practise**, for the Christmas Vigil 6pm Mass:  
 Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 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> Sun after 9.30am Mass, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun after 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.

**Scripture Ministry:** We are reaching out to seek your support in aiding our students at the public schools by providing them with workbooks used in their weekly scripture classes. For \$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 available to purchase on 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> December. Many thanks for your support.

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

### Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
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 <b>Beth Nowland Visit</b> JS: Hugo Watson C: Marianne Castor R: Denise Robens
Dec 14/15	Stevenie Harman Beth Nowland JS: Josie Henderson & Alex Tuballa C: Debra Gleeson R: Marie McLennan	Deacon Batsirai Mark Norbury 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 Samojlowicz R: Courtney Hamilton

**Catholic Care Emergency Food Drive.** Thank you for your continuing generosity. Your donations of pantry food and basic toiletries to help those in need are greatly appreciated. Please place goods such as canned fish, canned vegetables, pasta and toilet paper at rear of the church next *weekend 14th/15<sup>th</sup> Dec.*

Catholic Care also support the Women's and Children Shelter in Katoomba and will gratefully receive gifts of toys, books, chocolates or vouchers for Christmas this year. If you wish to donate toys or books please take a label from the basket at the rear of the church. Vouchers/chocolates for mothers and single women may also be donated if you wish. Please place items alongside the regular food collection next weekend. Thank you

**Vinnies Christmas Appeal:** This appeal will be held **next weekend, 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> December.** Your generous donations will help us to 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 (onsite next weekend). We thank you, OLOW Primary and Penola Catholic College for supporting this appeal

**OLOW Volunteers Thank You Dinner:** A couple of photos from a wonderful evening, giving thanks for those who share their gifts with our Parish.



**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.



<p><b><u>Parish Information</u></b></p> <p><b>Parish office open Tuesday to Friday from 9:00am to 3pm. (ph: 4735 1041)</b>          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.</p>	<p><b>Weekend Mass times:</b>          Saturday 6 pm, Sunday 8am, 9:30am          Filipino Mass, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month:          12pm</p> <p><b>Weekday Masses:</b>          Tuesday 6pm;          Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 9am.</p> <p>Adoration of Blessed Sacrament at 8.30am          Thursday before Mass. Benediction last          Thursday of the month.          First Fridays of the month – healing Mass.</p> <p><b>Reconciliation:</b> Saturday 5pm.</p> <p><b>Sacraments:</b> baptisms and weddings by          appointment. Please contact the parish office          (<a href="mailto:emuplains@parracatholic.org">emuplains@parracatholic.org</a>) for information          on reconciliation, communion and confirmation.</p>
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**Diocese of Parramatta Notices:**

**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](http://parracatholic.org/appeal) to give your gift of a new beginning today. Alternatively, you can donate using the envelopes at the rear of the church. Thank you.

**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/>

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> January, please contact the parish office on 4735 1041.*

<p><b><u>Saints of the week:</u></b></p> <p>Dec 9th – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.          Dec 10th – Our Lady of Loreto, St Gregory III, Pope          Dec 11th – St Damasus I, Pope          Dec 12th – Our Lady of Guadalupe          Dec 13th – St. Lucy, Martyr          Dec 14<sup>th</sup> – St. John of the Cross, Doctor</p>	<p><b><u>Parish bank details:</u></b></p> <p>If you would like to support our priest and church financially through <b>online banking:</b>          Name: Emu Plains Catholic church          BSB: 067 950          Account Number: 00000289</p>
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