

# St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

## Harris park

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25 December 2024 | The Nativity of the Lord

### The Vigil Mass

#### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Today you will know that the Lord will come, and he will save us, and in the morning you will see his glory.

Cf. Exodus 16:6-7

#### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh will see the salvation of our God.

Cf. Isaiah 40:5

### The Mass During the Night

#### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lord said to me: You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day.

Psalm 2:7

#### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.

John 1:14

### The Mass During the Day

#### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

Cf. Isaiah 9:5

#### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Cf. Psalm 97:3



**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  
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#### 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.

### Christmas: The Nativity of the Lord

**Typical of Luke's Gospel, it is the shepherds of Bethlehem – among the poorest and most disregarded of Jewish society – who become the first messengers of the Gospel.**

**From the Christmas story in Luke's Gospel, we have a romantic image of shepherds as gentle, peaceful figures. But the manger scene image is a far cry from reality. The shepherds of Biblical times were tough, earthy characters who fearlessly used their clubs to defend their flocks from wolves and other wild animals. They had even less patience for the pompous scribes and Pharisees who treated them as second- and third-class citizens, barring these ill-bred rustics from the synagogues and courts.**

**Yet it was to shepherds that God revealed the birth of the Messiah. The shepherds' vision on the Bethlehem hillside proclaims to all people of every place and generation that Christ comes for the sake of all of humankind.**

**Luke adds this touching detail: "Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." As every parent remembers the birth of their son or daughter, Mary would relive these remarkable events, seeking to grasp the extraordinary love of God in the life she has brought into the world. With Mary, we remember the promise of this holy night when God touches human history; with Mary, we struggle to understand how this night transforms all of our days; with Mary, we seek to live the story of Christ in the joys and sorrows of our own stories.**

**A very Happy and Holy Christmas to all**



## The Vigil Mass

First reading

Isaiah 62:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

About Zion I will not be silent,  
about Jerusalem I will not grow weary,  
until her integrity shines out like the dawn  
and her salvation flames like a torch.

The nations then will see your integrity,  
all the kings your glory,  
and you will be called by a new name,  
one which the mouth of the Lord will confer.  
You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord,  
a princely diadem in the hand of your God;

no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken',  
nor your land 'Abandoned',  
but you shall be called 'My Delight'  
and your land 'The Wedded';  
for the Lord takes delight in you  
and your land will have its wedding.

Like a young man marrying a virgin,  
so will the one who built you wed you,  
and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride,  
so will your God rejoice in you.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 88(89):4-5,16-17,27,29

### ℟ For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.' ℟

Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss. ℟

'He will say to me: "You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me." I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure.' ℟

### SECOND READING

Acts 13:16-17,22-25

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in the synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began to speak:  
'Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our people great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt; then by divine power he led them out.

'Then he made David their king, of whom he approved in these words, "I have selected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose." To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal."'

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Tomorrow there will be an end to the sin of the world and the saviour of the world will be our king.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 1:1-25

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Abraham was the father of Isaac,  
Isaac the father of Jacob,  
Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,  
Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah, Tamar being their mother,  
Perez was the father of Hezron,  
Hezron the father of Ram,  
Ram was the father of Amminadab,  
Amminadab the father of Nahshon,  
Nahshon the father of Salmon,  
Salmon was the father of Boaz, Rahab being his mother,  
Boaz was the father of Obed, Ruth being his mother,  
Obed was the father of Jesse;  
and Jesse was the father of King David.  
David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,  
Solomon was the father of Rehoboam,  
Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa,  
Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat,  
Jehoshaphat the father of Joram,  
Joram the father of Azariah,  
Azariah was the father of Jotham,  
Jotham the father of Ahaz,  
Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,  
Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh,  
Manasseh the father of Amon,  
Amon the father of Josiah;  
and Josiah was the father of Jechoniah and his brothers.  
Then the deportation to Babylon took place.  
After the deportation to Babylon:  
Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel,  
Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,  
Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud,  
Abiud the father of Eliakim,  
Eliakim the father of Azor,  
Azor was the father of Zadok,  
Zadok the father of Achim,  
Achim the father of Eliud,  
Eliud was the father of Eleazar,  
Eleazar the father of Matthan,  
Matthan the father of Jacob;  
and Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary;  
of her was born Jesus who is called Christ.

