

OUR LADY OF THE WAY PARISH, EMU PLAINS

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What does the Lord require of you but to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

Sunday, 18th January, 2026 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year A

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon Psalm 65:4

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God,
and shall sing to you,
shall sing to your name, O Most High!

First Reading Isaiah 49:3. 5-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength. And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him:

'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. vv.8. 9.

**(R.) Here I am, Lord;
I come to do your will.**

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. **(R.)**

2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear.

You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I. **(R.)**

3. In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will. My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart. **(R.)**

4. Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation. John 1:14. 12

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel. John 1:29-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

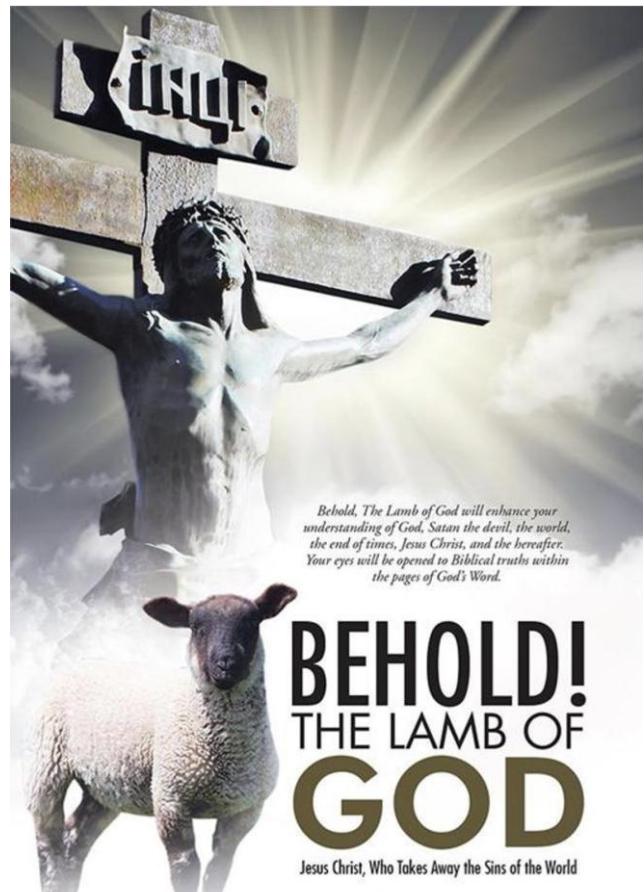


Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

Communion Antiphon Cf Psalm 22:5

You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

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Diocese of Parramatta Notice

Be a stronger you – Free empowerment course for women: Beginning February 2026
Catholic Care has partnered with Survivor Voice Australia to run a free six-week empowerment program for women who have experienced domestic violence and abuse. The program will start in February 2026 in the Blue Mountains. Contact Catholic Care to express your interest: (02) 8843 2500.

Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased Douglas Truscott, Arthur (Bruce) Gillett, and Jo Von Schomburg, and for Jim Daly and Hermie Lydamore 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, Gabriel Manouk, Karen Allen, Ray Dukes, Danko Caran, Sean Murray, Franco Di Napoli, Laurie Doohan, Linda Hicks, Michelle Gardam, Bradley Gardam, Cecilia Fanning, Kathleen Bell, Michelle Hadden, Cohen Hadden, Peter Joseph Apap, 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:

From 6th January till 13th February:

No Tuesday 6pm mass.
Wednesday 9am Communion Service
Thursday and Friday 9am mass.

Cuppa and a Chat: Resumes 8th February, 2026

Wrap with love knitters group meets on Thursdays from 9am -12pm in the parish hall. **This group has resumed on 15th January 2026.** For more information, please contact Judy Prendergast (0407101254) or Julia Hayes (0452 665 844).

Playgroup: Playgroup meets every second Tuesday (during school term) at 10am in the parish hall. Next playgroup will be in February 2026.

