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

1st reading: *Isaiah 45:1, 4-6;* ***2nd reading:*** *1 Thessalonians 1:1-5;* ***Gospel:*** *Matthew 22:15-21*

The Wedding Banquet and the Scriptures

Today's Scripture readings are a reminder of how often the kingdom of heaven is depicted in Scripture as a banquet. Repeatedly, in both Old and New Testaments, the image appears as it does today in the first reading from Isaiah and the gospel from Matthew.

It helps to keep in mind that our Scriptures are liturgical texts: they were written for the purpose of being read (out loud) in the celebration of Liturgy. And Liturgy is the native context of the Bible.

Recognising the liturgical context of the Bible enriches both our understanding of that central biblical image of the kingdom of heaven as a meal, a banquet, a communal celebration gathered around a table, and our understanding of the Eucharist. The kingdom-as-banquet image is not, of course, about *food*, per se, or even about eating food with others. Rather, the image is ideal because we share a universal human experience of meals being an event of unity, fellowship, joy, nourishment, family bonding, and finally love.

The kingdom fundamentally, is our eternal and perfect unity in God, not just individually but as God's people. This is why our celebration of the Eucharist (Sunday Mass) is truly a foretaste of the heavenly kingdom. The Mass looks forward to that heavenly banquet when we will be made one in perfect love with God and God's people, *and* it makes that union real, in a preliminary way, in the here and now.

Food for thought:

1. How have you recongnised God's invitation to the banquet in your life?
2. Where has God provided a banquet for you?

— Fr Gerard O'Dempsey

Parish & Diocesan News continued

Scripture Readings for October 24/25 Anniversary Liturgies:
Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12 *(We have been reflecting on this over the past few weeks in the Season of creation.* ***Ps 45*** *The waters of a river gladden the city of God.* ***Ephesians 2:19-22*** *We all grow into one holy temple in the Lord.* ***John 2:13-22*** *Jesus spoke about the temple of his own body.*

Men's Retreat at Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre
A Day to Quiet the Noise, Reconnect with Faith and Find Strength for What's Next. Men's Retreat is a new day retreat at Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre, Baulkham Hills, offering men space to step back from the pressures of daily life. Through honest reflection, small group conversation and practical prayer, reconnect your faith with your purpose. Facilitated by Nehme Khattar, Head of Mission at Catholic Healthcare. Saturday 17 October, 9:30am – 3:30pm $198 incl. GST. Morning tea and lunch provided. Learn more and book: ***www.mmsm.org.au/retreats/mens-retreat***

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 **09/10/2026**

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 at 2:00 pm in the Parish meeting room or church. ***Next seminar is on 18th October in the Church.*** *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.

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) — 11 October 2026

1st Reading: ***Isaiah 25:6-10*** **2nd Reading:** ***Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20***
Gospel Reading: ***Matthew 22:1-14***

Entrance Antiphon:
If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But with you is found forgiveness,
O God of Israel.

Responsorial Psalm:
I shall live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life.

GOSPEL Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia!
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our heart
that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon:
The rich suffer want and go hungry,
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

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***

Legion of Mary Good Shepherd Praesidium

Meets every Saturday morning at 9.00am in the Parish Meeting Room. Please contact Christine on 0433 983 731 if you are interested.

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION for OCTOBER — *For mental health ministry*

Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

Please remember those for whom prayers have been requested

Death Anniversaries / In Memoriam: *Jerome & Nelson Almario, John Apap, Cathy Brennan, Fidel De Castro, Celestino De Freitas, Eduardo Empasis, Lorenza & Silvestre Gayo, Patrick Jackson, Charles Mathieu, Julio Pacleta Jr, Maxwell Rosales, Arce, Nina & Salud Samia, Susana Suasin, Ana Valentin, Jess Valix and all the holy souls in purgatory*

Healing / Good Health: *Alicia, David, Kelly, Mark, Michael, Samuel, Tess, Beatriz Callaghan, Ivan Correia, Elizabeth Dioquino, Virgilio Felipe, Teresa Ganac, Peter Nathan, Rogelio Ordinario, Riwal Panchal, Bienvenido & Connie Recto, Jaimee Santos, Georgette Semaan and Hazel Villavert*

Anniversaries / Birthday / Thanksgiving / Special Intention: *Helena Sene and Paulina Vaifale*

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, Ibrahim Michael IBRAHIM, 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, Vicki SPITERI, 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

*A word of **THANKS** to all involved in the preparation of St. Francis' week. Thank you to our ushers who have guided us for veneration of various saints' relics, and to those who have provided food and refreshments.*

Name tags

These are gradually coming off the printer – if you have ordered one please check the Boxes at the back of the church – it takes six hours to make a name tag – your patience Is appreciated.

ALPHA

There is still time to get on board with this year's last Alpha – check in with either the QR code on the posters or call the parish office.

Parish Expo: October 25th

*Join us in celebrating our 38th Year of Dedication on **Sunday 25th October**, after the 9am Mass. This year's theme focuses on '**Participation'**. There will be many activities for the whole family to participate in such as pony rides, music performances, stalls of our parish groups/ local initiatives, international food and raffle prizes. Bring along your family and friends— All are welcome!*

Feast of St Pedro Calungsod

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

Parish-in-Council 2: November 21st

*All are invited to our second Parish-in-Council, on **Saturday November 21st** 12noon to 5.00pm at St. Francis School, Glendenning. This is for anyone and everyone to attend – if you attended the first one in June, bring a friend this time! Each Parish-in-Council builds on the previous one. From our previous topic of 'belonging' and 'welcome', we now focus on '**participation'**. Registrations open soon.*

Schedule for Sacraments of Reconciliation & 1st Holy Communion 2026/27

- 09 November 2026, Monday – **Parent Information night (Reconciliation) and registration** at 7.00 pm in the Parish Church
- 15, 22 & 29 November and 06 December 2026 – **Reconciliation classes**, 10.30 to 11.30 am at the Good Shepherd Primary School (*Attendance is a **MUST**)*
- 07 December 2026 – Monday, **Rite of Penance** (1st Confession), 7.00 pm in the Parish Church
- 08 February 2027, Monday – **Information Session (Eucharist) and Enrichment night for Parents only** at 7.00 pm
- 14, 21 & 28 February and 07 March 2027 – **Holy Eucharist classes**, 10.30 to 11.30 am at the Good Shepherd Primary School (*Attendance is a **MUST**)*
- 06 April 2027 – Tuesday, **Rehearsal** at 7.00 pm in the Parish Church
- 10/11, 17/18 & 24/25 April 2027 – **1st Holy Communion Dates** – during the 6.00 pm Saturday, 9.00 am & 6.00 pm Sunday Masses

Registration forms will be available 19 October 2026 at the entrance of the Church or from the parish office.

Coming Events:

- Tuesday 13th October: 7.30pm Pastoral Planning Committee.
- Wednesday 14th October: 7.00pm St Pedro Calungsod novena. Followed by our regular Wednesday novena Mass at 7.30pm.
- Thursday 15th October: 10.00am Mass at Southern Cross.
- Friday 16th October: 7.00pm Senior Leadership Team meeting.
- Sunday 24th/25th October: **Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church** (all weekend Masses) With ***Parish Expo*** on the Sunday (after the 9.00am Mass) over in the Bingo Hall – International food, parish ministry displays, Pony rides (we all want to see Fr. John on a pony!) and much more – set aside the day for fun.