

# 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, 26th January, 2025. Third Sunday in Ordinary time, Year C.**

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

### **Entrance Antiphon** Cf Psalm 95:1,6

O sing a new song to the Lord;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
In his presence are majesty and splendour,  
strength and honour in his holy place.

### **First Reading** [Nehemiah 8:2-6. 8-10](#)

A reading from the book of Nehemiah  
*They read from the book of Law and they understood what was read.*

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered Amen! Amen!; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read. Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and

the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, ‘This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep’. For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law. He then said, ‘Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.’

### **Responsorial Psalm**

[Ps 18:8-10. 15. R. See Jn 6:63](#)

#### **(R.) Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.**

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,  
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,  
it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.)

2. The precepts of the Lord are right,  
they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear,  
it gives light to the eyes. (R.)

3. The fear of the Lord is holy,  
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth  
and all of them just. (R.)

4. May the spoken words of my mouth,  
the thoughts of my heart,  
win favour in your sight, O Lord,  
my rescuer, my rock! (R.)

## **Second Reading** [1 Corinthians 12:12-30](#)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

*Together you are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.*

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. If the foot were to say, 'I am not a hand and so I do not belong to the body,' would that mean that it stopped being part of the body? If the ear were to say, 'I am not an eye, and so I do not belong to the body,' would that mean that it is not a part of the body? If your whole body was just one eye, how would you hear anything? If it was just one ear, how would you smell anything?

Instead of that, God put all the separate parts into the body on purpose. If all the parts were the same, how could it be a body? As it is, the parts are many but the body is one. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I do not need you,' nor can the head say to the feet, 'I do not need you.'

What is more, it is precisely the parts of the body that seem to be the weakest which are the indispensable ones; and it is the least honourable parts of the body that we clothe with the greatest care. So our more improper parts get decorated in a way that our more proper parts do not need. God has arranged the body so that more dignity is given to the parts which are without it, and so that there may not be disagreements inside the body, but that each part may be equally concerned for all the others. If one part is hurt, all parts are hurt with it. If one part is given special honour, all parts enjoy it.

Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it. In the Church, God has given the first place to apostles, the second to prophets, the third to teachers; after them, miracles, and after them the gift of healing; helpers, good leaders, those with many languages. Are all of them apostles, or all of them prophets, or all of them teachers? Do they all have the gift of miracles, or all have the gift of healing? Do all speak strange languages, and all interpret them?

## **Gospel Acclamation** [See Luke 4:18](#)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor, and freedom to prisoners.

**Alleluia!**

## **Gospel** [Luke 1:1-4. 4:14-21](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*The scriptures were fulfilled on this day.*

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received. Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him. He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour. He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

## **Communion Antiphon** [Cf Psalm 33:6](#)

Look toward the Lord and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.

**Let us pray:** We pray for our recently deceased, and for Kathleen McVeigh, Tom Hogan, Yvonne Sheekey, Annette Hogan, Bryan Gordon, and Gerardus Wolffers, 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, Karen Allen, Trish Devoy, Daniel Rowlands, 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), Jeffrey Meads, Julie Laws, 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:**

**Changes to weekday Mass times:**

Tues 28<sup>th</sup> Jan- No Mass  
 Wed 29<sup>th</sup> & Fri 31<sup>st</sup> Jan - 9am Mass  
 Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> Jan - 9am Communion Service & Adoration  
 Please note that the staff from OLOW, Penola and CathWest will also be attending Mass on Fri 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Parish Gardening Club:** We are looking to form a group of volunteers to help maintain the parish gardens. This would involve approximately one and a half hours once a month to weed, trim and water the grounds (no heavy work involved). A suggested date is the 2nd Tuesday or 2nd Saturday of the month (this is flexible) from 9.30am -11am. If you would like to help, please phone or text Carol Burke on 0432982773.

