

Readings for next weekend — Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
First reading: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12; Second reading: Romans 8:28-30; Gospel: Matthew 13:44-46

Liturgy and Spirituality

In *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, the well-known 1994 book that Pope Saint John Paul II wrote by answering questions posed to him by an Italian journalist, one of the first questions is about prayer. The journalist asks the pope to share “the secret of your heart”: how he prays. John Paul’s is long and interesting, covering two chapters in the book, but he begins it by quoting lines from today’s second reading from Romans: “The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but he Spirit himself intercedes with inexpressible groaning.”

Many people who had the unique experience of witnessing John Paul’s personal prayer—for example, those who had the opportunity to attend a weekday morning Mass in his small private chapel at the Vatican observed him sitting quietly before the Mass began as he sat immersed in prayer, his eyes squeezed closed—will be unsurprised that his description of his own prayer life began with this verse. That’s because it was not uncommon during that prayer time for the pope to be heard doing what could easily be called groaning, quietly but audibly.

There are so many good and fruitful ways to pray. *Lectio divina*, the rosary, the Jesus prayer, Ignatian prayer, contemplative prayer, the breviary, eucharistic adoration, charismatic prayer, and much more leap quickly to mind. But in each case, the common truth is that, to use Saint Paul’s words from the second reading again, the Spirit comes to our aid and “intercedes for the holy ones.”

In other words, our prayer is first of all not something *we* do but that the Holy Spirit does *in us*. All prayer is grace, is gift. Even our desire to pray, our decision to sit down and spend time with God, is a response to the grace of the Spirit. We are always completely free to ignore or reject it if we choose. Come, Holy Spirit, and help us to pray.

— Living Liturgy 2026

Parish & Diocesan News continued

Adult Confirmations 2026

The Office for Worship will host a Catechesis and Formation Day for those candidates (16+) interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. This will be on Saturday August 29th, 9.30am to 2.00pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre in Blacktown. A light lunch will be provided on the day. It is recommended that all sponsors attend the catechesis day. A contribution of \$40 is suggested from the candidates to assist in covering the Catechesis Day. The Confirmation will take place on Tuesday September 1st, 2026 at 7:30pm at the Cathedral. Please Note: Enrolment forms and a copy of Baptismal Certificates should be sent to OFW before Monday August 18th. For more information, please contact the Parish Office parishof@goodshepherd.org.au or (02) 9832 4461.

How to Support Our Parish Family Financially

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. For people wishing to contribute by direct debit – forms are available from the parish office. You can also setup your own internet banking recurring payments to the following account:

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



The Good Shepherd Parish Plumpton

Or visit our website:
www.goodshepherd.org.au

New Parish Projects—Meeting room and

Additional Toilets 17/07/2026

Donations	\$31,896.00
Raffle tickets	\$12,104.00
Legacy Donation	\$58,000.00
Total Amount	\$102,000.00
Revised Target Amount	\$100,000.00

THE PARISH OF
THE GOOD SHEPHERD

130-136 Hyatts Road, Plumpton NSW 2761
Celebrating Our 37th Anniversary

Parish Vision:

a place where all people are welcomed...
a place where the gifts of the Holy Spirit are put to use...
a place where people are empowered to share the Good News of Jesus with others.

Weddings

Please call the Parish office for appointment.
Arrangements should be made at least **twelve** months in advance.

Holy Communion for the Sick

Please call the parish office to book a date and time.

Anointing of the Sick

Please call the parish office to book a date and time.

Baptisms

Parents and godparents must attend a Pre-Baptism Seminar prior to scheduling the Baptism. The seminar is offered once a month on the 4th Sunday at 2:00 pm in the Parish meeting room or church. **Next seminar is on 26th July.** Please bring a copy of your child’s birth certificate.

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

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

1st Reading: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 2nd Reading: Romans 8:26-27
Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:24-30

Entrance Antiphon: See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, you are good and forgiving.

GOSPEL Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: The Lord, the gracious, the merciful,
has made a memorial of his wonders;
he gives food to those who fear him.

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 Social Media Officer	Miss Catrina Bautista
Parish Council Chairperson	Mr Anthony Matthews
RCIA Co-ordinators	Mr Bernie Banta & Mrs 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)**
First Friday 7:30 pm (with Adoration)
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 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.

Legion of Mary Good Shepherd Praesidium

Meets every Saturday morning at 9.00am in the Parish Meeting Room. Please contact Christine on 0433 983 731 if you are interested.

