

Saint Anthony the Abbott

Asceticism and prayer

His life was marked by solitude, fasting and work. Orphaned at 20, as a young man he gave all his goods to the poor and retired to the desert, where he also fought against the temptations of the devil, choosing the path of asceticism and prayer. Anthony was responsible for the establishment of families of monks who, under the guidance of a spiritual father, consecrated themselves to the service of God.

Saint Anthony and the blessing of animals

St. Anthony is often depicted next to a pig with a bell around its neck. This iconographic representation is linked to the fact that the ancient hospitaller order of the "Antonines" raised pigs because the fat of these animals was used to anoint the sick affected by ergotism. This disease was then called "the fire of Sant 'Antonio". On his feast day, the stalls are blessed, as are any domestic animals brought for blessing. In the iconography is associated with St. Anthony figures also the hermit's staff in the form of T, the *tau*, the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

A gift from God

In the biography *Vita Antonii*, St. Athanasius wrote these words referring to Saint Anthony: "That he was everywhere known, admired and desired by everyone, even those who had not seen him, is a sign of his virtue and God-friendly soul. In fact, neither for writings nor for a profane wisdom nor for any capacity is Anthony known, but only for his piety towards God - and no one could deny that this is a gift from God. As indeed we would not have heard in Spain and in Gaul, in Rome and in Africa of this man, who lived withdrawn in the mountains, if God Himself had not made him known to all, as He does with those who belong to Him, and as He had announced to Anthony since the beginning? Even if Anthony acted in secret and desired to remain hidden, the Lord shows him and those like him to everyone, as a lamp, that those who hear about them know that it is possible to follow the commandments and take courage in following the path of virtue."

— *Vatican News*

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 12/01/2024

Donations	\$21,196.00
Raffle tickets	\$12,104.00
Legacy Donation	\$42,000.00
Total Amount	\$75,300.00
Revised Target Amount	\$100,000.00

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.

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

14 January 2024

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 3:3-10,19

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:13-15,17-20

Gospel Reading: John 1:35-42

Entrance Antiphon:

*All the earth shall bow down before you, O God,
and shall sing to you,
shall sing to your name, O Most High!*

Responsorial Psalm:

*Here am I, Lord;
I come to do your will.*

GOSPEL Acclamation:

*Alleluia, alleluia!
We have found the Messiah:
Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.
Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon:

*You have prepared a table before me,
and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.*

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 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

Daily MASS Times

Mon/Tues/Thur/Fri 9:00 am
Wed 7:30 pm Sat 8:00 am

Weekend MASS Times

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

Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday 11:00 am-12 noon
Kindly ring Parish Office to book for other times during the week.

“The Holy Spirit, in the variety of his gifts, unites us and enables us to contribute to the building up of the Church in holiness. In this great work, each of us has a part to play; each of us, as a "living stone", is needed for the growth and the beauty of God's holy temple. Let us ask the Lord to help us to take an ever more active part in the Church's life and mission, guided by the Holy Spirit and with Jesus as our cornerstone.”
— Pope Francis

Baptism Seminar

The next seminar will be held on the **28th of January 2024 at 2:00 pm** in the **parish meeting room**. Please bring a copy of your child's **birth certificate**.

Congratulations for last weekend's Baptism

Joaquin Romeo Deligero Artuz

Death Anniversaries: We Remember

John Apap, Dave Andrew Culala, Ronald Fabian, Kumarika Misso, Thambi Raj, Leonardo Tiofilo, Victor Tuballa & Peter Gunter Wagner

