

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, 18th October 2026 Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A.

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 16:6,8

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;
turn your ear to me; hear my words.
Guard me as the apple of your eye;
in the shadow of your wings protect me.

First Reading [Isaiah 45:1.4-6](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations
before his countenance.*

Thus says the Lord to his anointed,
to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his
right hand to subdue nations before
him and strip the loins of kings, to force
gateways before him that their gates
be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,
of Israel my chosen one, that I have
called you by your name, conferring a
title though you do not know me.
I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no
other God besides me. Though you do
not know me, I arm you that men may
know from the rising to the setting of
the sun that, apart from me, all is
nothing.

Responsorial Psalm. [Ps 95:1. 3-5. 7-10. R. v.7](#)

(R.) Give the Lord glory and honour.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the
peoples. (R.)

2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens. (R.)
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts. (R.)
4. Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness. (R.)

Second Reading [1 Thessalonians 1:1-5](#)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Thessalonians

We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the
Church in Thessalonika which is in God
the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ;
wishing you grace and peace from God
the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers
and thank God for you all, and constantly
remember before God our Father how
you have shown your faith in action,
worked for love and persevered through
hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you
and that you have been chosen, because
when we brought the Good News to you,
it came to you not only as words, but as
power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter
conviction.

Gospel Acclamation. [Philippians 2:15. 16](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

Gospel. [Matthew 22:15-21](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

Communion Antiphon [Cf Psalm 32:18-19](#)

Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

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Reflection for Mission Sunday

An unexpected email appeared in my inbox, inviting everyone to an evening Zoom meeting hosted by a neighbouring parish. It promised good company and stories of lives transformed by faith, and it ended with an invitation that was difficult to resist:

Everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be provided virtually—bring your own cup of tea. Admission is free: Someone Else Has Already Paid for You. Put like that, how could anyone refuse?

The life of Jesus Christ inspires and anchors us. He is our model of reconciliation and forgiveness, reaching out with love, acceptance and healing. His example teaches us that, when we do small things with great love and clear purpose, we learn from one another and strengthen our faith. During the long COVID lockdown, we journeyed together and stayed connected when we could not meet in person. Let us continue this journey, allowing our actions to draw us ever closer to the God who knows each of us by name and waits to welcome us into eternity with him. True mission builds faith, and faith comes from hearing. Through our words, actions and service at Our Lady of the Way, we can bring others closer to God. May each sunrise hold more promise and every sunset more peace as we work together in mission for the good of our parish.

Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased Alexander Blair; and for Niu Tupou, Fe Flores Diola and Emanuel Dimech 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, Jill McIlroy, 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:

Cuppa and a Chat: Please join us after the 8am Mass this Sunday, and then after the 5.30pm Vigil Mass on 7 Nov.. All welcome!

Wrap with love knitters group meets on Thursdays from 9am -12pm in the parish hall. For more information, please contact Judy Prendergast (0407101254)

Playgroup: Every 2nd Tuesday (during school term) at 10am in the parish hall. *Next playgroup 27 Oct.*

Children's liturgy: Every 4th Sunday of the month at the 9:30am mass. *Next children's liturgy 25 Oct*

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.

Life Ascending Meeting: Our regular meeting will be at 10 am 21 Oct in the Parish Office Meeting Room. 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. *NB change of venue for this month only.*

Welcome to the New Volunteers:

Four months ago, we invited new volunteers to support ministries throughout our parish, and the response was strong and diverse. Last weekend, the Diocesan Mission Enhancement Team held a formation retreat for our volunteers, facilitated by Deacon Batsirai and Michael Blair, whom we sincerely thank. Volunteers are vital to every parish, bringing its mission to life through their service. Together, we "act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God."

On Mission Sunday this weekend, we welcome the new volunteers who answered the call to serve. For the Catholic Church, mission is not simply a program or activity; it is central to the Church's identity. We are proud of the many volunteers serving at Our Lady of the Way.

