

# St. Oliver Plunkett Parish Harris park



Website: [www.stoliversharrisparish.org.au](http://www.stoliversharrisparish.org.au)  
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3 November 2024 | Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Weekday Mass Times

Tuesday to Friday: 7:00 am

## Weekend Mass Times

Saturday: Vigil 5:30pm

Sunday: 8:00 am & 10:00 am

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;  
be not far from me!  
Make haste and come to my help,  
O Lord, my strong salvation!

Cf. Ps 37: 22-23

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence,  
O Lord.

Cf. Ps 15:11

**Administrator:** Fr Paul Marshall

**School Principal:** Pascale Rone

School Tel: (02) 8633 8300

**Parish Secretary:** Lilia Tolentino

Tel: (02) 88638801

## OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday & Friday: 10:00 am. - 3:00 pm

Wednesday: 8:00 am - 12:30pm

## Sacraments @ St Oliver's

**For Baptism, Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Marriage and Funerals,** please ring or email the parish office for assistance.

## *Halloween, All Saints Day, and All Souls Day- Linked Festivities unfolding the Power of the Spirit-World*

This weekend Halloween is being celebrated in our neighbourhoods. "Halloween" means "holy evening" as in "Hallow"= Holy and 'een short for "evening." Halloween falls on 31<sup>st</sup> October - the evening before All Saints day.

What are the symbols we connect to Halloween? We find pumpkins with saw-tooth grins, masks, tricks and treats. But what do all these symbols mean? Is Halloween just about American commercialism? Well, we can actually uncover a lot of religious truth in it.

Halloween comes from the old Celtic pagan celebrations held at the end of summer. As summer wanes and the days get shorter and the winter nights get longer, it gives the goblins and ghouls more dark time to work their mischief. To keep the evil spirits away, the pagans offered them treats- lollies and sweets so the evil spirits wouldn't play tricks on them. The clever Celtic pagans used to put on masks to disguise themselves as evil spirits so that they could fool the real spirits into leaving them alone. But these clever pagans- because they had evil masks on- could pose as evil spirits and they would steal the treats that had been left out for the evil spirits. That's where we get the "trick or treat" tradition.

It was this kind of pagan thing that the Christians met when they arrived in Ireland in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. Christians didn't do away with Halloween altogether, but, rather, they Christianised it i.e. they sifted out what was true and got rid of the superstitions. After all, the Christians figured, **there IS a spirit world**-the angels and saints in heaven-so this was a good opportunity to draw these pagans into remembering all the spirits, but that these spirits are kindly, friendly, members of the mystical Body, the communion of saints, as all of God's people, both living and dead, now united with us in God's love. So, the pagan custom of **appeasing** the spirits became the Christian holy time of **remembering** them. By **re**-remembering all the dead that is exactly what we do...we re-connect and re-join all the living with all the dead....we become one vast holy community.

So, the feast of All Saints is about this general remembering of the spirit-world and these saints in heaven can intercede for us. This feast of All Saints happened way back in the fourth century. A few centuries later it was easy to introduce what we call the feast of All Souls on the next day-these are the spirits on the way to God but who needed help.

When people feel so alone today in our world, this feast of Halloween, All Saints and All Souls says one beautiful thing! We are all connected! We are never alone! In other words, everyone on earth, in

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## Activity

purgatory, or in heaven are all part of one family of God. Jesus said, "I am the vine and you are the branches". So, Halloween, All Saints, All Souls say we are all connected. We form one vast communion of saints and these festive days remind us of that great Catholic truth.

We mightn't all dress up for Halloween, but we dress up to come to Mass...and even this ritually connects us to the spirit world. In other words, in dressing up, we are symbolically connected to the community of the invisible world. And that's a great thing. Also, when we put on those scary Halloween masks, try to remember, from a Christian point of view, that they are a symbol of human disfigurement brought on by sin, betrayal, sickness, and death itself. But faith reminds us that someday those masks, by the grace of God, and our faith, will be removed and we shall be made beautiful as ugliness dissolves, sin is cleansed, and even the last enemy, death falls before the everlasting mercy of Christ.

Halloween, of course, like Christmas has been co-opted by the market-place and lost much of its spiritual power. But here are four suggestions which might help your family restore spiritual power back into Halloween, All Saints and All Souls Day:

1. Gather your whole family and offer a prayer or story for someone in your family who has died and who are still very much present to us in the communion of saints
2. Bring out the family album or pictures of grandma or grandpa or other deceased members of the family, put it on a coffee table with a little candle lit in front of it.
3. On this All Saints Day weekend, have family members google their saint's name and tell everyone something about the saint you are named after. Take some treats of Halloween around to the residents of a local nursing home and share a little time with them. (Bausch, W. Once upon a Gospel. 23<sup>rd</sup> Publications, 2008, pp.572-574)  
All these things show connection with everyone in earth, purgatory or heaven.

### RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Thinking about becoming a Catholic or know someone who may be interested in exploring the Catholic faith? Contact the Parish Office for more details on joining the RCIA program.

### Confirmation Program begins:

30 Oct, 6 Nov, and 13 Nov Confirmation lessons at 5.00pm at St. Oliver's primary school. The Sacrament will be celebrated on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 10.00am Mass

### Prayers for Deacon Menard:

Please continue to pray for Deacon Menard as he prepares for his priesthood ordination on 21 November 2024

### FAMILY MASS:

Our next Family Mass involving our School families and, by extension, to all our extended parish families will be on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November at 10.00am. Let's make it a family re-union time in thanksgiving to God for the past year and make a special effort to invite those of our families not usually at Mass to come along and extend a welcoming hand to them. We come together to unite in our faith and to pray for peace and good-will within our families and for our world family. Let it be a door to Advent and Christmas.

