

Readings for next weekend — Fifth Sunday of Lent

First reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14; **Second reading:** Romans 8:8-11; **Gospel:** John 11:1-45

I was blind, but now I see.

This key line from today's gospel will call to mind one of the most popular hymns in Christian history "Amazing Grace." Now over 250 years old, the text of this hymn has a very rich history.

The words (not the tune) were written by John Newton, an eighteenth-century British man who had once earned his living as a slave ship captain. Following a harrowing experience during a storm at sea in which he called upon God's mercy, Newton under-went a long process of conversion – he continued captaining slave ships for several years after this experience – eventually he gave it away and went on to study theology, being ordained a priest of the Church of England at the age of thirty-nine. He took up ministry as an assistant priest in the parish of Saint Peter and Saint Paul in Onley (London), where he was known for his inspiring preaching. Around Christmas 1772 he wrote the words of "Amazing Grace".

The hymn was generally unknown in England, but became enormously popular in the early 1800s in the U.S.A. among Christians of many denominations, with the help of the massive 'revivalist' movement that swept the nation at that time. It was also embraced by those wishing to abolish slavery.

In the 1960s the hymn became associated with the American Civil rights movement, often being sung at rallies led by Martin Luther King Jr.

Today's gospel account of the man born blind provides a great opportunity to reflect prayerfully on the words of the hymn.

— 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@catholiccarewbsm.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 13/03/2026

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.

4th Sunday of Lent (Year A)

15 March 2026

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel Reading: John 9:1-41

Entrance Antiphon:

*Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.*

Responsorial Psalm:

*The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.*

GOSPEL Acclamation:

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

Communion Antiphon:

*The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed,
I saw and I believed in God.*

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**.

Congratulations for last Weekends' Baptism

Jonah Nelson Cabusas
Theo Johnson
Julianna Armocilla Lardizabal
Aiden Patrick Ngai

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.

Please remember those for whom prayers have been requested

Death Anniversaries / In Memoriam: Augusto Aceveda, Remedios Balais, Rosalino Luis Pereira da Cunha, Rainer Cruz, Ann Gaffney, Rodolfo Galvez, Marcus Pereira, P Rodrigues, J Villadolid and all the holy souls in purgatory

Healing / Good Health: Gloria, Michael, Mark, Tesy, Antoinette Aguas, William Calura, Anne Miller, Peter Nathan, Maria Perez and Juan Junior Redoblado

Anniversary / Birthday / Thanksgiving / Special Intention: Gloria Dado

We also remember in our prayers our housebound brothers & sisters

Lynette, Mary, Russell, Yvonne, 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 CLEARLY, Clare DONOHOE, Matthew DORRAN, Paul DWYER, Mario FARRUGIA, Wayne & Audrey FERNANDEZ, Jean-Marie & Marie-Claude FREDERIC, Fololetina 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, Joan WREN, Espedito & Kitty ZAMMIT

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

What is the Easter Triduum all about?

Fr. Gerard will give a presentation on this topic on Monday March 30th at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room – **all are welcome**.

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.

YFCA Entry Camp

Youth for Christ Australia (YFCA) is a Catholic youth group for teenagers 14-19 years old. YFCA is having an entry camp on April 17-19 at Scout Bundilla Camp, Winston Hills. For inquiries, please contact Jeff on 0401410350 or RoseVi on 0416245254 or use the QR code to register.



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:

- Thursday March 19th: 10.00am Mass at Southern Cross Village.
- Friday March 20th: 7.30pm Stations of the cross followed by reconciliation.
- Saturday March 21st: 9.00am Rehearsal for servers and acolytes (MofA) for Holy Thursday and Good Friday liturgies.
- Saturday & Sunday March 21st & 22nd: St Vincent de Paul leaving collection.
- Sunday March 22nd: Sausage Sizzle following the 6.00pm Sunday Mass (donations towards WYD).