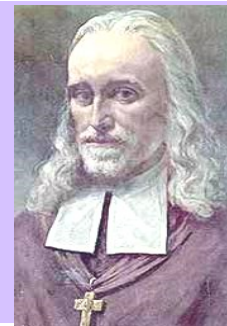


# St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

## Harris park

Website: [www.stoliversharrispark.org.au](http://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](mailto:harrispark@parracatholic.org)



22 December 2024 | Fourth Sunday of Advent

### 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.

Isaiah 45:8

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

Isaiah 7:14



**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.

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

The readings for this Sunday of Advent each year shift the focus from Advent's call to preparation for the Messiah to setting the stage for the birth of Christ.

In today's Gospel, Elizabeth proclaims her joy-filled faith in God's promise of salvation that will be accomplished through Mary's child and praises her young cousin for her "yes" to God's plan.

In Mary and Elizabeth's meeting and in our similar "visitations", the Spirit of God is present in the healing, comfort and support we can extend to one another in such moments.

In the light and hope of this holy season, may we "make haste" to bring such reconciling peace and healing justice in our own "visitations" to others, in our encounters in which the grace of God enables us to see one another in God's eyes.

God's Spirit, who inspired the prophets to preach, who enabled the nation of Israel to enter into the covenant with Yahweh, continues at work in the world in new and creative ways. Jesus Christ is the ultimate and perfect fulfilment of that covenant.

The "mystery" of the Incarnation is not that God could become one of us – the inexplicable part is how God could give his love away so freely to his people, without expectation or condition.

As St Irenaeus preached: *"Because of his great love for us, Jesus, the Word of God, became what we are in order to make us what he is himself."*



## Activities



Bishop Vincent Long with Charles Hyson during Mass for his ordination to the permanent diaconate on Saturday, 7 December, at St Patrick's Cathedral and Charles giving his thanksgiving speech at the Mass. Image: Jazz Chalouhii/ Diocese of Parramatta

### 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.

### Mass for the Holy Innocents: Saturday 28 December

Join us at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Kellyville, on Saturday 28 December at 9.30am Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Innocents. A procession of the Blessed Sacrament will follow Mass to the Shrine of the Holy Innocents. Please bring a plate to share. For more information call Br. Louis 0422 028 647

## Parish Updates

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

### 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.**

### Christmas Mass Times

**Christmas Eve:** 5.30pm Vigil

**Midnight:** 11.30pm Christmas Carols / **12.00am Midnight Mass**

**Christmas Day:** 8:00am and 10:00am

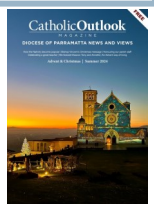


### 2025 Columban Calendars

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.



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



### CHRISTMAS PARISH READING ROSTER: 24/25 DECEMBER

**Christmas Eve** 5:30 pm Jackie Perumal + Siji Lino

**Midnight Mass** Jim Hanna

**Christmas Day** 8:00 am Anthony Melham + Katherine Katrib 10:00 am

Patricia & Christian Armao

## Diocesan Notices

### Christmas Mass Times around the Diocese

There are many ways to celebrate the Christmas Season across the Diocese. At [parracatholic.org](http://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/](http://parracatholic.org/connect/find-a-mass/)

### 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](http://www.epiphanypilgrimage.org)

### 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 clicking on the training event at: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>. For more information, please email: [safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.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](mailto:lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org). Registrations close 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 but spaces are limited so enrol now to avoid disappointment.

### St Paul Feast Day celebration: 18 January

Come Join the Celebrations at the St Paul's Feast. Saturday, 18 January 2025 at 5.30pm at St Monica's, Richmond. Feast Mass Saturday 18 January St Monica's, Richmond at 5.30pm followed by procession. Other details Lady Queen of Peace band, BBQ, food, drinks, rides and chocolate wheel.

## 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.*



**Deceased:** Sayed Doueihy | 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 of death 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:** Wap-Hill, Sidney, Kimberley, Richard | 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

To our parishioners who would like to request for a home or hospital visit for the sick, please call the parish office on (02) 8863 8801 or email [harrisark@parracatholic.org](mailto:harrisark@parracatholic.org). For mass offerings or special intentions, you may use the envelopes provided at the church foyer.



## First reading

Micah 5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah

The Lord says this:

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
the least of the clans of Judah,  
out of you will be born for me  
the one who is to rule over Israel;  
his origin goes back to the distant past,  
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them  
till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.  
Then the remnant of his brothers will come back  
to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock  
with the power of the Lord,  
with the majesty of the name of his God.  
They will live secure, for from then on he will extend  
his power  
to the ends of the land.  
He himself will be peace.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Psalm 79(80):2-3,15-16,18-19

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

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help. **R.**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:  
You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,  
prepared a body for me.  
You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;  
then I said,  
just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,  
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'  
Notice that he says first: You did not want what the  
Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the  
sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the

sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and  
then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your  
will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the  
second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the  
offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus  
Christ.

## The Word of the Lord

### Gospel Acclamation

Luke 1:38

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.

**Alleluia!**

### Gospel

Luke 1:39-45

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

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town  
in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's  
house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth  
heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and  
Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a  
loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most  
blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why  
should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of  
my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my  
ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed  
is she who believed that the promise made her by the  
Lord would be fulfilled.'

### The Gospel of the Lord.

