

# 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, 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2025 The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

### **Entrance Antiphon** Cf Galatians 6:14

We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered.

### **First Reading** Numbers 21:4-9

A reading from the book of Numbers

*When those that were afflicted  
looked upon it, they were healed.*



On the way through the wilderness, the Israelites lost patience. They spoke against God and against Moses, ‘Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? For there is neither bread nor water here; we are sick of this unsatisfying food.’

At this God sent fiery serpents among the people; their bite brought death to many in Israel. The people came and said to Moses, ‘We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you.

Intercede for us with the Lord to save us from these serpents.’ Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord answered him, ‘Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard. If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall live.’ So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent which he put on a standard, and if anyone was bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze serpent and lived.

### **Responsorial Psalm** Ps 77:1-2. 34-38. R. v.7

#### **(R.) Do not forget the works of the Lord!**

1. Give heed, my people, to my teaching;  
turn your ear to the words of my mouth.  
I will open my mouth in a parable  
and reveal hidden lessons of the past. (R.)
2. When he slew them then they would seek  
him, return and seek him in earnest.  
They would remember that God was their  
rock, God the Most High their  
redeemer. (R.)
3. But the words they spoke were mere  
flattery; they lied to him with their lips.  
For their hearts were not truly with him;  
they were not faithful to his covenant. (R.)
4. Yet he who is full of compassion  
forgave their sin and spared them.  
So often he held back his anger when he  
might have stirred up his rage. (R.)

### **Second Reading** Philippians 2:6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*He humbled himself, therefore God had exalted  
him.*

The state of Jesus was divine, yet he 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.**

#### **Alleluia, alleluia!**

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your cross you have redeemed the world.

#### **Alleluia!**

#### **Gospel.** [John 3:13-17](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*The Son of Man must be lifted up.*

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

‘No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Son of Man who is in heaven; and the Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.’

### **Communion Antiphon** [John 12:32](#)

When I am lifted up from the earth,  
I will draw everyone to myself, says the Lord.

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### **Our Lady of Peñafrancia Celebrations: 20**

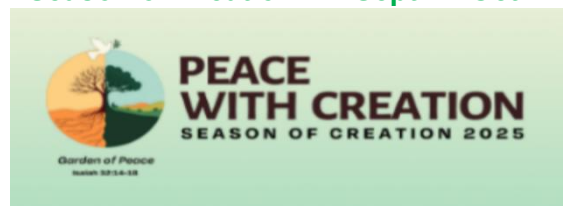
**September:** The Australian Devotees of Our Lady of Peñafrancia are inviting you to join them in celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Peñafrancia on Saturday 20 September. Mass will be held at 10am at St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith, followed by a fluvial procession on the Nepean River. Lunch and entertainment will follow at the Factory Road end of Tench Reserve, Jamisontown until 2.30pm.

**Thank you for your legacy of faith, hope and charity:** On International Legacy Day (13th Sept), we thank those who continue to advance our ministry through charitable giving. By leaving a legacy gift in your Will to the Church, you're planting seeds of faith that blossom well beyond your lifetime.

Learn more: <https://parracatholic.org/donate/will/>

**Social Justice Statement 25-26:** Copies of the statement from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, as well as prayer cards, are now available in the foyer.

### **Season of Creation: 1<sup>st</sup> Sept-4<sup>th</sup> Oct**



**Let us pray:** We pray for recently deceased Terry Melbin; and for William Waters, and Brian and Don Holliday 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, Ray Dukes, Danko Caran, Franco Di Napoli 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:** Sunday, Sep 28, 9.30am Mass.

