

Readings for next weekend — The Baptism of the Lord

First reading: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; **Second reading:** Acts 10:34-38; **Gospel:** Matthew 3:13-17

Guide us to thy perfect light

In some Christian traditions, the magi statues arrive at the Christmas Crib today, having made the long journey around a home or church. With our Nativity scene complete, we observe what is a rather diverse crowd: the wise men, some animals, Mary, Joseph and the baby, shepherds and some sheep. It's worth noting how tender this moment is. Despite the incarnation being an absolutely critical part of God's saving plan and the Most important event that has ever taken place in the history of the world, the Nativity is witnessed only by this small group of strangers. God comes to earth to save humanity, and for a few quiet moments, only a handful of people know that he has finally been born.

Aside from the arrival of the wise men, the Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of Christ to the world. He comes to embrace all peoples, especially those who find themselves cut off or separated from love, wholeness, peace and justice. All of the individuals gathered on this holy night have generously responded to the call of God and have heeded his voice. And now, having been guided by their faith and the light of the star, having met Emmanuel (God-with-us), they go forth by a different way and their lives are forever changed.

Our encounters with Christ – which at times are private and personal – always impel us to enact and share our faith in bold and radical ways. Each interaction with Jesus is a gift of grace that manifests in us a more authentic love, a deeper desire to be forgiven and to forgive, a new way to live out our vocation (married, single, religious). As we experience God-with-us and the faithfulness of God who has a plan for us (and our salvation), we are moved to share the gift of Christ with all people.

In the coming year there will be many opportunities for us to share the gift of Christ with other people and each other. Principally, we will be engaging in Alpha (beginning May 4th) as the primary means of evangelization. There will be Lenten reflection groups available, Parish-in-Council will be happening, Parish Expo in October and many other wonderful things are in preparation.

Point for reflection: *St. Paul's letter in today's 2nd reading addresses the conflict over whether both Jews and Gentiles were recipients of God's promises in Jesus. In whom do you most struggle to see God's face? Whom should we welcome in our parish community?*

— Fr Gerard O'Dempsey OFM Cap

Parish & Diocesan News continued

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 02/01/2026

Donations	\$30,580.00
Raffle tickets	\$12,104.00
Legacy Donation	\$46,000.00
Total Amount	\$88,684.00

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.

The Epiphany of the Lord (Year A)

04 January 2026

1st Reading: *Isaiah 60:1-6*

2nd Reading: *Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6*

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 2:1-12*

Entrance Antiphon: *Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;
and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.*

Responsorial Psalm: *Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*

GOSPEL Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia!
We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.
Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: *We have seen his star in the East,
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.*

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.



Please remember those for whom prayers have been requested

Death Anniversaries / In Memoriam: Maria, Peter, Reuben Alinsub, Ester Brillantes, Balbino Dela Rea, Leah D'Souza, Linton Fernandas, Paquito Gozon, Christina Piri Kavana, Maria Lee, Joyce Littlemore, Inocentes Lontayao, Kieren Marquillero, Sancho Natividad Sr, Consuelo Pacheco, Joseph Pham, Emmanuel Pineda, Emanuel Refalo, Paul Simpson, Lionel Swift, Capistrano Toleran, Anne Van Ross, George Zammit and all the holy souls in purgatory

Healing / Good Health: Stella Azzopardi, George Cheriyan, Mila Dadat, Neil Mercado, Anne Miller, Peter Nathan, Maria Perez and Michelle Reyes

Anniversary / Birthday / Thanksgiving: Erlinda & Solde, Charmaine & Lorensz, Sally, Shanida Macabuag, Fernandes-Mohtaj family and Fr Jervis D'Souza

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, 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, Falaniko and 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.

Parish & Diocesan News

New Carpark and Disabled Parking Spaces

The carpark at the back of the Church is now open. **Please follow the signs and arrows:** Angle parking – nose in first, both sides. We also have 3 new disabled parking spaces close to the Church – please reverse park on these spaces.

Bible Study in Our Parish Community

Young couples are invited to a monthly Bible Study starting February 2026 – exploring faith, love, and relationships through Scripture as we learn and grow together in Christ. At 33 Drysdale Crescent, Plumpton. Please contact Anto on 0470 245 477 if you are interested in joining the group. First Friday of every month starting February 6th at 6:00 – 7:00pm.

Santo Niño Fiesta Celebration

The 6th day Novena in preparation for the celebration of the Santo Niño Fiesta will be held at the Good Shepherd Parish Church on January 13th 2026 Tuesday at 7:00pm. The Santo Niño Fiesta celebration will be on January 18th 2026 Sunday with a Mass at 2:00pm at St Patrick's Church Blacktown. For more information regarding other Novena days and venues please refer to the poster on the parish notice board.

Liturgical Ministry Formation Course returns for 2026

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Course will be returning in February 2026. Enrolment forms are available at the parish office or see one of the priests. To avoid disappointment, **please submit the signed enrolment forms** to the parish office or email to parishof@goodshepherd.org.au before **Friday January 16th 2026**. Please visit parracatholic.org/liturgical-ministry-course for more information about this course or contact the parish office on 02 9832 4461.

Sing a New Song Music Workshop for Children: January 21st

Do you have a **child in Year 4-12**? Invite them to come along to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. The workshop will be held on **Wednesday January 21st 2026 from 9:30am to 2:00pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta**. Morning tea and lunch provided. Student participants will form a choir that will sing at the Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Sunday 25 January at 11:00am. To register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/OURuFAeThA>

Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January. For one week, the Diocese of Parramatta will come alive with celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who have enriched our parishes, schools and communities. Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross.

Plastic Tops of Bottles Needed for a Wheelchair

Stella Vella from the St Nicholas Festa Committee is saving the plastic tops of bottles in order to obtain a motorised wheelchair for a disabled person. There will be a box provided on the kitchen veranda (near where the boiling water is served for drinks). It takes a lot of tops to obtain a wheelchair so please help Stella and drop your bottle tops in the box provided.

Comings and goings:

Br. Gerard and Fr. Paul are on their annual leave as of yesterday, we look forward to their return refreshed and renewed for the year ahead. Br. Isaac Webb, a Capuchin Friar student will be joining our community from January 8th until early February. Br. Isaac is in his third year of formation for priesthood (and a fellow Queenslander!).