

## Readings for next weekend — The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

*First reading:* 1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28; *Second reading:* 1 John 3:1-2,21-24; *Gospel:* Luke 2:41-52

## The Liturgical Year: Christmas and Easter

The feasts and seasons of the liturgical year, developed in the places where Christianity took root. Already the Gospel writers set the tradition that the death and resurrection of Christ coincides with the time of Jewish Passover and the (Northern) spring season. Early Christians continued to mark the festival of Easter at this time, finding it simple to draw similarities between the invigoration that spring brings to nature and the human spirit and the great feast of the resurrection as the origin for all life for the Christian. Christmas grew in the context of the (Northern) winter festival to mark the solstice, with the coming of the sun coinciding with the coming of Christ the light into the world.

In Australia we have found ways to mark the cycle of the Church's festivals in our special 'climate' and place. The lush purple of jacaranda and agapanthus heralds the Advent season of waiting in hope. Our liturgy marks a beginning even as the secular year ends and offers refuge and solace from the frenzied pre-Christmas activities. The coming of Christ for us occurs in the bright light of the sun, not marking the shortest day, but coinciding with the blinding and blistering harshness of the summer sub. Christ bursts with power and might upon our southern land at Christmas time.

— Carmel Pilcher, Liturgy News June 2009

## Parish & Diocesan News continued

### Epiphany Pilgrimage and Fiesta: 2-9 January 2025

Commit the first fruits of your new year to Christ with the 2025 Epiphany Pilgrimage. Enjoy 7 days of bushwalking, fellowship and prayer as we journey from Emu Plains to the top of the Blue Mountains, experiencing the wonderful hospitality of parish communities along the way. Day 1 is a family-friendly day, with the option for a children's pilgrimage finishing with the Finnies Fiesta at St Finbars, Glenbrook. For more information and to register for all or part of the journey, visit [www.epiphanypilgrimage.org](http://www.epiphanypilgrimage.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

After hours emergency #: 0493 969 440

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 20/12/2024

Donations	\$28,365.00
Raffle tickets	\$12,104.00
Legacy Donation	\$43,000.00
Total Amount	\$83,469.00

Revised Target Amount \$100,000.00

# THE PARISH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

*Celebrating Our 36th 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.

### Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C)

**22 December 2024**

**1st Reading:** Micah 5:1- 4      **2nd Reading:** Hebrews 10:5-10

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 1:39-44

**Entrance Antiphon:** Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

**GOSPEL Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia!  
I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.  
Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

### 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/Tue/Fri 9:00 am  
Wednesday 9:00 am & 7:30 pm  
Thursday 9:00 am & 7:00 pm (Vietnamese)  
1st & 2nd Friday 7:30 pm  
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.

## Parish & Diocesan News

### **Christmas Mass times:**

This year we will be trialling a changed Mass schedule for Christmas:

Christmas Eve: 6:00 pm Vigil Mass  
(December 24<sup>th</sup>) 9:00 pm Mass during the night (formerly known as Mid-night Mass)  
Christmas Day: 7:00 am Mass at Dawn  
(December 25<sup>th</sup>) 9:00 am Mass during the day  
12:00 noon Vietnamese Mass

Each Mass has its own unique readings and prayers.

### Thank You for Supporting our Catholic Care's Houses to Homes

Fr Fernando Montano, Parramatta Catholic Foundation, and Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains thank you for your generous support of homeless mothers and children. The money raised ensures that Catholic Care can continue to provide homeless mothers and children safety, support, and a place to call home.

### Liturgical Ministry Course returns in 2025

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in 2025 in Blacktown and Penrith. This free formation is open to anyone in the Diocese interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. **Enrolment forms are available from the sacristy after Mass or from the parish office. Registrations close 28th January 2025 but spaces are limited so enrol now to avoid disappointment.** For more information please contact the parish office on **9832 4461** or email [parishof@goodshepherd.org.au](mailto:parishof@goodshepherd.org.au).

### Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held on Saturday 29 January at St Andrew the Apostle Parish Marayong for Cycle 1 (Module 1). More training opportunities will be available throughout January and February. Please register directly for this training or for other convenient dates and locations by following this link on the training event: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>. For more information, please email: [safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org)

### Free English and Citizenship Classes

Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are offering English and Citizenship classes at Mamre House, 181 Mamre Rd, Orchard Hills, on a Tuesday and Wednesday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm during school terms. Free childcare is available. If you are interested in enrolling, please contact Mamre Crèche on (02) 8843 2506 or Nepean Community College (02) 4724 9000.

### Baptism Seminar

The next seminar will be held on the **26th of January 2025 at 2:00 pm** in the **parish meeting room**. Please bring a copy of your child's **birth certificate**.

### Parish Based Youth Group – Antioch

Young people are empowered & nourished in their spiritual Journey and leadership. We have a youth group meeting every Sunday at 7:30 pm. We invite the youth for "Come and See" experience.

### Congratulations for last Weekend's Baptism

Amelia Grace Sinsay

"May the Mother of Jesus and our Mother, always smile on your spirit, obtaining for it, from her Most Holy Son, every heavenly blessing."

— Saint Pio of Pietrelcina

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

**Death Anniversaries / In Memoriam:** Erlinda Bermudez, Catherine Bernard, Manuel Gueco, Dagma Haliburn, Carlita Pineda, Clement Silva and Stephen Woodhouse

**Healing / Good Health:** Gimil Abraham, Matthew Caraica, Gervy Espino, Franklyn Foenander, Emiliana Lagasca, Iki Nasio, Bienvenido & Connie Recto and Helen Recto

**Anniversary / Birthday / Thanksgiving:** Heartcare Health Services, Romeo Boncato, Leo & Gloria Dado, Alvin Dakila, Sue Musumeci, Cornelius Nuval and Sarah Riopirio

### We also remember in our prayers our housebound brothers & sisters

John ANGEL, Raylina AURE, Christine BAPTISTE, Doris & John BARRETT, Maureen BARTLEY, Philomena BENT, Joseph BUTTIGIGE, Jacqueline CAMERON, Conception CAPIENDO, Frances CARUANA, George CASSAR, Gwen & Robert CHAMBERS, Rita CLEARY, Sr Gail COLQUHOUN, Clare DONOHOE, Paul DWYER, Wayne & Audrey FERNANDEZ, Jean-Marie & Marie-Claude FREDERIC, Fololetina FRETTON, Louise GRECH, Catherine HART, Eden & Ninoy JUCO, John KNIGHT, Nabil LABBAD, Francis LLOYD GOULD, Kathleen MORRISSEY, Deidre MURRAY, Mary MUSCAT, Elsie NONEY, Pamela PEARSON, Marie PURCELL, Gloria ROBERTS, Mary SIMMONS, Marian STEWART, Vivienne STEWART, Anthony & Natalina TEUMA, Mary THEVATHASAN, Raymond TOGHILL, Margaret TSENG, John VAIFALE, Sesilia VAVE, Augustina VELLA, Margaret VELLA, Aida WALCOTT, Russell & Mary WICKRAMASINGHE and Joan WREN.

### **The Weeks Ahead:**

1. CAROLS: Friday January 3<sup>rd</sup> 7:30 pm in the Church courtyard. Refreshments provided.
2. Santo Nino Fiesta: January 19<sup>th</sup>.
3. Saturday January 25<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm Mass: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Fr. Gerard's ordination to the priesthood.
4. Tuesday January 28<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm Liturgy Committee meeting.
5. Friday January 31<sup>st</sup> 9:00 am Mass: Mass for the staffs of the three schools of our parish followed by morning tea.