

# 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2026 Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A.

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

### **Entrance Antiphon** [Psalm 69:2,6](#)

O God, come to my assistance;  
O Lord, make haste to help me!  
You are my rescuer, my help;  
O Lord, do not delay.

### **First Reading** [Isaiah 55:1-3](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*Hasten and eat.*

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David.

### **Responsorial Psalm** [Ps 144:8-9. 15-18. R. v.16](#)

**(R.) The hand of the Lord feeds us:  
he answers all our needs.**

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)

2. The eyes of all creatures look to you and you give them their food in due time. You open wide your hand, grant the desires of all who live. (R.)
3. The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, call on him from their hearts. (R.)

### **Second Reading** [Romans 8:35. 37-39](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*No creature can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ.*

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Gospel Acclamation.** [Matthew 4:4](#)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

**Alleluia!**

## **Gospel.** [Matthew 14:13-21](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*They all ate and were satisfied.*



When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as

they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

## **Communion Antiphon** [Wisdom 16:20](#)

You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

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**Let us pray:** We pray for recently deceased Sylvia Organ, and for John Simpson, Margaret White and Bert White, 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:** Please join us after the 9:30am Mass on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August. 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. *The next playgroup will be Tues 11<sup>th</sup> August.*

**Children's liturgy:** Every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 9:30am mass. *Next children's liturgy: 26<sup>th</sup> July*

**Upper Primary Youth Group (yrs 4-7):** 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month, 7-8:30pm, in the Parish Hall. For more information, contact the parish office on 4735 1041. *Next youth group: Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August*

### Sacramental News – Confirmation:

The sacrament of Confirmation will begin soon, with the Information Night on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Vinnies Winter Appeal:** Thank you to Our Lady of the Way Parish for your support in our Winter Appeal, 2026. We raised \$3203.80. Your support is invaluable to us in continuing our good work in the local community. The Poor Box at the rear of the church is always available for ongoing donations. We are truly grateful for your support. *St Vincent de Paul team, Emu Plains*

### Readers/ Commentators roster:

| Dates:                                    | 5.30pm                                                                                                             | 8.00am                                                                                                  | 9.30am                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1/2 August</b><br>18th Sunday Ordinary | C: Phillip Youngman<br>R: Debra Gleeson<br><b>Deacon Batsirai</b><br>Stevenie Harman<br>JS1: Alex<br>JS2: Felicity | C: Geraldine Waters<br>R: Maria Sirotti<br>Matthew Topp<br>Barbara Ryan<br>JS1: Elizabeth<br>JS2: Jacob | C: Matthew Hamilton<br>R: Marianne Castor<br>John Cowen<br>Connie Reid<br><b>Rebecca Carberry (Visit)</b><br>JS1: Jonah                   |
| <b>8/9 August</b><br>19th Sunday Ordinary | C: Trish Ryan<br>R: Bellinda Henderson<br>Stevenie Harman<br>Debra Gleeson<br>JS1: Felicity<br>JS2: Josie          | C: Alex Jarominek<br>R: Paul Ryan<br>Michael Blair<br>Pat Edwards<br>JS1: Ottavia<br>JS2: Elizabeth     | C: Don Robens<br>R: Lisa Samojlowicz<br><b>Deacon Batsirai</b><br>Lara Roser<br><b>Beth Nowland (Visit)</b><br>JS1: Hugo<br>JS2: Nicholas |

**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.

**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. **This weekend, 1st and 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



**FREE**  
6-week self empowerment program for women who have left an abusive relationship

Do you want to feel safe again?  
Do you want to find your inner strength?  
Do you want the skills to set boundaries and take back power?

**Then A Stronger Me is for you!**

By participating in A Stronger Me and with ongoing encouragement from our supportive community, you'll gain the confidence, courage, and determination to rebuild your life.

**Call to find out when the next program starts**

**Where?** Lower Mountains  
**Who can attend?** Women over 18 yrs who've been separated from an abusive partner for 3+ months

**catholic care**  
WESTERN HUNTER AND THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

**Expressions of interest**  
Call 0422 876 700  
or 8843 2500

**Survivor Voice Australia Inc.**



### **Parish Information**

**Parish office open Tues to Thurs from 9am to 3pm; Fri 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 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](mailto:emuplains@parracatholic.org)) for information on reconciliation, communion and confirmation.

### **Diocese of Parramatta Notices:**

**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/](http://parracatholic.org/events/wyd27-launch/) We look forward to welcoming you!

### **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](http://tinyurl.com/Active4Vocations). If you feel called to the priesthood, visit [parracatholic.org/contribute/discern-my-vocation/priesthood](http://parracatholic.org/contribute/discern-my-vocation/priesthood)

**Annual Walk on the Solemnity of the Assumption: 15 August** Join the Annual pilgrimage walk on the Solemnity of the Assumption, beginning with 11:00am Mass at the Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents, Kellyville, followed by a 14km walk to St Patrick’s Cathedral, Parramatta. Refreshment stops will be held at St Michael’s, Baulkham Hills, and St Monica’s, North Parramatta. The pilgrimage concludes with prayers at approx. 6pm. Banners and statues are welcome, and you may join the walk at any point. For enquiries, contact Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Office on (02) 9629 2595.

**St Carlo Acutis’ Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition: 9-23 August** Designed by St Carlo Acutis, the first millennial saint, this exhibition documents reported Eucharistic miracles from around the world, and it is touring parishes right across our Diocese. Next, it comes to Our Lady of the Angels, Rouse Hill, from 9-23 August. Students, teachers and parishioners are invited, entry is free and no bookings are required. To see where the exhibition is heading next across the Diocese, visit [parracatholic.org/iec2028/](http://parracatholic.org/iec2028/)

### **Feast days of the week:**

Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> – St. Dominic

Aug 4<sup>th</sup> – St. John Vianney

Aug 5<sup>th</sup> – Our Lady of the Snows

Aug 6<sup>th</sup> – The Transfiguration of the Lord

Aug 7<sup>th</sup> – St. Sixtus II, Pope & Companions, Martyrs

Aug 8<sup>th</sup> – St. Mary of the Cross (Mary Mackillop)

### **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