## Parish Updates

### NOVEMBER MASS OFFERINGS

Beginning with All Saints' Day on Friday, the 1<sup>st</sup> of November, all masses celebrated at St Oliver's in November will be offered for all those who have died. The names of the deceased will not be published in the bulletin during the month of November.

As has been customary for our parish, there will be a book of remembrance which will be placed at the altar during all masses in November.

Please use the November mass offering envelopes to submit the names of your departed loved ones that you would like to be entered in the Book of Life.

A suitable offering for November masses is \$20, as recommended by the ACBC. However, please, remember that all names of your departed friends and family will be recorded in the Book of Life regardless of the donation you make or not make.

### NEXT PARISH READING ROSTER: 9/10 NOVEMBER

Saturday 5:30pm Gerard Pinto / Robert Aquino

Sunday 8:00 am Anne Haddad / Victoria Micalizzi | 10:00am Carol Isaac / Natasha Joseph

# Diocesan Notices

ST LUKE'S CATHOLIC FAITH COMMUNITY  
TOGETHER WITH THE RISEN LORD COMMUNITY PRESENTS

## HEALING SERVICE

LED BY BRO. LALITH PERERA  
St Luke's Catholic College,  
Northbourne Drive,  
Marsden Park 2765 NSW

**01 NOV** 7PM-9.30 PM  
JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF MIRACLES,  
HEALINGS & DELIVERANCE  
"BY HIS WOUNDS, YOU ARE HEALED"  
1 PETER 2:24  
HOLY MASS FOR ALL SAINT'S DAY WILL BE CELEBRATED.

VICTORY IN CHRIST DAY PROGRAM

**02 NOV** 10AM- 4PM  
JOIN US FOR A DAY OF PRAISE & WORSHIP,  
AND DIVING DEEP INTO THE FREEDOM JESUS OFFERS US  
"THOSE WHO LOOK TO HIM ARE RADIANT;  
THEIR FACES ARE NEVER COVERED IN SHAME"  
PSALM 34:5  
COMPLIMENTARY REFRESHMENTS & A LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED DURING SATURDAY'S PROGRAM.

SCAN TO REGISTER



FOR MORE INFORMATION  
WWW.RISENLORDCOMMUNITY.COM.AU



Sisters of Mercy  
PARRAMATTA  
Mercy Futures  
Responding in Mercy  
meets

Peace, Justice & Ecology Sharing

DELICIOUS FOOD  
FRIENDSHIP  
PARRAMATTA  
STREET FEAST  
SOLIDARITY  
CELEBRATION

WEDNESDAY 13 NOVEMBER 10:30AM  
ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL HALL, 1 MARIST PLACE, PARRAMATTA

## Our Community

### PARISH FUNDRAISING: 3 NOVEMBER

Please join us on **Sunday 3 November after the 8am and 10am Masses** to commemorate the 49th anniversary of St Oliver Plunkett's canonisation and raise funds for the Parish. Several parishioners will generously be baking and selling fresh spinach triangles and 'manouche', a delicious Lebanese bread topped with thyme or cheese. All proceeds will be donated to help with the parish's operating costs.

### For Home Visits

Is there anyone you know who is in need of visitation in the parish area of Harris Park? Please inform Fr Paul and Fr John of contact the parish office and let us know of their situation, location and need



Please pray for those who are sick, recently deceased, have an anniversary at this time and all those for whom you have a special intention.



**Recently Deceased:** Martha Hanna (Fr Paul Hanna Sister) | Fr. Vince Redden | Ignatius Lasarado | All those who died recently, especially those who used to be part of this parish community as parishioners or relations of our parishioners

**Deceased:** Isaac Moses | Rachael Sumagui; Artemio, Abraham, Augustus, Rebecca & Tranquilina Patacsil, Yolanda & Donald Muir | Rizcullah & Patricia Coorey & family; Jabour & Doura Nicholas; Queenie & Nicholas Nicholas; Namtullah & Christine Coorey; Saidie & Joseph Coorey; Kevin Coorey; All deceased members of the Nicholas, Coorey, Budwee and Norman families | Joe & Clare Boulous | Isaac & Ruby Moses | Namtallah & Patrick Malkoun | Frank & Ray Malkoun | Romanos Malkoun | Samiha Frome | David (Dib) & Theresia Romanos | Romanos Family | Pamela Romanos | Evelyn Betros | Tony & Samira Abood & their Family | Fred Betros Family | Constanton Family | All Holy Souls in Purgatory especially for those who have no one praying for them

**Anniversary:** Mories Jabre | George Adob Lattouf | Joy Antony Varavumkal | Molly Toy | Pantaleon Jimenez | For all those whose anniversaries occur around this time

**Sick:** Virginia, Agnes, Napoleon, Jorge, Manuel & Joaquin Patacsil, Elizabeth & Michael Perez, Naty & Maria Aurora Degamo, Erwin Ayuste, Neil Patacsil | All the Sick especially those who are sick in our parish community

## FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 6:2-6

### A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord the God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.

'Listen, Israel: the Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

### The Word of the Lord

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

### **R.** I Love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength,

my rock, my fortress, my saviour.

My God is the rock where I take refuge;

my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.

The Lord is worthy of all praise,

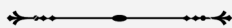
when I call I am saved from my foes. **R.**

Long life to the Lord, my rock!

Praised be the God who saves me,

He has given great victories to his king

and shown his love for his anointed. **R.**



## SECOND READING

Hebrews 7:23-28

### A reading from the letters to the Hebrews

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

### The Word of the Lord

### Gospel Acclamation

John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,  
and my Father will love them, and we will come to them.

Alleluia!



### Gospel

Mark 12:28-34

### A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

### The Gospel of the Lord.