

St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

Harris park

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16 February 2025 | Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my
stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake
of your name.

Cf. Psalm 30:3-4

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

They ate and had their fill, and
what they craved the Lord gave
them; they were not disappointed
in what they craved.

Cf. Psalm 77:29-30



Weekday Mass Times

Tuesday to Friday: 7:00 am

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.

6th Sunday in Year C: Happiness Myths and the Beatitudes

Dr. Harold Treffert is the director of the Winnebago Mental Health Institute in Wisconsin. In an article entitled "*The American Fairy Tale*," he discusses five dangerous ideas we have about the meaning of happiness. **First**, happiness is *things*. The more you accumulate and have, the happier you will be. **Second**, happiness is *what you do*. The more you produce and earn, the happier you will be. **Third**, happiness is being the *same as others*. The more you are fashionable and conform with the times, the happier you will be. **Fourth**, happiness is *mental health*. The fewer problems you have and the more carefree you are, the happier you will be. **Fifth**, happiness is *communicating with electronic gadgets*. The more you can communicate with a television set, a satellite, a phone, or a computer, the happier you will be. According to Dr. Treffert, these five myths about happiness are the cause of many mental health problems today. -- If happiness cannot be found through these five myths of "*The American Fairy Tale*," then where do we find it? Jesus gives us the answer when he outlines the beatitudes in today's reading from Luke. (Albert Cylwicki in *His Word Resounds*)

Introduction: Today's readings teach us that true happiness, or beatitude, lies in the awareness of who we are and of what we are supposed to do. They remind us that we are all children of a loving Heavenly Father, and that we will be happy in this world and in Heaven only when we share our blessings here on earth with our brothers and sisters in need and work to uplift them, thus declaring our "*option for the poor*," as Jesus did. The eight Beatitudes Jesus gives in Mathew and the four Woes and Blessings in Luke contradict the ideas about **real** happiness found in the Jewish culture and in our modern society. According to these modern notions, wealth, health, power, and influence are the true Beatitudes. "The Beatitudes" are technically known as "macarisms", or blessings (from the Greek *makarios*, meaning "blessed" or "happy.") Macarisms are found in the Book of Proverbs, in the Psalms, and even in the Book of Revelation. There are thirty-seven beatitudes in the New Testament, seventeen of which are sayings of Jesus. Beatitudes appear in the Old Testament as well. The first reading tells us that true beatitude consists in placing our trust in God and in putting our trust in His promises. The Responsorial Psalm, (Ps 1), finds beatitude in keeping God's Law. St. Paul warns us, in the second reading, that true beatitude is obtainable only in Heaven, and that Christ's Resurrection is our assurance of reaching Heaven for an everlasting life of happiness. In today's Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples in the paradoxical blessedness of poverty, hunger, sorrow, and persecution because these contradict our natural expectations in every way. "*Blessed are those who are poor, hungry, weeping, hated, excluded, insulted, and denounced*," because in poverty, we recognize God's reign; in hunger, His providence; in sorrow, true happiness; and in persecution, true joy. Experiencing these miseries opens the way for us to receive the true riches, food, comfort, and acceptance we can find only in His love and His presence here, and in His Kingdom forever. The Beatitudes teach us how we should live, and what we should do. What makes one blessed is not simply poverty or hunger or sadness or suffering for the Faith, but living these in the context of our commitment to Jesus and in His spirit of sharing.

(Kadavil, 6th Sunday of Year C)



Activities

Pope's February prayer intention: 'For vocations to priesthood, religious life'

(Extracts from article written by Devin Watkins, 6 February 2025, Catholic Outlook)

"Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel called to live Jesus's mission in life: either through the priestly life, or religious life." Pope Francis' appeal for prayers in The Pope Video, which was released on Tuesday to accompany his prayer intention for February 2025.

Drawing on his own vocational experience, the Pope recalled that at 17 years old he had other plans for his life that didn't include becoming a priest. "But one day, I went into the church...and God was there, waiting for me!" he said.

The Holy Father recalled that God calls many young people to serve His people through a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. "God still calls young people even today, sometimes in ways we can't imagine," he said. "Sometimes we don't hear because we're too busy with our own things, our own plans, even with our own things in the Church."

