

# 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 March, 2025. 3rd Sunday of Lent, Year C.**

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

### **Entrance Antiphon** Cf Psalm 24:15-16

My eyes are always on the Lord,  
for he rescues my feet from the snare.  
Turn to me and have mercy on me,  
for I am alone and poor.

### **First Reading** Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15

A reading from the book of Exodus

*This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.*

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of

their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

### **Responsorial Psalm** Ps 102:1-4. 6-8. 11. 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 does deeds of justice,  
gives judgement for all who are oppressed.  
He made known his ways to Moses  
and his deeds to Israel's sons. (R.)
4. The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
For as the heavens are high above the earth  
so strong is his love for those who fear him. (R.)

**Second Reading** [1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12](#)

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

*All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.*

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

**Gospel Acclamation** [Matthew 4:17](#)

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Gospel** [Luke 13:1-9](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.*

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.'"

**Communion Antiphon** [John 4:13-14](#)

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

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**Let us pray:** We pray for recently deceased Luioie Vella, and for Karen McInnes and Mary Chetcuti 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, Rob Ternes, 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 will be on this Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March at the 9.30am Mass.**

**Choir rehearsal** for the Easter Vigil Mass is on this Tuesday 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.

**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 meets every second Tuesday at 10am in the parish hall. The next playgroup will be on Tuesday **25<sup>th</sup> March**. All welcome! For more information, please contact the parish office.

**Readers/ Commentators roster:**

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
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 Millroy C: Gabe Manouk R: Jessica Topp	Deacon Batsirai Hartley Dhyon <b>Denise Robens (Visit)</b> JS: Nicholas Hamilton & Hugo Watson C: Trish Boyle R: Matthew Hamilton
March 29/30	Stevenie Harman Anne Deutscher JS: Josie Henderson C: Trish Ryan R: Mary Balam	Deacon Batsirai Mary Marsh JS: N/A C: Maria Sirotti R: Geraldine Waters	Lara Roser David Green <b>Kay Walker (Visit)</b> JS: Jonah Ellis & Hugo Watson C: Marianne Castor R: Denise Robens

**Lenten reflection**

**Third Sunday of Lent Year C:  
The Lord is kind and merciful.**

Just like a mother and a father who love their child well before they are born, God loved us first. He is a God who pursues us. 'But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"' (Genesis 3:9) The Scripture readings of this Sunday highlight a God who is compassionate and loving. He understands our lives and knows what is good for us. The people of Israel were languishing in captivity in Egypt. Little did they know that the merciful God was watching and was planning their release. He sends Moses to lead them out. With the passage of time, he sent his only Son our Lord Jesus Christ, the new Moses, to free us from the bondage of sin. God is the one who seeks us. The challenge to us is to respond to his love for us. We do not always respond positively. Like a fig tree that does not bear fruit he gives us a second chance. "Sir," leave it one more year it may bear fruit next year". This Lenten season, let us reflect on how we are responding to the love of God. Every day that passes, he gives us a second chance to repent.

**The Lord is kind and merciful.**

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

**Caring for our common home:** Recycling at our Parish: A collection box for your clean dry & empty dental hygiene items and used blister packs is available at our Church. See one of the Wardens for the location of the box. See sides of box for details of what is acceptable. Jim (0421 125 722).

**SAVE THE DATE:** 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, 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:

### Positions Vacant

\*Administration Assistant: Holy Spirit Parish, St Clair

More details at: [parracatholic.org/about/jobs/](http://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/](http://parracatholic.org/contribute/papal-diocesan-awards/)

### **Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal for Catholic Care's chaplaincy services**

This Lent, will you be a pilgrim of hope to people who may break in the face of suffering? Your kind-hearted gift and prayers will help our chaplains at Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains offer pastoral care, comfort and Christian companionship that can bring healing and transformation. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal at [parracatholic.org/appeal](http://parracatholic.org/appeal), or by scanning this QR code, or by taking home an envelope and returning it to the parish next weekend. Thank you.

### Saints of the week:

March 24<sup>th</sup> – St. Catherine of Sweden

March 25<sup>th</sup> – The Annunciation of the Lord

March 26<sup>th</sup> – St. Margaret Clitherow

March 27<sup>th</sup> – St. Rupert

March 28<sup>th</sup> – St. Tutilo

March 29<sup>th</sup> – St. Gladys

### 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



**Third Sunday of Lent**  
22nd and 23rd of March 2025

Lam is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Through the I-SHINE program Lam completed a six-month course developing his graphic design skills. He now runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income.



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](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)

**Or by calling:** 1800 024 413 413.

