

# 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, 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2025**

**Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C**

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

**Entrance Antiphon** *Psalm 118:137, 124*

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;  
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

**First Reading** *Wisdom 9:13-18*

A reading from the book of Wisdom

*Who can comprehend the will of God?*

What man can know the intentions of God? Who can divine the will of the Lord? The reasonings of mortals are unsure and our intentions unstable; for a perishable body presses down the soul, and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind. It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth, laborious to know what lies within our reach; who, then, can discover what is in the heavens? As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you not granted Wisdom and sent your holy spirit from above? Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened and men been taught what pleases you, and saved, by Wisdom.

**Responsorial Psalm** *Ps 89:3-6, 12-14, 17. R. v.1*

**(R.) In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.**

1. You turn men back into dust  
and say: ‘Go back, sons of men.’  
To your eyes a thousand years  
are like yesterday, come and gone,  
no more than a watch in the night. **(R.)**

2. You sweep men away like a dream,  
like grass which springs up in the  
morning. In the morning it springs up  
and flowers: by evening it withers  
and fades. **(R.)**
3. Make us know the shortness of our  
life that we may gain wisdom of  
heart. Lord, relent! Is your anger for  
ever? Show pity to your  
servants. **(R.)**
4. In the morning, fill us with your love;  
we shall exult and rejoice all our  
days. Let the favour of the Lord be  
upon us: give success to the work of  
our hands. **(R.)**

**Second Reading** *Philemon 12-17; Phlm 9-10, 12-17*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Philemon

*Receive him, not as a slave anymore, but as a  
very dear brother.*

This is Paul writing, an old man now  
and, what is more, still a prisoner of  
Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for  
a child of mine, whose father I became  
while wearing these chains: I  
mean Onesimus. I am sending him  
back to you, and with him – I could say  
– a part of my own self. I should have  
liked to keep him with me; he could  
have been a substitute for you, to help  
me while I am in the chains that the  
Good News has brought me. However,  
I did not want to do anything without  
your consent; it would have been

forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

**Gospel Acclamation.** [Psalm 118:135](#)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Let your face shine on your servant,  
and teach me your laws.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel.** [Luke 14:25-33](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*All who do not renounce their possessions cannot be my disciples.*

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had

enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

**Communion Antiphon** [Cf Psalm 41:2-3](#)

Like the deer that yearns for running streams,  
so my soul is yearning for you, my God;  
my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

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**Pray for our Pilgrims!**

Please pray for the adults from our Diocese and beyond who will embark on the Jubilee of Hope pilgrimage from 7 to 25 September. May God bless their journey, deepen their faith, and guide their steps as they trace the footsteps of the early Church and join the celebrations in Rome. Let's ask the Holy Spirit to inspire and protect them throughout this transformative experience.

**Let us pray:** We pray for recently deceased Terry Melbin; and for Ron Mulock, Brian Maher and John Vanderloo 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, Darko 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:

**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL THE FATHERS,  
GRANDFATHERS AND FATHER FIGURES AT  
OLOW.**

**WE HOPE YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL DAY, FULL  
OF GOD'S BLESSINGS.**

**Children's liturgy:** The next Children's Liturgy will be on Sunday, Sep 28, at the 9.30am Mass.

**Cuppa and a Chat:** Please join us for light refreshments on **Sep 14**, 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 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 9.*

**Parish Survey:** If you have not had an opportunity to complete the Parish Survey, we ask that you take a few moments to share your views. You can simply scan the QR code, or there are printed surveys in the foyer. We value your voice in shaping the future of our parish!



**The Season of Creation 2025** will use the theme "Peace with Creation", inspired by Isaiah 32:14-18. This theme focuses on reconciling humanity's broken relationship with nature, promoting ecological healing, and recognising the interconnectedness of all life through prayer and action. The "Garden of Peace" symbol depicts a transformed, fertile world where justice and harmony flourish. The season runs from 1<sup>st</sup> Sept to 5<sup>th</sup> Oct (Feast of Francis of Assisi).



## Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
<b>6/7 September 23<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary</b>	<b>Deacon Batsirai</b> C: Victor Tuballa R: Louise Goderie John Cowen JS 1: Felicity Tuballa JS2: Alex Tuballa	C: Geraldine Waters R: Kay Walker Matthew Topp Pat Edwards JS: Evie Milroy	C: Don Robens R: Brett Wright Michael Blair Denise Robens <b>Rebecca Carberry (Visit)</b> JS: Nicholas Hamilton
<b>13/14 September Exaltation Holy Cross</b>	C: Phillip Youngman R: Bellinda Henderson Stevenie Harman Michael Manton JS 1: Elizabeth Baptista JS 2: Jacob Baptista	C: Paul Devlin R: Gabe Manouk Mark Norbury Barbara Ryan JS: Evie Milroy	C: Trish Boyle R: Matthew Hamilton <b>Deacon Batsirai</b> John Cowen <b>Rebecca Carberry (Visit)</b> JS: Nicholas Hamilton

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

This Father's Day, as we thank the father figures in our lives, let's also honour our spiritual fathers — the priests who nurture our faith. Even after stepping back from administration, they continue to serve in faithful ways: offering sacraments, celebrating Masses, hearing confessions, assisting at services, and serving as chaplains in aged care. Your generosity helps ensure our ageing priests receive the care, comfort, and dignity they deserve in this next chapter of their lives.



Please give generously at [parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal](http://parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal) or scan the QR code. Envelopes are also available on the pews and can be returned to the collection plates next weekend. Thank you.

## 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



**Congratulations** to Jacob and Elizabeth, our new Junior Servers, who were commissioned by Father Michael at the 6pm Vigil Mass last Saturday. We warmly welcome Jacob and Elizabeth as they commence altar serving in the coming weeks.





<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>  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><b>Weekend Mass times:</b>  Saturday 6 pm, Sunday 8am, 9:30am  Filipino Mass-3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month:12pm</p> <p><b>Weekday Masses:</b>  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><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>Diocesan Season of Creation Mass: 20 September</b> St Patrick's Cathedral and the Diocesan <i>Laudato Si'</i> Action Team invite you to the annual Season of Creation Mass with Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv. The entire universe speaks of God's love (Pope Francis) and all of creation praises our God (Psalm 148). Let us join in this praise and in Jesus' own mission to care for creation (Pope Leo) on Saturday 20 September 2025, 10am, St Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Marist Pl, Parramatta. Morning tea will be served in the Cloister Hall after Mass.</p> <p><b>Volunteer Communicators Network</b> Are you savvy with a camera, writing or social media? We want to hear from you! Share your interest with us to support our storytelling in <i>Catholic Outlook</i>, our websites and social media. Name/contact details are required: <a href="http://parracatholic.org/communicators">parracatholic.org/communicators</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>Noël! Noël! at St Patrick's Cathedral</b> General tickets are now available for the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra's much-loved <i>Noël! Noël!</i> concert at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Join us for an unforgettable evening of festive music in our beautiful church on Tuesday 16 December, 7.30pm. Tickets will sell quickly, so grab yours today by visiting <a href="https://www.brandenburg.com.au/live-concerts/events/noel-noel-2025/">https://www.brandenburg.com.au/live-concerts/events/noel-noel-2025/</a></p> <p><b>Young adults from 18-35</b> are invited to come along on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Sept and learn about the truly remarkable life of <b>St Joan of Arc</b>, and why she is as relevant today as ever. Speaker <b>Mark Buhagiar</b> will lead the faith formation session at Sacred Heart Parish Hall (9 Ropes Creek Rd, Mt Druitt) at 7pm, followed by <b>free</b> pizza, lucky door prize, and fellowship! Call Mark with any questions on 0477 004 678.</p>	
<p><b><u>Feast days of the week:</u></b></p> <p>Sept 8th – Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary  Sept 9th – St. Peter Claver  Sept 10th – St. Nicholas of Tolentino  Sept 11th – St. Daniel  Sept 12th– St. Most Holy Name of Mary  Sept 13th– St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor</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>:  Name: Emu Plains Catholic church  BSB: 067 950  Account Number: 00000289</p>