

# 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026 Fifth Sunday of Easter: Year A.

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

### **Entrance Antiphon** *Cf Psalm 97:1-2*

O sing a new song to the Lord,  
for he has worked wonders;  
in the sight of the nations  
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

### **First Reading** *Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.*

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, ‘It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.’ The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples

in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

### **Responsorial Psalm** *Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19, R. v.22*

**(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **(R.)**
2. For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**
3. The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**

### **Second Reading** *1 Peter 2:4-9*

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

*You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.*

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the

stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

**Gospel Acclamation.** [John 14:6](#)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me.

**Alleluia!**



**Gospel.** [John 14:1-12](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*I am the way, the truth, and the life.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father’s house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.’

Thomas said, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?’ Jesus said:

‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.’

Philip said, ‘Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.’ ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip,’ said Jesus to him ‘and you still do not know me? ‘To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, “Let us see the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. ‘I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.’

**Communion Antiphon** [Cf John 15:1,5](#)

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

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**Let us pray:** We pray for recently deceased Leo Mederos, and for Patrick McVeigh, Kathleen McVeigh and Maura McGill 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:** To support the needs of our Community, especially our older members, the Saturday Vigil Mass will now commence at **5.30pm instead of the usual 6.00pm**. This adjustment takes effect **this weekend: 2nd of May 2026**. Also, Tuesday's masses will begin at 5.30pm, and reconciliations times 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, OLOW)

**Cuppa and a Chat:** Please join us this Saturday (2 May) after the 5.30pm Vigil Mass, and then next Sunday (10 May) after the 9.30am Mass. All welcome!

**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.

**Playgroup:** Playgroup meets every second Tuesday (during school term) at 10am in the parish hall. *The next playgroup will be on 5 May.*

**Children's liturgy:** Every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at the 9:30am mass. *Next children's liturgy: 24 May.*

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

**Wrap with love knitters group** meets on Thursdays from 9am -12pm in the parish hall. For more information, please contact Judy Prendergast (0407101254). Any donations of 8ply wool would be gratefully accepted.

**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.

### Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	5.30 pm Note change	8.00am	9.30am
<b>May 2/3 5<sup>th</sup> Easter</b>	C: Phillip Youngman R: Bellinda Henderson <b>Deacon Batsirai</b> Stevenie Harman JS1: Felicity	C: Kevin Balkin R: Kay Walker Mark Norbury John Lo Cascio JS1: Jacob JS2: Elizabeth	C: Matthew Hamilton R: Don Robens Lara Roser David Green <b>Denise Robens (Visit)</b> JS1: Hugo JS2: Jonah
<b>May 9/10 6<sup>th</sup> Easter</b>	C: Trish Ryan R: Sue Schembri John Cowen Michael Manton JS1: Alex JS2: Josie	C: Maria Sirotti R: Geraldine Waters Mary Marsh Pat Edwards JS1: Elizabeth JS2: Jacob	C: Trish Boyle R: Denise Robens <b>Deacon Batsirai</b> Michael Blair <b>Beth Nowland (Visit)</b> JS1: Jonah JS2: Nicholas

**2026 National Count of Attendance** will take place over the first four weekends in May, commencing this weekend, 2/3 May. The National Centre for Pastoral Research, an agency of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, gather this information to provide valuable data to support pastoral planning and resource allocation across our Diocese and the wider Church.

### Sacramental News:

#### First Holy Communion

Preparation of 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 6<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm**. If you would like more information or to enrol your child, please contact the parish office.

**Scripture:** Scripture classes are held on a weekly basis at Emu Heights PS, Emu Plains PS and Leonay PS. We currently have a need for a Scripture teacher assistant to help in one or more classes a week. 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.

### Forthcoming Parish Feast Day:

The 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2026, is Pentecost Sunday. The joy of Pentecost gives life to the Church. That day, we will also be remembering our Parish Patron Feast Day- a moment of grace and unity for our whole community.

As we approach these special celebrations, please take note of the adjusted Mass schedule. To enhance this day and ensure fuller participation, we shall have **two** Masses on that weekend, rather than the usual three. There will be Mass on Saturday evening with Bishop Vincent being the main celebrant, and the other on Sunday at 9.30am. There will be no 8am Mass on that weekend.

**23/05/26: 5.30pm Mass, followed by supper**  
**24/05/26: 9.30am Mass, followed by morning tea**

Thank you all for your understanding and cooperation. We warmly invite every family and individual to join us as we gather in thanksgiving, prayer and joyful fellowship.

## Parish Information

**Parish office open Tuesday to Thursday from 9am to 3pm; Friday 9.30am to 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 5:30 pm, Sunday 8am, 9:30am  
Filipino Mass-3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month:12pm

## **Weekday Masses:**

Tuesday 5.30pm;  
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 4:30 pm.

**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:

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:ofw@parracatholic.org) or 0460 037 795.

### **Nominations open for the 2026 Papal & Diocesan Awards**

Nominations are now open for the 2026 Papal and Diocesan Awards, recognising individuals – both religious and lay – who have made outstanding contributions to the Catholic Church and its community. Do you know someone who deserves to be recognised? Nominations close at midnight on 30 June 2026. For more information or to submit a nomination, visit [parracatholic.org/contribute/papal-diocesan-awards/](https://parracatholic.org/contribute/papal-diocesan-awards/)

### **Free Legal Clinic – Catholic Care, Emerton**

Catholic Care offers free weekly legal advice every Thursday from 11am at 11 Emert Parade, Emerton. Areas covered include Family Law, Care and Protection, Local Court matters, Wills and Estates, and Traffic Offences. Bookings are recommended – call 8843 2500. Walk-ins are also welcome.

## Feast days of the week:

May 4th – St. Peregrine  
May 5th – St. Angelo of Jerusalem  
May 6th – St Dominic Savio  
May 7th – St. Augustine Roscelli  
May 8th – St. Boniface IV, Pope  
May 9th – St. George Preca

## 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