

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

The Story of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Early in the fourth century, Saint Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, went to Jerusalem in search of the holy places of Christ's life. She razed the second-century Temple of Aphrodite, which tradition held was built over the Savior's tomb, and her son built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher on that spot. During the excavation, workers found three crosses. Legend has it that the one on which Jesus died was identified when its touch healed a dying woman.

The cross immediately became an object of veneration. At a Good Friday celebration in Jerusalem toward the end of the fourth century, according to an eyewitness, the wood was taken out of its silver container and placed on a table together with the inscription Pilate ordered placed above Jesus' head: Then "all the people pass through one by one; all of them bow down, touching the cross and the inscription, first with their foreheads, then with their eyes; and, after kissing the cross, they move on."

To this day, the Eastern Churches, Catholic and Orthodox alike, celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on the September anniversary of the basilica's dedication. The feast entered the Western calendar in the seventh century after Emperor Heraclius recovered the cross from the Persians, who had carried it off in 614, 15 years earlier. According to the story, the emperor intended to carry the cross back into Jerusalem himself, but was unable to move forward until he took off his imperial garb and became a barefoot pilgrim.

Reflection

The cross is today the universal image of Christian belief. Countless generations of artists have turned it into a thing of beauty to be carried in procession or worn as jewellery. To the eyes of the first Christians, it had no beauty. It stood outside too many city walls, decorated only with decaying corpses, as a threat to anyone who defied Rome's authority—including Christians who refused sacrifice to Roman gods. Although believers spoke of the cross as the instrument of salvation, it seldom appeared in Christian art unless disguised as an anchor or the Chi-Rho until after Constantine's edict of toleration.

- Franciscan Media

Bishop's Father's Day Appeal: Caring for those who have cared for us

Our priests never stop giving their lives in service to our community. They dedicate themselves to carrying out God's ministry for as long as they are able. This Father's Day, let us show our thanks and appreciation for our priests' lifelong gifts of faithful service. Your compassionate donation will **help our Clergy Support Foundation** to care for our priests, and provide them with personalised health and wellbeing support. Please give generously to the Bishop's Father's Day Appeal at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or scan the **QR code**. Giving envelopes still available at the Church. **Thank you.**



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

Parish Envelopes for the new financial year are available for subscribers to collect from the Entrance of the church. 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. People wishing to contribute by direct debit – forms are available from the parish office. You can setup your own internet banking recurring payment to:

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

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 08/09/2023

Donations	\$21,196.00
Raffle tickets	\$12,104.00
Legacy Donation	\$40,000.00
Total Amount	\$73,300.00
Target Amount	\$70,000.00

THE PARISH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Celebrating Our 35th Anniversary

130-136 Hyatts Road, Plumpton NSW 2761

Weddings

Please call the Parish office for appointment.

Arrangements should be made at least 6 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 (2) must attend a Pre-Baptism Seminar prior to scheduling the Baptism. The seminar is offered once a month on the 4th Sunday in the Parish meeting room.

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

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

10 September 2023

1st Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

2nd Reading: Romans 13:8-10

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:15-20

Entrance Antiphon:

*You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.*

Responsorial Psalm:

*O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.*

GOSPEL Acclamation:

*Alleluia, alleluia!
God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;
and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.
Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon:

*Like the deer that yearns for running streams,
so my soul is yearning for you, my God;
my soul is thirsting for God, the living 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 Priest	Fr Vincy D'Costa OFM Cap	<u>Daily MASS Times</u>
Assistant Parish Priest	Fr Bollar Barreto OFM Cap	Mon/Tues/Thur/Fri 9:00 am Wed 7:30 pm Sat 8:00 am
Business Manager	Mr Owens Reyes	
Parish Musical Director	Mr Jacob Wielgosz	<u>Weekend MASS Times</u>
Parish Council Chairperson	Mrs Rowena Villadolid	Saturday Vigil 6:00 pm Sun 7:00 am/9:00 am & 6:00 pm 12:00 pm (Vietnamese) Spanish Mass Every 2nd Saturday of each month 7:30 pm
RCIA Co-ordinator	Mr & Mrs Bernie & Yeng Banta	
Sacramental Co-ordinator	Mrs Priscilla Corpuz	
Parish (SRE) Co-ordinator	Ms Therese Fuller	<u>Reconciliation (Confession)</u>
Finance & Bingo Operator	Mr Romy Balite	Saturday 11:00 am-12 noon Kindly ring Parish Office to book for other times during the week.

Sacramental program Y2023/Y2024

Reconciliation—2023

1. Parent Information night:
07 November, Monday at 7:30 pm
2. Classes - 26 November and
03 December (2 Sundays - 2 hour
classes, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm)
3. Rite of Penance - 05 December 2023,
Tuesday at 7:30 pm

Eucharist—2024

1. Classes - 18 and 25 February
(2 Sundays - 2 hour classes, 10:30 am
to 12:30 pm).
2. Rehearsal - 02 March 2024, Saturday
at 1:00 to 2:30 pm
3. 1st Holy Communion Mass:
03 March 2024, Sunday at 2:00 pm.

