

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, 6th September 2026 **Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A.**

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon

Psalm 118:137, 124

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

First Reading

Ezekiel 33:7-9

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94:1-2.6-9. R. v.8

(R.) O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R.)**

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **(R.)**

3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my
work.' **(R.)**

Second Reading *Romans 13:8-10*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Love is the fulfilment of the Law.

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

Gospel Acclamation.

2 Corinthians 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

Alleluia!



Gospel. [Matthew 18:15-20](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

Communion Antiphon Cf Psalm 41:2-3

Like the deer that yearns for running streams,
so my soul is yearning for you, my God;
my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

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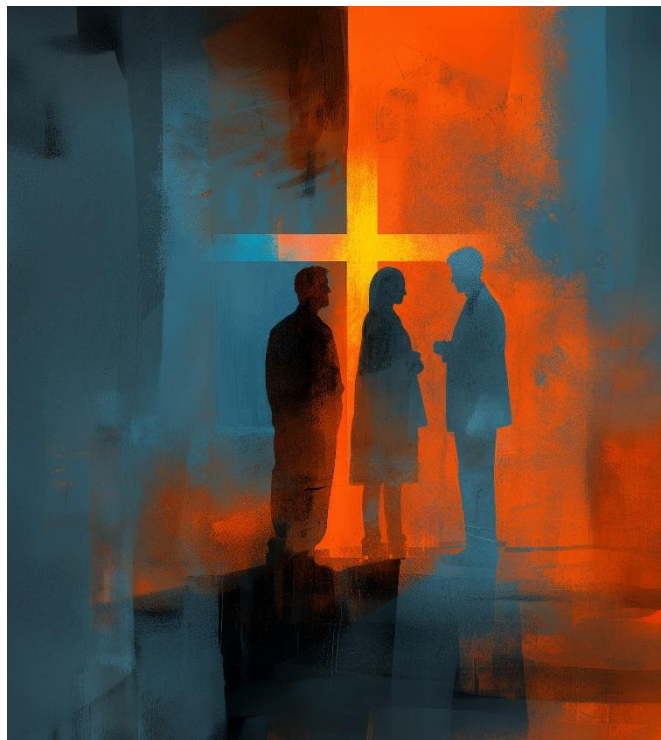


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*Prayers for former parishioner **FLAVIO VARNIER**, husband of Celia Carroll (former Parish Council President and Teacher at OLOW) who passed away 29/08/2026. The Mass of Christian Burial will be held at Our Lady of the Way on Monday, 14th September, at 11am. May he rest in peace.*

Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased, Gerry Bulters, Flavio Varnier, Florence Nyavor and Sheila Watson; and for Brian Maher, Jennifer Rist, Ron Mulock and Daniel Mederos 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, 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:

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

We would like to wish all the fathers, grandfathers and father figures a very Happy Father's Day. Thank you for all that you do and may God bless you today and always.

Cuppa and a Chat: Please join us on 13 September, after the 9.30am 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: *Tues 8 September*.

Children's liturgy: Every 4th Sunday of the month at the 9:30am Mass. *Next children's liturgy: 27 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. *Next youth group: Fri 11 September*

Bishop's Father's Day Appeal: Honouring a lifetime of faithful service this Father's Day, we give thanks for the fathers, grandfathers, mentors and spiritual fathers who have guided us with love, wisdom and faith. Among them are our priests, who have devoted their lives to serving God's people. They have celebrated the Sacraments with us, prayed with us, accompanied our families and helped bring us closer to Christ. After a lifetime of faithful service, 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 also available on the pews and can be returned over the next few weeks via the collection plates.

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	5.30pm	8.00am	9.30am
5/6 September 23rd Sunday Ordinary	C: Victor Tuballa R: Trish Ryan Deacon Batsirai Stevenie Harman JS1: Felicity JS2: Charles	C: Paul Ryan R: Alex Jarominek Matthew Topp Barbara Ryan JS1: Charlotte JS2: Chelsea	C: Lisa Samojlowicz R: Maria Michael Blair Connie Reid Denise Robens (Visit) JS1: Jonah JS2: Ottavia
12/13 September 24th Sunday Ordinary	C: Bellinda Henderson R: Mary Balam Stevenie Harman Michael Manton JS1: Josie JS2: Joseph	C: Paul Devlin R: Sue <u>Mouthaan</u> Mark Norbury Pat Edwards JS1: Elizabeth JS2: Jacob	C: Marianne Castor R: Don Robens Deacon Batsirai John Cowen Kay Walker (Visit) JS1: Daphne JS2: Nicholas

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



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.



