

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, 17th August, 2025. Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C.

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon [Psalm 83:10-11](#)

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

First Reading [Jeremiah 38:4-6. 8-10](#)

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

You bore me to be a man of strife for the whole world.

The king's leading men spoke to the king.
'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is
unquestionably disheartening the
remaining soldiers in the city, and all the
people too, by talking like this. The fellow
does not have the welfare of this people
at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in
your hands as you know,'
King Zedekiah answered 'for the king is
powerless against you.' So they
took Jeremiah and threw him into the well
of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the
Guard, letting him down with ropes.
There was no water in the well, only mud,
and into the mud Jeremiah sank.

Ebed-melech came out from the palace
and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he
said, 'these men have done a wicked
thing by treating the
prophet Jeremiah like this: they have
thrown him into the well where he will
die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech
the Cushite the following order: 'Take
three men with you from here and pull the
prophet Jeremiah out of the well before
he dies.'

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 39:2-4. 18. R. v.14](#)

(R.) Lord, come to my aid!

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry. **(R.)**
2. He drew me from the deadly pit,
from the miry clay.
He set my feet upon a rock
and made my footsteps firm. **(R.)**
3. He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.
Many shall see and fear
and shall trust in the Lord. **(R.)**
4. As for me, wretched and poor,
the Lord thinks of me.
You are my rescuer, my help,
O God, do not delay! **(R.)**

Second Reading [Hebrews 12:1-4](#)

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Let us bear patiently the struggle placed upon us.

With so many witnesses in a great
cloud on every side of us, we too,
then, should throw off everything that
hinders us, especially the sin that
clings so easily, and keep running
steadily in the race we have started.
Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who
leads us in our faith and brings it to
perfection: for the sake of the joy
which was still in the future, he
endured the cross, disregarding the
shamefulness of it, and from now on
has taken his place at the right of

God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

Gospel Acclamation [John 10:27](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia!

Gospel. [Luke 12:49-53](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

I have come not to give peace, but discord.

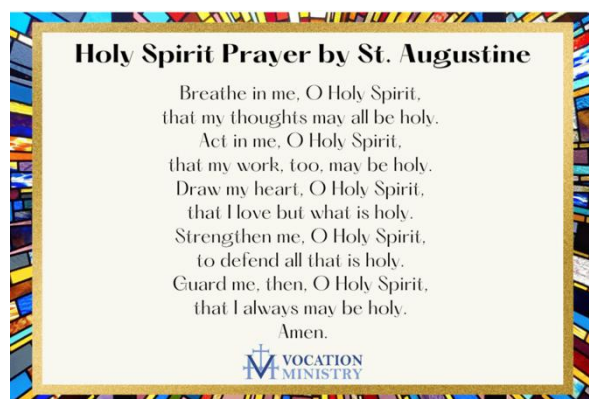
Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

Communion Antiphon [Psalm 129:7](#)

With the Lord there is mercy;
in him is plentiful redemption.

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.



Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy

- Penrose Park We have organised a coach to Penrose Park on Saturday 13th September 2025. The bus will leave at 8:00am from St Joseph's Parish, Kingswood and return by 4:30pm. The cost is \$25 per person for transport. BYO lunch/water. For more information, please ring the Parish Office on 4721 4080 or email us: kingswood@parracatholic.org

Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased Doris Shaw and John Simpson; and for Pearl Levinge and Francis Hendry 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 Franco Di Napoli, Terry Melbin, Laurie Doohan, Linda Hicks, Michelle Gardam, Bradley Gardam, Cecilia Fanning, Kathleen Bell, Michelle Hadden, Cohen Hadden, Peter Joseph Apap, Jo Von Schomburg, Sr Patricia Holligan, Greg Pigott, Bob Scott, 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: Next Sunday, Aug 24, 9.30am Mass. All children welcome!

Cuppa and a Chat: Please join us for light refreshments this Sunday, Aug 17, after the 8.00am Mass, and next Sunday, Aug 24, after 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). *Please note that during the winter months, this group will meet in the Parish Office.*

Playgroup: Playgroup meets every second Tuesday at 10am in the parish hall. *Next playgroup:* Aug 26

Upper Primary Youth Group: There has been some interest in starting an upper primary (years 4-6) youth group in the parish. Before this can proceed, we need a core group of parents who can commit to assisting with the planning and organising of the youth night. If you feel called to this ministry, there will be a meeting after the 9.30am Mass on Sunday 24th August. If you are unable to attend the meeting, but would like to be involved, please contact the parish office.

Parish Recycling: Pharmacies in Penrith that will recycle used blister packs are Blooms chemists (three - Nepean Sq, High St and Westfield) and Chemist Warehouse (three - High St, Westfield and in the Homemaker Centre, Jamisontown). Amcal in Emu Plains does not offer this service. Jim 0421 125 722

Upcoming Parish Survey:

Dear Parishioner,

We value your voice in shaping the future of our parish. Next weekend, you'll receive a survey designed to gather your thoughts, hopes and suggestions for our parish community.

Your feedback will help us to grow together in faith, service, and fellowship. Please take a few moments to share your views-it truly makes a difference.

With appreciation and blessings, Fr Michael.

