

OUR LADY OF THE WAY PARISH, EMU PLAINS

19 Troy St, Emu Plains
Phone: 4735 1041
Email: emuplains@parracatholic.org
Web: <https://catholicparishemuplains.org.au/>



*What does the Lord require of you
but to act justly, to love tenderly,
and to walk humbly with your
God.” Micah 6:8*

We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land this Church was built.

Sunday, 16th August 2026 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A.

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon [Psalm 83:10-11](#)

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

First Reading [Isaiah 56:1.6-7](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for
justice, act with integrity, for soon my
salvation will come and my integrity be
manifest.

Foreigners who have attached
themselves to the Lord to serve him
and to love his name and be his
servants – all who observe the
sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to
my covenant – these I will bring to my
holy mountain. I will make them joyful
in my house of prayer. Their
holocausts and their sacrifices will be
accepted on my altar, for my house will
be called a house of prayer for all the
peoples.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 66:2-3 5-6. 8. R. v.4](#)

**(R.) O God, let all the nations praise
you!**

1. O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. **(R.)**

2. Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. **(R.)**

3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. **(R.)**

Second Reading [Romans 11:13-15. 29-32](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been
sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I
am proud of being sent, but the purpose
of it is to make my own people envious
of you, and in this way save some of
them. Since their rejection meant the
reconciliation of the world, do you know
what their admission will mean? Nothing
less than a resurrection from the dead!
God never takes back his gifts or
revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being
disobedient to God, and now enjoy
mercy because of their disobedience, so
those who are disobedient now – and
only because of the mercy shown to you
– will also enjoy mercy eventually. God
has imprisoned all men in their own
disobedience only to show mercy to all
mankind.

Gospel Acclamation. [Matthew 4:23](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel. [Matthew 15:21-28](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew



Woman, you have great faith.

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

Communion Antiphon [Psalm 129:7](#)

With the Lord there is mercy;
in him is plentiful redemption.

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ROSARY MAKING WORKSHOPS

BISHOP BEDE HEATHER CENTRE,
BLACKTOWN **7-8:30PM**

THURSDAY **20** AUGUST

THURSDAY **10** SEPTEMBER

WEDNESDAY **23** SEPTEMBER

THURSDAY **15** OCTOBER

THURSDAY **5** NOVEMBER



\$5 donation at the door

**REGISTER ON OUR
EVENTS PAGE:**



OR contact the OFW Team
ofw@parracatholic.org.au or 0460 037 795

Thanks from ACN: We want to offer our thanks to Our Lady of the Way Parish for welcoming us recently. It was wonderful to be present with the community at Mass, meet people, and speak about the work and mission of *Aid to the Church in Need*. We would encourage anyone who might have been struck by our work in support of the suffering Church to visit www.aidtochurch.org. Thanks, and God bless

Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased, Peter McIlvenna, Helene Tillott and Fr Eugne Stockton; and for Dr Peter Chang and Moira Thomas 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 8am Mass this Sunday, 16th August. Next weekend, we will meet 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. *The next playgroup will be Tues 25th August.*

Children's liturgy: Next weekend at the 9.30am Mass (23rd Aug). Parents are reminded to sign their children in prior to the commencement of Mass.

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. *Next youth group: Friday 11th September*

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.

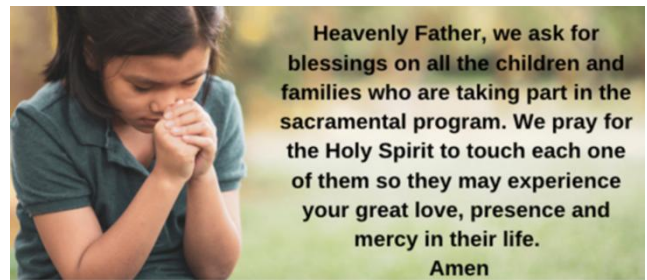
Life Ascending Meeting: Our regular meeting will be at 10 am 19th Aug at the home of Kay Walker, 197 River Rd, Leonay. New members are welcome! Life Ascending is a group for spiritual enrichment and friendship for the over 50 age group. For more information see the Parish Booklet available at the rear of the church.

Catholic Care Food Appeal 26: Our monthly food drive is this weekend (15/16 Aug). Catholic Care thank you for your generosity each month. They are requesting 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 for your very generous response.