Yet, added Pope Francis, the Holy Spirit reveals God's plan for our lives by speaking to the heart of young people.

The task of Catholics, he added, is to accompany their spiritual journey, so that they will be willing and able to welcome the call to a religious vocation. "Let's trust young people!" concluded Pope Francis. "And, above all, let's trust God for He calls everyone!"

Accompanying young people on their vocational journey

The Pope Video, released by the [Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network](#), depict scenes from the early life of Jorge Mario Bergoglio, now Pope Francis, along with images from the daily lives of young people today.

The effect, according to a press release, is to tie the youth of the future Pope to contemporary young people, whom God calls to a priestly or religious vocation in a similar way.

(This [article](#) originally appeared in [Vatican News](#).)



Many charisms, one spirit: Western Sydney's religious unite on World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life



Religious gather at St Patrick's cathedral for the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life. Image: Alphonsus Fok/Diocese of Parramatta.



Candles places in the Cathedral. Image: Alphonsus Fok/Diocese of Parramatta.

In a rare and momentous gathering in recognition of the Jubilee Year, more than 40 religious organisations across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains united at St Patrick's Cathedral in Parramatta to celebrate their shared commitment to God's ministry on 2 February 2025, the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life.

Instituted in 1997 by Saint John Paul II, the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life intended to "help the entire Church to esteem ever more greatly the witness of those persons who have chosen to follow Christ by means of the practice of the evangelical counsels". St John Paul II wrote in his post-synodal [Apostolic Exhortation Vita Consecrata](#) that consecrated life "is at the very heart of the Church". The [Marist Brothers](#) (FMS), [Sisters of Mercy Parramatta](#) (RSM), [Somascan Fathers and Brothers](#) (CRS)s, [Schoenstatt Sisters](#) (ISMM) and the [Poor Clares](#) (OSC) were among 44 religious orders and congregations represented at this year's solemn Mass. (Extract from Catholic Outlook, By Isabell Petrinic, 13 February 2025)

Parish Updates

2025 Jubilee Year of Hope

Please note -

In our Diocese of Parramatta, three of our pilgrimage sites for the Jubilee Year are:

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

Please check parracatholic.org and please follow catholicoutlook.org for further news updates.

Reminder that **one of the conditions** for receiving a **plenary indulgence** by passing through one of the Holy Doors is to "pray for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff."

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities: 22 February

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held on Saturday 22 February at Holy Family Emerton for Cycle 1 (Module 1-3). More training opportunities will be available throughout February and May. 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

PARISH READING ROSTER NEXT WEEK: 22/23 FEBRUARY 2025

Saturday 5:30 pm Gerard Pinto / Robert Aquino

Sunday 8:00 am Anthony Melham / Katherine Katrib 10:00 am Patricia & Christian Armao

Diocesan Notices

Memorial Mass of St Josephine Bakhita:

16 February

All are welcome to attend the Memorial Mass of St Josephine Bakhita, the Patron Saint of South Sudan and Sudan, and Victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking at St Patrick's Church, Blacktown on Sunday 16 February at 2pm. We hope you will join us to commemorate the victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking in Australia and worldwide and thank God for the gifts that the South Sudanese and Sudanese communities contribute to our society.

Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend: 22-23 February

How prepared are you for marriage? Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life. We give you a chance to spend time together to strengthen and enrich your relationship. The next Engaged Encounter Weekend will be held on 22-23 February, with future dates in May, August and November 2025. For further information visit www.engagedencounter.org.au

LIFTED Launch: 27 February

Join us for LIFTED Launch on Thursday, February 27th, from 6:45 PM to 9:30 PM at West HQ, Rooty Hill! Get a sneak peek at exciting events we have planned for young Catholics, including the Jubilee Year Pilgrimage and Australian Catholic Youth Festival. Enjoy a night of prayer, formation, and fun with fellow young Catholics. Register now: parracatholic.org/events/liftedlaunch/

Women's Lenten Retreat at Mount Schoenstatt: 21-23 February

Join us at Mount Schoenstatt for a reflective retreat inspired by 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. The retreat runs from 7pm on 21 February to 4pm on 23 February. Costs are \$240 per person for a shared room, \$290 per person for a single room (limited availability), or \$60 per person per day for day attendance. Accommodation and meals are included, or lunch for day attendees. Register by 12 February by contacting Sr M Elizabeth Foley at bookings@schoenstatt.org.au or 02 4773 8338.

