

The Conversion of Saint Paul

Saint Paul's entire life can be explained in terms of one experience — his meeting with Jesus on the road to Damascus. In an instant, he saw that all the zeal of his dynamic personality was being wasted, like the strength of a boxer swinging wildly. Perhaps he had never seen Jesus, who was only a few years older. But he had acquired a zealot's hatred of all Jesus stood for, as he began to harass the Church: "...entering house after house and dragging out men and women, he handed them over for imprisonment" (Acts 8:3b). Now he himself was "entered," possessed, all his energy harnessed to one goal — being a slave of Christ in the ministry of reconciliation, an instrument to help others experience the one Savior.

One sentence determined his theology: "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting" (Acts 9:5b). Jesus was mysteriously identified with people — the loving group of people Saul had been running down like criminals. Jesus, he saw, was the mysterious fulfillment of all he had been blindly pursuing. From then on, his only work was to "present everyone perfect in Christ. For this I labor and struggle, in accord with the exercise of his power working within me" (Colossians 1:28b-29). "For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and [with] much conviction" (1 Thessalonians 1:5a).

Paul's life became a tireless proclaiming and living out of the message of the cross: Christians die baptismally to sin and are buried with Christ; they are dead to all that is sinful and unredeemed in the world. They are made into a new creation, already sharing Christ's victory and someday to rise from the dead like him. Through this risen Christ the Father pours out the Spirit on them, making them completely new.

So Paul's great message to the world was: You are saved entirely by God, not by anything you can do. Saving faith is the gift of total, free, personal and loving commitment to Christ, a commitment that then bears fruit in more "works" than the Law could ever contemplate.

— Franciscan Media

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 19/01/2024

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.

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

21 January 2024

1st Reading: Jonah 3:1-5,10

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-20

Entrance Antiphon:

*O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place.*

Responsorial Psalm:

Teach me your ways, O Lord.

GOSPEL Acclamation:

*Alleluia, alleluia!
The kingdom of God is near:
believe the Good News!
Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon:

*Look toward the Lord and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.*

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
Safeguarding Champion	Mr Joseph Fenech

Daily MASS Times

Mon/Tues/Thur/Fri 9:00 am
Wed 7:30 pm Sat 8:00 am
Thur 7:00 pm **(Vietnamese)**

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.

“Prayer can truly change your life. For it turns your attention away from yourself and directs your mind and your heart toward the Lord. If we look only at ourselves, with our own limitations and sins, we quickly give way to sadness and discouragement. But if we keep our eyes fixed on the Lord, then our hearts are filled with hope, our minds are washed in the light of truth, and we come to know the fullness of the Gospel with all its promise and life.”

— Saint John Paul II

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**.

Death Anniversaries: We Remember

Rufina Loria, Andrea Pastolero, Isabel Rosales, Julian Rosales, Beth Sagun & Reynaldo Vargas

**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, 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.

Dear parishioners,

Thank you for your warm welcome, it is good to be home again (after 6 years break). With an early Easter this year (and an early Lent beginning on 14th February) the year is moving ahead quickly and I have not yet finished unpacking. Fr. John Nguyen will arrive towards the end of this month to take up his position as assistant in the parish. I am looking forward to journeying with you in the coming years as we seek to follow Christ as faithful disciples.

Fr. Gerard

Parish & Diocesan News

Lenten Reflection Groups

Sign-up sheets for the Lenten Reflection groups are now available at the entrance of the Church. The **7:00 pm Tuesday sessions will start on the 13th of February** and **Thursday morning sessions will start on the 15th of February after the 9:00 am Mass**.

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**.

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.

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 required**. Everyone is invited.

Bishop Vincent presents a conversation with Monsignor Tomas Halik: 12 February

The Diocese of Parramatta invites you to a conversation with Czech priest and theologian Monsignor Tomas Halik on **Monday 12 February 2024 at 6:00 pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta**. Registration is free, but places are strictly limited. Visit <https://parracatholic.org/events/tomashalik/> to register.

Diocesan World Day of the Sick Mass: 10 February

A Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at **11:00 am on Saturday 10 February 2024 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown**. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. RSVPs are required by 6 February 2024 to mary.gale@parracatholic.org

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!