

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 July 2026 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A.

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon *Psalm 53:6,8*

See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

First Reading *Wisdom 12:13,16-19*

A reading from the book of Wisdom

In the place of sin, you give repentance.

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there. By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 85:5-6, 9-10, 15-16, R. v.5*

(R.) Lord, you are good and forgiving.

1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice. **(R.)**

2. All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,
you who alone are God. **(R.)**

3. But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Romans 8:26-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

Gospel Acclamation.

See Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!



Gospel. [Matthew 13:24-43](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Let them grow together until the harvest.

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."

He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three

measures of flour till it was leavened all through.' In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfill the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Communion Antiphon [Psalm 110:4-5](#)

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful,
has made a memorial of his wonders;
he gives food to those who fear him.

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Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased Faye Dunne, and for Lance Scheiler, Don Cameron, Belinda Cameron, Emile Haddad, Alice Massey and Nicholas Mifsud 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 8am Mass this weekend, and then next weekend after the 9.30am 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 on 28th July.*

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.

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training : For those who need to complete Modules 4 and 5, face-to-face training will be held at Holy Family Parish Luddenham on 25 July from 10 am-1.30pm. Please register directly for this training by clicking on the training event at <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>. To check whether you are due for training, please contact Joanne in the Parish Office on 47 351041.

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	5.30pm	8.00am	9.30am
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
25/26 July 17th Sunday Ordinary	C: Victor Tuballa R: Isabella P Stevenie Harman Michael Manton JS1: Josie	C: Kevin Balkin R: Kay Walker Mark Norbury John Lo Cascio JS1: N/A	C: Trish Boyle R: Maria F Deacon Batsirai Lara Roser Denise Robens (Visit) JS1: Nicholas JS2: Ottavia

Vinnies Winter Appeal: Next weekend, 25th & 26th July, Vinnies will be holding their annual Winter Appeal. There will be a bucket collection after each Mass, and eftpos facilities and Vinnies envelopes will also be available. Thank you for your generosity as we support those in need this Winter.

Diocese of Parramatta 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!

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. Held on Saturday 29 August, 9.30am – 2.00pm at Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. A light lunch will be provided. 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 1 September 2026 at 7:30pm at the St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Please Note: Enrolment forms and a copy of Baptismal Certificates should be sent to OFW before Monday 18 August 2026. For more information, please contact the Office for Worship ofw@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795.

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 9am

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:

Celebrate the Feast of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop: Join the Sisters of Saint Joseph and Mary MacKillop Place as we celebrate the Feast of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop on **Saturday 8 August**. Make a pilgrimage to Mary's tomb, spend time in prayer in the Chapel, and celebrate the Eucharist with us at one of our Feast Day Masses: **8:00am & 6:00pm** – Chapel; **10:00am & 1:00pm** – Glen Roy Green (outdoors); The **10:00am and 1:00pm Masses will be AusLan interpreted**, and the **10:00am Mass will be livestreamed** for those unable to attend in person.

Other ways to celebrate Mary's Feast: Walk with Mary in Hope and Wonder – Online Novena: 30 July – 7 August | 7:30–8:00pm (AEST) | Via Zoom Wherever you are, you're invited to make an online pilgrimage through Mary's life. Across nine evenings, we'll journey through the significant moments that shaped her faith, courage, and hope, discovering how her story can inspire our own pilgrimage of life. Whether you're joining from interstate, overseas, or simply unable to travel, all are warmly welcome! Join us on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/92816949299>

Positions Vacant: Sacramental Coordinator – St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith.

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit at Our Lady of the Rosary, St Mary's: 13-26 July

Out of love for the Eucharist, St Carlo Acutis created a website that compiled the details of every recorded Eucharistic miracle. These miracles are moments of extraordinary grace, where Christ's real presence in the Sacred Host is manifested in some physical way. The Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition has since been made available for display in parishes throughout the world where people are able to spend time learning about these extraordinary events as a community of faith. Throughout this year, the Diocese of Parramatta is displaying the Exhibition at various parishes for people to come and see. Our Lady of the Rosary will be the second host parish from Monday 13th to Sunday 26th July.

Got your wedding plans under control? How prepared are you for marriage? Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life. We give you a chance to spend time together to strengthen and enrich your relationship. For further information visit our website: www.engagedencounter.org.au Choose from these Weekends: Aug 8-9, Nov 14-15, Feb 13-14

Feast days of the week:

July 20th – St. Apollinaris of Ravenna

July 21st – St. Lawrence of Brindisi

July 22nd – St. Mary Magdalene

July 23rd – St. Bridget of Sweden

July 24th – St. Charbel Makhlouf (Maronite)

July 25th – St. James, Apostle

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