

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

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

Sunday, 23rd August 2026 Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A.

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 85:1-3

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

First Reading Isaiah 22:19-23

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace: I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. **(R.)**

2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. **(R.)**

3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. **(R.)**

Second Reading Romans 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation. Matthew 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it.

Alleluia!



Gospel. [Matthew 16:13-20](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

Communion Antiphon [Cf Psalm 103:13-15](#)

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

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Suicide Memorial Service

ORCHARD HILLS



Memorial Service for Those We Have Lost

Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, together with White Lady Funerals, invite you to a memorial service to remember loved ones who have died by suicide or tragically lost their lives. The service will include the opportunity to plant a rose bush in our Garden of Remembrance, followed by light refreshments.

**THURSDAY
11 SEPTEMBER 2025**

10 AM - MIDDAY

Mamre House & Farm
181 Mamre Road,
Orchard Hills NSW

Free

RSVP by 8 Sep 2025

- Lisa, Catholic Care: 0439 917 129 or 8843 2500
- Christy, White Lady Funerals: 4731 4385

We recognise the deep suffering experienced by those who die by suicide and the grief of their families and friends. This service is a space to honour their memory, find comfort, and support one another through shared remembrance.

Counsellors and a Chaplain will be present throughout the event to offer support if needed.

If you're struggling, Catholic Care is here to help. Please contact us (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm) for a confidential friendly chat, or arrange to speak to one of our professional and accredited counsellors.

For help outside these hours, please contact Lifeline on 131114 (24/7 hotline).

Supported by:

**WHITE LADY
FUNERALS**
Penrith 02 4731 4385



Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased, Jim Goodwin (Mass of Christian Burial 28/08/2026 at 11am, OLOW), and Peter McIlvenna; and for Bill Allabyrne, Andrew Wiecek, Barry Bowden, Fred Lydamore and Neville Grosvenor 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 this Sunday, 23rd 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 25th August.*

Children's liturgy will be held THIS Sunday, 23rd August, at the 9.30am Mass. 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.

Bishop's Annual Father's Day Appeal:

On the weekend of **5-6 September**, the annual Bishop' Father's Day appeal will take place. This year's focus will be on Fr John O'Neill, recently retired Parish Priest of St John Vianney's, Doonside. This appeal supports all the retired priests of the Diocese, and your donations are very much appreciated.

More information will be provided next week, but if you wish to get in early, please visit

<https://parracatholic.org/donate/clergy-support-foundation>

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	5.30pm	8.00am	9.30am
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
29/30 August 22nd Sunday Ordinary	C: Phillip Youngman IR: Isabella P Stevenie Harman Debra Gleeson JS1: Josie JS2: Joseph	C: Maria Sirotti R: Geraldine Waters Deacon Batsirai Mark Norbury JS1: Jacob JS2: Elizabeth	C: Trish Boyle R: Matthew Hamilton John Cowen David Green Rebecca Carberry (Visit) JS1: Hugo JS2: Daphne

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



Safeguarding Training: We currently have a number of parishioners who are due to update their Safeguarding training. It is a requirement of the Diocese of Parramatta that all volunteers remain up-to-date with training by completing the required modules every 2 years.

We kindly ask that you contact Joanne in the Parish Office by Friday 4th September to find out what module(s) need to be completed.

You can complete the training online, via the link <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au/>

If you prefer face-to-face training, **Modules 4 & 5** will be offered at Our Lady Queen of Peace, Greystanes, on the 19th September. To register, please visit

<https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training> , or contact Joanne at the Parish Office.

Module 6 will be offered face-to-face at Our Lady of the Way early next year (date tba).

Once you have completed any of the required modules, please email the Certificates of Completion to emuplains@parracatholic.org. To contact Joanne at the Parish Office, please email emuplains@parracatholic.org or phone 4735 1041.

Many thanks for your understanding and support.

Married Couples' Retreat – Reflect, Renew & Reconnect: 5 September

Married couples are invited to a special retreat day, *Reflect, Renew & Reconnect*, on Saturday 5 September 2026 at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1 Marion Street, Blacktown. The day runs from 8:30am–4.30pm and includes Mass with Bishop Vincent, light refreshments, and lunch. Couples will explore topics including Expressions of Love, Living Your Vocation of Marriage, 7 Principles of Making Marriage Work, Creating a Marriage First Aid Kit, and a Couple Prayer and Commitment Ceremony. Cost is \$45 per couple. Places are strictly limited. Bookings are essential. Register now

at parracatholic.org/marriedcouplesretreat/.

<u>Parish Information</u> Parish office open Tues to 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.
<u>Diocese of Parramatta Notices:</u> Bishop Vincent Presents: Vatican correspondent Gerard O’Connell and Elisabetta Pique: 26 August Bishop Vincent, in partnership with the University of Notre Dame Australia and Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese, warmly invites all to a special public lecture featuring two of the world’s most respected Vatican journalists, Gerard O’Connell and Elisabetta Piqué. Hear their insider’s account of the historic transition from Pope Francis to Pope Leo XIV. Wednesday 26 August, 6:00–8:00pm, at St Patrick’s Cathedral Cloister Hall, 1 Marist Pl, Parramatta. All are welcome. Register at parracatholic.org/oconnellpique Be a Witness to the Holy Shroud of Turin Exhibition at St Patrick’s Cathedral: 6-13 September An extraordinary opportunity to encounter the mystery and history of the Holy Shroud of Turin. Show in the Chapel St Patrick’s Cathedral, Parramatta from 6–9 September 2026 — Open all day. 10–13 September 2026 — Open till late. And while you’re there, experience Be the Witness, a powerful musical exploring the life of Jesus through the eyes of Peter from 10–13 September 2026 at Riverside Theatre, Parramatta. ‘Be The Witness’ Musical: 10-13 September Arrives at Riverside Theatres Parramatta, 10–13 September. Presented by Mary Queen of the Family Parish, with a full cast and chorus now in place and rehearsals beginning this weekend, excitement is building. Gather your parish and book now at bethewitness.com.au Parish Feast Day Triduum & Celebration at St. Padre Pio Parish: 17-20 September All are welcome to join St. Padre Pio Parish, Glenmore Park in celebrating the Feast Day of St Padre Pio. A 3-day Triduum Novena and Mass will be held on Thursday 17 Sept and Friday 18 Sept at 7:00pm and on Saturday 19 September at 5.30pm. On Sunday 20 September, a procession will start at 10am, followed by the Feast Day Mass, Veneration, Blessing with his Relic and fellowship meal. For any enquiries: (02) 4789 2232 or glenmorepark@parracatholic.org	
<u>Feast days of the week:</u> Aug 24th – St. Bartholemew Aug 25th – St. Louis IX, King of France Aug 26th – St. Frances de Chantal Aug 27th – St. Monica Aug 28th – St. Augustine of Hippo, Bishop and Doctor Aug 29th– The Passion of St John the Baptist	<u>Parish bank details:</u> 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