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	5.30pm	8.00am	9.30am
15/16 August 20th Sunday Ordinary	C: Louise Goderie R: Sue Schembri John Cowen Anne Deutscher JS1: Josie JS2: Alex	C: Sue Mouthaan R: Paul Devlin Deacon Batsirai Matthew Topp JS1: Jacob JS2: Elizabeth	C: Brett Wright R: Joanne Hamilton Michael Blair David Green Kay Walker (Visit) JS1: Jonah JS2: Hugo
22/23 August 21st Sunday Ordinary	C: Victor Tuballa R: Sue Schembri Stevenie Harman Anne Deutscher JS1: Charles JS2: Alex	C: Kevin Balkin R: Kay Walker Matthew Topp John Lo Cascio JS1: Elizabeth JS2: Charlotte	C: Joanne Hamilton R: Marianne Castor Deacon Batsirai Lara Roser Denise Robens (Visit) JS1: Nicholas JS2: Hugo

Sacramental News: Please join me in praying for the children and their families preparing for their Confirmation on 20th September.



Safeguarding Training: "As part of the Diocese of Parramatta's commitment to ensuring all children and adults at risk are safe, respected, protected and supported in our care, **all staff and volunteers** in our parishes, chaplaincies, agencies, ministries and councils are required to complete Mandatory Safeguarding." (Diocese of Parramatta, 2026).

Volunteers are required to keep up to date with their Safeguarding Training, by completing the necessary modules every 2 years.

A Safeguarding Audit is being conducted in all Parishes across the Diocese this year.

We currently have a number of Parishioners who are due to complete **Cycle 2 (Modules 4 & 5), and a few who need to complete Cycle 1 (Modules 1, 2 & 3).** The quickest way to complete the training is online, and the link for the training is: <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au/>.

We also have several Parishioners who are due to complete **Cycle 3 (Module 6).** This can also be completed online via the link above. There will be face to face training for Module 6 at Our Lady of the Way in 2027 (date tba), and you're welcome to wait until then to complete this module.

If you are unsure whether you are due for training, please email Joanne at emuplains@parracatholic.org, or phone the Parish Office on 4735 1041.

Once you have completed the required modules, please email the Certificates of Completion to emuplains@parracatholic.org

Many, many thanks for your understanding and support in keeping up to date with the training.

Parish Information

**Parish office open Tues-Thurs 9am - 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:

Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary Centenary Jubilee Celebrations at Mount Schoenstatt,

Mulgoa: Come join us as we give thanks for the past 100 years and entrust the future to the
loving care of the Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt.

Date: Sunday 13th September **Time:** Please be seated by 9:45am for a 10am start. The
celebration is to conclude at approximately 3pm.

The day will begin with a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving with Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP
followed by light refreshments and an official program. Parish bus groups are encouraged.
An exhibition on the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary will be available for viewing in the Family Hall
from 8:30am – 6:00pm. To RSVP and for more information visit: www.schoenstatt.org.au

MET Natural Fertility: Sympto-Thermal Method (STM) Initial Instruction via

Teams: Tuesday 27 August, 7:30-8:30pm.

The most important symptom alerting
women to ovulation is used in all methods
of Natural Family Planning (NFP). The
Sympto-Thermal Method includes
measuring your basal body temperature,
which also confirms ovulation! This method
is 99.6% effective in postponing pregnancy
and helps couples identify the best time to
achieve pregnancy! If you would like to
refresh your knowledge and skills or begin
NFP then this is the session for you!

To register visit parracatholic.org/natural-fertility



Simplicity September

This September, simplify one thing in your life and discover what truly matters.

Sponsor yourself, your family or a friend to participate and raise money for **Palms International Volunteering**, Australia's only Catholic lay organisation that delivers international development and formation through long term international volunteering.

Join Australians across the country supporting Palms' work in the Asia-Pacific.

02 9560 5333 / 0422 472 567
www.simplicityseptember.org.au

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Feast days of the week:

Aug 10th – St. Lawrence, Martyr
Aug 11th – St. Clare of Assisi
Aug 12th – St. Frances de Chantal
Aug 13th – Ss. Pontian, Pope & Hippolytus, Martyrs
Aug 14th – St. Maximilian Kolbe
Aug 15th – The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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