

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, 1st March, 2026 Second Sunday of Lent. Year A

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 26:8-9

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

First Reading Genesis 12:1-4

A reading from the book of Genesis

The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:
I will curse those who slight you.
All the tribes of the earth
shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22. R. v.22

**(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.**

1. The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**
2. The Lord looks on those who revere
him, on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**

3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. **(R.)**

Second Reading 2 Timothy 1:8-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

God has saved us, and called us to be holy.

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

Gospel Acclamation. Matthew 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel. [Matthew 17:1-9](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew



His face shone like the sun.

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. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

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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Second Sunday of Lent
28 February – 1 March 2026-
Unite Against Poverty this Lent

Sisilia is a 13-year-old girl living in remote Tanzania, who had to walk long distances to collect water every day. Thanks to Project Compassion, Sisilia's school and village now have safe clean water close by and she can spend more time studying so she can fulfil her dream of one day becoming a pilot.



You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes or envelopes.

Or online at:

www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased Marie Therese Adams, 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 on 4735 1041 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:

Cuppa and a Chat: Please join us next weekend, 7th March, after the 6pm Vigil Mass, and after the 9.30am Mass on Sunday, 8th March. All are 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 10th March 2026.

Children's liturgy: 4th Sunday of the month at the 9.30am Mass. The next Children's Liturgy will be 22nd March.

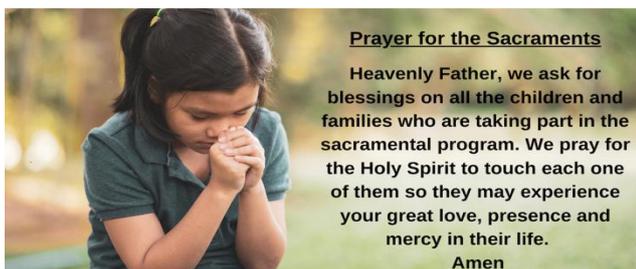
If you would like to become involved in the Children's Liturgy ministry, either as a leader or a helper, we would love to have you! This ministry, especially the role of a helper, is well suited to teenagers. Support and assistance can be provided. For more information, please contact the Parish Office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

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.

Upper Primary Youth Group (yrs 4-7) : 2nd Friday of the month from 7-8:30pm. The next Youth Group will be on Friday, March 13th in the Parish Hall. For more information, contact the parish office on 4735 1041.

Sacramental News:

Please pray for our children preparing for the sacrament of reconciliation.



Prayer for the Sacraments

Heavenly Father, we ask for blessings on all the children and families who are taking part in the sacramental program. We pray for the Holy Spirit to touch each one of them so they may experience your great love, presence and mercy in their life.

Amen

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
Feb 28/March 1 2 nd Lent	C: Phillip Youngman R: Bellinda Henderson Deacon Batsirai Stevenie 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
March 7/8 3 rd Lent	C: Trish Ryan R: Mary Balam Stevenie Harman Anne Deutscher JS 1: Felicity JS 2: Alex	C: Maria Sirotti R: Geraldine Waters Mark Norbury John Lo Cascio JS: N/A	C: Marianne Castor R: Denise Robens Deacon Batsirai John Cowen Kay Walker (Visit) JS1: Jonah JS2: Rocco

OLOW 2026 Lenten Reflection Program.

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

Friday Week 3: Barriers to Christ's living water

Jesus and the Woman of Samaria: John 4:5-42

This coming Friday, as we prepare to enter the Third Week of Lent, we will discuss and reflect on Jesus and the Samaritan Woman at the Well. The reading addresses 'living water' and shows us how Christ breaks down barriers between ourselves and each other as well as the barriers between us and Christ.

"The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town to tell the people..." (John 4:28)

Join us as we explore the concept and promise of living water and discuss the barriers the Samaritan Woman needed to break through to accept Christ's offer.



<https://paintingvalley.com/download-image#christ-and-the-samaritan-woman-painting-24.jpg>

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

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

Eucharistic Adoration: To mark the official commencement of preparation for the International Eucharistic Congress, there will be a nationwide **Holy Hour THIS Sunday 1st March, 2026.** 2026 is the Year of Prayer, and the Church is invited to "experience the Eucharist as a mystery to be encountered" (Galea, B. 2026, Eucharistic Congress 2028). Our Lady of the Way will hold an hour of **Eucharistic Adoration following the 9.30am Mass this Sunday (1 March)**, and we warmly invite you to come along and spend some time with Our Lord.

Palm Sunday: If you are able to help with the supply of palms for the church on Palm Sunday (weekend of 28th & 29th March), we would be most grateful. Please contact the Parish Office on 4735 104, or emuplains@parracatholic.org if you can assist. Many thanks.

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; **To recommence 5th May**

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:

Blacktown Parish presents 'The Witness'

The community of Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown, are bringing to life the musical "The Witness" – telling the story of the life of Jesus through the eyes of St Peter. We encourage anyone interested in being part of The Witness experience to [register](#). For vocal auditions, contact our Music Director, Marianne Fernandes, at music@bethewitness.com.au. To learn more, visit [Be The Witness – The Musical](#) or email info@bethewitness.com.au.

*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.

Tuesday – Thursday

10.00am-3.00pm or by appointment

Free entry, parking available

Bookings recommended



*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



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 contact enquiries@catholiccarewsbm.org.au or call (02) 8843 2500.

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 be held in the lower Blue Mountains on Wednesday mornings. To find out when the next program starts, contact Catholic Care on (02) 8843 2500 or Survivor Voice Australia on 0422 876 700.

Charismatic Healing Mass: Celebrant: Fr John Puli, Sunday 15th March 2026, 2:00 pm at Campion College, 8-14 Austin Woodbury Pl, Toongabbie. Mass will be followed by individual prayer for healing. All welcome!

Feast days of the week:

March 2nd – St. Angela of the Cross Guerrero

March 3rd – St. Katharine Drexel

March 4th – St. Casimir of Poland

March 5th – St. John Joseph of the Cross

March 6th – St. Colette

March 7th – Ss. Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs

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