

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 March, 2026 5th Sunday of Lent. Year A

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon [Cf Psalm 42:1-2](#)

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

First Reading [Ezekiel 37:12-14](#)

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 129. R. v.7](#)

(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. **(R.)**
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. **(R.)**

3. My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on
daybreak and Israel on the
Lord.) **(R.)**

4. Because with the Lord there is
mercy and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem from all
its iniquity. **(R.)**

Second Reading [Romans 8:8-11](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel Acclamation. [See John 11:25. 26](#)

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel. [John 11:1-45](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
I am the resurrection and the life.

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. – It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, ‘Lord, the man you love is ill.’ On receiving the message, Jesus said, ‘This sickness will end not in death but in God’s glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.’ Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, ‘Let us go to Judaea.’ The disciples said, ‘Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?’ Jesus replied: ‘Are there not twelve hours in the day? A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by; but if he walks at night he stumbles, because there is no light to guide him.’ He said that and then added, ‘Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.’ The disciples said to him, ‘Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.’ The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by ‘rest’ he meant ‘sleep’, so Jesus put it plainly, ‘Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.’ Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, ‘Let us go too, and die with him.’ On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, ‘If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.’ ‘Your brother’ said Jesus to her ‘will rise again.’ Martha said, ‘I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.’

Jesus said: ‘I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ ‘Yes, Lord,’ she said ‘I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.’ When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, ‘The Master is here and wants to see you.’ Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’ At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, ‘Where have you put him?’ They said, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus wept; and the Jews said, ‘See how much he loved him!’ But there were some who remarked, ‘He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man’s death?’ Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, ‘Take the stone away.’ Martha said to him, ‘Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.’ Jesus replied, ‘Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: ‘Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.’ When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, here! Come out!’ The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, let him go free.’ Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

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 and Rylan Gold, and for Mary Ann Mifsud, Helen McInnes and Arthur Reid 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, 28/29 March: 6pm Vigil, 8am, 9.30am

Wednesday of Holy Week, 1 April: 9am

Holy Thursday (Mass of the Lord's Supper), 2 April: 7.30pm (Please note there is no 9am Mass)

Good Friday, 3 April: Stations of the Cross- 10am; Passion of Our Lord- 3pm

Easter Vigil, 4 April: 7pm

Easter Sunday, 5 April: 8am and 9.30am

Reconciliation: Tues 31 March & Wed 1 April-9.30am

Children's Liturgy: Will be held this Sunday during the 9.30am Mass, and then every 4th Sunday of the month. A friendly reminder to sign your child/children in via the sign-on sheet at the rear of the church prior to the commencement of Mass.

Cuppa and a Chat: There will be no morning tea after the 9.30am Mass this Sunday. The next 'Cuppa and a Chat' will be after the 6pm Mass on the 11th April.

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 March.

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, 7-8:30pm in the Parish Hall. For more information, contact the parish office on 4735 1041.

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.

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
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
March 28/29 Palm Sunday	C: Phillip Youngman and the part of Other R: Sue Schembri N: Bellinda Henderson John Cowen Stevenie Harman Anne Deutscher JS: Josie	C: Kevin Balkin R: Kay Walker and the part of other N: Paul Ryan Deacon Batsirai Mary Marsh JS1: Jacob JS2: Elizabeth	C: Don Robens R: Matthew Hamilton and the part of other N: Trish Boyle Michael Blair Connie Reid Rebecca Carberry (Visit) JS1: Nicolas JS2: Hugo

OLOW 2026 Lenten Reflection Program.

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

Friday Week 6: FAITH AND SELF-SACRIFICE.

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ:

[Matthew 26:14 – 27:66](#)

The image of Jesus on the cross does not just reveal God's great love for us, it is also a reminder to us of dangers of sin. Jesus loves us and we, as followers of Christ are called to love God and one another. Love is a beautiful thing but sometimes it demands sacrifice. This coming Friday, as we prepare to enter Holy Week, join the Lenten Reflection Group as we discuss and reflect on "**The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ**".

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

Lenten day retreat with Deacon Batsirai will be held on Sat 28 March, 11am-5pm, in the hall. If you would like to come along, please register via the sign-up sheet at the rear of the church.

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

Grounds Team: The roster for 2026-2027 is now available for collection at the rear of the church. Many thanks for all you do at Our Lady of the Way to keep our grounds clean and tidy.



Fifth Sunday of Lent 21–22 March 2026

Since October 2023, Caritas Jerusalem staff in Gaza have endured displacement, personal loss, and danger alongside the communities they serve. Despite unimaginable challenges, they remain committed to providing lifesaving support, standing in solidarity with families enduring this conflict.



Please donate today.

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's Unite Against Poverty this Lent.

Parish Information

Parish office open Tuesday to Thursday from 9am-3pm; Friday 9.30am-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)
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:

Bishop Vincent presents Archbishop Ryan Jimenez: 21 April Archbishop Ryan Jimenez, Archbishop of Agaña in Guam and President of the Episcopal Conference of the Pacific is the first guest speaker for this year's Bishop Vincent Presents series. Join us at 6pm on Tuesday 21 April in Cloister Hall, St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, for an evening with Archbishop Jimenez as he reflects on the theme "An Immigrant Bishop for an Immigrant Church." To register, please visit parracatholic.org/jimenez

Launch of Fr Joe's new book: 26 March Fr Joe, Parish Priest of Baulkham Hills, has just published a new book with the title "Augustine on Listening, Humility and Unity. The Augustinian Root of Pope Leo XIV." Launched by Sister Dr Margaret Ghosn, Theologian and Principal of Maronite College of the Holy Family in Harris Park, and Most Rev Vincent Long Nguyen, Bishop of Parramatta. Join us on Thursday 26 March 2026 at 7pm at St. Michael's Downey Room, 1 Chapel Ln, 2153 Baulkham Hills. To register: admin@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au

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

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.

The Catholic Outlook, Autumn 2026 edition, is now available at the rear of the church. You are welcome to take a copy home with you.

Feast days of the week:

March 23rd – St. Rafqa(Maronite)
March 24th – St. Oscar Romero
March 25th – The Annunciation of the Lord
March 26th – St. Margaret Clitherow
March 27th – St. Rupert
March 28th – St. Tutilo

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