

St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

Harris park

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16 March 2025 | Second Sunday of Lent

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

Cf. Psalm 26:8-9

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

Matthew 17:5



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.

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.

2nd Sunday of Lent – 16th March 2025

"A pretty good kid . . ."

You'll think it when you're watching your son or daughter play on their school team. You'll see their determination, the skill they have worked so hard to develop that gets better and sharper with every game, and their selflessness to pass the ball or score a goal or make the sacrifice for the good of the team - and it will hit you. Or you'll realize it when you see your child run to the assistance of someone in need, bend down to help another kid up, or say just the right words to bring peace and healing to a difficult situation.

You may actually **say** it when you're sitting next to the love of your life as your child makes the same promise to the love of their life that the two of you made to each other when you were their age. In that moment, you will see yourselves in them.

You **will** say it amid the joys and tears as you meet your first grandchild. As you caress the child, you will look over at the child's mum and dad — still and always, your child. And you will look at your spouse and say, maybe without using words, "You know, we raised a pretty good kid."

Our lives are filled with such moments of transfiguration: when the love of God bursts forth in our lives; when we are aware and assured that we are loved and cared for and about; when the light of the "holy" illuminates the ordinary and every day, breaking through the clouds of fear and darkness of despair that sometimes engulf us.

In the event we have come to call Jesus' "transfiguration," the three disciples actually realise the divinity — the very life and love of God — that exists within the person of Jesus.

That "divinity" exists within each one of us, as well, illuminating our perspective with the wisdom of God, inspiring us to embrace Jesus' example of humility and selflessness in service to others, compelling us to realize God's kingdom of justice and peace in this time and place of ours.

Other News and Events

Holy Spirit seminarians begin year with street ministry and opening year Mass

By Beckie Lee, 7 March 2025, Catholic Outlook)

The start of the academic year has been marked by both reflection and action for the five seminarians of the Holy Spirit Seminary in Harris Park: Macky Amores, Jeff Hood, Luke Huynh, Jose Valentine Lim, and Paul Tran.

As they begin their 2025 journey, they have already immersed themselves in acts of service, including through ministering to the homeless in Sydney as part of the Street Immersion program.

In January, the powerful Street Immersion experience gave the seminarians a walk through the streets of Sydney, leading to encounters, which provided pastoral support and care towards people living in homelessness.

Over the course of five days, the seminarians engaged with those who often go unseen in society. They spent time at Matthew Talbot Hostel, a temporary shelter for homeless men. They also visited railway stations such as Central Station, shelters like David's Place near King's Cross where they celebrated Mass; and walked through Redfern Park.

The seminarians also learned about the Ankali Project, an initiative that supports people with HIV/AIDS; and listened to palliative care workers at St Vincent's Hospital in Darlinghurst. This immersion into the lives of those marginalised in our society underpinned the themes of this year's annual Commencement Mass for Seminarians, which was held on Sunday 2 March at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta.



Second Sunday of Lent 15th and 16th of March 2025

Toefuata'iga - (*Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah*) a primary school student from Samoa faced severe water shortages at her school. Thanks to Caritas Australia and the generosity of supporters like you, her primary school now has a 10,000 L water tank. Teachers and students now have access to clean drinking water at their school and are able to focus on education.



Photo credit: Caritas Australia

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

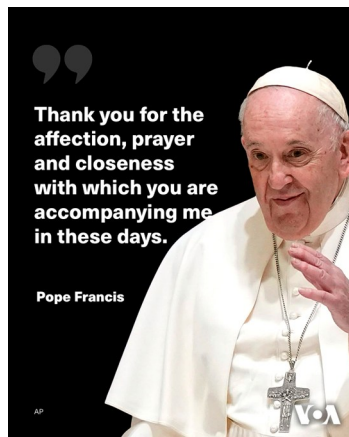
Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Parish Updates

Pope from hospital: 'Thank you for your prayers, I accompany you from here' (By Vatican News, 12 March 2025)

"I thank you with all my heart for the prayers you offer for my health from [St. Peter's] Square. I accompany you from here. May God bless you, and may the Virgin protect you. Thank you." - message was broadcast in St. Peter's Square at 9 pm Rome time at the beginning of the Rosary prayer, led on Thursday evening by Cardinal Ángel Fernández Artime, for the health of Pope Francis, who is being treated for pneumonia in the Gemelli Hospital.