The sum of generations is therefore: fourteen from Abraham to David; fourteen from David to the Babylonian deportation; and fourteen from the Babylonian deportation to Christ.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us.' When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

### The Gospel of the Lord.

## CHRISTMAS READING ROSTER: 24/25 DECEMBER 2024

Christmas Eve 5:30 pm Jackie Perumal + Siji Lino

Christmas Day 8:00 am Anthony Melham + Katherine Katrib

## NEXT PARISH READING ROSTER: 28/29 DECEMBER 2024

Saturday 5:30 pm Gerard Pinto / Robert Aquino

Sunday 8:00 am Seini & Ipolito Lasalo

Midnight Mass Jim Hanna

10:00 am Patricia & Christian Armao

10:00 am Carol Isaac / Natasha Joseph

## The Midnight Mass

First reading

Isaiah 9:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness  
has seen a great light;  
on those who live in a land of deep shadow  
a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater,  
you have made their joy increase;  
they rejoice in your presence  
as men rejoice at harvest time,  
as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him,  
the bar across his shoulders,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
these you break as on the day of Midian.

For all the footgear of battle,  
every cloak rolled in blood,  
is burnt,  
and consumed by fire.

For there is a child born for us,  
a son given to us  
and dominion is laid on his shoulders;  
and this is the name they give him:  
Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God,  
Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.  
Wide is his dominion  
in a peace that has no end,  
for the throne of David  
and for his royal power,  
which he establishes and makes secure  
in justice and integrity.  
From this time onwards and for ever,  
the jealous love of the Lord of Hosts will do this.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 95(96):1-3,11-13

**℟ Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

O sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord all the earth.

O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **℟**

Proclaim his help day by day,  
tell among the nations his glory  
and his wonders among all the peoples. **℟**

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,  
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,  
let the land and all it bears rejoice,  
all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,  
he comes to rule the earth. **℟**

With justice he will rule the world,  
he will judge the peoples with his truth. **℟**

Second reading

Titus 2:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Lk2:10-11

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

I bring you news of great joy:

today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.

**Alleluia!**

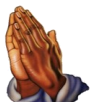
Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn.

In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'



*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 Doueichi | 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 [harrisparish@parracatholic.org](mailto:harrisparish@parracatholic.org). For mass offerings or special intentions, you may use the envelopes provided at the church foyer.

**New Year's Day: Mass on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 will be at 9:30 am. There will be NO New Year's eve mass.**



# Mass Readings

## Mass During the Day

First reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

How beautiful on the mountains,  
are the feet of one who brings good news,  
who heralds peace, brings happiness,  
proclaims salvation,  
and tells Zion,  
'Your God is king!'  
Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,  
they shout for joy together,  
for they see the Lord face to face,  
as he returns to Zion.  
Break into shouts of joy together,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord is consoling his people,  
redeeming Jerusalem.  
The Lord bares his holy arm  
in the sight of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 97(98):1-6

**℟. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.**

Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. **℟.**

The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. **℟.**

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. **℟.**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 1:1-6

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father; or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-Born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

**The Word of the Lord**

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

A hallowed day has dawned upon us.  
Come, you nations, worship the Lord,  
for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.  
**Alleluia!**

Gospel

John 1:1-18

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

In the beginning was the Word:  
and the Word was with God  
and the Word was God.  
He was with God in the beginning.  
Through him all things came to be,  
not one thing had its being but through him.  
All that came to be had life in him  
and that life was the light of men,  
a light that shines in the dark,  
a light that darkness could not overpower.  
A man came, sent by God.  
His name was John.  
He came as a witness,  
as a witness to speak for the light,  
so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,  
only a witness to speak for the light.  
The Word was the true light  
that enlightens all men;  
and he was coming into the world.  
He was in the world  
that had its being through him,  
and the world did not know him.  
He came to his own domain  
and his own people did not accept him.  
But to all who did accept him  
he gave power to become children of God,  
to all who believe in the name of him  
who was born not out of human stock  
or urge of the flesh  
or will of man  
but of God himself.  
The Word was made flesh,  
he lived among us,  
and we saw his glory,  
the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,  
full of grace and truth.  
John appears as his witness. He proclaims:  
'This is the one of whom I said:  
He who comes after me ranks before me  
because he existed before me.'  
Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received –  
yes, grace in return for grace,  
since, though the Law was given through Moses,  
grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.  
No one has ever seen God;  
it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart,  
who has made him known.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**