

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, 29th March, 2026 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Year A

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon Cf John 12: 1, 12-13; Ps 23: 9-10

Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out:

* Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is this king of glory?

He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.

* Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

First Reading [Isaiah 50:4-7](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2](#)

(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

1. All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.' (R.)
2. Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.
I can count every one of my bones. (R.)
3. They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me! (R.)
4. I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.)

Second Reading [Philippians 2:6-11](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names

so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation. [Philippians 2:8-9](#)

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross. Therefore, God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel. [Matthew 26:14 – 27:66](#)

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

SEE BOOKLET

Communion Antiphon [Matthew 26:42](#)

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

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Stations of the Cross on Good Friday: If you would like to be involved in the Stations of the Cross as an actor or a reader, please contact the Parish Office on 4735 1041. We ask that all those participating as an actor to please meet in the school grounds at 8.30am on April 3.

Let us pray: We pray for those recently deceased, and for Gabriel Bustamante whose death anniversary is 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, Phillip Fitzgerald, 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.



MASS TIMES FOR HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY:

Saturday Vigil – 6pm;

Sunday – 8am, 9.30am

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK: 9am

HOLY THURSDAY (Mass of the Lord's Supper): 7.30pm

GOOD FRIDAY:

Stations of the Cross: 10am

Passion of Our Lord: 3pm

EASTER MASSES

EASTER VIGIL: 7pm

EASTER SUNDAY: 8am, 9.30am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 28th March: 5pm-5.45pm

Tuesday 31st March: 9.30am-10.15am

Wednesday 1st April: 9.30am-10.15am

Sacramental News: Last week, 41 children made their first reconciliation here at OLOW. Both evenings were very blessed, and many parents also returned to the sacrament – Praise God. Thank you to all the parishioners for your prayers for these children and their families and there were many volunteers who assisted in the running of this program. A special thanks to Sue, Helen H, Helen L, Maria, Krystyna, Margaret, Les, Wolfgang, the Snedden family, Deacon Batsirai and the visiting priests who came to assist with reconciliation.

Project Compassion: Please kindly return Project Compassion boxes and/or envelopes to the church or parish office by Thursday April 3, or as close to this date as possible.

Good Friday Collection: The annual collection for the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday at both the Stations of the Cross at 10am, and the Passion of Our Lord at 3pm. This collection helps to preserve the sacred places and supports Christians who live in the Holy Land. Envelopes are available at the rear of the church.

Parish Notices:

Cuppa and a Chat: Resumes on April 11 after the 6pm Mass, and on April 12 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. To resume after the school holidays. Date TBC.

Foot washing Holy Thursday: Thank you to all who volunteered to participate in the sacred ritual of the washing of the feet during the Holy Thursday liturgy. Could you please ensure that you are in attendance by 7.20pm to give you time to get your name marked off and to check where you will be sitting after being called forward after the homily. Names will be attached to the pews in the reserved front row.

Mass at Edinglassie: Please join us for Mass at Edinglassie on Thurs April 2 at 11am. 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!

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
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: Nicholas JS2: Hugo
April 5 Easter Sunday	See separate roster for Vigil Mass	C: Geraldine Waters R: Sue Mouthaan R: Kevin Balkin Matthew Topp Pat Edwards JS1: Jacob JS2: Elizabeth	C: Marianne Castor R: Matthew Hamilton R: Joanne Hamilton Lara Roser David Green Denise Robens JS 1: Nicholas JS 2: Jonah

EASTER LITURGIES

Holy Thursday 7.30pm	C: Louise Goderie plus POF R1: Sue Mouthaan R2: Kay Walker Deacon Batsirai Mary Marsh Denise Robens JS1: Felicity JS2: Rocco Stevenie Harman Thurifer
Good Friday 3.00pm	C: Louise Goderie and the part of Other R1: Victor Tuballa R2: Kristina Pincevic N: Bellinda Henderson Deacon Batsirai Michael Blair Pat Edwards Stevenie Harman JS1: Nicholas JS2: Jacob JS3: Elizabeth
Easter Vigil 7.00pm	R1: Trish Ryan R2: Mary Balam R3: Sarah Tuballa R4: Bellinda Henderson plus POF Deacon Batsirai John Cowen Anne Deutscher JS1: Alex JS2: Josie Stevenie Harman Thurifer

Reflection for Holy Week

Before he hired a new farmhand, the farmer asked what he could do. The labourer replied, "I can sleep through a storm" Not making much sense to the farmer he hired him anyway and was impressed with his work.

Then a storm struck in the middle of the night. The farmer jumped out of bed, ran through the driving rain, and banged on the labourer's cottage door. Getting no answer, he ran off to try to minimize the damage that the storm could cause. Yet he found all his animals safely in the barn, all the doors locked and the thatched roof that the labourer had repaired was riding out the storm nicely.

It was then that he understood what the man had said. The labourer could sleep through the storm because he knew that he had done his work properly – much the same as Jesus had done during His time on earth.

As we prepare to enter Holy week let us reflect on the meaning of the Easter Triduum – one celebration -which is the high point of the entire liturgical year. On Maundy Thursday we begin the sacred Easter Triduum, the journey through Christ's last hours. As we take this journey together, we pray that our faith is renewed with a sense of purpose.

One of Christ's last actions on earth was to celebrate a meal with his disciples. At the Mass of the Lord's Supper, we reverently remember those origins of the Eucharistic meal that we have been given to share.

On Good Friday we will share with Christ in his suffering on the Cross.

On Saturday night, we will start our Easter Vigil with our church in darkness and in silence, as if in a tomb. Then our priest will lead us into the light, in the name of the risen Lord. How wonderfully appropriate this is. All over the world on Easter night, others will be doing the same thing, and the most beautiful thing is this – He will be risen in every time zone, and the tomb will be forever empty as we celebrate together.

Storms come in all walks of life but if we do our best during the daytime of our lives, we will always be able to sleep safely in the arms of our Lord when our night-time comes. That is why He came and why He died for our sins - He paid a debt He did not owe so that we could be with Him for eternity.

Easter Offering: If you would like to make an Easter Offering, envelopes are available at the rear of the church and may be returned next weekend. Thank you for your generosity.

Final choir rehearsal for the 7pm Easter Vigil is this Tuesday, March 31, at 7.30pm in the church..

Parish Information

Parish office open Tuesday to Thursday from 9:00am-3pm; Friday from 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; To resume in 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

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 153930 movtooffice@schoenstatt.org.au

Annual CYP Good Friday Night Walk: 3 April You are invited to the Good Friday Night Walk, an annual pilgrimage attended by 1000+ young people from across Western Sydney each year. Beginning late on Good Friday night and continuing into the early hours of Holy Saturday, this overnight pilgrimage invites participants to journey together in prayer, reflection and reverence as we retrace the steps of Christ during the Easter Triduum. The pilgrimage begins at St Patrick's Catholic Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown, and concludes at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, with an expected arrival at approximately 7:00am. **Registration is compulsory.** To register or find out more information, visit parracatholic.org/gfnw If you are interested in supporting the walk as a volunteer, please contact sebastian.duhau@parracatholic.org

Feast days of the week:

March 30th – (Jesus cleanses the temple.) Monday of Holy Week.
March 31st – (Jesus explains the destruction of Jerusalem.) Tuesday of Holy Week.
April 1st – (Judas speaks to the chief priests.) Wednesday of Holy Week.
April 2nd – (The Last Supper & Jesus Passion begins.) Holy Thursday.
April 3rd – (Jesus dies for us.) Good Friday.
April 4th – (Jesus descends into hell.) Holy Saturday.

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