

## PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

### The Story of the Presentation of the Lord

At the end of the fourth century, a woman named Etheria made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Her journal, discovered in 1887, gives an unprecedented glimpse of liturgical life there. Among the celebrations she describes is the Epiphany, the observance of Christ's birth, and the gala procession in honor of his Presentation in the Temple 40 days later. Under the Mosaic Law, a woman was ritually "unclean" for 40 days after childbirth, when she was to present herself to the priests and offer sacrifice—her "purification." Contact with anyone who had brushed against mystery—birth or death—excluded a person from Jewish worship. This feast emphasizes Jesus' first appearance in the Temple more than Mary's purification.

The observance spread throughout the Western Church in the fifth and sixth centuries. Because the Church in the West celebrated Jesus' birth on December 25, the Presentation was moved to February 2, 40 days after Christmas.

### Reflection

In Luke's account, Jesus was welcomed in the temple by two elderly people, Simeon and the widow Anna. They embody Israel in their patient expectation; they acknowledge the infant Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah. Early references to the Roman feast dub it the feast of Saint Simeon, the old man who burst into a song of joy which the Church still sings at day's end.

— *Franciscan Media*

### Diocesan Food Drives

Many vulnerable people in our community rely on the 'food banks' run by Jesuit Refugee Services and the House of Welcome, which operate thanks to donations from community food drives. All parishes and schools are encouraged to run a food drive for those seeking safety in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Find out more information about how you can help at <https://parracatholic.org/contribute/volunteer/#food-drive> or emailing: [james.atanasious@parracatholic.org](mailto:james.atanasious@parracatholic.org)

### 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](mailto:parishof@goodshepherd.org.au)



*The Good Shepherd Parish Plumpton*

Or visit our website:

[www.goodshepherd.org.au](http://www.goodshepherd.org.au)

### New Parish Projects—Meeting room and Additional Toilets 26/01/2024

Donations	\$21,196.00
Raffle tickets	\$12,104.00
Legacy Donation	\$43,000.00
Total Amount	\$76,300.00
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.

### 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**28 January 2024**

**1st Reading:** Deuteronomy 18:15-20      **2nd Reading:** 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

**Gospel Reading:** Mark 1:21-28

### Entrance Antiphon:

*Save us, O Lord our God!  
And gather us from the nations,  
to give thanks to your holy name,  
and make it our glory to praise you.*

### Responsorial Psalm:

*If today, you hear his voice,  
harden not your hearts.*

### GOSPEL Acclamation:

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
A people in darkness have seen a great light:  
a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.  
Alleluia!*

### Communion Antiphon:

*Let your face shine on your servant.  
Save me in your merciful love.  
O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.*

### 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.

### Baptism Seminar

The next seminar will be held on the **25th of February 2024 at 2:00 pm** in the **parish meeting room**. Please bring a copy of your child's **birth certificate**.

### Parish Based Youth Group – Antioch

The Sunday youth group meetings will be back soon!

**“There is no evil to be faced that Christ does not face with us. There is no enemy that Christ has not already conquered. There is no cross to bear that Christ has not already borne for us, and does not now bear with us.”**

— **Saint John Paul II**

### Please remember those for whom prayers have been requested

**Death Anniversaries / In Memoriam:** Sr Michaeline, Sr Petronela, Reynaldo Casis, Charlie Famugia, Christopher Ferrao, Baby Levi Alexander Labuson, Ronald John Leonardo, Diana Lobo, Aquilina Mapa, Victoria Velasco & All Souls in Purgatory

**For Good Health:** Amelie Abeelack, Francisca Cruz, Antonia Little, Sandra & baby Josip Luburic, Shanida Macabuag, Elizabeth Mitchell, Andrew Nashwan and Felicidad Senia

**Thanksgiving / Birthdays:** Alvin Swift

### We also 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.

## INFORMATION

From this Sunday – the Commentator will announce any weekend Mass intentions/offerings during the notices and introduction to the Mass. Ideally Mass intentions/offerings for the weekend need to be handed in the day before (either to Father or at the parish office during the week)!

Weekday Mass intentions/offerings for the deceased will be mentioned during the Prayer of the Faithful and other intentions/offerings will be published in the parish bulletin.

## 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**.

### 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](mailto:parishof@goodshepherd.org.au); phone: 02 9832 4461. Thank you.

### 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 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](mailto:mary.gale@parracatholic.org)

### MET FaithLIFE Scripture Short Course: Tuesday Evenings 13, 20, 27 February

**Looking to learn more about the Bible?** Wanting expert guidance on interpreting Scripture for life & faith? Interested in the theme of women in the Bible through the Gospel of Matthew? Sign up now for the **3-session FaithLIFE Scripture short course with Dr Debra Snoddy on Tuesday evenings 13, 20 and 27 February!** Registration and more dates and details via <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=faithlife> OR get in touch with the team via [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org)