**Cuppa and a Chat:** Please join us for light refreshments on **Sep 14**, after the **9.30am Mass**.

*We warmly thank Merci, Larry, Vicky, Percy and Elma who have been graciously providing hospitality on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month. As they will be taking a break for the remainder of 2025, we encourage you to consider being involved in this ministry.*

*For more information, please call the Parish Office on 4735 1041.*

**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 colder months, this group will meet in the Parish Office.*

**Playgroup:** Playgroup meets every second Tuesday at 10am in the parish hall. *Next playgroup: Sept 23.*

**Safeguarding Sunday, 14 September** Today we are gathered on Safeguarding Sunday, a day when we pause to focus on our responsibility to protect and care for those who are vulnerable. In the Bible, we find a clear and strong message about justice, compassion, and speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves. We are called to be a safe, welcoming and hope-filled church. In our everyday lives, let's be mindful of those around us who are vulnerable or marginalised. Who are the "silent" ones in our society, the ones without a voice? Today, God may be calling you to stand up for them. Whether it's through prayer, support, or direct action, we are invited to participate in God's work of justice.

### Bishop's Father's Day Appeal – supporting our senior priests as they continue to serve

If you would like to make a donation, you can do so at [parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal](http://parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal) Envelopes are also available in the church foyer and can be returned via the collection plates Thank you for your generosity.

## Readers/ Commentators roster:

| Dates:                                                    | 6.00pm                                                                                                                                | 8.00am                                                                                    | 9.30am                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>13/14 September</b><br><b>Exaltation Holy Cross</b>    | C: Phillip Youngman<br>R: Bellinda Henderson<br>Stevenie Harman<br>Michael Manton<br>JS 1: Elizabeth Baptista<br>JS 2: Jacob Baptista | C: Paul Devlin<br>R: Gabe Manouk<br>Mark Norbury<br>Barbara Ryan<br>JS: Evie Milroy       | C: Trish Boyle<br>R: Matthew Hamilton<br><b>Deacon Batsirai</b><br>John Cowen<br><b>Rebecca Carberry (Visit)</b><br>JS: Nicholas Hamilton              |
| <b>20/21 September</b><br><b>25<sup>th</sup> Ordinary</b> | C: Trish Ryan<br>R: Mary Balam<br>Stevenie Harman<br>Anne Deutscher<br>JS 1: Felicity Tuballa<br>JS 2: Alex Tuballa                   | C: Kevin Balkin<br>R: Maria Sirotti<br><b>Deacon Batsirai</b><br>Michael Blair<br>JS: N/A | C: Marianne Castor<br>R: Denise Robens<br>Lara Roser<br>David Green<br><b>Beth Nowland (Visit)</b><br>JS 1: Elizabeth Baptista<br>JS 2: Jacob Baptista |

## Sacramental news

**Confirmation:** The Confirmation program is currently running. Please join me in praying for these children and their families as they prepare to receive the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Thanks and blessings, Cate



**Catholic Care Emergency Food Drive.** Our monthly food drive will take place next weekend 20/21 September. Catholic Care have advised that they have plenty of pasta but do need cereals, pasta sauces, toothpastes, canned vegies, long life milks, biscuits and tuna/canned meats if possible. Please note Catholic Care are unable to accept goods that have passed the 'use by' date. Thank you for your very generous response.

**Life Ascending Meeting:** Our next meeting will be at 10 am, 17 Sept 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 available at the rear of the church.

**Congratulations to Matthew Hamilton** who recently received the Bishop's Award for Student Excellence at St Patrick's Cathedral. This award is presented annually to a Yr 12 student from each Catholic secondary school in the Diocese. Well done Matthew! May God bless you always.





