

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, 12th July 2026 Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A.

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 16:15

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

First Reading Isaiah 55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The rain makes the earth fruitful.

Thus says the Lord: ‘As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.’

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 144:1-2, 8-11, 13-14 R. v.1 Psalm 64:10-14 R. Lk 8:8

(R.) The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

1. You care for the earth, give it water,
you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain. **(R.)**
2. And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows,
you level it, soften it with showers,
you bless its growth. **(R.)**
3. You crown the year with your
goodness. Abundance flows in your
steps, in the pastures of the wilderness it
flows. **(R.)**

4. The hills are girded with joy,
the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **(R.)**

Second Reading Romans 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

Gospel Acclamation.

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God,
Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

Gospel. [Matthew 13:1-23](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew



A sower went out to sow.

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

Communion Antiphon Cf Psalm 83:4-5

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

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Catholic Care Food Appeal 2026

Our monthly food drive will take place next weekend 18/19 July. Catholic Care are truly overwhelmed your generosity each month and appreciate all that you give to assist their vulnerable clients.

They are currently experiencing an upturn in need and are having to ration food. They have requested cereal, pasta, soups, tinned fish and meat, rice in packs and ready to eat food for those who are homeless. Please place bags of food on the table at the rear of the church. Thank you once again for your very generous response.

Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased Mary Marsh, and for Aaron Youngman and Helen McInnes 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, Jacinta Yardin, Joseph Stipich, Jeremy Everett, Antony McLaughlin, Joe Gray, Michael Hatch, Phillip Fitzgerald, Jenny Griffiths, Greg Wood, Noelene Bangel, 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:

Cuppa and a Chat: Please join us after the 9.30am Mass this weekend, and then next weekend after the 8am Mass. All welcome!

Wrap with love knitters group meets on Thursdays from 9am -12pm. *During the winter months, we will meet in the Parish Office.* Any donations of 8ply acrylic wool would be gratefully accepted. For more information, please contact Judy Prendergast (0407101254).

Playgroup: Playgroup meets every second Tuesday (during school term) at 10am in the parish hall. *Playgroup will resume in Term 3. Date TBA.*

Children’s liturgy: 4th Sunday of the month at the 9.30am Mass. *Next children’s liturgy- 26th July.*

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

Life Ascending Meeting: Our regular meeting will be at 10 am, 15 July, at the home of Kay Walker, 197 River Rd, Leonay. New members are welcome! Life Ascending is a group for spiritual enrichment and friendship for the over 50 age group. For more information see the Parish Booklet available at the rear of the church.

Happy 30th Wedding Anniversary to Patrick and Debra Gleeson. May God bless you abundantly on this special occasion, and always.

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	5.30pm	8.00am	9.30am
11/12 July 15th Sunday Ordinary	C: Belinda Henderson R: Mary Balam Stevenie Harman Debra Gleeson JS1: Josie	C: Paul Ryan R: Alex Jarominek Mark Norbury Pat Edwards JS1: Elizabeth JS2: Jacob	C: Lisa Samojlowicz R: Joanne Hamilton Deacon Batsirai Lara Roser Kay Walker (Visit) JS1: Hugo
18/19 July 16th Sunday Ordinary	C: Debra Gleeson R: Sue Schembri John Cowen Anne Deutscher JS1: Josie	C: Paul Devlin R: Sue Mouthaan Deacon Batsirai Matthew Topp JS1: Rocco	C: Brett Wright R: Denise Robens Michael Blair David Green Beth Nowland (Visit) JS1: Jacob JS2: Elizabeth

Reflection for Sea Sunday

The second Sunday in July is known as Sea Sunday. First celebrated in 1975, Sea Sunday is now an annual event, an interdenominational day of prayer and remembrance, not just for those who spend their working lives at sea, but also for their families.

Sometimes it is all too easy to forget how hazardous the oceans can be, and how much we owe those who risk their lives while working tirelessly far away from dry land. A member of the Mission to Seafarers, famous for their Flying Angel symbol, once said that he believed people fell into three categories. Some, he believed, are like ancient canal barges because they only move forward when towed. Others are like sailing boats who only operate and function properly when there are favourable winds. The third kind are like lifeboats. They travel through all waters and all weathers, often against the tide, because they have not only the power within but a distant goal, too, that includes helping others out of trouble.

So, on this weekend which commemorates International Seafarer’s Day (July 12) let us try to be as single minded as these lifeboats and their courageous crews as we spend our lives providing a safe harbour within our hearts for God’s word to flourish within us so that we may spread the good news to all who are willing to listen.

PARISH VOLUNTEERS CAMPAIGN: Have you registered yet?

The registration of volunteers is ending **this Sunday, 12 July 2026**. Have you registered yet? Register and join 21 parishioners who have already registered. *“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”* (1 Peter 4:10). To those have already registered, thank you.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Parish Information

Parish office open Tues-Thurs from 9am to 3pm; Fri 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 5:30 pm, Sunday 8am, 9:30am
Filipino Mass-3rd Sunday of the month: 12pm

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday, 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 – 5:15pm.

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:

Persecution & Faith: A Witness of Courage and Forgiveness from Pakistan

Twenty-year-old Akash Bashir was serving as a volunteer security guard at his parish in Lahore, Pakistan, when a terrorist with explosives tried to enter the church. Akash said, "I would rather die than let you in," and then gave his life to prevent a massacre. In the years since, his parents have offered an extraordinary witness of Christian faith. Asked whether they had forgiven those responsible for their son's death, they replied: "Yes, we have forgiven them and pray that they may find the right path to God."

Their example reminds us that the Gospel calls us not only to courage, but also to forgiveness.

Reflection: Where may God be asking you to make a sacrifice out of love, or to forgive an injustice against you? Read more testimonies of faith from *Aid to the Church in Need* at: aidtochurch.org/welcome



From stories to solidarity – A table talk on Homelessness: 9 August

Join us for an afternoon of conversation, connection and community as we explore how relationships can inspire meaningful action on housing insecurity and homelessness. *What is the call to us as members of the Diocese of Parramatta? What strategies can we put in place?* What to Expect: Light refreshments, Table conversations in mixed groups, Practical action we can take together. All are welcome! Please register at <https://parracatholic.org/events/pje-table-talk-homelessness/>

World Youth Day Seoul 2027 Launch: 12 August Come and discover the pilgrimage to the 17th International World Youth Day in Seoul, South Korea (26 July – 11 August 2027), themed "Take courage! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Join us for an inspiring evening to learn about the pilgrimage, hear testimonies from past pilgrims, explore the faith and culture of the Korean Church, and enjoy fellowship with other young people. Date: 12 August 2026 Doors open at 6:30pm. Venue: Nagle College, 58A Orwell Street, Blacktown Register today at parracatholic.org/events/wyd27-launch/ We look forward to welcoming you!

Feast days of the week:

July 13th – St. Henry
July 14th – St. Kateri Tekakwitha
July 15th – St. Bonaventure
July 16th – Our Lady of Mount Carmel
July 17th – St. Marcellina
July 18th – St. Simon of Lipnica

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