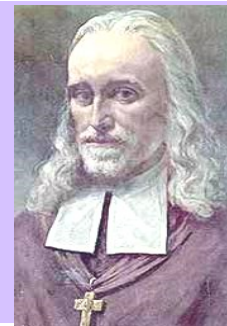


St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

Harris park

Website: www.stoliversharrispark.org.au
Postal Address: PO Box 9394 Harris Park NSW 2150
Office Address: 35 Wigram St, Harris Park NSW 2150
Tel: (02) 88638801 Email: harrispark@parracatholic.org



15 December 2024 | Third Sunday of Advent

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

Philippians 4:4-5

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Cf Isaiah 35:4



**Weekday Mass Times Resume
Tuesday 28th January 2025**

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday: Vigil 5:30pm

Sunday: 8:00 am & 10:00 am



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.

3rd Sunday of Advent

The Lord your God is in your midst (Zephaniah 3.17)

Did you ever rejoice in something that hadn't actually happened? Maybe you were looking forward to a dear friend's wedding or a visit from an old friend you hadn't seen for many years. The third Sunday of Advent is known as "Gaudete Sunday." It's a day set aside during Advent for rejoicing. Its name is taken from Philippians 4.4-5, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near." In Latin, the word is Gaudete (pronounced gau-de-te meaning "rejoice.")

What significance does this have?

Advent is the season of preparing for the arrival of the Lord Jesus (both his first coming and his second coming), and by this weekend, the third Sunday of Advent, when we light the rose-coloured candle, we are most of the way through the season. Thus, it is appropriate to rejoice as we see the goal of the season approaching: "The Lord is near."

What must we do?

First, we must prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus. We need to remove every obstacle that comes between us and the love of Jesus.

Secondly, we must put right our relationship with others. "What must we do?" the people ask John the Baptist. He answers: "If anyone has two tunics, he must share with the one who has none; and the one with something to eat must do the same...there is to be no intimidation or extortion." We cannot be in a right relationship with Jesus, if we are not in a right relationship with our brothers and sisters.

Thirdly, each of us must be like John the Baptist directing others to Jesus. He was a living sign-post, speaking more by his life than by his words. Like John the Baptist, we must lead others to turn to Jesus who alone brings real joy and happiness.

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near."



Activities

Christmas Mass Times around the Diocese

There are many ways to celebrate the Christmas Season across the Diocese. At parracatholic.org you can find Christmas and New Year Mass times, Reconciliation and Adoration Near Me, and Christmas Carols and Nativity plays. Go to: parracatholic.org/connect/find-a-mass/

THE ADVENT BOOKLET—"HOPE REIGNS"

Is available as a booklet around the church for group and individual reflections for Advent.. The Archbishop of Brisbane, Mark Coleridge, has this to say in the Foreword of the booklet:

"Weighed down by the pressures of life and with the planet in turmoil, our vision can blur, our hope can dwindle, our heart can shrink. To break free of this claustrophobic world, we are offered the grandeur of the Gospel which lights our way into the spacious and liberating world of God-with-us.

Let us be eager for the Kingdom of God to appear anew in our life through the power of the Holy Spirit. Like Mary, we are invited to say 'yes' to God's mysterious ways to bring about the coming of the Kingdom."

2025 Jubilee Year of Hope

(Excerpts from the letter from Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv regarding the Diocese's involvement in the Jubilee Year 2025, Pilgrims of Hope.)

Pope Francis has declared 2025 a Jubilee Year for our Church, themed "Pilgrims of Hope", a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the climate crisis.

The Jubilee of 2025 will commence on 24 December 2024 with the Opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica and runs to 6 January 2026, the Feast of the Epiphany, with the closing of the Door.

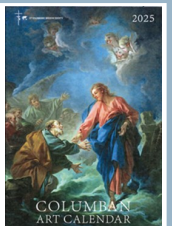
In our Diocese of Parramatta, I invite all to participate in the many events that will be taking place. In particular, I invite everybody to take a personal or small group pilgrimage to one or all three of our pilgrimage sites for the Jubilee Year:

- St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta
- Mount Schoenstatt Shrine, Mulgoa
- The Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents, Kellyville

As events are finalised, they will be listed on our website. Please check parracatholic.org and please follow catholicoutlook.org for further news updates.

2025 Columban Calendars

If you are looking for a 2025 calendar, we have limited copies of the 2025 Columban Calendars at the church foyer for only \$10 each. Please leave your payment in the box provided.



Parish Updates

Please **NOTE** that the last *weekday* Mass for 2024 at St. Oliver's finished with the seminary year on Friday 29th November and will resume again on Tuesday 28th January 2025.

Advent Reconciliation

2nd Rite Reconciliation 7.00pm
Wednesday 18th December

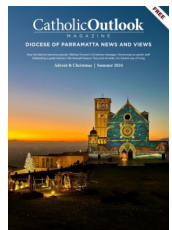


Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve: 5.30pm Vigil
Midnight: 11.30pm Christmas Carols
12.00am Midnight Mass
Christmas Day: 8:00am and 10:00am



The 2024 Advent and Christmas Summer Edition of the Catholic Outlook is now available.



Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Eucharist 2025 Registration for St Oliver's

For parents and carers who have a child or children they would like to enrol in this program, here is the registration link for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist for 2025, <https://forms.gle/bUni1NUVUbAh1Qz96>. This will take place through a formation, family-centred community process. The requirement by CSPD is that your child is at least 8 years old in order to receive both Sacraments. **Please submit applications by 24th January 2025.**

NEXT PARISH READING ROSTER: 21/22 DECEMBER

Saturday 5:30 pm Kristine Alba + Olivia Estibeiro

Sunday 8:00 am Anne Haddad + Victoria Micalizzi

10:00 am Patricia & Christian Armao

Diocesan Notices

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. Your donation to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal will help in ensuring Catholic Care can continue to provide homeless mothers and children safety, support, and a place to call home. If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit parracatholic.org/appeal or scan this QR code. Thank you.

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 Fannies Fiesta at St Finbars, Glenbrook. For more information and to register for all or part of the journey, visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org

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. To enrol and for more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org. Registrations close 28th January, 2025 but spaces are limited so enrol now to avoid disappointment.

Calix Society: 12 Step Recovery and Catholic Spirituality

Are you or a loved one troubled by addiction or alcoholism? The Calix Society is a way to recovery that incorporates 12 Step recovery and Catholic Spirituality. Sydney Unit meets Monthly at St Joseph, Enfield. Mass (5:30pm) and "About Calix" talk (6:30 - 7:30pm). We also meet weekly via zoom and have an annual retreat. Contact: Tim 0401 600 422 or Kevin 0435 668 382 or calixsydney@outlook.com. See: <https://www.calixsociety.org/>

Our Community

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Thinking about becoming a Catholic or know someone who may be interested in exploring the Catholic faith?

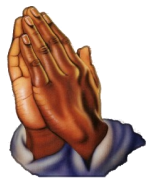
Contact the Parish Office for more details on joining the RCIA program.

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 or 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: Barbara Carruthers | Kim Taejong | Phillip Wise | 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: Sayed Doueih | 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: For all those whose anniversaries occur around this time

Sick: Rosalinda M. Javier | 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

Special Intention: Charbel Melhem | John Patacsil | For all our special intentions and for those who have asked us for prayers

Thanksgiving: For all our blessings and prayers for thanksgiving

First reading

Zephaniah 3:14-18

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you. Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Is 12:2-6 R. v.6

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. **R.**

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! Declare the greatness of his name. **R.**

Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

The Lord is near. I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 3:10-18

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

What, then, must we do? When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!' A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