HOLY FATHER’S PRAYER INTENTION for JULY

For respect for human life.
Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

Please remember those for whom prayers have been requested

Death Anniversaries / In Memoriam: Carmelita, Dominador, Daniel Allegacoon, Juanito Bernales, Lucia Castellano, Carlita & Manuel Gueco, Bishop Joy, Pamela Mathias, Pia Oriemo and all the holy souls in purgatory

Healing / Good Health: Ginette, Ivan, Aretha Aquino, Sophia Escueta, Felipe & Gloria Guanzon, Mariles Hollero, Emiliana Lagasca, Peter Nathan, Maria Perez and Jenny Taateo

Anniversary / Birthday / Thanksgiving / Special Intention: Brendon, Danica, Justine Abraham, Jonathan & Justin Bocasan, Armida Boncato and Mark Edward & Yvette Nuval

We also remember in our prayers our housebound brothers & sisters

Yvonne, Victoria ABAO, Emanuela AGIUS, Belenor & Julian AGUILAR, Patricia ALLERDICE, John ANGEL, Mafalda ARACO, Raylina AURE, Christine BAPTISTE, John BARRETT, Margaret BIEDRZYCKA, Jacqueline CAMERON, Conception CAPIENDO, Anthony CARRUNA, Frances CARUANA, George CASSAR, Gwen & Robert CHAMBERS, Rita CLEARY, Clare DONOHOE, Matthew DORRAN, Paul DWYER, Mario FARRUGIA, Wayne & Audrey FERNANDEZ, Jean-Marie & Marie-Claude FREDERIC, Fololetina FRETTON, Louise GRECH, Eden & Ninoy JUCO, Nabil LABBAD, Malia LAVALU, Lima LEO, Francis LLOYD GOULD, Gwenda MCCARTHY, Rita & Victor MELI, Teresa MESSIANA, Anne MILLER, Kathleen MORRISSEY, Deidre MURRAY, Mary MUSCAT, Elsie NONEY, Pamela PEARSON, Philip PORKETT, Marie PURCELL, Melecia REA, Gloria ROBERTS, Lilly SHAHOUD, Mary SIMMONS, Marian STEWART, Vivienne STEWART, Lynette STITT, Anthony & Natalina TEUMA, Raymond TOGHILL, Margaret TSENG, John VAIFALE, Sesilia VAVE, Augustina VELLA, Russell & Mary WICKRAMASINGHE, Espedito & Kitty ZAMMIT

Parish & Diocesan News

Schedule for Sacrament of Confirmation 2026

- 03 August 2026, Monday – **Parent Information night and registration** at 7.00pm in the Parish Church
- 16, 23 & 30 August and 06 September 2026 – **Confirmation classes**, 10.30 to 11.30am at the Good Shepherd Primary School (*Attendance is a MUST*)
- 12 September 2026 – Saturday, **Rehearsal with Sponsor** at 1.00 to 3.30pm in the Parish Church
- 17 September 2026 – Thursday, **Rite of Confirmation**, 7.00pm in the Parish Church

The **Registration forms and Parent Information Sheets** are now available at the entrance of the Church or at the parish office.

Together we can keep the faith alive - Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)

Did you know that across the world tens of millions of Christian families are in exile following persecution because of their faith? Aid to the Church in Need is a spiritual and pastoral charity which seeks to keep the flame of faith alive in those places where it is at risk of extinction. This weekend we welcome to our parish an ACN speaker who will share with us about the work of Aid to the Church in Need and how we can help our suffering and persecuted brothers and sisters.



Celebrate the Feast of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Join the Sisters of Saint Joseph and Mary MacKillop Place as we celebrate the Feast of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop on **Saturday August 8th**. Make a pilgrimage to Mary's tomb, spend time in prayer in the Chapel, and celebrate the Eucharist with us at one of our **Feast Day Masses** at 8:00am & 6:00pm in the Chapel and 10:00am & 1:00pm at Glen Roy Green (outdoors). The **10:00am and 1:00pm Masses will be AusLan interpreted**, and the **10:00am Mass will be livestreamed** for those unable to attend in person.

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities for July 2026

There are several face-to-face Safeguarding Training opportunities available throughout July at several parishes. Please register directly for this training or for other convenient dates and locations by clicking on the training event at:

<https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>.

For more information, please email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PILGRIMAGE 2026: October 5th–16th 2026

Join **Rev. Fr Joshy Parappully OFM Cap**, Parish priest of **Guardian Angels Church, Wynnum QLD**, on a faith-filled pilgrimage to **Rome: St Peter's Basilica & Square, Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel; Assisi: Basilicas of St Francis & St Clare; Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli; San Giovanni Rotondo: Shrine of St Padre Pio; Lancia: Eucharistic Miracle Shrine; and Medjugorje: Apparition Hill (Podbrdo). Price: AUD \$8,880 per person (twin share) - this includes: Return airfares, transfers, 3-star accommodation, professional guides, breakfast and dinner. Pilgrims from all Australian states and territories are welcome to join at the advertised group price. Please refer to the parish notice boards for details. For enquiries & bookings, please contact iDestiny Travel: Suren 0431 791 285 / Tan 0413 485 411; or email: sales@idestinytravel.com.au**

Coming Events:

- Name Tag Sunday: Saturday/Sunday July 25th/26th – please bring your work name badges
- Sausage Sizzle: Sunday July 26th – after the 6.00pm Mass
- Next Alpha begins Thursday September 24th.
- Saint Francis of Assisi Week: October 3rd to 10th – mark this week on your calendar!
- Parish-in-Council #2: Saturday November 21st – save the date!