

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, 15th March, 2026 4th Sunday of Lent. Year A

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon *Cf Isaiah 66:10-11*

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First Reading *1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13*

A reading from the first book of Samuel.
In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, ‘Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.’
When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, ‘Surely the Lord’s anointed one stands there before him,’ but the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.’ Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, ‘The Lord has not chosen these.’ He then asked Jesse, ‘Are these all the sons you have?’ He answered, ‘There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.’ Then Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.’ Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, ‘Come, anoint him, for this is the one.’ At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 22 R. v.1*

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **(R.)**
2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your
staff; with these you give me comfort. **(R.)**
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
In the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **(R.)**
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow
me all the days of my life.
In the Lord’s own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **(R.)**

Second Reading *Ephesians 5:8-14*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians
Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by

the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel Acclamation. [John 8:12](#)

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. **Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

Gospel. [John 9:1-41](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered, 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him.'

'As long as the day lasts I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.'

Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered.

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him

yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we don't know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.'

So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we don't know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Jesus said: 'It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.' Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied: 'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see", your guilt remains.'

Communion Antiphon [Cf John 9:11,38](#)

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

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Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased Ray Dukes (*Funeral OLOW, 19.03.26, 11am*) and Rylan Gold, and for Mary Chetcuti and Noel Irvin 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, Jenny Griffiths, Greg Wood, Noelene Bangel, David Finn, Karen Allen, Julie Young, Gabriel Manouk, 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:

Mass times for Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday: 6pm Vigil, 8am, 9.30am
Wednesday of Holy Week: 9am
Holy Thursday (Mass of the Lord's Supper): 7.30pm
Stations of the Cross on Good Friday: 10am
Good Friday- Passion of Our Lord: 3pm

Easter Vigil: 7pm
Easter Sunday: 8am and 9.30am
Additional times for Reconciliation TBA

We are seeking expressions of interest for those who are interested in participating in **the foot washing ritual at the Holy Thursday liturgy**. Please bear in mind that you cannot participate in more than one ministry at the mass. If you would like to participate, please add your names to the sheet at the back of the church.

Stations of the Cross on Good Friday: If you would like to be involved in the Stations of the Cross as an actor or reader, please contact Debra Gleeson on 0418 259 757.

Choir rehearsal for the Easter Vigil Mass- Tuesdays at 7.30pm in the church. All welcome!

Cuppa and a Chat: 15 March after 8am Mass

Children's liturgy: Every 4th Sunday of the month at the 9:30am mass. *Next Children's Liturgy- 22 March*

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
March 14/15 4 th Lent	C: Debra Gleeson R: Isabella Rose Stevenie Harman Michael Manton JS1: Jacob JS2: Elizabeth	C: Paul Ryan R: Alex Jarominek Deacon Batsirai Mary Marsh JS1: Rocco JS2: Ottavia	C: Lisa Samojlowicz R: Joanne Hamilton John Cowen David Green Denise Robens (Visit) JS 1: Hugo JS 2: Nicholas
March 21/22 5 th Lent	C: Louise Goderie R: Victor Tuballa Stevenie Harman Debra Gleeson JS 1: Felicity JS 2: Josie	C: Sue Mouthaan R: Paul Devlin Matthew Topp John Lo Cascio JS1: Ottavia JS2: Rocco	C: Brett Wright R: Maria Farah Deacon Batsirai Lara Roser Beth Nowland (Visit) JS: Jonah

Your prayers are asked for Ray Dukes who recently passed away. Ray was a resident of Edinglassie Retirement Village. a foundation member of our Parish, world class golfer, not only the Greens Superintendent of Leonay Golf Course but also C.E.O., a true legend who left a legacy, Ray will be sorely missed. Condolences are offered to Ray's family.

OLOW 2026 Lenten Reflection Program.

Venue : Church. **TIME:** 5:30pm – 6:30pm
Friday Week 5: I am the Resurrection and the Life

The Raising of Lazarus: John 11:1-45
 This coming Friday, as we prepare to enter the Fifth Week of Lent, we will discuss and reflect on Jesus and Mary and Martha and the raising of Lazarus. The reading addresses faith, prayer and God's answers to our prayers, acceptance of God's will, and how Jesus' light raised the faith of Martha. "Jesus wept" (John 11:35:28) Join us as we explore the concept and promise of Life and the resurrection and discuss prayer and faith and how the light of Jesus draws us to a deeper faith.

Stations of the Cross: 6.30pm in the church during Lent.

REMINDER: Lenten day retreat with Deacon Batsirai will be held on Sat 28 March, 11am-5pm, in the hall. To register, please add your name to the sheet at the back of the church.

Sacramental News: 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

Holy Hour for reconciliation children
 We will be holding a special holy hour this **Sunday 15th March after the 9.30am Mass** to pray for the children who are preparing for the sacrament of reconciliation. You are welcome to stay and pray for as long or as little as you like.

Parish Information

Parish office open Tuesday to Thursday from 9am-3pm; Friday 9am-1pm. (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; **Resumes May 2026**
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.

Our Lady of the Way Parish Notices- continued

Catholic Care Food Appeal 2026: Our monthly food drive for 2026 will take place **next weekend 21/22 March**. 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 place bags of food on the table at the rear of the church. **Thank you** once again for your very generous response

Life Ascending Meeting: Our regular meeting will be at **10 am 18 March** 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.

Wrap with love knitters group: Thursdays from 9am -12pm in the parish hall. For more information, please contact Judy Prendergast (0407101254).

Playgroup: Every second Tuesday (in school term) at 10am in the parish hall. *Next playgroup 24 March.*

Upper Primary Youth Group (yrs 4-7): 2nd Friday of the month from 7-8:30pm in the Parish Hall.

Diocese of Parramatta Notices

Positions Vacant:

- Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains
- Facilities & Contract Manager – Diocese of Parramatta. **Applications close 17 March 2026.**
- Property & Project Coordinator – Diocese of Parramatta. **Applications close 17 March 2026.** More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary Celebrations: 6 April You are invited to celebrate with us the 75 years of the arrival of the first Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary to Australia AND 60 years of the Schoenstatt Movement in Australia. Join us on Easter Monday, 6th April 2026 from 1:30pm – 5:30pm at Mount Schoenstatt – 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa 2745. Please bring a plate to share for afternoon tea. Parallel children's program will also be available. RSVP Shirley Hall 0417 153

930 movtooffice@schoenstatt.org.au

Feast days of the week:

March 16th – St. Julian of Antioch
March 17th – St. Patrick, bishop
March 18th – St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Doctor
March 19th – St. Joseph, Spouse of Blessed Virgin Mary
March 20th – St. Cuthbert
March 21st – St. Enda

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