Readings for next weekend — Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First reading: *Ezekiel 18:25-28;* ***Second reading:*** *Philippians 2:1-11;* ***Gospel:*** *Matthew 21:28-32*

The Season of Creation (Living Water)

Continuing our reflection on Ezekiel 47:1-12. Ezekiel describes the building of a new temple in chapters 40 to 46. Chapter 47 introduces new life. Here the prophet is brought in a vision to the entrance of a future temple. From beneath its threshold flows water that begins as a trickle and gradually becomes an ever-deepening river – too deep to cross. This river flows through lands once barren, transforming deserts into fertile deltas, restoring fish, vegetation, and even healing the salt-laden waters of the Dead Sea.

The river of life in the prophet's vision, represents a renewal that extends beyond human salvation to include the healing of creation itself. The trees whose leaves are "for healing" suggest not only physical sustenance but holistic flourishing.

Ezekiel's vision reframes water as a divine agent of renewal, justice, and hope, a life-giving force flowing from God's sanctuary. In Ezekiel's time, water, a very precious commodity, was considered a symbol of divine presence and blessing. Great civilizations depended on mighty rivers such as the Nile, as well as the Euphrates and the Tigris which were the two rivers that watered the ancient garden of Eden (Genesis 2:10). From a tiny stream it grows into an unstoppable river – and the river grows as it flows from the temple, nourished by the worship and prayers of God's people.

But the river not only sustains life, but it **restores** entire eco-systems. Ezekiel saw: "*on the bank of the river a great many trees….this water flows towards the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh*." (Ez 47:7-8) The "Sea of stagnant water" refers to the Dead Sea, one of the most lifeless places on the planet. So powerful is this river's water that the salt waters will become fresh and teem with life. (*to be continued*)

— Fr Gerard O'Dempsey

Parish & Diocesan News continued

Bishop Vincent Presents: Kim Daniels on 'AI, Pope Leo and the future of human dignity'

Join us on October 13th at 6:00pm to hear from one of the Church's foremost experts on Catholic Social Thought and its importance in the age of artificial intelligence. A lawyer by training, Ms Daniels served for 10 years as a member of the Vatican Dicastery for Communication until 2026, and during the Synod on Synodality from 2021-2024 was an expert participant and coordinator of the study group that focused on the Church's mission in the digital age. ***Registration is essential, visit parracatholic.org/kim-daniels***

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



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 share the Good News of Jesus with others.

Phone: 02 9832 4461
After hours emergency #: 0493 969 440
Email: parishof@goodshepherd.org.au

Find us on Facebook

The Good Shepherd Parish Plumpton

Or visit our website:
www.goodshepherd.org.au

New Parish Projects—Meeting room and Additional Toilets **18/09/2026**

Donations	**$31,896.00**
Raffle tickets	**$12,104.00**
Legacy Donation	**$58,000.00**
Total Amount	**$102,000.00**
Revised Target Amount	**$100,000.00**

Weddings

Please call the Parish office for appointment. Arrangements should be made at least ***twelve*** *months in advance.*

Holy Communion for the Sick

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

Anointing of the Sick

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

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 or church. ***Next seminar is on 27 September.*** *Please bring a copy of your child's birth certificate.*

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

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) **20 September 2026**

1st Reading:	***Isaiah 55:6-9***
2nd Reading:	***Philippians 1:20-24, 27***
Gospel Reading:	***Matthew 20:1-16***
Entrance Antiphon:	***I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.***
Responsorial Psalm:	***The Lord is near to all who call him.***
GOSPEL Acclamation:	***Alleluia, alleluia! Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!***
Communion Antiphon:	***You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.***

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-ordinators	Mr Bernie Banta & Mrs 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.

Capuchin Young Adults Plumpton

*We're the young adults of The Good Shepherd Parish Plumpton! Seeking lives of simplicity, service, prayer and community with St Francis of Assisi. Find us on Instagram: **instagram.com/capuchinyoungadultsplumpton/** Email: **social.media@goodshepherd.org.au***

October 2026 Baptism Seminar

*Due to our Parish Expo 2026 celebration on October 25th, the Baptism seminar has been **moved to October 18th** at 2:00pm in the Church.*

Congratulations for last Weekends' Baptism

Oketi Alexandra Falemaka
Elena Lasalo
Keaire Jalen Lasalo

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION for SEPTEMBER

For the care of water.

