

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, 26th July 2026 **Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A.**

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 67:6-7,36

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

First Reading [1 Kings 3:5,7-12](#)

A reading from the first book of the Kings

You have asked for wisdom.

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 118:57. 72. 76-77. 127-130.](#) [R. v.97](#)

(R.) Lord, I love your commands.

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than silver and gold. **(R.)**
2. Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live
for your law is my delight. **(R.)**
3. That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold.
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:
I hate false ways. **(R.)**
4. Your will is wonderful indeed;
therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light
and teaches the simple. **(R.)**

Second Reading [Romans 8:28-30](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

He predestined us to become true images of his Son.

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

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 13:44-52](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are

no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

Communion Antiphon [Psalm 102:2](#)

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.

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Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased, Faye Dunne and Julie Anne Avery, and for Vincenzina (Tina) Stanislas, Nicholas Mifsud and Yvonne Lesley Caws ('Bonnie') 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, Barry Smith, Stacey Mazzerella, Didi Barnes, Riley Beecham, Joseph Stipich, Jacinta Yardin, 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: Unfortunately, cuppa and a chat after the 9.30am Mass this Sunday has been cancelled. The next morning tea will be on Sunday 9th August after the 9.30am Mass.

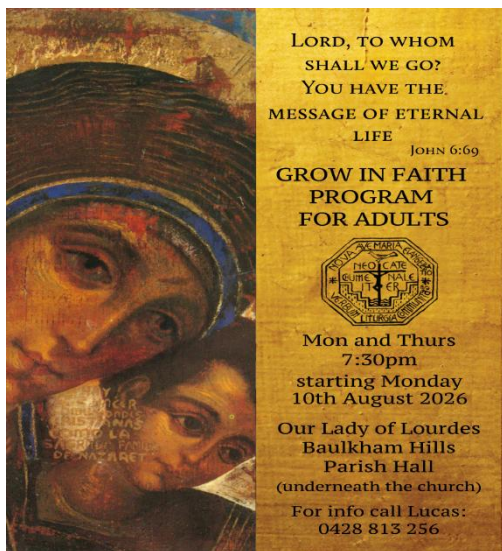
Wrap with love knitters group meets on Thursdays from 9am -12pm. *During the winter months, we will meet in the Parish Office.* Any donations of 8ply acrylic wool would be gratefully accepted. For more information, please contact Judy Prendergast (0407101254).

Playgroup: Playgroup meets every second Tuesday (during school term) at 10am in the parish hall. *Playgroup will resume on 28th July.*

Children's liturgy: This **Sunday, 26th July**, at the 9.30am Mass. A gentle reminder for parents to sign their child/children in prior to Mass commencing.

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.

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.



Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	5.30pm	8.00am	9.30am
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
1/2 August 18th Sunday Ordinary	C: Phillip Youngman R: Louise Goderie Deacon Batsirai Stevenie Harman JS1: Alex JS2: Felicity	C: Geraldine Waters R: Maria Sirotti Matthew Topp Barbara Ryan JS1: Elizabeth JS2: Jacob	C: Matthew Hamilton R: Marianne Castor John Cowen Connie Reid Rebecca Carberry (Visit) JS1: Jonah

Sacramental News – Confirmation:

The sacrament of Confirmation will begin soon, with the Information Night on **Wednesday 5th August**. If you have a child in **year 6** or above and they have received their first Holy Communion, they are welcome to enrol for this next awesome sacrament of Confirmation. The dates for the program can be found at the foyer of the church. For more information, please contact the parish office.

Tap and Go Collection Plates: Last August, we introduced a Tap and Go Collection plate, used at the time of the first and second collection. After reviewing the use and effectiveness of the collection plates, we have decided to change the pre-set amount of \$5 to a CHOICE of \$5, \$10, \$20 or \$50. If you would like to donate using the collection plate, please select the amount you would like to contribute and then tap your card. The donations from the collection plate form part of the second collection that is used to run the Parish, including insurance costs, utilities, wages, maintenance and church requisites.

Vinnies Winter Appeal: This 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.

Aid to the Church in Need: Together we can keep the faith alive - Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) Did you know that across the world tens of millions of Christian families are in exile following persecution because of their faith? Aid to the Church in Need is a spiritual and pastoral charity which seeks to keep the flame of faith alive in those places where it is at risk of extinction. **Next weekend, 1st & 2nd August, we welcome to our parish an ACN speaker who will share with us about the work of Aid to the Church in Need and how we can help our suffering and persecuted brothers and sisters.**



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND



Parish Information

Parish office open Tues -Thurs from 9am to 3pm; Fri from 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.

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

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

Get #Active4Vocations: Spur on Bishop Vincent and our Holy Spirit Seminarians This National Vocations Awareness Week, Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv and our Holy Spirit Seminarians will get #Active4Vocations in City2Surf on Sunday 9 August. Please pray for vocations and support our seminarians as they take on the 14km journey from Sydney to Bondi to promote priestly vocations. Spur them on with a donation at tinyurl.com/Active4Vocations. If you feel called to the priesthood, visit parracatholic.org/contribute/discern-my-vocation/priesthood

Feast days of the week:

July 27th – Ss. Natalie and Aurelius

July 28th – St. Alphonsa of India

July 29th – Ss. Martha, Mary & Lazarus

July 30th – St. Peter Chrysologus

July 31st – St. Ignatius of Loyola

Aug 1st – St. Alphonsus Liguori, 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