

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, 22nd February, 2026

First Sunday of Lent, Year A

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 90:15-16

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

First Reading [Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7](#)

A reading from the book of Genesis

Creation of our first parents, and sin.

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death."' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree

was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. see v.3](#)

(R.) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin. **(R.)**
2. My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done. **(R.)**
3. A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **(R.)**
4. Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.
O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall
declare your praise. **(R.)**

Second Reading [Romans 5:12-19](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole

human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Gospel Acclamation. [Matthew 4:4](#)

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel. [Matthew 4:1-11](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

Communion Antiphon [Matthew 4:4](#)

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

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Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased Annette Attard, and for those 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, 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:

Welcome back Fr Michael! Thank you to Fr Robert Anderson and Fr Johnson Joseph who celebrated Mass in Fr Michael's absence.

Cuppa and a Chat: Please join us on Sunday after the 9.30am Mass, and then on Saturday, 7th March, after the 6pm Vigil 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).

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 this weekend, **22nd Feb, at 9:30am Mass**, and every 4th Sunday of the month thereafter.

If you would like to become involved in the Children's Liturgy ministry, either as a leader or a helper, we would love to have you! This ministry, especially the role of a helper, is well suited to teenagers. Support and assistance can be provided. For those over the age of 18, WWCC and safeguarding training needs to be adhered to. For more information, please contact the Parish Office on 4735 1041 or emuplains@parracatholic.org

Upper Primary Youth Group: 2nd Friday of the month from 7-8.30pm. The next Youth Group will be on Friday, 13th March, 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.

Choir rehearsal for the Easter Vigil Mass (4th Apr), will commence Tuesday 3rd March at 7.30pm in the church. All welcome!

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
Feb 21/22 LENT 1	C: Mary Balam R: Debra Gleeson Stevanie 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 Deacon Batsirai Michael Blair Denise Robens (Visit) JS1: Hugo JS2: Jonah
Feb 28/March 1 2nd Lent	C: Phillip Youngman R: Bellinda Henderson Deacon Batsirai Stevanie Harman JS1: Josie JS2: Felicity	C: Kevin Balkin R: Kay Walker Matthew Topp Pat Edwards JS1: Elizabeth JS 2: Jacob	C: Trish Boyle R: Matthew Hamilton Michael Blair Connie Reid Rebecca Carberry (Visit) JS1: Nicholas JS2: Hugo

OLOW 2026 Lenten Reflection Program.

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

Friday Week 2: FAITH AND TEMPTATION.

The Transfiguration : *Matthew 17:1-2*

This coming Friday, as we prepare to enter the Second Week of Lent, we discuss and reflect on the Transfiguration of Jesus. It is an event that highlights the transforming Power of Prayer.

"Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light." (Matthew 17:1-2)

What is prayer in general, and what is prayer to me? What impact does it have on my life? Join the Lenten Reflection group as we explore the what, the who, the how, the when and the where of prayer. To register, please contact the Parish Office or via the sign-up sheet at the rear of the church.

Stations of the Cross: 6.30pm in the church (following the Lenten reflection program) during Lent.

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

Sacramental News:



Eucharistic Adoration: To mark the official commencement of preparation for the International Eucharistic Congress, there will be a nationwide **Holy Hour on Sunday 1st March, 2026. Our Lady of the Way will hold an hour of Eucharistic Adoration following the 9.30am Mass on that Second Sunday of Lent.**

Scripture News: Our scripture classes for 2026 have begun at Emu Heights and Leonay PS. Emu Plains will commence classes next week. We are delighted to report that our *Angel Christmas Tree Initiative*, has raised a total of \$590. These funds will be allocated to the provision of workbooks and essential resources for students. We express our sincere gratitude to the OLOW community for its steadfast support. Your generosity is sincerely appreciated and has made a significant difference. Blessings, Mary and SRE Ministry.

Parish Information

Parish office open Tuesday to Friday from 9:00am to 3pm. (ph: 4735 1041)

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.

Weekend Mass times:

Saturday 6 pm, Sunday 8am, 9:30am

Filipino Mass-3rd Sunday of the month: 12pm

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday 6pm; **(No Tues Mass this week)**

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:

Catholic Youth Parramatta 2026 Kick-Off: 26 February

Young people from across the Diocese are invited to an evening of celebration as we begin 2026 together. Hear testimonies from local leaders, take part in prayer, connect with others, and discover the vision for Catholic Youth Parramatta in the year ahead. Join us on Thursday 26 February from 7pm to 9.30pm at Holy Family Primary School, 11 Emert Parade, Emerton. Register today:

<https://parracatholic.org/events/liftedlaunch/>

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: mqlsisters.sydney@gmail.com

St Patrick's Primary Parramatta Centenary Celebration: 14 March. The St Patrick's Parramatta School Community warmly invites all former staff, students, and families to join us in celebrating 100 years of faith, learning and community on Saturday 14 March at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Mass begins at 1:30pm, with an afternoon tea to follow. Let us come together in Eucharist to share memories and celebrate companionship across generations. RSVP:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfZCpRA1DLrNEICkwCltsabrOw43l5RYq3LiRTzvAlkOFmaA/viewform>

Rosary Making Workshops 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 the following days: Thursday 26 February at St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith, from 7pm. Saturday 7 March at Holy Spirit Parish, St Clair-Erskine Park, from 2pm. Tuesday 10 March at Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown, from 7pm. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for more information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Feast days of the week:

Feb 23rd – St. Polycarp

Feb 24th – St. Montanus

Feb 25th – St. Tarasius

Feb 26th – St. Victor

Feb 27th – St. Gregory of Narek

Feb 28th – St. Hilary, Pope

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

