

# 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, 19th April, 2026 3rd Sunday of Easter: Year A.

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

### **Entrance Antiphon** Cf Psalm 65:1-2

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;  
O sing to the glory of his name.  
O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

### **First Reading** Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*It was impossible for him to be held by the power of Hades.*

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: ‘Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy: my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with

gladness through your presence.

‘Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God’s right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.’

### **Responsorial Psalm** Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-11, R. v.11

**(R.) Lord, you will show us the path of life.**

1. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.  
I say to the Lord: ‘You are my God. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize.’ (R.)
2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart.  
I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. (R.)
3. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety.  
For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay. (R.)

4. You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence,  
at your right hand happiness for ever. (R.)

### **Second Reading** [1 Peter 1:17-21](#)

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

*The ransom that was paid to free you was the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.*

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

### **Gospel Acclamation.** [See Luke 24:32](#)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:  
make our hearts burn with love when you speak. **Alleluia!**

### **Gospel.** [Luke 24:13-35](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*They recognised him at the breaking of the bread.*

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast. Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.'

'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.' Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself. When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?' They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

### **Communion Antiphon** [Luke 24:35](#)

The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

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**Let us pray:** We pray for recently deceased Shirley Cameron, William Singh and Bob Scott, and for Matthew Lawlor and Daniel Beck 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, John Purcell, 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, 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:**

**Change of Mass Time**

Dear Parishioners, To support the needs of our Community, especially our older members, the Saturday Vigil Mass time will change. Mass will now commence at **5.30pm** instead of the usual **6.00pm**. This adjustment takes effect from **2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2026**. This will affect our Tuesday Mass, and reconciliation times too. Tuesday's Masses will begin at 5.30pm, and reconciliation will be on Saturdays 4.30pm to 5.15pm. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we make this change for the convenience and safety of our parish community. With every blessing. Fr Michael Gitau Gathuku PP

**Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers:** All liturgical ministers – readers, servers, extra ordinary ministers and ministers at the altar are invited to join us for our [Annual Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers](#). Families and friends are also invited. This will take place at 7:30pm on 12 May 2026, at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Liturgical ministers are asked to please arrive by 7pm and be seated by 7:15pm. To register the number of guests and ministers attending please register by Thursday, 7th May. For more information, please contact [ofw@parracatholic.org](mailto:ofw@parracatholic.org) or 0460 037 795.

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

**Readers/ Commentators roster:**

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
<b>April 18/19 3<sup>rd</sup> Easter</b>	C: Debra Gleeson R: Isabella Rose John Cowen Stevenie Harman Beth Nowland JS: Josie	C: Alex Jarominek R: Paul Ryan Mary Marsh <b>Deacon Batsirai</b> JS1: Rocco JS2: Ottavia	C: Joanne Hamilton R: Lisa Samojlowicz Lara Roser David Green <b>Denise Robens (Visit)</b> JS: Jonah
<b>April 25/26 4<sup>th</sup> Easter</b>	C: Victor Tuballa R: Louise Goderie Stevenie Harman Michael Manton JS1: Josie Henderson JS2: Felicity Tuballa	C: Sue Mouthaan R: Paul Devlin Mary Marsh Barbara Ryan JS1: Rocco <u>Stillisano</u>	C: Brett Wright R: Maria Farah <b>Deacon Batsirai</b> Michael Blair <b>Kay Walker (Visit)</b> JS1: Nicholas Hamilton JS2: Hugo Watson

**THANK YOU** to Shalom World for visiting our parish last weekend. Shalom World is a 24 hour, commercial-free, high-definition Catholic family television channel that reaches out to the world with the peace and love of Christ. It is available for free on most smart TVs and smartphones. Scan the QR code to get Shalom World TV.



**Church cleaning:** We are in need of volunteers to assist with church cleaning, every second Friday. If you can help, or for more information, please contact the Parish office on 47 351041.

**Communion Service at Edinglassie:** There will be a communion service in the Good Shepherd Chapel at Edinglassie on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 11.00am**. Please come and join in this celebration with our parishioners who live at Edinglassie. All are welcome. (The chapel is located within the facility)

**Scripture News- Term 2:** Thank you to the SRE teachers for their hard work and continued dedication to this ministry. We are **urgently** requesting a teacher for Kindergarten, commencing Term 2. It is a small class and runs from 11.40am-12.10pm on Thursday at Emu Plains PS. The role requires initial training and administrative paperwork, and support and lesson plans are available. If you feel called to share your gifts and teach children about the love of God, we encourage you to join this ministry. To enquire, please contact the Parish Office on 4735 1041 or [emuplains@parracatholic.org](mailto:emuplains@parracatholic.org), blessings, Mary.

**Cuppa and a Chat:** Please join us on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> April, after the 8am Mass. All welcome!

**Children's liturgy:** Next weekend, 26 April, 9.30am Mass.

**Playgroup:** Every second Tuesday at 10am in the parish hall. Resumes April 21.

## Parish Information

**Parish office open Tuesday to Thursday 9am to 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, (5.30pm from May 2)

Sunday 8am, 9:30am

Filipino Mass-3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month:12pm

## **Weekday Masses:**

**Tuesday 5.30pm resuming May 5**

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 (4.30pm from May 2)**

**Sacraments:** baptisms and weddings by appointment. Please contact the parish office ([emuplains@parracatholic.org](mailto:emuplains@parracatholic.org)) for information on reconciliation, communion and confirmation.

## Diocese of Parramatta Notices:

**Ministry of Care courses: 3-24 June** Those who visit the sick and are involved in the Ministry of Communion to the Sick and Dying in Hospitals, Aged Care Facilities and in Homes are invited to attend this course on the Ministry of Care. The course will take place every Wednesday in June at 7pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Please register via [parracatholic.org/ministry-of-care-courses](https://parracatholic.org/ministry-of-care-courses) to reserve your spot. For enquiries, please contact [ofw@parracatholic.org](mailto:ofw@parracatholic.org) or 0460 037 795. **If you are interested in attending, please call the parish office for an opportunity to carpool with other parishioners.**

**Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities** The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Renewal Training, **MODULE 6**, will be held on 2 May at St Joseph's Parish, Kingswood. Please register directly for this training or for other convenient dates and locations by clicking on the training event at: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>. For more information, please email: [safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org)

**Liturgical Ministry Formation Course:** If you would like to become involved as a Reader, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, Minister at the Altar or Minister of Communion to the Sick and Dying, the Liturgical Ministry Formation Course will commence in September at the Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like more information, or to pick up an enrolment form. *Please be advised that this course fills up very quickly.*

**A conversation with the Sisters of Saint Joseph on Homelessness: 23 April** In partnership with the Sisters of Saint Joseph, join us for an hour-long conversation on zoom at 5.00pm on Thursday 23 April to raise some possible responses to the urging of the 2025 Bishops' Statement: Signs of Hope on the Edge. If you would like to participate in this conversation, **please register by Wednesday 1 April:** <https://parracatholic.org/events/online-conversation-homelessness/>

## Feast days of the week:

April 20th – St. Marian

April 21st – St. Anselm of Canterbury, Bishop and Doctor

April 22nd – Queen of the Society of Jesus

April 23rd – St. George, Martyr

April 24th – St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen

April 25th – ANZAC DAY

## 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