

Readings for next weekend — Fourth Sunday of Lent

First reading: 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13; **Second reading:** Ephesians 5:8-14; **Gospel:** John 9:1-41

The First Scrutiny: The woman at the well

The primary symbol in the reading of this Sunday is water. Water is a symbol of life, and it indicates that God wishes to give us life, as shown in the stories of the Israelites in the desert and the woman from Samaria at the well. The symbol of water also indicates baptism, and looks forward to Easter when this is celebrated.

Today's Gospel, the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well, tells us of a remarkable meeting. Jesus asks her for some water, but he also offers her living waters, promising eternal life. As the woman talks to Jesus, her life is revealed to her. This does not result in scorn or condemnation, but healing, forgiveness and new life. She sees the truth about herself and sees God face to face. Such a meeting, in sincerity and truth, is not to be feared but welcomed, because of the new life and freedom from the burdens of the past which it brings.

Through this gospel, the church is asking the elect: If you want to become a follower of Christ, does your heart really seek Christ... as the only one who can quench your deepest thirst? The world asks the question: 'What can I get out of life?' The Gospel's question is far more challenging and demanding: 'What does God want me to do with my life so that I may love God with all my heart and my neighbour as myself?'

So, in order to be able to accept Christ as the living water, the light and the new life, the heart must be scrutinised and purified. The Word of God therefore will uncover: the poisonous and stagnant water lying in their hearts. Jesus, the living Word of God, does not uncover to condemn or to judge, but in order to heal and forgive.

Please continue to keep the Elect in your prayers as they prepare for the sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

— Fr Gerard O'Dempsey OFM Cap

Volunteer Cook Wanted for Catholic Care's Houses to Homes program

Catholic Care's Houses to Homes program is seeking a volunteer cook to lead simple, hands-on cooking sessions for a small group of women once a month. Sessions run on a Friday from 10am to 12midday, with all ingredients provided, and conclude with participants sharing the meal together. All required screening and training will be supported. For more information or to express interest, please contact enquiries@catholiccarewsbm.org.au or call (02) 8843 2500.

Parish Registration

If you are a new parishioner, we ask you to complete a registration form. If you have not yet filled out a registration form, please do so as soon as possible and return it to the Church or parish office. Forms are available at the entrance of the Church.

How to Support Our Parish Family Financially

If you would like to become an envelope subscriber please contact the parish office. We would also invite you to consider your level of giving. For people wishing to contribute by direct debit – forms are available from the parish office. You can also setup your own internet banking recurring payments to the following account:

BSB: 067 950 Account Number: 00000495

Account Name: Plumpton Catholic Parish Church

- Tap & go machines are available for people to use. These are in the Church.
- Those who wish to donate to the Capuchin Friars (Priests), please make the recurring payments to the following account:

BSB: 062-410 Account Number: 10136478

Account name: Capuchin Franciscan Friars



Phone: 02 9832 4461

After hours emergency #: 0493 969 440

Email: parishof@goodshepherd.org.au



The Good Shepherd Parish Plumpton

Or visit our website:

www.goodshepherd.org.au

New Parish Projects—Meeting room and

Additional Toilets 06/03/2026

Donations \$31,280.00

Raffle tickets \$12,104.00

Legacy Donation \$46,000.00

Total Amount \$89,384.00

Revised Target Amount \$100,000.00

THE PARISH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

130-136 Hyatts Road, Plumpton NSW 2761

Celebrating Our 37th Anniversary

Parish Vision:

a place where all people are welcomed...

a place where the gifts of the Holy Spirit are put to use...

a place where people are empowered to live the good news of Jesus.

Weddings

Please call the Parish office for appointment.

Arrangements should be made at least 12 months in advance.

Holy Communion for the Sick

Please call the parish office for date and time.

Anointing of the Sick

Please call the parish office to book a time and date.

