

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, 6th April, 2025. 5th Sunday of Lent, Year C.

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 42:1-2

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

First Reading Isaiah 43:16-21

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my people.

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick: No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds. The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 125. R. v.3

(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. (R.)

2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'

What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. (R.)

3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. (R.)

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. (R.)

Second Reading Philippians 3:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
Because of Christ I look upon everything else as useless in order to gain him.

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can

assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

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 [John 8:1-11](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of

committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

Communion Antiphon [John 8:10-11](#)

Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord. Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.

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Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased Sean Fahey and John Ternes, and for Gabriel Bustamante, Ester Duarte, Nicholas Dennis, Rodolfo Bustamante, Angela Gerling, Kevin Rose, Les Coburn, and Margaret Harrison 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:

60th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination of Fr Robert Anderson. This 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. Congratulations and many blessings Fr Bob!

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. *(Please note that from May-September there will be no cuppa after 6pm 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 8th April. All welcome!

Children's liturgy: 4th Sunday at the 9:30am Mass

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.

CATHOLIC OUTLOOK – AUTUMN 2025 EDITION IS NOW AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH FOYER. Please take a copy as you leave the church

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
April 5/6 (Daylight saving ends)	Deacon Batsirai <u>Stevenie Harman</u> JS: Alex <u>Tuballa</u> & Felicity <u>Tuballa</u> 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 <u>Samolowicz</u> R: Joanne Hamilton
April 12/13 (Palm Sunday)	<u>Stevenie Harman</u> Michael Manton JS: Felicity <u>Tuballa</u> , Josie Henderson & Rocco <u>Stillisano</u> N: Louise Goderie R: Victor <u>Tuballa</u> O: Trish Ryan	Matthew Topp Kay Walker JS: Evie Milroy N: Kevin Balkin C: Sue <u>Mouthaan</u> O: Michael Blair	Deacon Batsirai John Cowen Beth Nowland (Visit) JS: Jonah Ellis & Hugo Watson N: Brett Wright C: Don Robens O: Trish Boyle
April 19/20 (Easter)	Deacon Batsirai John Cowen Anne Deutscher Thurifer <u>Stevenie Harman</u> JS: Alex <u>Tuballa</u> & Josie Henderson Readers: 1: Bellinda Henderson 2: Victor <u>Tuballa</u> 3: Gabriel Manouk 4 & POF: Mary Balam	Matthew Topp Barbara Ryan JS: Evie Milroy Readers C: Sue <u>Mouthaan</u> R: Michael Blair	Mary Marsh David Green Denise Robens JS: Jonah Ellis Readers C: Marianne Castor R: Brett Wright

NB: No Visitation

MASS TIMES FOR HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY: 6pm Vigil, 8am, 9.30am

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK: 6pm

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK: 6pm

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

Lenten Reflection Group: Friday at 5pm

Stations of the Cross: Friday at 6pm

Choir rehearsal for Easter Vigil: Tuesday 7:30pm

Good Friday Stations of the Cross: We are still in need of volunteers to act and read for the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. If you would like to be involved, please contact Sarah Tuballa on 0439 467 797, or the Parish Office on 4735 1041.

Catholic Care Emergency Food Drive. Our monthly food drive will take place **next weekend 12/13/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.

Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal: 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 return envelopes by placing them into the collection plate or you can drop them into the Parish Office. Donations can also be made at parracatholic.org/appeal.

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.

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:

Grace and Truth Event.

You are invited to join the Dominican Friars and Sisters on Wednesday, 30 April for an evening of prayer, formation, and fellowship. Open to men and women of all ages. The evening will consist of Eucharistic Adoration, Vespers and Benediction, a light dinner, and talks by Sister Elena Marie and Father James Baxter. The event will run from 5-9PM, starting in the crypt of St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, and moving to the Cathedral Hall. Fee: \$20. Contact the Dominican Sisters at sydney@op-tn.org.

Saturday with the Sisters – Nun Run: 12 April

Are you discerning your vocation or simply curious about religious life? Join us for *Saturday with the Sisters*, part of the Nun Run series, on Saturday, 12 April, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, 116-132 Quakers Road, Marayong. Immerse yourself in the life and mission of our congregation through inspiring talks, engaging activities, and a visit to one of our sponsored ministries. Enjoy a BBQ lunch, followed by a Holy Hour and Eucharistic Celebration. Come and experience the joy of our community! To RSVP or find out more, contact Sr Christine at vocationscsfn@gmail.com

Saints of the week:

April 7th – St. John Baptist de la Salle

April 8th – St. Concessa

April 9th – St. Acacius

April 10th – St. Michael of the Saints

April 11th – St. Gemma Galgani

April 12th – St. Julius



Fifth Sunday of Lent 5th and 6th of April 2025

The life-changing work of Caritas Australia is only made possible by the unwavering generosity of our supporters and the dedication of our local partners on the ground.

Our partners are the true heroes, working tirelessly on the frontlines every day to transform lives and build brighter, more hopeful futures for their communities.



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

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