

Readings for next weekend — Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
First reading: Isaiah 55:1-3; Second reading: Romans 8:35, 37-39; Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

Liturgy and Community:

Today we celebrate the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly, observed throughout the church since it was established by Pope Francis in 2021. The Pope assigned it to the fourth Sunday of July because it typically falls close to July 26, the liturgical memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. This year, Joachim and Anne’s feast happens to fall on a Sunday—today.

Announcing that he was establishing this annual observance in his January 31, 2021, Angelus address, Pope Francis reminded his listeners of the gospel figures Simeon and Anna, both elderly people whom the Holy Spirit helped to recognize the presence of the Messiah, Jesus, in their midst (see Luke 2:22-38). The pope continued, “The Holy Spirit still stirs up thoughts and words of wisdom in the elderly today: their voice is precious because it sings the praises of God and safeguards the roots of peoples. They remind us that old age is a gift and that grandparents are the link between generations, passing on the experience of life and faith to the young. Grandparents are often forgotten, and we forget this wealth of preserving roots and passing on.”

Today’s first reading, from 1 Kings, features another person known for his wisdom. We hear the account of King Solomon’s request to God for a blessing—not for long life or wealth but for “an understanding heart” with which to make judgements and distinguish right from wrong. God honors the king’s request, granting him “a heart so wise and understanding.” (In 1 King, this passage is closely followed by the famous demonstration of Solomon’s wisdom, with which he is able to distinguish, in the midst of a conflict, between the true mother of a child and a lying woman who only claims to be its mother.)

Today offers us several prompts, then, to make it a day that we begin to make a greater effort to acknowledge and seek out more frequently the guidance and advice of those whose long experience and reflection have brought them much wisdom.

— 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 24/07/2026

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 23 August.** 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.

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 26 July 2026

1st Reading:	1 Kings 3:5, 7-12
2nd Reading:	Romans 8:28-30
Gospel Reading:	Matthew 13:44-52
Entrance Antiphon:	God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.
Responsorial Psalm:	Lord, I love your commands.
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:	Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

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.

Congratulations for last Weekends' Baptism

Matthew Xzavier San Jose

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: Georgia Baldacchino, Juan Ballos, Doris & John Barrett, Philomina Bent, Lourdes & Renato Chan, Acelda Espiritu, Clement & Mark Kelada, Manolito Macedonio, Sweeney Mallorca, Lafaele Sefo, Maria Joao Cunha Leo Soro, Thelma Tate, Rosa Tork, Arnold Van Ross and all the holy souls in purgatory

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

Anniversary / Birthday / Thanksgiving / Special Intention: Sr Rita, Sabine Escueta, T Fernandes, Julie & Rommel Flestado, Vanessa May Nuval, Marvin Sepp and Marianita Vargas

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 DONOHUE, 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.

Parish Name Tags

Get your **FREE** parish name tags by completing the paper form at the Welcome info desk or scan the QR code. Ensure your name is spelt correctly, as it will be printed on your name tag. You will be notified by email when your 3D-printed name is ready for collection. Wear your name tag at Mass and all parish events. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9832 4461 or parishof@goodshepherd.org.au.



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.

Refresher Safeguarding Training – Module 6 (Cycle 3)

Safeguarding training is due to be updated every two years. Have you completed the Introductory and Renewal Modules 1-5? If 2 years have passed please complete **Refresher Module 6**. Module 6 is being offered face to face at Bishop Bede Heather Centre Blacktown on Tuesday 28th July 2026. A morning session will take place between 10am and 12 noon. This Module will also be repeated in the evening between 7pm-9pm. Please register for one of these sessions via the website or email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org. This Module is also available online at: <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au/>

St Carlo Acutis's Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition

Designed by St Carlo Acutis, the first millennial saint, this exhibition documents reported Eucharistic miracles from around the world, and it is touring parishes right across our Diocese. Next, it comes to Our Lady of the Angels, Rouse Hill, from 9-23 August. Students, teachers and parishioners are invited, entry is free and no bookings are required. To see where the exhibition is heading next across the Diocese, visit <https://parracatholic.org/iec2028/>

Coming Events:

- RCIA begins: Monday July 27th – 7.30pm in the meeting room.
- Saint Clare Mass: Tuesday August 11th – 7.30pm in the Parish Church.
- 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!