**Cuppa and a Chat:** *To resume in February.* 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.

**Readers/ Commentators roster:**

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
Jan 25/26	Stevenie Harman Beth Nowland JS: Felicity Tuballa & Josie Henderson C: Phillip Youngman R: Bellinda Henderson	Mark Norbury John Lo Cascio JS: Evie Milroy C: Gabe Manouk R: Paul Ryan	Deacon Batsirai John Cowen <b>Denise Robens (Visit)</b> JS: Hugo Watson & Jonah Ellis C: Trish Boyle R: Matthew Hamilton
Feb 1 /2	Deacon Batsirai Stevenie Harman JS: Felicity Tuballa & Alex Tuballa C: Trish Ryan R: Mary Balam	Mary Marsh Barbara Ryan JS: Evie Milroy C: Maria Sirotti R: Kay Walker	Lara Roser <b>Beth Nowland (Visit only)</b> David Green Connie Reid JS: Matthew Hamilton & Nicholas Hamilton C: Marianne Castor R: Denise Robens

**AUSTRALIA DAY**

The Great South Land, Australia, is richly blessed by God. If we look at the words of the national anthem “Australians all let us rejoice for we are one and free” we realise that this is a journey we are travelling together no matter where our journey began – for from ancient times God made this land, a home for many people and became their rock and strength – we are constantly striving towards ensuring that we are one people, one nation.

The little-known third verse of our anthem says, “With Christ our head and cornerstone, We’ll build our nation’s might, Whose way of truth and light alone, Can guide our path aright, Our lives a sacrifice of love, Reflect our Master’s care, With faces turned to Heaven above, Advance Australia Fair”. How can we fail when we have our Lord and master on our side?

Australia Day – a time to reflect on what it means to you as the providence of God continues to be manifest among us through the way we live and the profound respect we should have for each other. May your day be richly blessed.

**Sacramental news: Reconciliation 2025**

Children who will be in year 4 in 2025, are invited to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. The preparation program will begin on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025. If you would like your child to receive this sacrament or have any questions, please contact the parish office on 4735 1041.

**Children’s Liturgy:** This year, we would like to recommence Children’s Liturgy on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday’s of the month. A big thankyou to those who have already volunteered their time to be a part of this ministry. **We are, however, still in need of volunteers.** If you would like to be involved, or would like more information, please contact the Parish Office on 4735 1041.

## 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:

**SAPIENTIA RETREAT:** Single adults, ages 18-30, are invited to join the Dominican Friars and Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia for a weekend retreat at St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park, NSW, from 7-9 February 2025. The retreat will consist of talks, discussion, silence, Eucharistic Adoration, the Sacrament of Confession, Mass, and time for fun and fellowship. Fee: \$300 per person. Please complete the google form (<https://forms.gle/hHyBFDjN3A5pexXJA>) to register your intention. Registrations close 31 January.

**Solemn High Mass for the Feast of the Presentation of The Lord and World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life: 2 February** Join us for Mass at 11am at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta celebrated by Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and a special celebration of Consecrated Life. Jubilee candles for each Order or Congregation will be blessed during a short ceremony in the Cathedral courtyard then carried in procession into the Cathedral.

### **Red Mass for judiciary and legal community: 3 February**

The Very Reverend Robert Riedling, Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta cordially invites members of the judiciary and legal community, public service officials, law students and their families to the annual Red Mass on Monday 3 February at 7:00pm, (refreshments following Mass). Please RSVP by Friday, 31 January to [enquiry@stpatscathedral.com.au](mailto:enquiry@stpatscathedral.com.au) or call 02 8839 8400.

### **Free English and Citizenship Classes**

Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are offering English and Citizenship classes at Mamre House, 181 Mamre Rd, Orchard Hills, on a Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am to 2pm during school terms. Free childcare is available. If you are interested in enrolling, please contact Mamre Crèche on (02) 8843 2506 or Nepean Community College (02) 4724 9000.

### **Diocese of Parramatta Tribunal Office**

The Tribunal of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Parramatta is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, to offer advice and assistance regarding marriage annulments and dissolution of marriages. Interviews are preferably conducted in person with Zoom and telephone interviews in special circumstances. Please contact the Tribunal Office on (02) 8838 3480 or email [tribunal@parracatholic.org](mailto:tribunal@parracatholic.org).

## Saints of the week:

Jan 27th – Ss. Timothy & Titus, Bishops and Martyrs

Jan 28th – St. Thomas Aquinas, Doctor

Jan 29th – St. Aquilinus

Jan 30th – St. Martina

Jan 31st – St. John Bosco

Feb 1st – St. Brigid of Ireland

## 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