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| <p><b><u>Parish Information</u></b></p> <p><b>Parish office open Tuesday to Friday from 9:00am to 3pm. (ph: 4735 1041)</b><br/>         Parish priest: Fr Michael G. Gathuku<br/>         Deacon: Batsirai Maringehosi<br/>         Parish Office Administrator: Joanne Hamilton<br/>         Sacramental Co-ordinator: Cate Kensey<br/>         Our Lady of the Way principal:<br/>             Phillip Kapitanow (ph: 4777 7200)<br/>         Penola Catholic college principal:<br/>             Peta Sparkes (ph: 4728 8100)<br/>         CathWest Innovation College principal:<br/>             Paul Stenning (ph: 02 8886 9500)<br/>         St Vincent de Paul Contact Centre:<br/>         For assistance call 1800 606 724.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p><b>Weekend Mass times:</b><br/>         Saturday 6 pm, Sunday 8am, 9:30am<br/>         Filipino Mass-3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month: 12pm</p> <p><b>Weekday Masses:</b><br/>         Tuesday 6pm;<br/>         Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 9am.<br/>         Adoration of Blessed Sacrament at 8.30am<br/>         Thursday before Mass. Benediction last<br/>         Thursday of the month.<br/>         First Fridays of the month – healing Mass.</p> <p><b>Reconciliation:</b> Saturday 5pm.</p> <p><b>Sacraments:</b> baptisms and weddings by appointment. Please contact the parish office (<a href="mailto:emuplains@parracatholic.org">emuplains@parracatholic.org</a>) for information on reconciliation, communion and confirmation.</p> |
| <p><b><u>Diocese of Parramatta Notices:</u></b></p> <p><b>Time change: Wedding Anniversary Mass</b> The Diocese of Parramatta Wedding Anniversary Mass will now be held at <b>2pm</b> on Sunday 26 October at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta (not 11am as previously advertised). Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv will celebrate the Mass, followed by a light lunch. Register by 20 October: <a href="mailto:marriage@parracatholic.org">marriage@parracatholic.org</a>   0488 000 211</p> <p><b>Positions Vacant:</b> Parish Secretary – Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Kellyville<br/>         More details at: <a href="http://parracatholic.org/about/jobs/">parracatholic.org/about/jobs/</a></p> <p><b>Glenmore Park Parish Patronal Feast Day celebrations: 18 – 21 September</b> Everyone is invited to join St Padre Pio Parish, Glenmore Park, for the parochial feast day celebrations. A 3-day Triduum Novena and Mass will be held on Thursday 18 Sept and Friday 19 Sept at 7:00pm and on Saturday 20 September at 5.30pm. On Sunday 21 September, a procession will start at 10am, followed by the Feast Day Mass, Veneration, Blessing with his Relic and fellowship meal. All are welcome! For any enquiries: (02) 4789 2232 or <a href="mailto:glenmorepark@parracatholic.org">glenmorepark@parracatholic.org</a></p> <p><b>Charismatic Healing Mass.</b> Mass will be followed by individual prayer for healing. Celebrant: Fr Brian Steele MGL, Sunday 21st September 2025, 2:00 pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, St Marys. All welcome!</p> <p><b>MET Natural Fertility</b> are organising a series of instruction sessions on the Natural Family Planning methods offered by the Diocese of Parramatta via Zoom. Learn how to chart your cycle, space out pregnancies and identify the best time to reach your family goals. The last sessions of the year will be held on Thursday 18 September at 7.15pm for the Creighton Model and Tuesday 23 September for the Billings Ovulation Method at 7.30pm. Private and confidential instruction is also available. For more information and to register, please visit <a href="http://parracatholic.org/natural-fertility">parracatholic.org/natural-fertility</a></p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <p><b><u>Feast days of the week:</u></b></p> <p>Sept 15th – Our Lady of Sorrows<br/>         Sept 16th – Ss. Cornelius, Pope &amp; Cyprian, Bishop (martyrs)<br/>         Sept 17th – St. Hildegard of Bingen<br/>         Sept 18th – St. John Macias<br/>         Sept 19th– St. Januarius, Bishop &amp; martyr.<br/>         Sept 20th– Ss. Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang &amp; Companions.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p><b><u>Parish bank details:</u></b></p> <p>If you would like to support our priest and church financially through <b>online banking</b>:<br/>         Name: Emu Plains Catholic church<br/>         BSB: 067 950<br/>         Account Number: 00000289</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |