

# 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, 23rd February, 2025. Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C.**

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

## **Entrance Antiphon** [Psalm 12:6](#)

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.  
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.  
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

## **First Reading** [1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23](#)

A reading from the first book of Samuel  
*The Lord has put you in my power, but I will not raise my hand against you.*

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph. So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him. Then Abishai said to David, ‘Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice. David answered Abishai, Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord’s anointed and be without guilt?’ David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul’s head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them. David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, ‘Here is the king’s

spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord’s anointed.’

## **Responsorial Psalm** [Ps 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13, R. v.8](#)

### **(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.**

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)
3. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)
4. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him. (R.)

## **Second Reading** [1 Corinthians 15:45-49](#)

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

*Just as we have carried the earthly image, we must carry the heavenly image.*

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the

one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

**Gospel Acclamation** [John 13:34](#)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

I give you a new commandment; love one another as I have loved you.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel** [Luke 6:27-38](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
*Be merciful as your Father is merciful.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to

you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

**Communion Antiphon** [Psalm 9:2-3](#)

I will recount all your wonders,  
I will rejoice in you and be glad,  
and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

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**Let us pray:** We pray for our recently deceased Craig Walsh Snr, and for Frank Attard and Coral Ryan 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, Ashleigh Page, Karen Allen, 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), 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, Franco Palma, Annie-May Booth, Daniel Rowlands, Maddie Millard and Trish Devoy. 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:

**Welcome back Fr Michael!** Father Michael is back from a blessed time with family in Kenya. Thank you Fr. Michael for lovingly serving our parish community. We thank the priests and senior servers who stepped up and covered Masses, and performed many other duties in his absence.

### Changes to weekday Mass times:

No Tuesday 6pm Mass until 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.

### Ash Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> March, Mass times:

9.00am (OLOW school attending); 6.00pm

**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 has resumed in the parish hall. Next meeting is on 25<sup>th</sup> February. All welcome! For more information, please contact the parish office.

**Planned Giving Envelopes:** The 2025/2026 envelopes are now available for collection. Please note that due to a reduction in the number of Parishioners using the envelopes, you may be allocated a new number. When collecting, please check on your name, not necessarily the number. For those affected, your record remains intact.

### 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. This collection is sent to the Diocese of Parramatta.

**Second collection** is used for the running of the Parish, eg utilities, wages, church and altar requirements, priest's vehicle, maintenance, office supplies and the sacramental program. This collection remains in the Parish.

### Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
Feb 22/23	Stevenie Harman Debra Gleeson JS: Felicity Tuballa & Josie Henderson C: Phillip Youngman R: Bellinda Henderson	Matthew Topp 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
Mar 1 /2	Deacon Batsirai Stevenie Harman JS: Alex Tuballa & Felicity Tuballa C: Trish Ryan R: Mary Balam	Mary Marsh Pat Edwards JS: Evie Milroy C: Maria Sirotti R: Kay Walker	Lara Roser <b>Heather Barlow (Visit only)</b> Connie Reid Noeline Bangel JS: Matthew Hamilton & Nicholas Hamilton C: Marianne Castor R: Denise Robens

**Children's liturgy** will commence this weekend at the 9:30am Mass. If you would like your child/children to attend, please add their name(s) to the Sign-On sheet in the church foyer.

**Baptisms:** We warmly welcome Emily McAuley into our Faith Community. May God bless Emily and her family always.

### 75<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary congratulations to

Stan (97) and Beryl (98) Calloghan from Glenbrook parish!

If you have a significant birthday or anniversary and you wish to have it announced in the bulletin, email Louise with your details.

[louise.goderie@gmail.com](mailto:louise.goderie@gmail.com)



**Gardening Group:** We are next meeting on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30am. All welcome. All you need is a hat, sunscreen and water.

**Lenten Program:** Deacon Batsirai will be running a Lenten reflection group commencing on Friday March 7 at 5pm. Stations of the Cross will commence March 7 at 6pm. For more information, please contact the Parish Office on 4735 1041.

### Our Lady of the Way School Enrolments:

There will be two enrolment information sessions for families interested in enrolling their child in kindergarten 2026. Tuesday 4 March from 9.30am – 10.30am or Thursday 6 March from 3.30pm - 4.30pm. Come and see all the exciting things happening at Our Lady of the Way. Please email the school office on [olow@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:olow@parra.catholic.edu.au) or phone 4777 2700 further information regarding enrolments.

**Safeguarding Training:** A friendly reminder that **all volunteers in our parish** need to complete their Mandatory Safeguarding Training. Training needs to be completed every 2 years. For new volunteers, Modules 1, 2 & 3 are to be completed. For those needing to renew, Modules 4 & 5 are to be completed.

**Online Training** – Please visit

<https://learning.safeguarding.org.au/>

**Face to Face Training-** The next session will be for Modules 4 & 5 on 3 May at Holy Family Emerton, or St Finbars Glenbrook on 6 May (Mod 4) & 22<sup>nd</sup> May (Mod 5).

To register, please visit

<https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>.

For more information, or assistance, please contact the Parish Office on 4735 1041.

**If you have recently completed training, please send a copy of your certificate to [olowpar@outlook.com](mailto:olowpar@outlook.com) .**

## 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:

**LIFTED Launch: 27 February** Join us for LIFTED Launch on Thursday, February 27th, from 6:45 PM to 9:30 PM at West HQ, Rooty Hill! Get a sneak peek at exciting events we have planned for young Catholics, including the Jubilee Year Pilgrimage and Australian Catholic Youth Festival. Enjoy a night of prayer, formation, and fun with fellow young Catholics. Register

now: [parracatholic.org/events/liftedlaunch/](http://parracatholic.org/events/liftedlaunch/)

## **Join the Diocese of Parramatta's Jubilee Youth Pilgrimage**

Young people (18-35) across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are invited to embark on an 18-day pilgrimage to the Jubilee of Youth in Rome from 19 July – 5 August 2025. The journey includes a visit to Greece, tracing the footsteps of Saint Paul, before heading to Rome for the celebration. Express your interest today at [parracatholic.org/jubileeyouth2025](http://parracatholic.org/jubileeyouth2025)

## **Mount Schoenstatt Monthly Shrine Time for men**

Men at the Shrine is a monthly hour for men at the Schoenstatt Shrine in Mulgoa, held on the second Wednesday of the month from 8-9pm. The hour includes a brief reflection, silent personal prayer and the opportunity for confession. The Shrine has been a place of pilgrimage in the diocese since 1968 and in 2025 is also one of the three locations in the diocese to gain the Jubilee Indulgence.

## Saints of the week:

Feb 24th– St. Montanus

Feb 25th – St. Tarasius

Feb 26th – St. Victor

Feb 27th – St. Gregory of Narek

Feb 28th – St. Hilary, Pope.

March 1st – St. David

## 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



**PENOLA**  
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

**2025**

**OPEN NIGHT**  
MONDAY 10 MARCH  
4PM - 7PM

Year 7 2026  
Enrolments will be  
accepted on  
the night!

ENROL NOW



[www.penolaemuplains.catholic.edu.au](http://www.penolaemuplains.catholic.edu.au)  
@PenolaEmuPlains

**P: 4728 8100**