

OUR LADY OF THE WAY PARISH, EMU PLAINS

What does the Lord require of you but to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8



19 Troy St, Emu Plains

Phone: 4735 1041

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Web: <https://catholicparishemuplains.org.au/>

Sunday, 5th April 2026 Easter Sunday Year A.

Welcome to the celebration of the mass.

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 138:18,5-6

I have risen, and I am with you still alleluia. You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia. Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.



First Reading *Acts 10:34. 37-43*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: ‘You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell

them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.’

Responsorial Psalm. *Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R. v.24*

(R.) This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say:
‘His love has no end.’ **(R.)**
2. The Lord’s right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. **(R.)**
3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. **(R.)**

Second Reading *Col 3:1-4*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God’s right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

Sequence

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer
sacrifice and praise.

The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;
and Christ, the undefiled,
hath sinners to his Father reconciled.
Death with life contended: combat strangely
ended!

Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to
reign.

Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon
the way.

The tomb the Living did enclose;
I saw Christ's glory as he rose!

The angels there attesting;
shroud with grave-clothes resting.

Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before
you into Galilee.

That Christ is truly risen from the dead we
know.

Victorious king, thy mercy show!

Gospel Acclamation

[1 Cor 5:7-8](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;
let us feast with joy in the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Jn 20:1-9](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*The teaching of scripture is that he must rise from the
dead.*

It was very early on the first day of the
week and still dark, when Mary
of Magdala came to the tomb.

She saw that the stone had been moved
away from the tomb and came running to
Simon Peter and the other disciple, the
one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the
Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we
don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to
go to the tomb. They ran together, but the
other disciple, running faster than Peter,
reached the tomb first; he bent down and
saw the linen cloths lying on the ground,
but did not go in. Simon Peter who was
following now came up, went right into
the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the
ground, and also the cloth that had been
over his head; this was not with the linen
cloths but rolled up in a place by itself.
Then the other disciple who had reached
the tomb first also went in; he saw and he
believed. Till this moment they had failed
to understand the teaching of scripture,
that he must rise from the dead.

Communion Antiphon. [1 Cor 5:7-8](#)

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed,
alleluia; therefore let us keep the feast
with the unleavened bread of purity and
truth, alleluia, alleluia.

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Let us pray: We pray for those recently deceased, and for those 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, 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.

Parish Notices:

Cuppa and a Chat: Please join us on Saturday April 11 after the 6pm Mass, and Sunday April 12 after the 9.30am Mass. All welcome!

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. Resumes Term 2, date tbc.

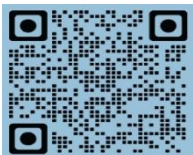
Children's liturgy: Every 4th Sunday of the month at the 9:30am Mass.

Upper Primary Youth Group (yrs 4-7) 2nd Friday, 7-8:30pm in the Parish Hall. Next Youth Group: **Friday, 10th April**

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.

Project Compassion: Please kindly return Project Compassion boxes and/or envelopes to the church or parish office as soon as possible.

Shalom World: Next weekend, there will be a brief presentation from Shalom World Australia at the conclusion of the 6pm and 9.30am Masses. Please visit <https://shalomworld.org/about-us>, or scan the QR code for more information.



Congratulations to *Leanne and Nicholas*, who were received into the Catholic faith at the Easter Vigil Mass last night. Congratulations, also, to *Arlia* who was baptised and received her first Holy Communion. May God bless Leanne, Nicholas, Arlia, their sponsors and families at this special time.

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am
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
April 11/12 2nd Easter	C: Trish Ryan R: Mary Balam Stevenie Harman Debra Gleeson JS1: Alex JS2: Felicity	C: Geraldine Waters R: Maria Sirotti Mark Norbury Barbara Ryan JS1: Elizabeth JS 2: Jacob	C: Denise Robens R: Marianne Castor Deacon Batsirai Michael Blair Kay Walker (Visit) JS 1: Rocco JS 2: Ottavia

Easter Message 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Christ is risen! Alleluia!

With great joy, I extend to each one of you and your families the blessings of Easter. This sacred season reminds us that light triumphs over darkness, hope over despair, and life over death.

The resurrection of our Lord is not just an event of the past, but a living reality that renews our faith and strengthens our hearts today.

Amid life's challenges, Easter calls us to be people of hope. It invites us to trust that God is always at work, bringing new life even from the most difficult situations. As a parish community, may we continue to support one another, to grow in love, and to be witnesses of the risen Christ in our daily lives. Let us carry the joy of Easter into our homes, our workplaces, and our community. May our words and actions reflect the peace, mercy, and compassion of Christ

Easter calls us forth for a response- a response of prayer, of renewal, commitment and deeper discipleship.

As the disciple ran to the empty tomb, so we are invited to run towards the Risen Lord with open hearts. Let our prayers this season be one of openness. Openness to God's mercy, openness to the needs of our brothers and sisters, openness to the mission of Christ entrusted to us.

As we celebrate these sacred days, let us hold one another in prayer, let us remember especially the sick, the grieving, the lonely, and all who long for peace that only Christ can give.

May the Risen Lord bless our homes, strengthen our families and fill our parish with renewed hope. Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and joy-filled Easter.

May the peace of the Risen Christ be with you always. Alleluia!

Fr Michael Gitau Gathuku PP Our Lady of the Way.



JESUS | TRUST IN YOU

Jesus Promised-"I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My mercy." *Diary 1109*

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
COME & CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY WITH OUR PARISH AT

**ST NICHOLAS OF MYRA CHURCH,
326 HIGH ST, PENRITH**

2:30PM on 12th APRIL 2026

- ❖ Blessing of Divine Mercy Image
- ❖ Chaplet of Divine Mercy
- ❖ Stations of the Cross
- ❖ Homily and Benediction
- ❖ Reconciliation till 5PM
- ❖ Afternoon Tea from 4:15PM-5:15PM
- ❖ Divine Mercy Mass 6PM

Parish Information

Parish office open Tuesday to Thursday from 9:00am 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, Sunday 8am, 9:30am

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.

Diocese of Parramatta Notices:

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 ofw@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795.

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/>

Rosary Workshops in May Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The evening will be held on the following days: Tuesday 5th May at Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown, from 7pm. Wednesday 20th May at Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown from 7pm Cost: \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for more information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops or ofw@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795.

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 to reserve your spot. For enquiries, please contact ofw@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795.

Saints of the week:

6th April – Easter Monday
7th April – Easter Tuesday
8th April – Easter Wednesday
9th April – Easter Thursday
10th April – Easter Friday
11th April – Easter Saturday
12th April – Divine Mercy Sunday



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