

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, 13th April, 2025. Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Year C.

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

First Reading [Isaiah 50:4-7](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue.
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied

he provides me with speech.

Each morning he wakes me to hear,
to listen like a disciple.

The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.

I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.

So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24. R. v.2](#)

(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

1. All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.' (R.)

2. Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.
I can count every one of my bones. (R.)

3. They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me! (R.)

4. I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.)

Second Reading [Philippians 2:6-11](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation [Philippians 2:8-9](#)

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

Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross. Therefore, God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

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

Gospel [Luke 22:14 – 23:56](#)

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

(See booklet)

Communion Antiphon Matthew 26:42

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

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Palm Sunday: Jesus' Passion

Fr Brandsma was a university president in Holland during World War II. He was arrested by the Nazis and taken to a concentration camp at Dachau. There he was isolated in an old dog kennel. His guards amused themselves by ordering him to bark like a dog. Eventually he died from torture. What the Nazis didn't know was that the priest kept a diary of his ordeal, writing between the lines of prints in an old prayer book. He wrote he was able to endure his suffering because he knew Jesus had suffered before him. In a poem addressed to Jesus, he wrote:

"No grief shall fall my way, but I shall see your grief-filled eyes. The lonely way that you once walked, has made me sorrow-wise.... "Your love has turned to brightest light this night-like way (of mine)" Stay with me, Jesus, only stay; I shall not fear. If, reaching out my hand, I feel you(are) near". By Kilian Healy, Walking with God.

The suffering of Jesus which we recall in a special way today has been a source of strength to countless people throughout history. These people, like Fr Brandsma, could never have endured their suffering without the knowledge that Jesus had suffered before them and now supporting them in their suffering and trials.

Jesus suffered in three different ways, namely mentally, physically and spiritually.

Jesus experiences mental suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane. He sweat blood, just thinking about the ordeal that lay before him. Jesus suffered mental anguish when his follower betrayed and deserted him. All of us experience mental suffering, through life challenges of heartache and rejection. In time of mental suffering, let us be aware that the only comfort we have is the knowledge that Jesus suffered the same way before us and is now supporting us in our hours of trials and suffering.

Jesus suffered physically, he was brutally beaten, crowned with thorns, and nailed to a cross. Again, we can all relate to the physical pain of Jesus with our own physical pains. We've all experienced it, some more than others. Again, in time of physical suffering, the only comfort we have is knowing that Jesus suffered the same way and is now supporting us in those trials.

Finally, Jesus suffered spiritually, as he hung helplessly on the cross, it seemed that everybody had abandoned him, "even his Father". He prayed, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me". Again, we can all relate to spiritual suffering-there have been times when all of us have felt abandoned by our loved one and by God.

As we enter Holy Week, let us remember that when we find ourselves suffering in one of these ways, we should turn to Jesus. He knows how we feel, and he will not fail to strengthen us. May this Holy Week be a time of reflection on Jesus' sufferings, and relating them with our own life challenges.

Extract from Sunday Homily Mark Link, SJ.

Let us pray: We pray for our recently deceased Hazel Wood and Sean Fahey, and for Jocelyn McNeilly, Gabriel Bustamante, Mary Ann Mifsud, Fr Geoff Dickinson and Matthew Lawlor, 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 Doochan, 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 April 27 at the 9.30am 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. Playgroup will resume after the school holidays- dates to be advised.

Choir rehearsal for the Easter Vigil Mass on Tuesday at 7.30pm in the church. All welcome!

Project Compassion: Please kindly return Project Compassion boxes and/or envelopes to the church or parish office by **Thursday April 17**.

Good Friday Collection: The annual collection for the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday at both the Stations of the Cross at 10am, and the Passion of Our Lord at 3pm. This collection helps to preserve the sacred places and supports Christians who live in the Holy Land.

CYP- Good Friday Night Walk on April 18, 9pm-7am, commencing from St Patrick's Catholic Church, Blacktown. To register, please go to <https://parracatholic.org/events/gfnw/#register> . For more information, please contact the parish office,