Baptisms

Parents and godparents must attend a Pre-Baptism Seminar prior to scheduling the Baptism. The seminar is offered once a month on the 4th Sunday at 2:00 pm in the Parish meeting room.

Please collect registration form from the Parish office. Baptism dates will be booked after attending the seminar.

3rd Sunday of Lent (Year A)

08 March 2026

1st Reading: Exodus 17:3-7

2nd Reading: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Gospel Reading: John 4:5-42

Entrance Antiphon:

*My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.*

Responsorial Psalm:

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

GOSPEL Acclamation:

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

Communion Antiphon:

*For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,
the water I shall give will become in him
a spring welling up to eternal life.*

Acknowledgement

We show our respect and acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Darug Country, Elders past, present and emerging, and extend that respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

Parish Team:

Parish Priest	Fr Gerard O'Dempsey OFM Cap
Assistant Parish Priest	Fr John Nguyen OFM Cap
Business Manager	Mr Owens Reyes
Parish Musical Director	Mr Jacob Wielgosz
Parish Social Media Officer	Miss Catrina Bautista
Parish Council Chairperson	Mr Anthony Matthews
RCIA Co-ordinator	Mr & Mrs Bernie & Yeng Banta
Sacramental Co-ordinator	Mrs Priscilla Corpuz
Parish SRE Co-ordinator	Ms Therese Fuller
Finance & Bingo Operator	Mr Romy Balite
Safeguarding Champion	Mr Joseph Fenech

Daily MASS Times

Mon/Tue/Fri 9:00 am
Wednesday 9:00 am & 7:30 pm
Thursday 9:00 am & **7:00 pm (Vietnamese)**
First Friday 7:30 pm (with Adoration)
Saturday 8:00 am

Weekend MASS Times

Saturday Vigil 6:00 pm
Sunday 7:00 am, 9:00 am & 6:00 pm
12:00 pm **(Vietnamese)**

Spanish Mass Every 2nd Saturday of each month 7:30 pm

Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday 10:30 to 11:30 am
Kindly ring Parish Office to book for other times during the week.

Baptism Seminar

The next seminar will be held on the **22nd of March 2026 at 2:00 pm** in the **Parish meeting room**. Please bring a copy of your child's **birth certificate**.

Parish Based Youth Group – Antioch

Young people are empowered & nourished in their spiritual Journey and leadership. We have a youth group meeting every Sunday at 7:30 pm. We invite the youth for "Come and See" experience.

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION for MARCH

For disarmament and peace.

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

"The living water that is the Holy Spirit quenches our lives because it tells us that we are loved by God as His children..."

— Pope Francis

Please remember those for whom prayers have been requested

Death Anniversaries / In Memoriam: Anna, Aurora, Ireneo, Joseph, Maria, John Apap, Jesus Balasa, Vilma Calan, Dominador Natividad Jr and all the holy souls in purgatory

Healing / Good Health: Gloria, Antoinette Aguas, Celine Cosme, Anne Miller, Peter Nathan, Maria Perez, Juan Junior Redoblado and Diana Rodriguez

Anniversary / Birthday / Thanksgiving / Special Intention: Mila Dadat, T Fernandes, Rosa Sharp, Alma & Joseph Perez De Tagle and Mariana Uru