**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 & Mario BIFFA, Therese BRODERICK-TAYLOR, Jacqueline CAMERON, Conception CAPIENDO, Gary FERNANDEZ, Frances CARUANA, Gwen CHAMBERS, Sr Gail COLQUHOUN, Paul DWYER, Jean-Marie & Marie-Claude FREDERIC, Edward GALEA, Louise GRECH, Catherine HART, Maureen JACKSON, Eden & Ninoy JUCO, John KNIGHT, Nabil LABBAD, Francis LLOYD GOULD, Marie MELITO, Kathleen MORRISSEY, Deidre MURRAY, Elsie NONEY, Pamela PEARSON, Marie PURCELL, John RILEY, Gloria ROBERTS, Aida SADSAD, Antonia SCHEMBRI, Mary SIMMONS, Vivienne & Marian STEWART, Anthony & Natalina TEUMA, Raymond TOGHILL, Margaret TSENG, John VAIFALE, Rita VAUGHN, Augustina & Margaret VELLA, Sesilia VAVE, Aida WALCOTT & Joan WREN.

For Good Health: Amelie Abeelack, Francisca Cruz, Antonia Little, Sandra & baby Josip Luburic, Shanida Macabuag, Andrew Nashwan, Michael Pascal, Austin Michael Politono, Helen Recto, Joao Rosa, Felicidad Senia, Eric Siale, Lita Stacey, Marvin Torres & Mercedes Valix.

Parish & Diocesan News

Welcome back Father Gerard!

We **welcome back Fr Gerard O'Dempsey** as the Parish Priest of The Good Shepherd Parish Plumpton. We also welcome **Fr John Nguyen**, our new Assistant Parish Priest..

Sto Nino Fiesta Sinulog 2024

As part of the Nine Days Novena Masses in preparation for the Sto Nino Fiesta Sinulog, The Good Shepherd Catholic Church will host the **Novena Masses on the 18th & 19th of January 2024 at 7:00 pm**. The **Sto Nino Fiesta Sinulog Mass** will be celebrated on the **21st of January Sunday 2:30 pm** at The Good Shepherd Catholic Church.

Special Needs Support Group

The next meeting for the Special Needs Support Group will be on the **28th of January 2024 at 3:00 pm** in the Parish Meeting Room. For more information, please contact **Maryrose** on **0433 265 579**.

The Good Shepherd Junior Choir CD Project

The Junior Choir **CDs** are still available to purchase at the Parish Office at \$15.00 each. All proceeds go to support the parish. **Thank you for your support.**

Farewell for Fr Vincy and Fr Bollar

Fr Vincy and Fr Bollar will be moving to their new parishes by the middle of January 2024. They will be coming back for a farewell dinner with the Parish Community on the **9th of February 2024 at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall** (Bingo Hall). RSVP is not needed. Everyone is invited.

ATTENTION! To Everyone Enrolled in the Legacy Program

We are currently updating the list of everyone who has donated or has pledged to donate to the Legacy Program for the construction of the new meeting rooms and toilets. Please contact or visit the parish office as soon as possible to confirm your enrolment and update your details. Thank you. Email: parishof@goodshepherd.org.au; phone: **02 9832 4461**. Thank you.

Parish Financial Audit Report for Year 2023

If anyone would like to get information regarding the Parish audit report for year 2023 please feel free to visit the Parish Office. The office is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Be Part of Our Synod Journey: Diocesan Synod Report Now Available

The Diocesan Synod Report is now available for download. The newly released Diocesan Synod Report offers a summary of our first Diocesan Synod assembly, held from 13-15 October 2023, its preparatory stages, in-depth details of the proceedings, and insights from delegates. Download your copy from the **Parramatta Synod website** now: <https://parracatholic.org/synod2023/>

NEW Diocesan website launched

The new parracatholic.org website is now here with exciting new features and functionality including a comprehensive 'Find a Mass' function which includes Daily and Weekend Masses, Reconciliation and Adoration times; a centralised event calendar; Daily Mass readings and different ways you can contribute to the Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Check it out today!

Marriage Preparation Courses in 2024

Getting married in 2024? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit www.parracatholic.org/pmp to view weekend course dates in the New Year, to book and pay. An online preparation called SmartLoving can also be booked via the website. For more information, email met@parracatholic.org or phone **Karin** on **0419 242 435** or **Marisa** on **0412 280 017**.