

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



19 Troy St, Emu Plains
Phone: 4735 1041
Email: emuplains@parracatholic.org
Web: <https://catholicparishemuplains.org.au/>

Sunday, 16th March, 2025. 2nd Sunday of Lent, Year C.

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 26:8-9

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

First Reading Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

A reading from the book of Genesis
God made a covenant with Abraham, his faithful servant.

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified. 'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied, 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off. Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these

terms: 'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 26:1, 7-9, 13-14, R. v.1

(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.



1. The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life before whom shall I shrink? (R.)
2. O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer.
Of you my heart has spoken: 'Seek his face.' (R.)
3. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek, hide not your face.
Dismiss not your servant in anger; you have been my help. (R.)
4. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! (R.)

Second Reading Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
Christ will transfigure these bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body.

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are

earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe. So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

Gospel Acclamation [Matthew 17:5](#)

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel [Luke 9:28-36](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

As Jesus prayed, the aspect of his face was changed, and his clothing became brilliant as lightning.

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter

and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' – He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

Communion Antiphon [Matthew 17:5](#)

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

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Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased Fay Loader, and for Mary Chetcuti, Noel Irvin, Arthur Reid and members of the Aaron Family 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, Sean Fahey, Ashleigh Page, Karen Allen, Vengie Pangilinan, Shane Muller, June Davidson, Jo Von Schomburg, 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:

Children's liturgy: The next Children's Liturgy will be on **Sunday 23rd March** at the 9:30am Mass.

Choir rehearsal for the Easter Vigil Mass will commence on **Tuesday 18th March** at 7.30pm in the church. All welcome!

Good Friday Stations of the Cross: This year, once again, we will be having Stations of the Cross in the grounds of OLOW Primary School. We are in need of volunteers to act, read and sing/provide music. If you would like to be involved, please contact the Parish Office on 4735 1041.

Readers for Holy Week: If you are a Minister of the Word and would like to read or commentate at one of the Holy Week Liturgies, please add your name to the roster in the church foyer.

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion
Have you considered joining this important ministry or perhaps you may be interested in learning more about the ministry?

Father Michael and Deacon Batsirai will run a parish course for parishioners who are willing to assist and become part of this ministry. You may also be interested in becoming a Minister to the sick and dying and visit parishioners who are no longer able to attend mass each week, but who wish to receive communion. You will find more about these important works in the parish booklet. If you are interested or wish to talk further, please contact the parish office or speak with Fr Michael or Deacon Batsirai.

Cuppa and a Chat: 1st Sat after 6pm Mass, 2nd & 4th Sunday after the 9.30am Mass and 3rd 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: The next playgroup will be on Tuesday 25th March, 10am, in the parish hall. All welcome!

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
Mar 15/16	Stevenie Harman Anne Deutscher JS: Alex Tuballa & Josie Henderson C: Carmen Nyavor R: Victor Tuballa	Deacon Batsirai Matthew Topp JS: N/A C: Sue Mouthaan R: Paul Devlin	Lara Roser Rebecca Carberry (Visit) David Green JS: Matthew Hamilton & Nicholas Hamilton C: Don Robens R: Brett Wright
March 22/23	Stevenie Harman Michael Manton JS: Felicity Tuballa & Josie Henderson C: Phillip Youngman R: Bellinda Henderson	Matthew Topp John Lo Cascio JS: Evie Milroy C: Gabe Manouk R: Jessica Topp	Deacon Batsirai Hartley Dhyon Denise Robens (Visit) JS: Nicholas Hamilton & Hugo Watson C: Trish Boyle R: Matthew Hamilton

Lenten Reflection

As we prepare for the collection this week for Catholic Care let us reflect on a gentle story for Lent. The food bank does not distribute toys, but someone had donated a beautiful soft fluffy rabbit just before Easter. The volunteers thought long and hard about what to do with it when a voice in one of their heads kept reminding them that there was a women's refuge nearby. One of them decided to take it to them but due to confidentially reasons the refuge could neither confirm nor deny that they had someone in residence who could use it. The rabbit who had been named Bunny Big Ears was handed over.

A few weeks after Easter a note from the rabbit arrived, via the refuge and the food bank. Bunny Big Ears (who wrote very well with those big soft paws) wanted her to know that he had made a friend immediately. The little friend had left all her Easter things behind as they had fled so had even more love left for him; she took him everywhere with her. Bunny Big Ears wanted her to know that they were all now moving on to a place where rabbits and children could be safe and happy.

So, in this upcoming week of Lent let us pray that all people will have just access to the necessities of life. Let us continue to support Catholic Care, St. Vincent de Paul and Project Compassion in their endeavours to make it a fair world for all where everyone feels safe and wanted and like the Good Samaritan be accepting of Jesus' message of life to remain connected as a community – especially here at OLOW. *Stevenie Harman*

Lenten Program: Deacon Batsirai will be running a Lenten reflection group each Friday during Lent, starting at 5pm. **Stations of the Cross** will follow at 6pm.

Catholic Care Emergency Food Drive. Please place goods such as canned meat and fish, canned vegetables, baked beans, pasta and toilet paper at rear of the church this weekend 15/16 March. Your generous donation of basic foods and groceries is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Life Ascending Meeting: Our next meeting of the year will be at 10 am 19th March at the home of Kay Walker, 197 River Rd, Leonay. New members are welcome! Life Ascending is a group for spiritual enrichment and friendship for the over 50 yrs age group. For more information contact Noelene Bangle on 0247337481.

Young adults between the ages of 18-40 are warmly invited to meet with Fr Michael on March 30 after the 9.30 am Mass.

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, 3rd 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) for information
on reconciliation, communion and confirmation.

Diocese of Parramatta Notices:

Positions Vacant

*Administration Assistant: Mission Enhancement Team

*Risk & Compliance Facilitator: Governance, Risk &
Compliance

*Administration Assistant: Holy Spirit Parish, St Clair

More details at: parracatholic.org/about/jobs/

Nominations open for the 2025 Papal & Diocesan

Awards: Nominations are now open for the 2025 Papal
and Diocesan Awards, recognising individuals—both
religious and lay—who have made outstanding
contributions to the Catholic Church and its community.
Do you know someone who deserves to be recognised?
Nominations close at midnight on 31 May 2025. For more
information or to submit a nomination,
visit parracatholic.org/contribute/papal-diocesan-awards/

Bookings now open: Diocese of Parramatta's Adult 35

years+ Jubilee Pilgrimage. Join a life-changing 19-day
pilgrimage from 7 to 25 September 2025, exploring sacred
sites in Greece, Turkey, and Rome. Open to adults aged
35 and over, this journey follows St. Paul's path and the early Church, culminating in the Jubilee
Year of Hope in Rome. Bookings close on 2 May 2025, with a deposit of \$800 required at the
time of booking. The final payment is due by 7 July 2025. Don't miss this incredible faith
experience. For more information and to register, visit parracatholic.org/jubileepilgrimage2025/.

Saints of the week:

March 17th – St. Patrick, bishop

March 18th – St. Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop and doctor

March 19th – St. Joseph, spouse of Mary

March 20th – St. Cuthbert

March 21st – St. Enda

March 22nd – St. Lea

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



Second Sunday of Lent
15th and 16th of March 2025

Toefuata'iga - (*Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah*) a primary
school student from Samoa faced severe water
shortages at her school. Thanks to Caritas
Australia and the generosity of supporters like you,
her primary school now has a 10,000 L water tank.
Teachers and students now have access to clean
drinking water at their school and are able to focus
on education.



Photo credit: Caritas Australia

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025
through the donation boxes, envelopes or by
scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413