We also remember in our prayers our housebound brothers & sisters

Belenor & Julian AGUILAR, John ANGEL, Mafalda ARACO, Raylina AURE, Christine BAPTISTE, Doris & John BARRETT, Margaret BIEDRZYCKA, Jacqueline CAMERON, Conception CAPIENDO, Anthony CARRUNA, Frances CARUANA, George CASSAR, Gwen & Robert CHAMBERS, Rita CLEARY, Clare DONOHOE, Matthew DORRAN, Paul DWYER, Mario FARRUGIA, Wayne & Audrey FERNANDEZ, Jean-Marie & Marie-Claude FREDERIC, Foleletina FRETTON, Louise GRECH, Alamita HALA, Eden & Ninoy JUCO, John KNIGHT, Maureen KNIGHT, Nabil LABBAD, Malia LAVALU, Lima LEO, Francis LLOYD GOULD, Gwenda MCCARTHY, Rita & Victor MELI, Teresa MESSIANA, Anne MILLER, Kathleen MORRISSEY, Deidre MURRAY, Mary MUSCAT, Elsie NONEY, Pamela PEARSON, Marie PURCELL, Melecia REA, Gloria ROBERTS, Lilly SHAHOUD, Mary SIMMONS, Marian STEWART, Vivienne STEWART, Anthony & Natalina TEUMA, Raymond TOGHILL, Margaret TSENG, John VAIFALE, Sesilia VAVE, Augustina VELLA, Russell & Mary WICKRAMASINGHE and Joan WREN.

Easter Triduum

Holy Thursday 02 April 2026 (no morning Mass):

- Mass of the Lord's Supper – 7:30 pm
- Evening Prayer at the Altar of Repose – 11:00 pm

Good Friday 03 April 2026:

- Morning Prayer – 7:30 am
- Stations of the Cross (Parish Hall) – 10:00 am
- Liturgy of the Passion – 3:00 pm
- Vietnamese Liturgy of the Passion – 6:00 pm

Holy Saturday 04 April 2026:

- Morning Prayer – 7:30 am
- Reconciliation – 10:30 to 11:30 am
- Easter Vigil Mass – 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday 05 April 2026:

- 7:00 am
- 9:00 am
- 12 noon (Vietnamese)

Note: There will be no 6:00pm Mass on Easter Sunday

Parish & Diocesan News

Courtesy and Care in the Car-park

Last Sunday at the 9:00am Mass a parishioner's car was scratched by another – sadly the offending driver left no details! Perhaps a little less haste in being the first out of the car-park at the end of Mass, attention to one's driving, and most of all, a sense of honesty would not go astray!

Planned giving envelopes

There are planned giving envelopes still available at the entrance of the church.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS reenactment on Good Friday

For anyone interested in joining the parish reenactment of the stations of the cross please contact Andrea 0452020788 or Isaac 0407067080.

24 Hours for the Lord at Mount Schoenstatt: 13-14 March

Come and spend time with our Lord and His Mother in the Schoenstatt Shrine. Begin: Friday 13th March 6:30pm with Holy Mass (followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation) End: Saturday 14th March 5:30pm with Holy Mass (Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available from 4pm). Please bring a plate to share for the fellowship on Friday evening after mass. Contact Sr M. Rita 0493026628 srrita@schoenstatt.org.au to be added to the roster to secure a time of adoration.

How to receive Holy Communion:

1. Join the procession (it's one of 5 processions at Mass) and join in the singing of the Communion Hymn.
2. When you arrive before the priest/ minister: bow your head in reverence, have your hands ready – one on top of the other, forming a **throne to receive the Body of Christ**. He/she will say "The Body of Christ" to which you reply "Amen" Then you consume the host before moving on to the chalice or returning to your place.
3. You may choose to receive Holy Communion on the tongue – the procedure is similar – as you arrive before the priest/ minister, bow your head in reverence, he/she will say "The Body of Christ" to which you reply "Amen", then you stick your tongue out to receive the Host. (Simply opening your mouth is not enough!...this is an issue of hygiene) Then you may move on to the chalice or return to your place.
4. Should you wish to receive from the chalice, bow your head in reverence, the priest/ minister will say: "The Blood of Christ" to which you reply "Amen", then you take the chalice, take a sip and return it to the priest/ minister then return to your place.
5. When you have returned to your place, continue joining in the Communion hymn, the time for private prayer is period of silence when Holy Communion is finished.

Coming Events:

- Tuesday March 10th: Finance Committee 7.30pm
- Friday March 13th: Stations of the Cross at 7.30pm followed by Reconciliation.