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, 29th November 2026 First Sunday of Advent, Year B.

Welcome to the celebration of the Mass.

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 24:1-3

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

First Reading

Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence the mountains would melt.
No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm.

Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)

3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without

blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Gospel Acclamation. Psalm 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

Gospel. Mark 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

Communion Antiphon Psalm 84:13

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

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Let us pray: We pray for recently deceased Joe Gray and Audrey Turl; for Christina Mary Reeves and Joseph Charles Reeves whose death anniversaries are at this time, and for those in our Book of Remembrance. 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, Michael Hatch, Phillip Fitzgerald, Jenny Griffiths, Greg Wood, Noelene Bangel, Karen Allen, Julie Young, 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:

Christmas Mass Times:
Christmas Eve Children's Mass- 5.30pm
Christmas Eve Family Mass- 8.00pm
Christmas Day: 9.30am

Cuppa and a Chat: Please join us after the 5.30pm Vigil Mass on 5 Dec. 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 (school term only), 10am in the parish hall. *Next playgroup: 8 Dec*

Children's liturgy: Every 4th Sunday of the month at the 9:30am Mass. *To resume in 2027.*

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.

2027 Columban Calendars available for $10 each. Please see one of the church wardens or contact the Parish Office if you would like one.

Vinnies Christmas cards available for $10/pack.

Vinnies Christmas Appeal: Christmas can be a difficult time for many families in our local area. If you would like to donate to the annual Christmas appeal, envelopes are available at the rear of the church and can be placed in the 'Poor Box' or collection plate. Alternatively, please see Mel or Nicole at the rear of the church who have eftpos facilities available.

Christmas choir practice for the 5.30pm Christmas Eve Mass will be on Tuesdays at 7:30pm in the church All welcome!

2027 Daily Mass Books are now available to purchase from the Parish Office for $25.

Readers/ Commentators roster:

Dates:	5.30pm	8.00am	9.30am
28/29 November 1 Advent	C: Mary Balam R: Bellinda Henderson Stevenie Harman Beth Nowland JS1: Felicity JS2: Ottavia	C: Alex Jarominek R: Paul Ryan ***Deacon Batsirai*** Michael Blair JS1: Jacob JS2: Elizabeth	C: Don Robens R: Lisa Samojlowicz John Cowen **Kay Walker (Visit)** David Green JS1: Nicholas JS2: Chelsea
5/6 December 2 Advent	C: Sue Schembri R: Debra Gleeson ***Deacon Batsirai*** Stevenie Harman JS1: Alex JS2: Joseph	C: Jake Pearman-Sultana R: Sue Mouthaan Mark Norbury Pat Edwards JS1: Charlotte JS2: Daphne	C: Joanne Hamilton R: Brett Wright Lara Roser **Rebecca Carberry (Visit)** Denise Robens JS1: Rocco JS2: Jonah

Women's Refuge Christmas Gifts: Thank you for supporting the Women's Refuge by picking up a tag last weekend with a suggested gift idea. Please return gifts NEXT WEEKEND, 5th/6th Dec *with the gift tag clearly visible* and place at the back of the church. Many thanks for your generosity.

Bishop's Good Works Appeal – This appeal will support young mothers and their children with secure shelter, nourishing food, and the support they need to build a strong family life and a hopeful future. Please give generously at parracatholic.org/appeal**,** or giving envelopes are available at the rear of the church**.** Thank you for your generosity, Christian kindness and compassion.

Scripture Tree Initiative- Helping our Children Grow in Faith: Your help is needed to support the purchase of teaching materials and workbooks for our children in public schools. Many parents of these students financially support the program, but many cannot. **We invite you to buy an angel ($5), or a heart or star ($2) for the tree**. You can also write a prayer intention on the slips provided which will be presented at the altar with the Offertory. Any contributions are valued, and help support the Scripture ministry. Cash and eftpos accepted.

Finance: Where do the collections go?

1st collection	To the Diocese to support all the clergy
2nd collection (Includes envelopes, loose money, direct debit/deposit and credit card donations)	To the Parish for maintenance, insurance, utilities, sacramental programs, wages, etc.
Tap & Go collection plate	All taps go to the Parish
Tap & Go rear of church	A portion of the taps are sent to the Diocese, and the remainder stays in the Parish

If you would like to join the Parish Planned Giving program, that is, a program allowing parishioners to support the Parish by committing to a donation weekly, fortnightly or monthly, please contact Joanne at the Parish Office on 4735 1041, or email emuplains@parracatholic.org . Parishioners can **choose to donate using the envelopes, credit card or debit card.**

Parish Information

Parish office open Tues-Thurs 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:

2027 Liturgical Ministry Course enrolments are now open. The sessions include: Ministers of the Word, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick & Dying and Ministers at the Altar. **Enrolment forms available at the rear of the church**. **Please note that places are limited, and it is recommended to enrol as soon as possible.** Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

Christmas Fete at Bodington Wentworth Falls: 4 December. Catholic Healthcare is raising funds to help our residents tick off their bucket list wishes — every contribution makes a difference! Date: 4 December 2026. Time: 4.30pm – 7pm. Location: 6 Bodington Drive (off Tableland Rd), Wentworth Falls. Enjoy local stalls, a toy raffle, refreshments, BBQ, and festive fun for all. Come celebrate community, joy, and the spirit of giving!

Young Adults Advent Retreat: 5 December
Prepare for Christmas with a day of prayer, reflection and community at the Catholic Youth Parramatta Young Adults Advent Retreat. Join us for a special day featuring international guest Fr Patrick Briscoe OP, co-host of the *Godsplaining* podcast and speaker at Eucharist28. Fr Patrick will explore the theme: Held at St Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook, with Mass at 9:15am and conclude at 2:30pm. Register here: parracatholic.org/events/cyp-advent-retreat

Holy Family, Mt Druitt Christmas Carols: 5 December
Bring your family and friends for a joyful evening of Christmas celebrations! Date: Saturday 5 December 2026. Time: 7pm–9.30pm. Location: Holy Family Primary School Grounds (254 Luxford Rd Emerton NSW 2770). Enjoy carol singing, live entertainment, raffles, a free sausage sizzle and drinks, and a special visit from Santa! Everyone is welcome at this family-friendly community event. Event page: facebook.com/share/1EfirCGPHr

ETERNAL WORD TELEVISION NETWORK EWTN - the world's first global Catholic television network founded in 1981 by Mother Angelica a Poor Clare nun. Download the FREE app for 24 HOUR FREE PROGRAMMING available on smart phones and smart TVs. Watch programs on lives of the saints, history, miracles, spirituality and prayer, pro-life, childrens' and youth programmes, music and world news in addition to MASS, ROSARY, DIVINE MERCY, STATIONS OF THE CROSS, VATICANO and much more.

Feast days of the week:

Nov 30th– St. Andrew, Apostle
Dec 1st –St. Edmund Campion
Dec 2nd – St. Bibiana, Virgin & Martyr
Dec 3rd – St. Francis Xavier, Our Lady of Victories
Dec 4th – St. Barbara
Dec 5th – Bl. Philip Rinaldi

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