

# 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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## Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> December 2024    *The Nativity of the Lord*

Welcome to the celebration of the mass.

### **Entrance Antiphon** Cf Isaiah 9:5

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

### **First Reading** Is 52:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of our God.*

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

### **Responsorial Psalm.** Ps 97:1-6. R. v.3

**(R.) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.**

1. Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. (R.)

### **Responsorial Psalm.** Ps 97:1-6. R. v.3

**(R.) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.**

1. Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. (R.)
2. The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. (R.)
3. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. (R.)
4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music. With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord. (R.)

### **Second Reading** Heb 1:1-6

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

*In our own time, God speaks to us through his Son.*

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above

the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name. God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

**Gospel Acclamation** [Mt 1:23](#)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

A holy day has dawned upon us.  
Come you nations and adore the Lord.  
Today a great light has come upon the earth.

**Alleluia!**



**Gospel** [Jn 1:1-18](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory.*

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. A man came, sent by God. His name was John.

He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. John appears as his witness, He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.' Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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**Let us pray:** We pray for those recently deceased, and for Victor Tuballa Snr, Joan Dent, Frank Barglik and Jadwiga Buniowska whose death anniversaries occur 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 Batchelder, 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 CHRISTMAS WALL HANGING:**

Our Christmas wall hanging was created in December 1986 by parishioners Margaret Merrick, Carol Burke and Lorraine Stratton. It was hung up in time for the last school mass of that year. Margaret designed the banner and it is made of taffeta fabric. All three ladies cut out the fabric and Carol joined all the pieces together on her sewing machine, which took many hours. Lorraine incorporated some patchwork and applique techniques to give the banner a three-dimensional appearance. The banner took six weeks to complete and was featured in the Penrith Press at the time.



**Parish Notices:**

**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). *This group resumes Jan 9<sup>th</sup> (meeting in the Parish Office for the month of January).*

**Playgroup:** Playgroup resumes in February 2025.

**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 hospitality will resume 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.

**Readers/ Commentators roster:**

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
Dec 28/29	Stevenie Harman Anne Deutscher JS: Felicity Tuballa & Alex Tuballa C: Phillip Youngman R: Bellinda Henderson	Deacon Batsirai Matthew Topp JS: N/A C: Gabe Manouk R: Paul Ryan	Lara Roser Kay Walker (Visit) David Green JS: Hugo Watson C: Trish Boyle R: Matthew Hamilton

**Christmas Roster**

	6.00pm	8.30pm	9.30am
24/25 December	Deacon Batsirai John Cowen Kay Walker Lara Roser Anne Deutscher JS: Matthew Hamilton, Nicholas Hamilton & Hugo Watson C: Phillip Youngman R1: Gabriel Manouk R2: Sue Mouthaan	Stevenie Harman JS: Josie Henderson C & R2: Bellinda Henderson R1: John Cowen	Mary Marsh Denise Robens David Green JS: Evie Milroy C: Trish Boyle R1: Louise Goderie R2: Geraldine Waters

**Office Hours:**

The Parish Office will be closed from Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 3pm, reopening on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024. In an emergency, please call Fr Johnson Joseph on 0476 394968.

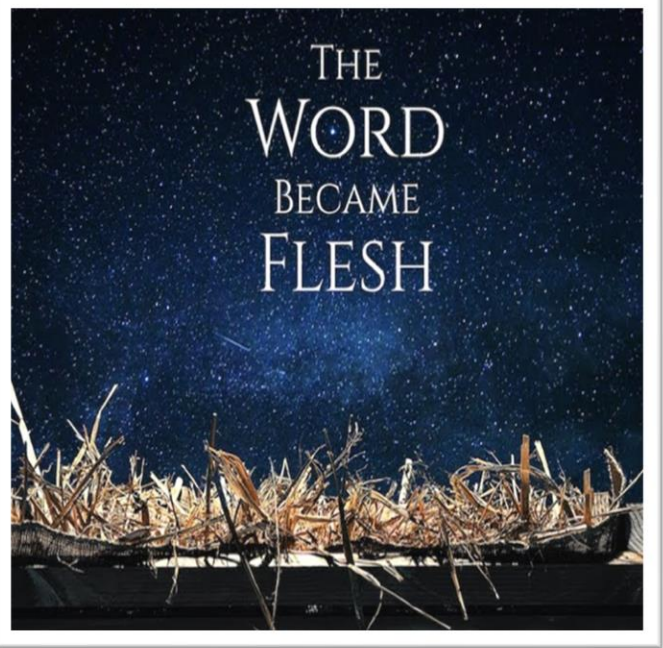
**Changes to weekday Mass times:**

**NO weekday Mass on Dec 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.**  
**NO Tuesday 6pm Mass until 4th March, 2025.**

**Weekday Mass times in the New Year**

**1<sup>st</sup> January**- 9.00am Mass  
**2<sup>nd</sup> January**- 8.30am Mass- Epiphany Pilgrimage and morning tea  
**3<sup>rd</sup> January**- No Mass

From **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January**, Mass resumes on Wednesday and Friday morning at 9am. Adoration and a Communion Service will commence on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January**, and will continue every Thursday until 13<sup>th</sup> February. Please note, no Mass on Thursday until 20<sup>th</sup> February.



## 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:  
Jim Fanning (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: (see changes previous pg)**

Tuesday 6pm; *(Not till 4<sup>th</sup> March 25)*  
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.

## Father Michael's Christmas message

Dear Everyone,

Merry Christmas to you, your families and friends. I extend a warm welcome to those joining us for the first time - those visiting from another place or faith tradition, and those who may not worship with us on a regular basis.

“Today a light will shine upon us, for the Lord is born for us; and He will be called wondrous God, Prince of peace, Father of future ages” Is 9:1-5;Lk 1:33.

Christmas is here with us once again.

One of the dominant symbols during Christmas is light. As we walk in our neighbourhood around this time, we see houses decorated with lights. There are all types of lights, and people put a lot of work into these decorations. When I look at these lights, what strikes me is the visible symbol of hope.

Once again, this year, we are celebrating Christmas surrounded by catastrophes and struggles that consume our world: From war in some parts of the world to hard economic realities facing many people. Amid all the challenges, the message and promise of God remains faithful, “today a light will shine among us”. Let us continue to be hopeful of a better tomorrow. May we be people of faith and rejoice in the light and hope that Christmas brings. This light truly does shine in a world full of darkness, and this light must penetrate our hearts. We are called to be the light of Jesus to the world - transmitting that light to others, especially those who are feeling hopeless and frustrated with the events of the world.

As we celebrate Christmas, let us be thankful to the Lord for the blessings we have received, especially the celebrations of our Golden Jubilee year. I take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely for all you have done for our community. Thank you for actively supporting our Church with your gifts, time, talents and resources.

Despite the challenges and anxiety we are facing, may the light of the Lord illumine our hearts and our world. With the office staff, we wish you all a blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May God bless you abundantly during this Christmas Season as well as during the New Year.

*Fr Michael Gitau Gathuku, PP Our Lady of the Way.*

## Saints of the week:

26<sup>th</sup> Dec – St Stephen, first martyr  
27<sup>th</sup> Dec – St John, Apostle and Evangelist  
28<sup>th</sup> Dec – The Holy Innocents  
29<sup>th</sup> Dec – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph  
30<sup>th</sup> Dec – St. John Alcober  
31<sup>st</sup> Dec – St Sylvester I, Pope.

## 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  
Account Number: 00000289