

Readings for next weekend — Second Sunday of Lent

First reading: Genesis 12:1-4; **Second reading:** 2 Timothy 1:8-10; **Gospel:** Matthew 17:1-9

Sensationalism.

There is something appealing about sensationalism. In fact, one needs to simply scroll through social media to see the ways we devour the eccentric and feast on exaggeration. This is why today's gospel is so important. Jesus is tempted to turn stones into bread, worship the devil, and throw himself off the top of the Temple. But Jesus resists. As we begin this season of Lent, today's gospel is an invitation for us to reflect on how we respond to the ordinary we encounter each day. Certainly, there is something appealing about the sensational, but the excitement we experience soon disappears.

We are called to base ourselves not in eccentricities and sensationalism but in a simple foundational reality: we are made by love for love. We see this in today's first reading from the book of Genesis. God forms us and breathes life into us. The challenge arises in our response. Do we accept this love? Or do we give in to the temptations that draw us away from God – temptations of comfort, power and security?

— Fr Gerard O'Dempsey OFM Cap

Rite of Sending / Rite of Election

The second step in Christian Initiation is the liturgical rites of Sending and Election, which close the period of the catechumenate – the lengthy period of formation. These celebrations – which take place in our parish in the morning – (Sending) and in the Cathedral in the afternoon (Election) mark the beginning of the period of final, more intense preparation for the sacraments of initiation, during which the catechumens (Elect) will be encouraged to follow Christ with greater generosity.

At this second step, on the basis of the testimony of sponsors and catechists and the catechumens' reaffirmation of their intention, the Church judges their state of readiness and decides on their advancement to the sacraments of initiation to be celebrated at the Easter Vigil. So, the church makes its "election", that is, the choice and admission of those catechumens who show the readiness to move forward.

At the Rite of Sending (during 9am Mass today) the Catechumens are called forward, their sponsors give testimony to their readiness, we pray for them, and then we ask them to write their names in the "Book of the Elect". This book will then accompany them to St. Patrick's Cathedral in the afternoon where they will be presented to Bishop Vincent who will declare them to be chosen (Elect of God) for the Easter Sacraments.

You are invited to pray for our elect over these 6 weeks of Lent, for their perseverance, for the deepening of their faith, and for their families. They will face much temptation in these weeks of final reparation because the evil one is not keen that more people become Christians. So, keep them in your prayers as they journey to Easter. Make yourself known to them – tell them you are praying for them – and join them at the Easter Vigil for their initiation into God's family.

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 20/02/2026

Donations \$30,780.00

Raffle tickets \$12,104.00

Legacy Donation \$46,000.00

Total Amount \$88,884.00

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.

1st Sunday of Lent (Year A)

22 February 2026

1st Reading:

Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

2nd Reading:

Romans 5:12-19

Gospel Reading:

Matthew 4:1-11

Entrance Antiphon:

*When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.*

Responsorial Psalm:

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

GOSPEL Acclamation:

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

Communion Antiphon:

*One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of 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 February 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

Marceline Siasoi-Manubay
Macey Grace Smith

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.

"Your first task is to be dissatisfied with yourself, fight sin, and transform yourself into something better. Your second task is to put up with the trials and temptations of this world that will be brought on by the change in your life and to persevere to the very end in the midst of these things." — Saint Augustine

Please remember those for whom prayers have been requested

Death Anniversaries / In Memoriam: Chitra, Jerome & Nelson Almario, Anita Ayson-de Vera, Philomina Bent, Leonard Francis Burney, Joseph Buttigieg, Gaspar Avelino Cardoz, Eugene Champion, Lilia de Guzman, Julie Nuñez, Arce Samia and all the holy souls in purgatory

Healing / Good Health: Gloria, Celine Cosme, Lionel Joseph Dado, Anne Miller, Peter Nathan, Jake Neria, Maria Perez, Michelle Reyes, Diana Rodriguez, Elijah, Ethan & Rayan Walter

Anniversary / Birthday / Thanksgiving: Mia Crescini and Calvin Jost

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, 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 and Joan WREN.

Parish & Diocesan News

Thank you all!

The organisers of the Sri Lankan fundraiser for the building construction of the Holy Rosary Church in Waga, Sri Lanka would like to thank all parishioners for supporting this fundraising project. They were able to raise a total of \$4,725. A big thank you goes to Lorenze and Charmaine for their contribution of \$620 raised towards the total by selling hoppers.

Planned giving envelopes

The latest set of planned giving envelopes are now ready to take at the entrance of the church.

Catholic Youth Parramatta 2026 Kick-Off: 26 February

Young people from across the Diocese are invited to an evening of celebration as we begin 2026 together. Hear testimonies from local leaders, take part in prayer, connect with others, and discover the vision for Catholic Youth Parramatta in the year ahead. Join us on Thursday 26 February from 7.00 to 9.30pm at Holy Family Primary School, 11 Emert Parade, Emerton. Register today: <https://parracatholic.org/events/liftedlaunch/>

Safeguarding Training Dates for Deaneries

From this year, parishes within a Deanery will have the same Safeguarding Training Renewal and Refresher Dates. In 2026, the dates for those in a Deanery to update and complete their Training will be:

- Blacktown Deanery – April 2026
- The Hills Deanery – August 2026
- Cumberland Deanery – November 2026

The remaining Deaneries will renew in 2027. Online Training Modules are always available for those who are entering ministry. Face-to-face opportunities can be found at:

<https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>. For further inquiries and to book in F2F Training dates at your Parish, please contact: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

Waste Bins outside the Kitchen

There are several waste bins outside kitchen with different lid colours and labels. Green for food scraps **only**, yellow for **empty** bottles and cans, blue for **empty** coffee cups and black for general waste. Please make sure you **read the labels before throwing your rubbish**. If you are not sure where to throw your rubbish please use the red lid bins located close to the toilets. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Lenten Gospel Reflection 2026

COMPASSIO

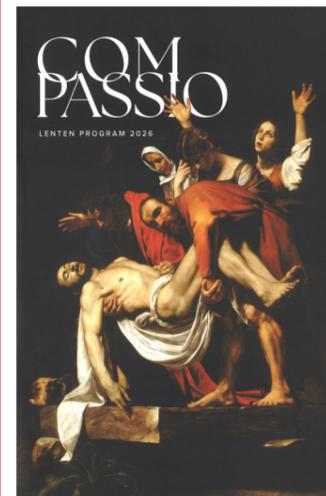
Each year during Lent, we offer an opportunity to come together to pray and reflect as a community. You are invited to join one of our reflection groups or offer your own, with an easy to follow booklet.

Sign-up sheets are available at the back of the church

2nd of the 6 Sessions (in the meeting room):

- **Monday** February 23rd after the 9:00am Mass and morning tea.
- **Thursday** February 26th at 7:00pm.

For more information or to register your own Lenten group contact the Parish Office. Phone: (02) 9832 4461, Email: parishof@goodshepherd.org.au



Coming Events:

- Tuesday February 24th: Liturgy Committee 7.30pm – Meeting Room.
- Thursday February 26th: 10.30am funeral for Joe Buttigieg (father of Maryrose Caruana).
- Friday February 27th: 7.30pm Stations of the Cross followed by Reconciliation.
- Saturday March 7th: "Table Talk" 7.30pm – Meeting Room.