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
16/17 August 20th Ordinary	C: Bellinda Henderson R: Phillip Youngman Stevenie Harman Anne Deutscher JS 1: Felicity Tuballa JS 2: Josie Henderson	Deacon Batsirai C: Gabe Manouk R: Kevin Balkin Matthew Topp JS: N/A	C: Matthew Hamilton R: Trish Boyle Lara Roser David Green Denise Robens (Visit) JS: Hugo Watson
23/24 August 21st Ordinary	C: Mary Balam R: Trish Ryan Stevenie Harman JS 1: Josie Henderson JS2: Rocco <u>Stillisano</u>	C: Maria Sirotti R: Jessica Topp Mark Norbury Barbara Ryan JS: Evie Milroy	Deacon Batsirai C: Denise Robens R: Marianne Castor John Cowen Beth Nowland (Visit) JS 1: Nicholas Hamilton JS 2: Jonah Ellis

Sacramental news

Confirmation: The Confirmation program has begun! Please join me in praying for these children and their families as they preparing to receive the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Thanks and blessings, Cate



Safeguarding Training: Please see below for upcoming sessions to be held at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown:

Mon 1st Sept-9.30am-2.30pm- Modules 1-3.

For new volunteers and those who have not completed training with the Diocese.

Tues 2nd Sept- 10am-1.30pm- Modules 4-5.

For those who completed Modules 1-3 two years ago.

Wed 3rd Sept-10am-12noon- Module 6. For those who completed Mod 4-5 two years ago.

There is also training for Modules 4-5 at Holy Spirit Parish, St Clair, on Sat Sep 27, 10am-1.30pm.

If you would like to check what module(s) you need to complete, please contact the Parish Office on 4735 1041.

Please register directly by visiting

<https://parracatholic.org/safeguarding/training/> .

Life Ascending Meeting: Our next meeting of the year will be at 10 am, 20 August, 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 age group. For more information contact Noelene Bangle on 0247337481, or see the Parish Booklet at the rear of the church.

Tap and Go Collection Plates: This weekend we will be introducing the collection plates. They will be pre-set to \$5 for ease of use, and the donations will go towards the second collection. The Tap and Go terminal in the foyer will still be in use with 30% of donations going to the Diocese to support the clergy, and 70% towards the second collection.

<p><u>Parish Information</u></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Weekend Mass times: Saturday 6 pm, Sunday 8am, 9:30am Filipino Mass-3rd Sunday of the month:12pm</p> <p>Weekday Masses: Tuesday 6pm; Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 9am.</p> <p>Adoration of Blessed Sacrament at 8.30am Thursday before Mass. Benediction last Thursday of the month. First Fridays of the month – healing Mass.</p> <p>Reconciliation: Saturday 5pm.</p> <p>Sacraments: baptisms and weddings by appointment. Please contact the parish office (emuplains@parracatholic.org) for information on reconciliation, communion and confirmation.</p>
<p><u>Diocese of Parramatta Notices:</u></p> <p>Bishop Vincent Presents Dr Nora Nonterah: a leading African theological ethicist from Ghana. She will be presenting on Tuesday 2 September at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. As a lay woman and recent delegate to the Synod on Synodality in 2023 and 2024, Dr Nora will offer a powerful reflection on leadership, discipleship, and the wisdom of women in the Church. Register today by visting https://parracatholic.org/events/nora/</p> <p>Commemorative Mass for the 1700th anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea In 2025, Christians worldwide commemorate the 1700th anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea, a defining moment in Church history that continues to shape Christian doctrine and unity. Join us for a Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta on 24 August 2025 at 11am. As part of the liturgy, the St Patrick's Cathedral Choir will perform the Credo from Palestrina's <i>Missa Papae Marcelli</i>.</p> <p>Upcoming Diocesan retreats The diocese is hosting retreat opportunities for adults of all ages to engage more with this Jubilee Year of Hope. The next one is on 16 August at Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents, Kellyville. Take the to step away from your usual routine to experience a diocesan retreat - a sacred space for prayer, reflection, renewal and encounter with God. For more details and to register, visit our website: https://parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-retreat-16-august/</p> <p>Volunteers needed at Catholic Care, Orchard Hills! Are you great with young kids? Catholic Care is looking for friendly, caring volunteers to support staff during crèche sessions on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10am to 2pm at Mamre House, Orchard Hills. If you enjoy spending time with young children (aged 0–5) and have a few hours to spare, we'd love to hear from you. Volunteers will need to obtain a Working with Children Check and Police Check. To help make a difference in the lives of local families, call Catholic Care on (02) 8843 2500.</p> <p>Registrations open for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2025 The Diocese of Parramatta will be joining the Australian Church at the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) in Melbourne from 30 November to 3 December 2025! Join thousands of young Catholics from across Australia for an unforgettable festival featuring inspiring guest speakers, artists, and musicians. For more details and to express your interest by 25 August 2025, visit our website: https://parracatholic.org/connect/acyf/</p>	
<p><u>Feast days of the week:</u></p> <p>Aug 18th – St. Helen Aug 19th – St. John Eudes Aug 20th – St. Bernard of Clairvaux Aug 21st – St. Pius X, Pope Aug 22nd– The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary Aug 23rd– St. Rose of Lima</p>	<p><u>Parish bank details:</u></p> <p>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</p>