

Readings for next weekend — Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
First reading: Isaiah 22:19-23; Second reading: Romans 11:33-36; Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

Liturgy and Scripture:

The bible offers its readers a few puzzles that may never be entirely clear. One is that Jesus was apparently convinced during the early part of his public ministry that his message was intended only for the “lost sheep of the house of Israel” (Jewish people only). It was only later that he came to the awareness that the good news of salvation was meant for the whole world. In today’s gospel reading, we see both that Jews-only conviction during his public ministry and a hint of the universality it would soon have.

Jesus encounters a Canaanite woman – not just a Gentile, but a descendant of Israel’s ancient enemy. Knowing he was a Jew with a reputation as a healer, she approaches him anyway, seeking help for her sick daughter. And Jesus – ignores her, reminding his disciples of that limited audience he has in mind.

But she is persistent...he insults her, calling her a dog! These response of Jesus offer still another puzzle. Perhaps the comment was offered half-humorously!

Nonetheless, the woman persists, offering a clever response that catches Jesus’ attention prompting him not only to praise her faith but to grant her request for help, “And the woman’s daughter was healed from that hour.” And here Jesus’ ministry spills wonderfully over the bounds that he himself had set for it, just as God’s ancient covenant with the Jews would, in his paschal mystery (his death and resurrection), expand to include all humanity.

And note that same universality is vibrantly clear in all of today’s other readings: Isaiah’s prophecy that God’s house would be “for all peoples,” the responsorial psalm sings of God’s salvation reaching “all nations”, and St. Paul rejoicing in his letter to the Romans that despite the call of God offered to the Jewish people, God sought the “reconciliation of the world.” Let us give thanks for this glorious good news and for the Canaanite woman who helped Jesus understand its scope a bit better!

— Fr Gerard O’Dempsey

Parish & Diocesan News continued

Adult Confirmations 2026

The Office for Worship will host a Catechesis and Formation Day for those candidates (16+) interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. This will be on Saturday August 29th, 9.30am to 2.00pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre in Blacktown. A light lunch will be provided on the day. It is recommended that all sponsors attend the catechesis day. A contribution of \$40 is suggested from the candidates to assist in covering the Catechesis Day. The Confirmation will take place on Tuesday September 1st, 2026 at 7:30pm at the Cathedral. Please Note: Enrolment forms and a copy of Baptismal Certificates should be sent to OFW before Tuesday August 18th. For more information, please contact the Parish Office parishof@goodshepherd.org.au or (02) 9832 4461.

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 14/08/2026

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

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.

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 23 August.** 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.

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

16 August 2026

1st Reading:	Isaiah 56:1, 6-7
2nd Reading:	Romans 11:13-15, 29-32
Gospel Reading:	Matthew 15:21-28
Entrance Antiphon:	Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.
Responsorial Psalm:	O God, let all the nations praise you!
GOSPEL Acclamation:	Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!
Communion Antiphon:	With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

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/](https://www.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.

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.

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION for AUGUST

For evangelization in the city.

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

Please remember those for whom prayers have been requested

Death Anniversaries / In Memoriam: Marceline & Stellio Ahkow, Georgia Baldacchino, Malcolm Livera, Maximo Medina, Richard Parcon, Filomino Serrano, Sr Bernie Silva, Victor Silva, Maria Joao Cunha Leo Soro, Joseph Zammit and all the holy souls in purgatory

Healing / Good Health: Ginette, Jess, Karim, Armida Boncato, Antonio Borges, Ivan Correia, Peter Nathan, Solidad Pascua, Maria Perez, Joao Rosa and Lina Sutherland

Anniversary / Birthday / Thanksgiving: Fr Gerard

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, 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, Eden & Ninoy JUCO, 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, 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

Away on annual leave

Fr. John will be on well earned annual leave from today (Saturday August 15th) for three weeks .

No morning Mass this Wednesday

Please note that there will be no morning Mass on August 19th.

Mass of Thanksgiving with Fr Jowel Jomarsus Gatus: August 20th

Join the Filipino Community as we welcome Fr Jomar Gatus – visiting from the Philippines – who will celebrate the Thanksgiving Mass on **Thursday August 20th 3:00pm at the Good Shepherd Parish Church**, 136 Hyatts Road, Plumpton.

St Carlo Acutis's Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition

Designed by St Carlo Acutis, the first millennial saint, this exhibition documents reported Eucharistic miracles from around the world, and it is touring parishes right across our Diocese. Next, it comes to Our Lady of the Angels, Rouse Hill, from **August 9 to 23**. Students, teachers and parishioners are invited, entry is free and no bookings are required. To see where the exhibition is heading next across the Diocese, visit <https://parracatholic.org/iec2028/>

Be The Witness Update

Be The Witness has now partnered with Aid to the Church in Need to bring you the **Holy Shroud Exhibition** as part of the incredible Be The Witness Experience. This remarkable exhibition detailing the intricacies of the Shroud of Turin will be on display at St Patrick's Cathedral from **Sunday September 6th to Sunday September 13th**.

Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary Centenary Jubilee Celebrations at Mount Schoenstatt, Mulgoa

Come join us as we give thanks for the past 100 years and entrust the future to the loving care of the Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt on **Sunday September 13th**. Please be seated by 9:45am for a 10:00am start. The celebration is to conclude at approximately 3:00pm. The day will begin with a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving with Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP followed by light refreshments and an official program. Parish bus groups are encouraged. An exhibition on the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary will be available for viewing in the Family Hall from 8:30am – 6:00pm. To RSVP and for more information please visit: www.schoenstatt.org.au.

Bishop Vincent Presents: Vatican correspondent Gerard O'Connell and Elisabetta Pique

Bishop Vincent, in partnership with the University of Notre Dame Australia and Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese, warmly invites all to a special public lecture featuring two of the world's most respected Vatican journalists, Gerard O'Connell and Elisabetta Piqué. Hear their insider's account of the historic transition from Pope Francis to Pope Leo XIV. **Wednesday August 26th, 6:00 to 8:00pm**, at St Patrick's Cathedral Cloister Hall, 1 Marist Pl, Parramatta. All are welcome. Register at parracatholic.org/oconnellpique.

Palms International Volunteering - Simplicity September

This September, simplify one thing in your life and discover what truly matters. Sponsor yourself, your family or a friend to participate and raise money for Palms International Volunteering, Australia's only Catholic lay organisation that delivers international development and formation through international volunteering. Join Australians across the country supporting Palms' work in the Asia-Pacific. Call 02 9560 5333 / 0422 472 567 or visit www.simplicityseptember.org.au

Coming Events:

- Thursday August 20th – 10.00am: Southern Cross Mass.
- Saturday/Sunday August 22nd/23rd: Name Tag Sunday.
- Friday August 28th – 7.30pm: Refresher workshop for Readers and Commentators (in the church).
- Alpha begins soon.