Upper Primary Youth Group (yrs 4-7) resumes in February. Date to be announced.

Catholic Care Food Appeal 2026: Our first monthly food drive for 2026 will take place **this weekend 17/18 January.** The most frequently asked for items are more pasta sauces or crushed tomatoes, as they receive plenty of packs of pasta but not enough to go with them. There are also requests for tinned fruit and coffee, canned meat and fish and small snacks. **Please note Catholic Care are unable to accept any goods that have passed the 'use by' date.** **Thank you** for your very generous response

Rosary Making Workshop: 9 February

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on Monday 9 February at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for more information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
Jan 17/18 2 nd Ordinary	C: Mary Balam R: Trish Ryan Stevie Harman Beth Nowland JS: Josie	C: Paul Ryan R: Kay Walker Deacon Batsirai Mark Norbury JS1: Rocco JS2: Ottavia	C: Lisa Samoilowicz R: Joanne Hamilton John Cowen Connie Reid Rebecca Carberry (Visit) JS 1: Hugo JS 2: Nicholas
Jan 24/25 3 rd Ordinary	C: Debra Gleeson R: Isabella Rose Stevie Harman Anne Deutscher JS 1: Felicity JS 2: Josie	C: Paul Devlin R: Sue Moutaan Matthew Topp John Lo Cascio JS1: Elizabeth JS2: Jacob	C: Brett Wright R: Don Robens Deacon Batsirai Michael Blair Denise Robens (Visit) JS1: Hugo JS2: Jonah

Epiphany Pilgrimage: For the past ten years, this pilgrimage has been a Diocesan event organised within the Blue Mountains Deanery. Each year our parish welcomed the pilgrims and farewelled them after a morning Mass. This year's pilgrims were a small group of family and friends who joined Briony and Jesse for various days on the journey.

Our parish welcomed them on 2nd January and John organised a Communion Service before they departed. Briony and Jesse carried with them, and included in their daily prayers, the prayer requests which our parishioners had placed in the special prayer box.

John has received a message from Briony and Jesse to say that they have arrived home after a very blessed week and expressing their thanks to our parish.



Diocesan World Day of the Sick: 11 February

A Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on 11 February 2026 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. To register, please visit parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-the-sick-mass/

Volunteers needed at Catholic Care's Mamre Creche 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.

Parish Information

Parish office open Tuesday to Friday from 9:00am to 3pm. (ph: 4735 1041)
Parish priest: Fr Michael G. Gathuku
Deacon: Batsirai Maringelesi
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: (Please see amendments on previous page)

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:

Dominican retreat: Single adults, ages 18-35, are invited to join the Dominican Friars and Sisters for a weekend retreat at St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park, NSW from 13-15 February 2026. The retreat will consist of talks, discussion, silence, Eucharistic Adoration, the Sacrament of Confession, Mass, and time for fellowship. Places limited. Fee: \$300 per person. <https://www.trybooking.com/DHJBL>

Volunteer Communicators Network: 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 Catholic Outlook, our websites and social media. Name/contact details are required: parracatholic.org/communicators

*Discover and share
in our story*

The Sisters of Charity Heritage Centre brings alive the spirit of the Congregation, its history and heritage.

Australia's first religious sisters have been of service to the community regardless of creed, wealth or ethnicity, for over 185 years.



You too are part of this continuing and living heritage and we'd love to welcome you.



Sisters
of Charity
of Australia

**HERITAGE
CENTRE**

1 Rockwall Cres, Potts Point, NSW
t: 02 9138 0835
w: socheritagecentre.org.au
e: heritagecentre@rscoffice.com



Feast days of the week:

Jan 19th – St. Joseph Pelczar
Jan 20th – St Fabian, Pope & St Sebastian, martyrs
Jan 21st – St. Agnes, martyr
Jan 22nd – St Vincent, Deacon and martyr
Jan 23rd – St. Marion Cope
Jan 24th – St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor

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