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
April 12/13 (Palm Sunday)	<p>Stevenie Harman Michael Manton JS: Felicity Tuballa, Josie Henderson & Rocco Stillisano N: Louise Goderie R: Victor Tuballa O: Trish Ryan</p>	<p>Matthew Topp Kay Walker JS: Evie Milroy N: Kevin Balkin C: Sue Mouthaan O: Michael Blair</p>	<p>Deacon Batsirai John Cowen Beth Nowland (Visit) JS: Jonah Ellis & Hugo Watson N: Brett Wright C: Don Robens O: Trish Boyle</p>
April 19/20 (Easter)	<p>Deacon Batsirai John Cowen Anne Deutscher Thurifer Stevenie Harman JS: Alex Tuballa & Josie Henderson Readers: 1: Bellinda Henderson 2: Victor Tuballa 3: Gabriel Manouk 4 & POF: Mary Balam</p>	<p>Matthew Topp Barbara Ryan JS: Evie Milroy Readers C: Sue Mouthaan R: Michael Blair</p>	<p>Mary Marsh David Green Denise Robens JS: Jonah Ellis Readers C: Marianne Castor R: Brett Wright</p>
NB: No Visitation			
EASTER	Holy Thursday 7.30pm	Good Friday 3.00pm	
<p>Easter Liturgies Junior Servers must be there 45 minutes before liturgy is to commence to run through roles</p>	<p>Deacon Batsirai Mark Norbury Kay Walker Thurifer Stevenie Harman JS Jonah Ellis, Felicity Tuballa & Rocco Stillisano C & POF: Trish Ryan R1: Sue Schembri R2: Sarah Tuballa</p>	<p>Deacon Batsirai John Cowen Stevenie Harman JS Nicholas Hamilton & Matthew Hamilton C: Louise Goderie R1: Denise Robens R2: Gabriel Manouk N: Bellinda Henderson</p>	

MASS TIMES FOR HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY: 6pm Vigil, 8am, 9.30am
TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK: 6pm
WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK: 9am
HOLY THURSDAY (Mass of the Lord's Supper): 7.30pm
GOOD FRIDAY:
Stations of the Cross: 10am
Passion of Our Lord: 3pm

EASTER MASSES

EASTER VIGIL: 6pm
EASTER SUNDAY: 8am, 9.30am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 12th April: 4.30pm-5.45pm
Tuesday 15th April: 5pm-5.45pm
Wednesday 16th April: 9.30am-10am
Thursday 17th April: 9am-10am

Sacramental news

First Holy Communion - The First Holy Communion program begins on Wednesday 7th May for children who have already made their reconciliation. If you would like your child to receive this sacrament, please contact the parish office on 47351041 or emuplains@parracatholic.org

Catholic Care Emergency Food Drive. Our monthly food drive will take place this weekend 13/14/April (Catholic Care will be closed for Easter weekend). There are now homeless men using the pop in centre so in addition to the usual canned meat and fish, canned vegetables, baked beans, pasta and toilet paper, goods such as two minute noodles, biscuits and easy to eat food are greatly appreciated. As it is Easter some chocolate would also be welcomed! Please place goods at the rear of the church. Thank you for your generosity.

Life Ascending Meeting: Our next meeting of the year will be at 10 am 16th April 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, or see the Parish Booklet available at the rear of the church.

Church Cleaning: We are greatly in need of someone to help with church cleaning, particularly vacuuming, every second Friday. If you are able to help, please contact the parish office on 4735 1041.

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.
(Please see 'Mass Times for Holy Week' for amended Mass times this week)

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:

Young Adults event: A night of prayer and worship, meditating on Christ's passion. It will be held on Tuesday, 15th April 7:30pm at St Joseph's Parish, Kingswood.

Marriage Enrichment Weekend: 23-25 May. We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love! Come and join us on 23-25 May at a Marriage Encounter Weekend at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW – a stunning & tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney. Book online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wwme.org.au

Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers: 13 May
In this Jubilee Year of Hope all liturgical ministers - readers, servers and extra ordinary ministers are invited to join us for our Annual Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers. Families and friends are also invited. This celebration will take place at 7:30pm on 13th May 2025, at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. To register your attendance and guests please visit parracatholic.org/events/liturgical-ministers-commissioning-mass/

Feast days of the week:

April 14th – Monday of Holy Week

April 15th – Tuesday of Holy Week

April 16th – Wednesday of Holy Week

April 17th – Holy Thursday

April 18th – Good Friday – fast and abstinence

April 19th – Easter vigil

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



Palm Sunday
12-13th of April 2025

As Project Compassion 2025 draws to a close for another year, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous support throughout this Lenten Season.

This year, we shared the inspiring stories of 3 individuals whose lives have been transformed through your compassion and generosity.

But the work isn't done yet. There is still time to donate! Together, we can *Unite Against Poverty* and help transform lives this Lent.



UNITE 
AGAINST
POVERTY
this Lent

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