

St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

Harris park

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29 December 2024 | The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

Bar 3:38



**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.

Feast of the Holy Family – Protecting the Mystery

Benedictine Sister, Jeana Visel, writes about her family coming together to care for her youngest brother, who is dying of cancer, and she tells of how the family have journeyed with him through treatment attempts, and now they keep vigil with him at his bedside.

Vulnerability calls forth, she says, love and a desire to protect. If there is any way they could spare him this, they would. They cannot protect him from what the cancer is doing to his body, but they try to surround him with love. They try to walk with him and let him know that he is not alone.

One can only imagine the terror of Mary and Joseph as they search for their lost child. Of course, they search first among their relatives and acquaintances, where he could be expected to be reasonably safe.

But not finding him there, they return and they search Jerusalem, looking for their boy. He has been entrusted to them and, at this moment, they have not been able to protect him.

Quite beyond any parents' worry at losing a child, they have the added pressure of knowing he is the Son of God.

But he is safe, astonishingly safe in God's house.

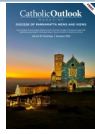
The adolescent Jesus is astounding the teachers with his wisdom, already beginning to show us that more is going on than meets the eye.

A day will come when neither his family nor his friends will be able to protect him from danger. In the arms of a loving God, though, all will be transformed.



Activities

The 2024 Advent and Christmas Summer Edition of the Catholic Outlook is now available. Please get your free copy.



The Diocese of Parramatta's social welfare agency, [Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains](#), has released its [Year in Review 2023-24](#), highlighting its new strategy and vision, as well as exciting new partnerships and programs to support those who need it most. Download your copy of Catholic Care's Year in Review 2023-24 today: <https://tinyurl.com/2tsth46u>

Catholic Care's achievements include:

- New counselling support for sick children and their families at Westmead, in partnership with Ronald McDonald House
 - More affordable local housing across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, thanks to a new housing partnership with Community Housing Limited
 - New programs and activities across its community drop-in centres, including new classes and workshops for local migrants and refugees
 - A new supported playgroup for families, providing support to parents and helping children thrive
 - Our new strategy for the next three years, and how we're going to achieve it.
- Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta, writes:
"In this Year in Review, you will see how many people the team has helped through their comprehensive programs and services.
"I pray that our staff, volunteers, and all supporters of Catholic Care continue to walk in love and communion with Christ by providing hope, care, and dignity to each person we encounter."

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.

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 on Tuesday 28th 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.**

CONGRATULATIONS and WELCOME to **Dylan Chapman** who will receive the **Sacrament of Baptism** this Sunday, the 29th of December 2024, at St Oliver's. We ask God to bless you and your family.



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.



New Year's Day

Mass on 1st January 2025 will be at 9:30 am.
There will be NO New Year's eve mass.

CHRISTMAS PARISH READING ROSTER: 4/5 JANUARY

Saturday 5:30 pm Reema & Nelton D'Souza

Sunday 8:00 am Anne Haddad / Victoria Micalizzi 10:00 am Nick Tagnipis / Monica Officer

Diocesan Notices

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

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.

MET Natural Fertility Creighton Model Introduction Session: 19 February

Are you looking for help to track your fertility cycle? Come and explore the Creighton Model FertilityCare System – a Natural, Effective, Healthy and Scientific approach to achieve, space/avoid pregnancy or monitor women's health. Engaged and married couples, single women and those wanting to know more about their menstrual cycles are welcome to attend. This free session will be held on Wednesday 19 February from 7:15-8:15pm via Zoom and is valued at \$125. To register or for more information, contact catherine.bourne@parracatholic.org or 0400 427

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 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: Colleen George | 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 harrisparke@parracatholic.org. For mass offerings or special intentions, you may use the envelopes provided at the church foyer.

Mass Readings

First reading 1 Samuel 1:20-22. 24-28

A reading from the prophet Micah

In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked him of the Lord.' The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the Lord, and remain there for ever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time.' When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.' She left him there for the Lord.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 83:2-3. 5-6. 9-10

R. How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, God of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning, is yearning for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my soul ring out their joy to God, the living God. **R.**

They are happy, who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise. They are happy, whose strength is in you; they walk with ever growing strength. **R.**

O Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer, give ear, O God of Jacob. Turn your eyes, O God, our shield, look on the face of your anointed. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 John 3:1-2. 21-24

A reading from the first letter of St John

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we

will see him as he is. Beloved, we put our trust in God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our heart, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 2:41-52

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Now every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then Jesus went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

The Gospel of the Lord.