**Application forms will be available in
October 2023**

Baptism Seminar

The next seminar will be held on the **24th of September 2023 at 2:00 pm** in the **parish meeting room**. Please bring a copy of your child's **birth certificate**.

Death Anniversaries: We Remember

Josefina Andueza, Dominador Bulaong Jr, Leonard Burney, Ralph Capili, Teresita Recto-Capili, Elpidio Garcia, Roberta Garcia, Lorenza Gayo, Silvestre Gayo, Epifanio Nuval, Antonio Recto, Benjamin Recto Jr, Jose Recto, Emanuel Refalo, Avelina Belen Tiotuico, Basilio Vargas Jr, Justin Ross Ventanilla & Fortunato Zaragoza

**May perpetual light shine upon them,
O Lord. Amen †**

We remember in our prayers our housebound brothers & sisters

John ANGEL, Raylina AURE, Doris & John BARRETT, Maureen BARTLEY, Philomena BENT, Carmen BIFFA, Therese BRODERICK-TAYLOR, Jacqueline CAMERON, Conception CAPIENDO, Frances CARUANA, Sr Gail COLQUHOUN, Paul DWYER, Jean-Marie & Marie-Claude FREDERIC, Edward GALEA, Louise GRECH, Maureen JACKSON, Eden & Ninoy JUCO, Maureen & John KNIGHT, Nabil LABBAD, Marie MELITO, Kathleen MORRISSEY, Deidre MURRAY, Elsie NONEY, Pamela PEARSON, John RILEY, Gloria ROBERTS, Aida SADSAD, Mounira SHUKRALIA, Mary SIMMONS, Vivienne & Marian STEWART, Anthony & Natalina TEUMA, Raymond TOGHILL, John VAIFALE, Rita VAUGHN, Augustina & Margaret VELLA & Joan WREN.

For Good Health: Tesa and Gamil, Josephine Anthony, Doris Barrett, Justin Flestado, Delmar & Gunter Kluge, Jo Murray, Clem & Carmel O'Brien, Michael Pascal, Austin Michael Politono, Joao Rosa, Eric Siale, Marvin Torres and Mercedes Valix

35 Years Celebration of the Church Building

On the 11th of November, 2023, we plan to celebrate the 35th year of the consecration of the church at the 6:00 pm Mass. Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen will be the main celebrant. This is indeed a special occasion for us to gather as Good Shepherd Parishioners and celebrate.

I take this opportunity to invite various ethnic group leaders part of Plumpton parish to join in the Gospel procession. Could you please submit your name to Parish Office and the community you represent? Please do this as soon as possible.

On the day, after the Eucharistic celebration, there will be finger food, desserts, and a cultural program. Please put your name down if you are interested in performing.

Fr Vincy D'Costa ofmcap - Parish Priest

Announcements

Parish Office times - 11 to 22 September 2023

The **parish office** will only be **open 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, Monday to Friday**, from 11 September to 22 September 2023.

Pilgrimage and Home Visit

Please note that **Fr Vincy will be away from the 9th of September to the 22nd of September** on a trip to the Holy Land. He takes us all along with him in spirit. Be assured of his prayers for us. Secondly, he will also be away from the **1st of October to the 28th of October** on his home visit to Goa. Please keep him in your prayers.

Walking Together In Peace

The Interfaith Commission of Parramatta invite you to join an interfaith gathering on **UN International Day of Peace**. On the night, we will feature an amazing human library, where members of the Baha'i, Islamic and Hindu traditions will serve as open books, to share their stories, and what peace means to them and their religious tradition. It is an opportunity to have real conversation, positive dialogue and to ask questions is safe, non-judgemental space with people from different faiths. Be curious and join the conversation on **21 September 2023 Thursday 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown**. Light refreshments are available from 6:30 pm. Please scan the **QR code** to register.



Spring | Season of Creation 2023 Catholic Outlook Magazine out now!

The Spring | Season of Creation 2023 edition of the Catholic Outlook Magazine – the news and views of the Diocese of Parramatta – is out now! In this edition, we welcome home our World Youth Day pilgrims and we ground ourselves spiritually and environmentally in this Season of Creation. Pick up your free copy from parishes and offices across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains today or read it online via catholicoutlook.org/magazine

Nine-Week Novena for the Diocesan Synod

All are invited to pray a Nine-Week Novena for the Diocesan Synod. The Novena **will begin** the week of **Sunday 13 August** and **conclude** the week of **Sunday 8 October** in the lead-up to the **Synod Assembly: Friday 13 to Sunday 15 October**. You are invited to pray once a week as a parish community, with your family, ministry groups or during personal prayer. More information: <https://parracatholic.org/synod2023/>