

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, 30th March, 2025. 4th Sunday of Lent, Year C.

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon [Cf Isaiah 66:10-11](#)

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First Reading [Joshua 5:9-12](#)

A reading from the book of Joshua

The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.

The Lord said to Joshua, ‘Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.’ The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 33:2-7. R. v.9](#)

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. **(R.)**
2. Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free. **(R.)**

3. Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress. **(R.)**

Second Reading [2 Corinthians 5:17-21](#)

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

God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God’s work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men’s faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ’s name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

Gospel Acclamation [Luke 15:18](#)

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I will rise and go to my Father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel [Luke 15:1-3, 11-32](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly.

Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.'"

Communion Antiphon [Luke 15: 32](#)

You must rejoice, my son,
for your brother was dead and has come to life;
he was lost and is found.

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Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased John Ternes and Louis Charles Vella, and for Karen McInnes, Kevin Rose, Les Coburn and Julie Dowling 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:

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 8th April. All welcome!

Lenten Reflection Group: Friday at 5pm
Stations of the Cross: Friday at 6pm

Choir rehearsal for the Easter Vigil Mass on Tuesdays 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.

Help Needed: We are planning to celebrate our **Patron Saint's day on the 24th May, 2025**, and are in need of volunteers to help with the organisation of the day. Please contact the Parish Office on 4735 1041 if you can assist.

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
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 Kay Walker (Visit) JS: Jonah Ellis & Hugo Watson C: Marianne Castor R: Denise Robens
April 5/6 (Daylight saving ends)	Deacon Batsirai Stevenie Harman JS: Alex Tuballa & Felicity Tuballa C: Debra Gleeson R: Marie McLennan	Mark Norbury Pat Edwards JS: Evie Milroy C: Paul Ryan R: Kay Walker	Lara Roser Connie Reid Rebecca Carberry (Visit) JS: Nicholas Hamilton & Matthew Hamilton C: Lisa Samojlowicz R: Joanne Hamilton

Sacramental news: Reconciliation - Last week 52 children made their first reconciliation here at OLOW– both nights were very beautiful and blessed and I thank all the parishioners for your prayerful support of these children and their families. This program runs smoothly due to the generous help of so many much needed volunteers, and I would especially like to thank the Snedden family, Helen, Jo, Maria, Marcia, Margaret, Lorraine, Krystyna, Helen and Derrick, Anastasia and Kristina, Wolfgang and of course Sue, who puts in hours of work to support this ministry. Blessings, Cate

Parish Gardening Group will recommence in Spring. Thanks to all who came along and helped to keep the garden in order.

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

Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal for Catholic Care's Chaplaincy Services: Your kind-hearted gift and prayers will help our chaplains at Catholic Care Western Sydney and Blue Mountains offer pastoral care, comfort and Christian companionship that can bring healing and transformation. Please give generously to this appeal at at parracatholic.org/appeal , or by using the envelopes available in the church.

60th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination of Fr Robert Anderson

Next weekend, on the **6th April at the 9.30am Mass**, Fr Bob will be joining us to commemorate this occasion. Afterwards, we will be having morning tea in the hall. Please bring a plate to share to celebrate this landmark achievement of Fr Bob.

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.

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year C **“My son, you are with me always.”**

The readings for this Sunday challenges us to reflect on the important question, **“where is God and where am I?”** As I go on with my life, where is God? As I interact with a loved one, friend, workmate or neighbour, where is God? During the good and the challenging times, where is God? The Gospel reading reveals to us one clear expectation from God, **“you are with me always”**. God desires us to be with him always. How far have we wondered away? Maybe the greatest sin is leaving God and wondering away. Everything else happened to the prodigal son because he left and went away. But after realizing where he was, he said to himself, “I will leave this place and go to my father”.

Staying close to the father was testing for the elder son. Similarly, staying closing to God may be challenging for us. We may feel missing out, tired, prayers not being answered or nothing is improving. The words of the father to the elder son should bring peace to our hearts, **“My son, you are with me always”**.

Saints of the week:

March 31st – St. Benjamin

April 1st – St. Ludovic Pavoni

April 2nd – St. Francis of Paola

April 3rd – St. Luigi Scrosoppi

April 4th – St. Isidore Seville, Bishop and Doctor

April 5th – St. Vincent Ferrer



Fourth Sunday of Lent **29th and 30th of March 2025**

Irene lives in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and faced immense challenges after losing her father to war and raising her children in poverty. With support from Caritas Australia, Irene received vocational training in sewing and farming and can now support her whole family.



Photo credit: Arlette Bashizi/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

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