SEASON OF CREATION

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On 1st September, we began a month of prayer on the **"Season of Creation"**, a special time when Christians around the world are invited to pray, reflect, and act for the care of our common home. The Season of Creation reminds us of something very simple but very profound: **creation is not ours to possess; it is God's gift entrusted to us.**

When we open the first pages of the Bible, we hear the beautiful words: *"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."* And again, God looks upon creation and declares that it is good. The earth is good because it comes from God. The oceans, rivers, mountains, forests and animals are good because they are God's work. And we human beings are also part of this wonderful creation. We are not strangers standing outside creation. We belong to it, and we have been entrusted with responsibility for it.

One of the great temptations of our time is to think that everything exists for our consumption. We see the earth simply in terms of what it can give us; what we can take from it, what we can buy, what we can produce and what we can throw away.

But the Christian vision should be different. The earth is first and foremost a **gift**. When we receive a gift, we don't destroy it. We treasure it. We care for it. We are grateful for the person who gave it to us. Creation is God's gift to every generation. We have received this earth from those who came before us, and we have a responsibility to hand it on to those who will come after us. (*Continued over page*)

Parish Information

**Parish office open Tues-Thurs 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.

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The care of creation is also a matter of love for our neighbour. Environmental problems do not affect everyone equally. Often, the poorest and most vulnerable suffer first when there are droughts, floods, fires, pollution, food insecurity and other environmental crises. Therefore, caring for creation is not simply about trees, oceans or animals. It is about **people**. It is about protecting the dignity of our brothers and sisters, especially those who have the least power to protect themselves. Jesus teaches us that the greatest commandments are to love God and to love our neighbour. When we care for our common home, we put that love into practice.

The Season of Creation is not asking us merely to feel guilty about environmental problems. It calls us to a **conversion of heart**. We can begin with small things. Perhaps we can waste less. Perhaps we can be more grateful for food and water. Perhaps we can consume more thoughtfully. Perhaps we can avoid unnecessary waste. Perhaps we can plant and protect trees, care for our local environment, or encourage our communities to make responsible choices. But even more important than these actions is the attitude behind them. We need to recover a sense of **wonder and gratitude**. The next time we see a sunrise, hear birds singing, walk beside the ocean, see a child playing in a park, or feel the rain falling, perhaps we can pause and say: **“Thank you, Lord, for this gift.”** Gratitude changes the way we live.

The **Season of Creation** is not about worshipping nature per se. We worship the **Creator**. Creation points beyond itself to the God who created it. Saint Francis of Assisi understood this beautifully. He could call the sun “brother” and the moon “sister” because he saw everything as coming from the loving hand of God. When we look at creation with the eyes of faith, we discover that the whole world can become a prayer.

The **beauty of creation** whispers to us: **God is good. God is generous. God is present.**

God has entrusted this beautiful world to us. So, as we begin this Season of Creation, let us ask God for three gifts: **First, gratitude** — that we may recognise creation as God's gift. **Second, wisdom** — that we may use the gifts of the earth responsibly. **Third, courage** — that we may make the changes necessary to protect our common home and defend the dignity of the vulnerable.

Brothers and sisters, we are not owners of creation. **We are stewards.** May this Season of Creation renew our relationship with God, with one another, and with the beautiful world that God has entrusted to our care. And may our lives become a prayer of thanksgiving. *Fr Michael G. Gathuku*

Feast days of the week:

Sept 7th – St. Regina

Sept 8th – The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sept 9th – St. Peter Claver

Sept 10th – St. Nicholas of Tolentino

Sept 11th – St. Daniel

Sept 12th – Most Holy Name of 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