

# OUR LADY OF THE WAY PARISH, EMU PLAINS

19 Troy St, Emu Plains  
Phone: 4735 1041  
Email: [emuplains@parracatholic.org](mailto:emuplains@parracatholic.org)  
Web: <https://catholicparishemuplain.org.au/>



*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, 15th February, 2026 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year A**

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

**Entrance Antiphon** Cf Psalm 30:3-4

Be my protector, O God,  
a mighty stronghold to save me.  
For you are my rock, my stronghold!  
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

**First Reading** Sirach 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

*He never commanded anyone to be godless.*

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34. R.

v.1

**(R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!**

1. They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law!

They are happy those who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts. **(R.)**

2. You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care.

May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. **(R.)**

3. Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word.  
Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law. **(R.)**
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end.  
Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart. **(R.)**

**Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

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

*God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.*

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

## Gospel Acclamation. See Matthew 11:25

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

**Alleluia!**



## Gospel. Matthew 5:17-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Such was said to your ancestors; but I am speaking to you.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven. 'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven. 'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you

will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny. 'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell. 'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

## Communion Antiphon Cf Psalm 106:8-9

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,  
his wonders for the children of men,  
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,  
and the hungry he fills with good things.

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**Let us pray:** We pray for those recently deceased, and for Rodney Wilson, Frank Attard and Coral Ryan, 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 our brothers and sisters in our community who are unwell, especially, Noelene Bangel, David Finn, 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, and we will add them to our prayer list. For privacy reasons, consent is required from the person who is unwell, or from their next of kin.



## Parish Notices:

Thank you to Fr Robert Anderson who has been celebrating weekend Masses in Fr Michael's absence. Thank you, too, to Fr Johnson Joseph from St Padre Pio Parish for celebrating Mass on Thursday and Friday mornings.

We welcome back Fr Michael who returns from leave this week. Regular weekday Mass times will resume from Wednesday Feb 18. (Tues. 6pm Mass tbc).

**Ash Wednesday Mass times, Feb 18: 9am & 6pm.**

**Cuppa and a Chat:** Please join us on Sunday after the 8am Mass, and next week 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).

**Playgroup:** Playgroup meets every second Tuesday (during school term) at 10am in the parish hall. Next playgroup will be on 24th February 2026.

**Children's Liturgy:** To recommence next weekend at the 9.30am Mass, and every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month thereafter.

**Upper Primary Youth Group:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month from 7-8.30pm. The next Youth Group will be on Friday March 13 in the Parish Hall. For more information, contact the parish office on 47351041.

**Communion for the sick:** If you, or a family member, is sick or no longer able to attend Mass and would like communion in the home, please call the office on 4735 1041.

**Life Ascending Meeting:** Our first meeting of the year will be at **10 am 18 February (Ash Wednesday)** 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 see the Parish Booklet available at the rear of the church.

**Readers/ Commentators** roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
Feb 14/15 6 <sup>th</sup> Ordinary	C: Trish Ryan R: Phillip Youngman Stevie Harman Michael Manton JS: Ottavia	C: Kevin Balkin R: Paul Ryan <b>Deacon Batsirai</b> Mary Marsh JS 1: Elizabeth JS 2: Jacob	C: Joanne Hamilton R: Lisa Samoilowicz Lara Roser Connie Reid <b>Rebecca Carberry (Visit)</b> JS 1: Nicholas JS 2: Hugo
Feb 21/22 LENT 1	C: Mary Balam R: Debra Gleeson Stevie Harman Beth Nowland JS: Josie	C: Sue Mouthaan R: Kay Walker Matthew Topp John Lo Cascio JS1: Rocco JS2: Ottavia	C: Don Robens R: Brett Wright <b>Deacon Batsirai</b> Michael Blair <b>Denise Robens (Visit)</b> JS1: Hugo JS2: Jonah

## OLOW 2026 Lenten Reflection Program.

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

**DAY:** Friday

**Week 1: FAITH AND TEMPTATION.**

*Jesus fasted for forty days and nights Matthew 4:1-11*

What is temptation?

