

# 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, 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2025. The Ascension of the Lord, Year C.**

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

### **Entrance Antiphon** Acts of the Apostles 1:11

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?  
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven  
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

### **First Reading** Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus  
has been taken into heaven.*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my

witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

### **Responsorial Psalm** Ps 46:2-3, 6-7, 8-9. R. v.6

**(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

1. All peoples, clap your hands,  
cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, we must  
fear, great king over all the earth.
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
sing praise to our king, sing praise.
3. God is king of all the earth.  
Sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over the nations;  
God reigns on his holy throne.

### **Second Reading** Ephesians 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

*He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom

and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

**Gospel Acclamation** [Matthew 28:19. 20](#)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Go and teach all people my gospel.  
I am with you always, until the end of the world.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel.** [Luke 24:46-53](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*While blessing them, he was taken to heaven.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

**Communion Antiphon** [Matthew 28:20](#)

Behold, I am with you always,  
even to the end of the age, alleluia.

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**Let us pray:** We pray for recently deceased Liliana Antolovic, and for John Mulock, Frances Grove, Lew Zammit and Dr John Parer 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, Tom Barlow, Michelle Hadden, Cohen Hadden, Peter Joseph Apap, Vengie Pangilinan, Jo Von Schomburg, Sr Patricia Holligan, Greg Pigott, Chris Hall, Bob Scott, Trish Micallef, Deacon George Bryan, Kaye Bryan, Desley Mulock, Pauline Balkin, Mary Gayed, Shirley Harman, Dot Gray, Lucy Mikosic, Bernadette Hoolahan, Elisabeth Robens, Marion Betker, 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 Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at the 9.30am Mass.

**Cuppa and a Chat:** Please join us for light refreshments after the 9.30am Mass next **Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> June**. All welcome!

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> June**, 10am, in the parish hall.

**Caring for our common home:** Recycling at our Parish: Important changes. We cannot accept blister packs which have cardboard or plastic with them UNLESS each pack is made as flat as possible and then cut into pieces with no more than 3-4 individual bubbles in each piece. The cutting can be readily done with scissors. It's ok to leave the remaining cardboard or plastic on the cut off pieces. See side of box for examples. Thank you. Jim (0421 125 722).

### **Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal for our Holy Spirit Seminarians: May 31 & June 1**

Will you help our seminarians to be 'Pilgrims and Sowers of Hope' for God's people? With your prayers and generosity, they can continue to grow in faith and formation, as they prepare to become priests who will sow hope, faith and love in the hearts of God's people. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal at [parracatholic.org/appeal](http://parracatholic.org/appeal). Or, envelopes are available, and can be returned next week, or brought to the Parish Office during the week. Thank you for your continued support.

### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> June**

An ecumenical prayer service will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June at the Uniting Church, 15 Evan St, Penrith, at 7pm. This is an opportunity to develop good will and friendship with one another and provide common witness. You are invited to bring a plate to share after the service.

### **Readers/ Commentators roster:**

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
May 31/June 1 Ascension	Deacon Batsirai Stevenie Harman JS: Rocco Stillitano & Felicity Tuballa C: Trish Ryan R: Mary Balam	Matthew Topp Pat Edwards JS: Evie Milroy C: Kevin Balkin R: Maria Sirotti	Michael Blair <b>Rebecca Carberry (Visit)</b> Connie Reid JS: Jonah Ellis & Matthew Hamilton C: Marianne Castor R: Denise Robens
June 7/8 (Long Weekend) Pentecost	John Cowen Stevenie Harman JS: Alex Tuballa & Felicity Tuballa C: Debra Gleeson R: Marie McLennan	Mary Marsh John Lo Cascio JS: N/A C: Paul Ryan O: Kay Walker	Deacon Batsirai Lara Roser <b>Denise Robens (Visit)</b> JS: Matthew Hamilton & Nicholas Hamilton C: Lisa Samojlowicz R: Joanne Hamilton

## Reflection for the Ascension of the Lord

Does it ever seem like your burdens are just too much to bear? Well, God has many names across the world and to the Ugandan tribe the Kiga, the creator is Biheko, which translates as "God who carries everyone on his back"

Burdens are heavy when you think you are the only one doing the carrying. When you realise a loving God is supporting you and your worries, things suddenly seem quite different.

The Ascension of the Lord celebrates Jesus returning to heaven after completing His mission on earth. He promised His disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit to help them carry out their mission. This event reminds us all that Jesus' work on earth was finished, but the work of His followers had just begun.

The ascension gives us hope for eternal life. Jesus prepares a place for us in heaven and intercedes for us before God. He knows us all by name, he loves us, and he is waiting for us to come back to his loving arms. As Erma Bombeck said, "When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, 'I used everything you gave me' and now I am home."

*Stevenie Harman*

**Project Compassion receipts** are now available in the church foyer for those who requested one. Thank you to all those who gave so generously to this year's Project Compassion appeal.

### **Sacramental news**

**Holy Hour:** There will be a special holy hour for the children and their families who are preparing to receive their First Holy Communion. This will be on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June** between **7-8pm**. Come join us in prayer for as long or as little as you like. Blessings, Cate Kensey.



### **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:**

#### **Ministry of Care Courses: 4- 25 June**

Those who visit the sick and are involved in the Ministry of Communion to the Sick and Dying in Hospitals, Aged Care Facilities and in Homes are invited to attend this course on the Ministry of Care. It will be held every Wednesday evening at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre in Blacktown. Attend all 4 sessions to receive a certificate of completion or just attend the session(s) that interest you. Please visit [parracatholic.org/events/OFW](http://parracatholic.org/events/OFW) to reserve a spot. For enquiries, please contact [ofw@parracatholic.org](mailto:ofw@parracatholic.org) or 0488 000 211.

#### **Adult Confirmation 2025: 23 & 26 August**

The Office for Worship will host a Catechesis and Formation Day for those candidates (16+) interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. The catechesis day will be on Saturday 23 August from 9.30am – 2.00pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown and the Confirmation will be on the evening of Tuesday 26 August at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. For more information and to enroll, please contact the Office for Worship on [ofw@parracatholic.org](mailto:ofw@parracatholic.org) or 0460 037 795 before Monday 4 August.

#### **Catholic Charismatic Renewal NSW & Emmaus Prayer Community Pentecost**

**Celebrations: 8 June** Please join the Catholic Charismatic Renewal NSW in celebrating Pentecost at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes, on Sunday 8 June from 2pm. There will be prayer, praise, testimonies, talks, and prayer ministry, based on the theme of "HOPE - Opening our hearts & minds to the presence of the Holy Spirit in Times of Change." Enquiries Adrian 0408649327 or Desiree 0477765772.

### **Feast days of the week:**

June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Ss. Marcellinus & Peter, Martyrs  
June 3<sup>rd</sup> – St. Charles Lwanga & companions, martyrs  
June 4<sup>th</sup> – St. Filippo Smaldone  
June 5<sup>th</sup> – St. Boniface of Mainz, Bishop and Martyr  
June 6<sup>th</sup> – St. Marcellin Champagnat  
June 7<sup>th</sup> – St. Anthony Mary Gianelli

### **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