

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, 25th January, 2026 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year A

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 95:1,6

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place.

First Reading Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

In the Galilean country, the people have seen a great light.

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase, they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 26:1, 4, 13-14. R. v.1

(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
Before whom shall I shrink? **(R.)**

2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord, for this I long, to live in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life, to savour the sweetness of the Lord, to behold his temple. **(R.)**

3. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living. Hope in him, hold firm and take heart. Hope in the Lord! **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

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

I appeal to you, my brothers and sisters, make up the differences between you.

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

Gospel Acclamation. Matthew 4:23

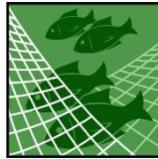
Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel. Matthew 4:12-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew



He went to Capernaum, that the prophecy of Isaiah be fulfilled.

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!
Way of the sea on the far side
of Jordan, Galilee of the nations!
The people that lived in darkness
has seen a great light; on those who
dwell in the land and shadow of death
a light has dawned.

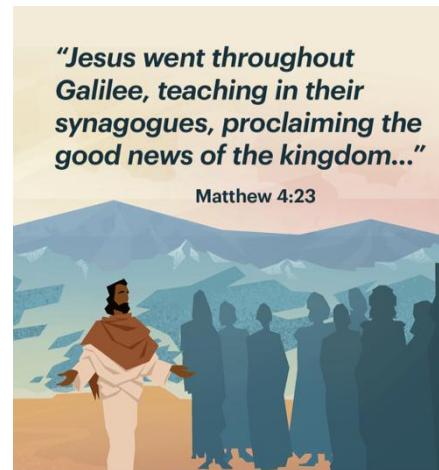
From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.'

And they left their nets at once and followed him. Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him. He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

Communion Antiphon Cf Psalm 33:6

Look toward the Lord and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.

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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, Karen Allen, Julie Young, Gabriel Manouk, 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.

Note: There will be no **Australia Day Mass** at OLOW, but St Nicholas of Myra church at Penrith will have a 9:30am Mass.

Cuppa and a Chat: Sat, 7th Feb after 6pm Mass, and then Sun 8th Feb after 9.30am Mass. 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: Playgroup meets every second Tuesday (during school term) at 10am in the parish hall. Next playgroup will be in February 2026. Date TBA.

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

When Should I Complete My Safeguarding Training?

All clergy, employees and volunteers in parish ministry are required by the NSW Children's Guardian Act 2019 to be current and complete Safeguarding Training. Please check with the Parish Office if you are unsure as to when you are due to update your training.

If you are new to ministry, you must complete the Introductory Modules 1-3 (Cycle1)

If you completed Cycle 1 modules two years ago, you must complete Renewal Modules 4 and 5 (Cycle 2)

If you renewed your Cycle 2 two years ago, you must complete a Refresher Module 6 (Cycle 3)

Safeguarding Training Modules can always be completed online at

<https://learning.safeguarding.org.au/>

Face to face training opportunities can be found at
<https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
Jan 24/25 3 rd Ordinary	C: Debra Gleeson R: Isabella Rose Stevennie Harman Anne Deutscher JS 1: Felicity JS 2: Josie	C: Paul Devlin R: Sue Mouthaan 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
Jan 31/Febr 1 4 th Ordinary	C: Victor Tuballa R: Louise Goderie Deacon Batsirai Stevennie Harman JS 1: Alex JS 2: Rocco	C: Gabe Manouk R: Geraldine Waters Mary Marsh Pat Edwards JS: N/A	C: Matthew Hamilton R: Trish Boyle Lara Riser David Green Kay Walker (Visit) JS1: Elizabeth JS2: Jacob

OLOW 2026 Lenten Reflection Program.

Venue : Church. **TIME:** 5:30pm – 6:30pm
DAY: Friday

	DATE	THEME
Week 1	20/02/26	Faith and temptation
Week 2	27/02/26	Faith and prayer
Week 3	06/03/26	Faith and life encounters
Week 4	13/03/26	Faith and spiritual blindness
Week 5	20/03/26	Faith and trust
Week 6	27/03/26	Faith and self-sacrifice
Week 7	28/03/26	DAY RETREAT (Sat, 11am-5pm)

This Lenten season let us journey together in preparation for Holy Week. We will be meeting every Friday for Bible reading, reflection and prayer. We will be using the Wollongong Diocese Lenten Reflection Booklet

"Compassio". Those who wish to order the Booklet can contact the Parish Office- the cost of the booklet is \$5.00. You can still order the Booklet even if you are not attending the reflection meetings. If you would like to attend the Lenten Reflection Program, please contact the Parish Office on 4735 1041 or email emuplains@parracatholic.org. Alternatively, you can register via the sign-up sheet at the rear of the church.



Image courtesy of Diocese of Wollongong

Missionaries of God's Love Discernment Retreat Weekend: 13-15 March

An opportunity for single women aged 18-35 to come and listen for the voice of Jesus, ask questions and experience prayer, talks, sisterhood and times of sharing to help you discern your vocation. The weekend will be held on from 13 to 15 March at Carmel House, 345 St Andrews Road, Varroville.

Registration: mglssisters.sydney@gmail.com

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:

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/

Annual Diocesan Red Mass: 3 February. Fr Robert Riedling, Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, cordially invites members of the judiciary and legal community, public service officials, law students and their families to the [annual Red Mass](#). Join us on Tuesday 3 February at 7pm, refreshments will be served following the Mass. Please RSVP by Friday 30 January to enquiry@stpatscathedral.com.au or call (02) 8839 8400.

St Josephine Bakhita Memorial Mass & Community Celebration: 8 February. You are warmly invited to the annual St Josephine Bakhita Memorial Mass & Community Celebration on Sunday 8 February at 12:30pm at St Patrick's Church, MQOF Parish, Blacktown. The South-Sudanese and Sudanese Catholic Community, supported by the Mission Enhancement Team, will celebrate their national patron saint, share their spirituality, culture and cuisine, and pray for the victims of modern slavery and human trafficking. All are welcome to attend.

Be a stronger you – Free empowerment course for women. Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains 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.

Volunteer Cook Wanted for Catholic Care's Houses to Homes program. Catholic Care's Houses to Homes program is seeking a volunteer cook to lead simple, hands-on cooking sessions for a small group of women once a month. Sessions run on a Friday from 10am to 12midday, with all ingredients provided, and conclude with participants sharing the meal together. All required screening and training will be supported. For more information or to express interest, please call (02) 8843 2500 or email enquiries@catholiccarewsm.org.au.

Feast days of the week:

Jan 26th – Australia Day
Jan 27th – Ss. Timothy & Titus, Bishops and martyrs
Jan 28th – St. Thomas Aquinas, Doctor
Jan 29th – St Aquilinus
Jan 30th – St. Martina
Jan 31st – St. John Bosco

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