

OUR LADY OF THE WAY PARISH, EMU PLAINS

19 Troy St, Emu Plains
Phone: 4735 1041
Email: emuplains@parracatholic.org
Web: <https://catholicparishemuplains.org.au/>



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, 26th April, 2026 4th Sunday of Easter: Year A.

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon *Cf Psalm 32:5-6*

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

First Reading *Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 36-41*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: ‘The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.’

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, ‘What must we do, brothers?’ ‘You must repent,’ Peter answered ‘and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.’ He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, ‘Save yourselves from this perverse generation.’ They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 22:1-6. 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 *1 Peter 2:20-25*

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation. [John 10:14](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel. [John 10:1-10](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I am the gate of the sheepfold.



Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper

lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly,
I am the gate of the sheepfold.
All others who have come
are thieves and brigands;
but the sheep took no notice of them.
I am the gate. Anyone who enters
through me will be safe: he will go
freely in and out and be sure of
finding pasture. The thief comes
only to steal and kill and destroy.
I have come so that they may have
life and have it to the full.'

Communion Antiphon

The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.

Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased William Singh, and for Matthew Lawlor, Daniel Beck, Patrick McVeigh, Kathleen McVeigh, Maura McGill, Mary Clarke, Jim Clarke and Shirley Cameron 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, 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 **2nd 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

2026 National Count of Attendance: This will take place over the first four weekends of May, commencing on the weekend of 2-3 May. This information will provide valuable data to support pastoral planning and resource allocation across our Diocese and the wider Church.

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

Cuppa and a Chat: Please join us this Sunday, April 26, after the 9.30am Mass. All welcome!

Playgroup: Playgroup meets every second Tuesday (during school term) at 10am in the parish hall. *Next playgroup: May 5.*

Children's liturgy: To be held **this Sunday, April 26 at the 9.30am Mass**. Parents are reminded that children need to be signed in prior to the commencement of Mass.

Upper Primary Youth Group (yrs 4-7) 2nd Friday of the month from 7-8:30pm in the Parish Hall. *Next Youth Group: May 8.* For more information, contact the parish office on 4735 1041.

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
April 25/26 4th Easter	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 Stillisano	C: Brett Wright R: Maria Farah Deacon Batsirai Michael Blair Kay Walker (Visit) JS1: Nicholas Hamilton JS2: Hugo Watson
Dates:	5.30 pm Note change	8.00am	9.30am
May 2/3 5th Easter	C: Phillip Youngman R: Bellinda Henderson Deacon Batsirai Stevenie Harman JS1: Felicity Tuballa	C: Kevin Balkin R: Kay Walker Mark Norbury John Lo Cascio JS1: Jacob Baptista JS2: Elizabeth Baptista	C: Matthew Hamilton R: Don Robens Lara Roser David Green Denise Robens (Visit) JS1: Hugo Watson JS2: Jonah Ellis

Reflection for Good Shepherd Sunday

In the early years of the 19th century, a Scottish family eked out a living in China. For their entertainment they sang hymns in the evening.

The second son always requested "The Ninety and the Nine" in which Jesus brings ninety-nine sheep safely home, then searches the deserts and other places for the missing one. Yet every time they sang it, he burst into tears. It became so distressing that his mother refused to sing it unless he promised not to cry when they sang about the poor lost lamb. The little boy promised but come the sad part, he turned away and cried silently.

That little boy was Eric Liddell, who would go on to become an Olympic athlete and devote the rest of his life to missionary work. Until his death in a Japanese concentration camp Eric Liddell lived his life with one purpose – to bring just one more lost lamb safely home. The parable of the lost sheep tells us that God deeply loves us and cares personally for us. He knows us all by name – we are valuable to him, and he will seek far and wide to bring us back home to be with him for eternity.

Sacramental News: First Holy Communion

Preparation for First Holy Communion starts soon. If your child is in year 4 or above and has received reconciliation, they are welcome to receive this sacrament. The dates for the program can be found on the notice board in the foyer and the parent information night is on **Wednesday 6th May at 7.30pm**. If you would like more information or to enrol your child, please contact the parish office on 4735 1041.

Scripture News- Term 2: Thank you to the SRE teachers for their hard work and continued dedication to this ministry. We are 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. Training, 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, blessings, Mary.

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.

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-3rd 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) for information on reconciliation, communion and confirmation.

Diocese of Parramatta Notices:

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities for May 2026

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Renewal Training will be held on 2 May at St Joseph's Parish, Kingswood. More training opportunities are available throughout May at different parishes. 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

Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers: 12 May

All liturgical ministers – readers, servers, extra ordinary ministers are invited to join us for our [Annual Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers](#). Families and friends are also invited. This celebration 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. To register please contact ofw@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795.

Adult Confirmations 2026

The Office for Worship will host a Catechesis and Formation Day for those candidates (16+) interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. This will be on Saturday 29th August, 9.30am – 2.00pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre in Blacktown. A light lunch will be provided on the day. It is recommended that all sponsors attend the catechesis day. A contribution of \$40 is suggested from the candidates to assist in covering the Catechesis Day. The Confirmation will take place on Tuesday 1st September, 2026 at 7:30pm at the Cathedral. Please Note: Enrolment forms and a copy of Baptismal Certificates should be sent to OFW before Monday 18th August, 2026. For more information, please contact the Office for Worship ofw@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795.

Feast days of the week:

April 27th – St. Zita
April 28th – St. Peter Chanel, Martyr
April 29th – St Catherine of Siena, Doctor
April 30th – St. Pius, V, Pope
May 1st – St. Joseph the Worker
May 2nd – St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor

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