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	5.30pm	8.00am	9.30am
October 17/18 29 Ordinary	C: Victor Tuballa R: Phillip Youngman Stevenie Harman Beth Nowland JS1: Josie JS2: Joseph	C: Kevin Balkin R: Kay Walker Matthew Topp Barbara Ryan JS1: Elizabeth JS2: Charlotte	C: Trish Boyle R: Matthew Hamilton John Cowen Denise Robens (Visit) David Green JS1: Rocco JS2: Jonah
24/25 October 30 Ordinary	C: Louise Goderie R: Trish Ryan Stevenie Harman Anne Deutscher JS1: Felicity JS2: Charles	C: Maria Sirotti R: Geraldine Waters Michael Blair John Lo Cascio JS1: Jacob JS2: Daphne	C: Marianne Castor R: Don Robens Lara Roser Kay Walker (Visit) Connie Reid JS1: Hugo JS2: Nicholas

Wishing Phyllis Goderie a very happy 95th birthday! May God bless you abundantly, today and always.

Mass for All Souls Day will be celebrated on **Monday, 2nd November at 6pm**. If you would like the name of a family member placed on the honour roll at our All-Souls Liturgy, please contact the parish office on 4735 1041 during office hours or email names to emuplains@parracatholic.org **before October 28**. A light supper will be served after Mass. *We kindly ask that, if attending, you bring a plate to share, and if possible, let us know what you are able to bring (by completing the form at the rear of the church).*

November Mass Envelopes: In November, we especially pray for the souls of the faithful departed. November Mass offering envelopes are now available at the rear of the church. Please print the names of your deceased loved ones **clearly** on the envelope, and they will be transferred to our Book of Remembrance, to be kept near the altar during the month of November. The names will be updated on a weekly basis. Envelopes may be placed into the collection basket or brought to the Parish Office from Tuesday-Friday. A voluntary offering may be included in the envelope.

Catholic Mission Appeal: This weekend is our annual appeal for Catholic Mission. "For Yamikani*, getting to school means walking long distances in pain, often without enough food or strength to make the journey. For many families in vulnerable and remote areas like rural Malawi, education has become an impossible choice. But there is hope. Led by Fr Matthew Semba, a new primary school is being built, offering children a safe place to learn, grow, and look ahead with renewed possibility.

This World Mission Month, you are invited to share in this mission, standing with families as they rebuild their lives and create a brighter future for their children." (*Catholic Mission, 2026*)

**Name changed for privacy*

Donation envelopes are available on the pews, and at the rear of the church and can be returned via the collection plate either this weekend or next weekend.

Parish Information

Parish office open Tues-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-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:

St Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition (11-25 October) St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, is pleased to host the **St Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition** from **11 to 25 October**. The exhibition, created by **St Carlo Acutis**, showcases Eucharistic miracles from around the world. All parishioners, families, students, teachers and visitors are warmly invited to attend. **Free entry. No bookings required.** Open during parish office/business hours only. For more information, please phone 4742 6958

Design the Catholic Outlook Magazine front cover for Christmas 2026! We're inviting *you* to design the front cover of the *Catholic Outlook Magazine's* Christmas and Summer 2026 edition! People of all ages from across the Diocese of Parramatta are welcome to submit their artwork for consideration. Let's make this Advent and Christmas season a canvas of faith and joy – together. Submit your entry by Friday 6 November 2026 – with a short description of your artwork – via parracatholic.org/artcomp

Serving at the Altar Workshop: 14 November A day of ongoing formation for acolytes and ministers of the altar will be held at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre on Saturday 14 November, 2026 from 9:30am-3pm. Morning tea and lunch will be provided. Topics covered: Basic structure of the Mass: including how various rites can be inserted into the Mass, practical scenarios of planning celebrations, the use of incense, benediction, planning Mass with the Bishop and time for all your questions. Please register by 9 November at parracatholic.org/events/ofw

Journeys of St Paul Pilgrimage: Fr John McSweeney will be leading a pilgrimage in April 2027, 'Journeys of St Paul'. A Pilgrimage information morning will be held on **Sunday 1st November 2026 at 11.30am in St. Canice's Hall, Katoomba**. More information about the pilgrimage can be found on the noticeboard at the rear of the church.

Feast days of the week:

Oct 19th - St. Paul of the Cross

Oct 20th - St. Irene

Oct 21st - St. Laura Montoya Upegui

Oct 22nd - St. John Paul II, Pope

Oct 23rd - St. John of Capistrano

Oct 24th - St. Anthony Claret, Bishop

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