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

Please remember those for whom prayers have been requested

Death Anniversaries / In Memoriam: *Luke, Oliva Burney, Rainer Cruz, Victor Manuel Florez, Carmen Galea, Joyce Littlemore, Adel Meter, Olga Quinn, Benjamin Recto Sr, Rochelle Rellata, Efren Reyes, Bladino Rosales, Eliseo Tandoc, Aida & Simon Walcott and all the holy souls in purgatory*

Healing / Good Health: *Alicia, Mark, Michael & Tess, Beatriz Callaghan, Ivan Correia, Elizabeth Dioquino, Teresa Ganac, Peter Nathan, Bienvenido & Connie Recto and Jess Valix*

Anniversaries / Birthday / Thanksgiving: *Ceejay Bergonia, Chloe Cabalhin, Lardizabal family, Chantelle Salas and Ashnet Starling*

We also remember in our prayers our housebound brothers & sisters

Yvonne, Victoria ABAO, Emanuela AGIUS, Belenor & Julian AGUILAR, Patricia ALLERDICE, John ANGEL, Mafalda ARACO, Raylina AURE, Christine BAPTISTE, 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, Fololetina FRETTON, Louise GRECH, Eden & Ninoy JUCO, Nabil LABBAD, Malia LAVALU, Lima LEO, Francis LLOYD GOULD, Gwenda McCARTHY, Rita & Victor MELI, Teresa MESSIANA, Anne MILLER, Deidre MURRAY, Mary MUSCAT, Elsie NONEY, Pamela PEARSON, Philip PORKETT, Marie PURCELL, Melecia REA, Gloria ROBERTS, Lilly SHAHOUD, Mary SIMMONS, Marian STEWART, Vivienne STEWART, Lynette STITT, Anthony & Natalina TEUMA, Raymond TOGHILL, Margaret TSENG, John VAIFALE, Sesilia VAVE, Augustina VELLA, Russell & Mary WICKRAMASINGHE, Espedito & Kitty ZAMMIT

Parish & Diocesan News

Congratulations!

To the young people of our parish who celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation with Bishop Vincent last Thursday evening. Many thanks to the team of catechists who helped to prepare these young people. If you would like to become involved as a catechist for future sacramental celebrations contact the parish office.

Parish Name Tags

We have started printing the parish name tags and they are available to collect at the back of the Church. Please check if your name tag is ready for collection.

Parish-in-Council 2: November 21st

*Preparations are already underway for our next Parish-in-Council, to be held on **Saturday November 21st** 12noon to 5.00pm at St. Francis School, Glendenning. Registration will open soon – and more information will be coming in the weeks ahead – for now just mark your diary.*

Feast of St Pedro Calungsod

*The St Pedro Calungsod Devotees will be celebrating the 15th Feast Day in honour of St Pedro Calungsod on **Saturday, October 17th**. As part of the celebration, a nine-day novena will be held from October 8–16 at 7:00pm in different parishes within the Diocese of Parramatta. **The 7th day Novena will be held at Good Shepherd Parish Church on Wednesday, October 14th at 7:00pm**.*

Bishop's Father's Day Appeal

***Thank you for caring for our spiritual fathers.** Because of your compassion, our Bishop's Father's Day Appeal donations will help provide much-needed care and support for those who have dedicated their lives to serving our community. Your generosity and love ensure they receive the care, comfort and dignity they deserve in this next chapter of their lives. If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit **parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal** or scan this QR code. **Thank you**.*

Next Week:

- **S**aint **P**adre **P**io: Wednesday **September 23rd** – 7.00pm introductory talk, 7.30pm Mass followed by veneration and blessing of a relic of St. Padre Pio. The night concludes with supper. Bring your friends.

Coming Events and important things…

- **O**ur next **A**lpha for **A**dults: begins Thursday **September 24th** – supper at 7.00pm, followed by video and discussion, please register – either with the QR code on the posters or by calling the office to make a reservation. Registration is important so that Fr. Gerard knows how much soup he has to make (buckets, apparently!)
- **W**elcomers **W**orkshop: Friday **September 25th** 7.00pm. **In response to the findings of Parish-in-Council 1, where belonging was the key focus, all are invited to join our Welcome Workshop to enhance and grow the culture of welcome in our parish.** The evening will explore how we can be more welcoming and highlight the initiatives our parish is undertaking to include, accommodate and support both new and current parishioners. Together, we hope to foster a greater sense of belonging and, ultimately, help bring one another closer to the person of Jesus. **RSVP**: **https://forms.gle/UWEy5vZqF6bmSEN36**
- **S**aint **F**rancis **W**eek: begins on Saturday **October 3rd** with 7.30pm Transitus (celebrating the passing over of St. Francis from this life to eternal life). All weekend Masses will be for the Solemnity of St. Francis. We hope to have relic of St. Francis at the 9.00am Sunday Mass. During the week there will be other events related to this celebration. Please refer to the posters around the Church and meeting room for details.
- **P**arish-**i**n-**C**ouncil **2**: Saturday **November 21st** 12.00noon to 5.00pm at St Francis School, Glendenning. Save the date – invite your friends.