Our Community

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

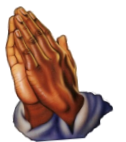
Thinking about becoming a Catholic or know someone who may be interested in exploring the Catholic faith? Contact the Parish Office for more details on joining the RCIA program.

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: Carmencita Sampaga | All those who died recently, especially those who used to be part of this parish community as parishioners or relations of our parishioners

Deceased: Saide & son Soloman Frangie | Sayed Doueih & family | Rita Fernando, Reggie & May Perumal, John & Triponie Pasangha, Cyril Fernando, Clunetileke & Jotui Pasangha, Xavier & Clara Fernando | Namtallah & Patrick Malkoun | Frank & Ray Malkoun | Romanos Malkoun | Samiha Frome | Joe & Clare Boulous | Isaac & Ruby Moses | Rachael Sumagui & Artemio, Abraham, Augustus, Rebecca & Tranquilina Patacsil, Yolanda & Donald Muir | David (Dib) & Theresia Romanos | Romanos Family | Pamela Romanos | Evelyn Betros | Tony & Samira Abood & their Family | Fred Betros Family | Constanton Family | Queenie & Nicholas Nicholas, Namtallah & Christine Coorey, Rizcullah & Patricia Coorey & family, Jabour & Doura Nicholas & family, Saidie & Joseph Coorey & family, Najia & Toufic Samyia, Maurice Farhart, James Haddad, All deceased members of the Nicholas, Coorey, Budwee & Norman families | 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: Virginia, Agnes, Napoleon, Jorge, Neil, Manuel & John Joaquin Patacsil, Elizabeth, Maryrose & Michael Perez, Naty & Maria Aurora Degamo, Erwin Ayuste | All the Sick especially those who are sick in our parish community

Special Intention: Michael, Elizabeth & Maryrose Perez, John Patacsil, Erwin Ayuste | 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. For mass offerings or special intentions, you may use the envelopes provided at the church foyer.

Mass Readings

First reading

Jeremiah 17:5-8

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The Lord says this:

‘A curse on the man who puts his trust in man,
who relies on things of flesh,
whose heart turns from the Lord.
He is like dry scrub in the wastelands:
if good comes, he has no eyes for it,
he settles in the parched places of the wilderness,
a salt land, uninhabited.

‘A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord,
with the Lord for his hope.
He is like a tree by the waterside
that thrusts its roots to the stream:
when the heat comes it feels no alarm,
its foliage stays green;
it has no worries in a year of drought,
and never ceases to bear fruit.’

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 1:1-4

℟ Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

Happy indeed is the man who follows not the counsel
of the wicked; nor lingers in the way of sinners nor
sits in the company of scorners, but whose delight is
the law of the Lord and who ponders his law day and
night. ℟

He is like a tree that is planted beside the flowing
waters, that yields its fruit in due season and whose
leaves shall never fade; and all that he does shall
prosper. ℟

Not so are the wicked, not so! For they like winnowed
chaff shall be driven away by the wind. For the Lord
guards the way of the just but the way of the wicked
leads to doom. ℟

Second reading

1 CORINTHIANS 15:12,16-20

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been
preached, how can some of you be saying that there is
no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not
raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not
been raised, you are still in your sins. And what is more
serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If
our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the
most unfortunate of all people.

But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the
first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 6:23

Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad;
your reward is great in heaven.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 6:17,20-26

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a
piece of level ground where there was a large gathering
of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all
parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the
coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear
him and to be cured of their diseases.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:

'How happy are you who are poor; yours is the
kingdom of God. Happy you who are hungry now:
you shall be satisfied. Happy you who weep now: you
shall laugh.

'Happy are you when people hate you, drive you
out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on
account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day
comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be
great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors
treated the prophets.

'But alas for you who are rich: you are having
your consolation now. Alas for you who have your fill
now: you shall go hungry. Alas for you who laugh
now: you shall mourn and weep.

'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you!
This was the way their ancestors treated the false
prophets.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

