

# 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, 9th March, 2025. First Sunday of Lent, Year C.**

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

### **Entrance Antiphon** Cf Psalm 90:15-16

When he calls on me, I will answer him;  
I will deliver him and give him glory,  
I will grant him length of days.

### **First Reading** Deuteronomy 26:4-10

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

*The confession of faith of the elect.*

Moses said to the people: ‘The priest shall take the panner from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement: “My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty, and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us, they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, Lord, have given me.” You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God.’

### **Responsorial Psalm** Ps 90:1-2. 10-15. R. v.15

#### **(R.) Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.**

1. He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty says to the Lord: ‘My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!’ (R.)
2. Upon you no evil shall fall, no plague approach where you dwell. For you has he commanded his angels, to keep you in all your ways. (R.)
3. They shall bear you upon their hands lest you strike your foot against a stone. On the lion and the viper you will tread and trample the young lion and the dragon (R)
4. His love he set on me, so I will rescue him; protect him for he knows my name. When he calls I shall answer: ‘I am with you.’ I will save him in distress and give him glory. (R.)

### **Second Reading** Romans 10:8-13

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*The confession of faith of the believers in Christ.*

Scripture says: The word, that is the faith we proclaim, is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek:

all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask for his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

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

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
No one lives on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel** [Luke 4:1-13](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness where he was tempted.*

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus

replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.' Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says: 'You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God', he said to him 'throw yourself down from here, for scripture says:

He will put his angels in charge of you to guard you, and again: 'They will hold you up on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said: 'You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time.

**Communion Antiphon** [Matthew 4:4](#)

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

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**Let us pray:** We pray for our recently deceased Fay Loader, Anne Simpson and Hugh McCann, and for Fr Michael O'Callaghan, Arthur Reid and 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, 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:

**Lenten Reflection Program:** Deacon Batsirai is running a Lenten reflection group on Friday's during Lent at 5pm. Please meet in the church. For more information, please contact the Parish Office on 4735 1041, or email [emuplains@parracatholic.org](mailto:emuplains@parracatholic.org).

**Stations of the Cross** every Friday during Lent commencing at 6pm.

**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:** The next playgroup will be on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March, 10am, in the parish hall. All welcome! For more information, please contact the parish office

**Communion for the Sick** If you, a family member or anyone you know is sick or is no longer able to attend Mass and would like communion in the home, please call the office on 4735 1041. We will arrange for one of our ministers of Communion to make a home visit after Mass on Sunday.

**Children's Liturgy:** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at the 9.30am Mass

**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 next weekend 15/16 March. Your generous donation of basic foods and groceries is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

**Life Ascending Meeting:** Our next meeting will be at 10 am, 19<sup>th</sup> 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 0247 337481.

### Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
Mar 8/9	Stevenie Harman Beth Nowland JS: Felicity Tuballa & Josie Henderson C: Debra Gleeson R: Marie McLennan	Mark Norbury Barbara Ryan JS: Evie Milroy C: Paul Ryan R: Geraldine Waters	Deacon Batsirai John Cowen <b>Kay Walker (Visit)</b> JS: Hugo Watson & Jonah Ellis C: Lisa Samojłowicz R: Courtney Hamilton
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 <b>Rebecca Carberry (Visit)</b> David Green JS: Matthew Hamilton & Nicholas Hamilton C: Don Robens R: Brett Wright

## LENTEN SEASON; a journey into the wilderness.

It is not a Lenten season until we enter the wilderness (desert).

A space where we are alone but not lonely. The wilderness provides an environment where we self-reflect and ask ourselves deep questions about our relationship with God. It is not a geographical place but a space of silence and listening, a place of encounter. A journey into our own sacred space, accessing the holiness within us as children of God. We enter into solitude to enjoy a monastic experience, but to enter this prayerful space, we need the Holy Spirit to lead us. *"Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness"* (Luke 4 :1).

**Come Holy Spirit.**

## 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.

**HOLY HOUR: Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March.** We will be having a special hour of Adoration Friday March 14 from 7-8pm, for the children and their families who are receiving the sacrament of reconciliation. All parishioners are welcome.



Heavenly Father, we ask for blessings on all the children and families who are taking part in the sacramental program. We pray for the Holy Spirit to touch each one of them so they may experience your great love, presence and mercy in their life.  
**Amen**

## 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; **Recommencing 11<sup>th</sup> March**  
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:

**Bookings now open: 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. To book your spot or for more information visit [parracatholic.org/jubileeyouth2025](http://parracatholic.org/jubileeyouth2025)

## **At The Well Gathering for Women: 23 March**

This At the Well Gathering is a small scale, casual gathering of women aimed at providing a space for conversation, community and encounter. This gathering will be a collaboration with the Women of St Clare with a focus on the topic of "Living as a Catholic woman in a secular world." The evening will engage three women from various vocations to share from their own experiences, and to answer questions from the crowd. For more information and to register visit [parracatholic.org/events/at-the-well-gathering-23-march/](http://parracatholic.org/events/at-the-well-gathering-23-march/)



## **Global Mission: No age limit!**

Ever thought volunteering overseas was beyond you? IT'S NOT. Palms always values our older participants for the wisdom and resourcefulness they share in communities!

Palms is celebrating Seniors Week with a special [online session](#) showcasing older volunteers' experience and insights from the mission field. Explore our [unique opportunities](#) and match your life experience to the experience of a lifetime!

**Venue:** Online via Zoom- Scan the QR or register at [palms.org.au/events](http://palms.org.au/events)

**Date:** Thursday 27 March 2025

**Time:** 11 am – 12 pm

02 9560 5333

[palms@palms.org.au](mailto:palms@palms.org.au)



Caritas  
AUSTRALIA

PROJECT  
COMPASSION

## **First Sunday of Lent** 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2025

Project Compassion 2025 shares three stories from around the world. We'll meet **Toefuata'iga** - (*Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah*) from Samoa, **Lam** from Vietnam and **Irene** from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Each of this year's stories reflects diverse challenges, yet they are united by the shared determination to overcome adversity and create better futures for themselves and their communities.



## **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

## Saints of the week:

March 10<sup>th</sup> – St. Marie Eugenie de Jesus

March 11<sup>th</sup> – St. Constantine II

March 12<sup>th</sup> – St. Luigi Orione

March 13<sup>th</sup> – St. Patricia of Nicomedia

March 14<sup>th</sup> – St. Matilda

March 15<sup>th</sup> – St. Clement Hofbauer

## 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