Parish Schedule during Lent
Following is the schedule for the coming
Fridays of Lent at 7pm
at St. Oliver Church

14 March - Station of the Cross

21 March - Station of the Cross

28 March - Station of the Cross

4 April - Station of the Cross

11 April - Second Rite of Reconciliation

PARISH READING ROSTER NEXT WEEK: 22/23 MARCH 2025

Saturday 5:30 pm Reema & Nelton D'Souza

Sunday 8:00 am Anthony Melham / Katherine Katrib 10:00 am Carol Isaac / Nick Tagnipis

Diocesan Notices

Office of Tenebrae: 14 April

All are welcome to attend the annual Office of Tenebrae at St Patrick's Cathedral on Monday 14 April at 7:30pm. The Office of Tenebrae is a Holy Week reflection liturgy including Scripture, psalm chanting and motets and will feature the Cathedral Choir. As the Diocese and the global Church prepares for Holy Week, the Tenebrae service is a reminder of the eternal light and hope brought into the world through Christ's Resurrection. Catholics are invited to attend the Office of Tenebrae at least once in their life.

At The Well Gathering for Women: 23 March

This At the Well Gathering is a small scale, casual gathering of women aimed at providing a space for conversation, community and encounter. This gathering will be a collaboration with the Women of St Clare with a focus on the topic of "Living as a Catholic woman in a secular world." The evening will engage three women from various vocations to share from their own experiences, and to answer questions from the crowd. For more information and to register visit parracatholic.org/events/at-the-well-gathering-23-march/

Safeguarding the Elderly Project: 18 March

Are you interested in sharing and listening to ideas about how we can meet the needs of older people in our Parish communities? You are invited to 'Share a Cuppa' on Tuesday 18 March from 10am-12noon at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Those involved in ministries such as Ministers of Communion to the Sick and Pastoral Care Groups, are invited to share their experiences and reflections. RSVP by Friday 14 March. Please contact Maria Kervin (Manager, Prevention, Healing & Support) at: maria.kervin@parracatholic.org if you would like more information on hosting such a Morning Tea within your own Parish with your Ministry Team.

Nominations open for the 2025 Papal & Diocesan Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2025 Papal and Diocesan Awards, recognising individuals - both religious and lay - who have made outstanding contributions to the Catholic Church and its community. Do you know someone who deserves to be recognised? Nominations close at midnight on 31 May 2025. For more information or to submit a nomination, visit parracatholic.org/contribute/papal-diocesan-awards/

Our Community

Calling a Meeting for New Ministers of the Eucharist and Acolytes: Sunday 30th March

Acolytes assist the bishop/priest/deacon at the altar. It is a call to serve in an intimate way at Mass and the Sacraments - preparing the altar, helping set up for the various sacraments such as Baptism and Confirmation and Weddings. It may also take in visitation to the sick in their homes and hospitals. These ministries of the parish are a call to live out our Baptismal promises in the service of our community. A ministry like this realises each person's unique call through Baptism. In 2021, Pope Francis, opened these ministries more widely to both women and men so that being an acolyte is no longer a male-only role. Not all are called to this. But maybe you are!

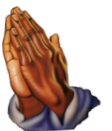
If you wish to hear more about what this ministry entails, please come along to a meeting to hear Fr. John and Fr. Paul explain its significance. See it as a time of discernment. What may the Holy Spirit be saying to you? The group is open to women and men over the age of 18.

Where might God be calling you now at this time of your life? Come and See.

When? Sunday 30th March 11.30am-1.00pm at St. Oliver's church



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: Raymond Anicetus, Michael Wannappa | Mark Tremoli | Deacon Rodrigo (Rudy) Rupac |
|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 & family | Namtallah & Patrick Malkoun | Frank & Ray Malkoun | Romanos Malkoun | Samiha Frome | Joe & Clare Boulous, Isaac Moses, Ruby Moses | Rachael Sumagui & Artemio, Abraham, Augustus, Rebecca & Tranquilina Patacsil, Yolanda & Donald Muir | Queenie & Nicholas Nicholas, Namtullah & Christine Coorey, Rizcullah & Patricia Coorey & family, Jabour & Doura Nicholas & family, Saidie & Joseph Coorey & family, Najia & Toufic Samyia, Dr Kevin Coorey, All deceased members of the Nicholas, Coorey, Budwee & