# 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, 13th September 2026 Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A.

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

### Entrance Antiphon

Cf Sirach 36:18

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,
that your prophets be found true.
Hear the prayers of your servant,
and of your people Israel.

### First Reading

Sirach 27:30 – 28:7

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

*Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.*

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

### Responsorial Psalm.

Ps 102:1-4. 9-12. R. v.8

**(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.**

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. (R.)

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and
compassion. (R.)

3. His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)

4. For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins. (R.)

### Second Reading

Romans 14:7-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.*

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

## Gospel Acclamation. John 13:34

**Alleluia, alleluia!**
I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
**Alleluia!**

## Gospel. Matthew 18:21-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.*

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

## Communion Antiphon Cf Psalm 35:8

How precious is your mercy, O God!
The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

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**Let us pray:** We pray for recently deceased, Flavio Varnier (*Mass of Christian Burial 14/09/26, OLOW, 11am),* Florence Nyavor, Eva Klincke and Sheila Watson; and for George Charytanowicz whose death anniversary occurs 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, 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:

This weekend marks **Safeguarding Sunday**. We, at Our Lady of the Way, recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and people at risk.
We pray that our parish be a true sanctuary, safe for the smallest among us, attentive to the most vulnerable, honest with the truth, and faithful to the God whose love always protects.
*(Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd, 2026)*

**Cuppa and a Chat**: Please join us after the 9:30am Mass this Sunday, 13 Sept., and then next weekend after the 8am Mass. All welcome!

**Wrap with love knitters group** meets on Thursdays from 9am -12pm in the Parish Hall. 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. *Next playgroup: Tuesday 22nd Sept.*

**Children's liturgy:** 4th Sunday of the month at the 9:30am Mass. *Next children's liturgy: 27th Sept.*

**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.

**Bishop's Father's Day Appeal**: Honouring a lifetime of faithful service, we give thanks for our priests, who have devoted their lives to serving God's people. Many of our senior priests now need practical care and support as they face the challenges of ageing, illness and retirement. Your generous tax-deductible gift will help care for our retired and unwell priests and ensure they can live with the dignity, care and support they deserve. Please give generously at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal. **Envelopes are available at the rear of the church, and can be returned over the next two weeks via the collection plates.**

**Readers/ Commentators** roster:

| Dates: | 5.30pm | 8.00am | 9.30am | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **12/13 September**<br>24th Sunday Ordinary | C: Bellinda Henderson<br>R: Mary Balam<br>Stevenie Harman<br>Michael Manton<br>JS1: Josie<br>JS2: Joseph | C: Paul Devlin<br>R: Sue Mouthaan<br>Mark Norbury<br>Pat Edwards<br>JS1: Elizabeth<br>JS2: Jacob | C: Marianne Castor<br>R: Don Robens<br>**Deacon Batsirai**<br>John Cowen<br>**Kay Walker (Visit)**<br>JS1: Daphne<br>JS2: Nicholas | |
| **19/20 September**<br>25th Sunday Ordinary | C: Debra Gleeson<br>R: Sue Schembri<br>John Cowen<br>Anne Deutscher<br>JS1: Felicity<br>JS2: N/A | C: Kevin Balkin<br>R: Kay Walker<br>**Deacon Batsirai**<br>Michael Blair<br>JS1: Chelsea<br>JS2: Daphne | C: Denise Robens<br>R: Brett Wright<br>Lara Roser<br>David Green<br>**Rebecca Carberry (Visit)**<br>JS1: Rocco<br>JS2: N/A | CONFIRMATION MASS<br>12 Noon<br>John Cowen<br>Stevenie Harman<br>JS: Charlotte |

## Sacramental News

**Holy Hour for Confirmation Children**
Please join us on Tues 15th September from 6:30-7:30pm to pray for the children who are preparing to receive Confirmation.

**Life Ascending Meeting:** Our regular meeting will be at ***10 am 16 Sept*** 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 2026:** Our monthly food drive will take place *next weekend 19/20 Sept.* Catholic Care thank you for your generosity each month and appreciate all that you give to assist their vulnerable clients. **They are currently experiencing an upturn in need and are having to ration food. They have requested 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* once again for your very generous response

**'I am Catholic Cards':** We currently have a limited number of 'I am Catholic Cards' available. These cards can be kept in your purse/wallet in case of emergency. The cards also come with a card holder which can be kept in an accessible location at your home. The card holders have prayers printed on one side, and space to write emergency contacts on the other side. If you would like a card & card holder, please contact the Parish Office on 47 351041.

**SAVE THE DATE:** All volunteers are invited to a formation afternoon on **Saturday 10th October from 2pm-5pm in the Parish Hall**. More details to come.

Catholic Theological College
**Engaging Your Faith online presentations in October 2026**
From $25 per session.
For more information:
ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith

## Parish Information

**Parish office open Tues to Fri 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:

**Our Diocese offers a Healing and Support Service** providing pastoral, therapeutic and spiritual care to anyone who has experienced harm in a Church context. We provide direct support, resources, and pathways to assist individuals in their process of healing and recovery. Our approach is person centred, assisting according to each person's individual needs and circumstances. If you, a loved one or someone you know has experienced abuse in a Church context, you are welcome to contact our Healing and Support Counsellor lorena.portocarrero@parracatholic.org, or for more information **visit parracatholic.org/safeguarding/healing-and-support**

**Catholic Outlook Magazine- Season of Creation & Spring Edition 2026** is out now. Pick up a copy at the rear of the church, or read online at catholicoutlook.org/e-edition

**Ministry of Communion to the Sick and Dying Formation course: 17 October**
Are you currently taking Communion to the sick and dying in the Diocese of Parramatta? If so, please join the Office for Worship for a day of ongoing formation to further your knowledge and understanding of this important topic. Saturday 17 Oct from 9:30am – 2pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Morning tea and Lunch provided. For more information and to register before 14 Oct at parracatholic.org/events/ministry-of-communion-formation/

**Rosary Making Workshops**
Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on the following days: 23 September, 15 October, 5 November. Costs are $5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for more information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

**At the Well Gathering – Half Day Retreat: 19 September**
Centred on the theme "We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song," we will explore the hope at the heart of our faith and what it means to carry that hope in our everyday lives. Whether you're looking for community, creativity or formation, this Half Day Retreat has something for you. $35 per person. Limited spots are available. Register at https://parracatholic.org/events/at-the-well-retreat/ to secure your place!

## Feast days of the week:

Sept 14th – The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Sept 15th – Our Lady of Sorrows
Sept 16th – Ss. Cornelius, Pope & Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs
Sept 17th – St. Hildegard of Bingen
Sept 18th – Joseph of Cupertino
Sept 19th – Our Lady of Salette

## 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