Who is tempted and why? Does temptation weaken my faith or strengthen it? How best can I deal with temptation? Why does that same temptation keep coming back? What are the consequences of falling into temptation?

[Https://liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2026Feb22/0/ArtPhotos](https://liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2026Feb22/0/ArtPhotos)



**Join others in the Lenten Reflection Group this Friday as we discuss and reflect on this very important topic in our faith, "Temptation".**

*"Virtue is nothing without the trial of temptation, for there is no conflict without an enemy, no victory without strife" (St. Leo the Great)*

It's not too late to register for the weekly reflection group and/or day retreat. Please contact the Parish Office or register via the sign-up sheet at the rear of the church.

**Stations of the Cross** will commence in the church on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30pm following the Lenten reflection program.

**Project Compassion** boxes and envelopes are now available at the rear of the church.

## Sacramental News:



**Parish Planned Giving:** Envelopes are now available for collection. Contributions from parish planned giving (second collection), goes towards the running and upkeep of the Parish. *If you would like to contribute, you can do so via the envelopes, direct debit or monthly credit card payments. Please contact the Parish Office on 4735 1041 for more information.*

## 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-3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month:12pm

## **Weekday Masses:**

Tuesday 6pm; **Resuming date tbc**

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](mailto:emuplains@parracatholic.org)) for information on reconciliation, communion and confirmation.

## **Diocese of Parramatta Notices:**

**Discover Your Gifts - Called & Gifted:** Are you wondering - How can I know and follow Jesus' plan for my life? What special gifts has God given me? How can I go deeper in my faith journey?

If the answer to any of these questions is "yes", then the Called & Gifted Discernment Process (C&G) may be for you. C&G helps Christians recognise the unique charisms, or spiritual gifts, that they have been given in order to represent Christ and be a channel of God's goodness for others. St Finbars Parish Glenbrook will be running C&G over six sessions **beginning Tuesday 24 February**. For more information see the flyer in the foyer, or call Dan Kensey on 0403 995 620. The cost is \$100 per person

## **Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend: 21-22 February.** How prepared are you for marriage?

Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life. We give you a chance to spend time together to strengthen and enrich your relationship. Additional weekends will be held from 23-24 May and 8-9 August. For further information, visit [www.engagedencounter.org.au](http://www.engagedencounter.org.au)

## **Charismatic Healing Mass.** Mass will be followed by individual prayer for healing.

Celebrant: Fr Brian Steele MGL, Sunday 15th February 2026, 2:00 pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, St Marys. All welcome!

## **Catholic Healthcare formation and support Mass: 22 February**

The Diocese's Catholic Healthcare ministry, in collaboration with the Hawkesbury Deanery, is organising a monthly formation and support Mass for those in the healthcare ministry of the Church on Sunday 22 February at Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Rouse Hill, at 5:30pm. There will be an afternoon tea before the Mass from 4pm for those who wish to attend for networking and support purposes. For further information, please contact Deacon Michael Tan on [Michael.Tan@parracatholic.org](mailto:Michael.Tan@parracatholic.org).

**Volunteer with PALMS:** Develop sustained self-reliant futures in overseas communities! Join Palms International Volunteering online in this special session where you'll learn about our diverse assignments suited to your qualifications. Hear from past Palms volunteers how skill-exchange makes a lasting impact in communities and changes lives.

Venue: Online- Scan the QR or register at [palms.org.au/events](http://palms.org.au/events)

Date: Thursday 19 February 2026.

Time: 7 pm – 8:30 pm AEDT 02 9560 5333 [palms@palms.org.au](mailto:palms@palms.org.au)



## **Feast days of the week:**

Feb 16th – St Jeremy

Feb 17th – The Seven Founders: Order of Servites

Feb 18th – **ASH WEDNESDAY: fast & abstinence**

Feb 19th – St. Belina

Feb 20th – Ss. Jacinta & Francisco Marto

Feb 21st – St. Peter Damian – Bishop & 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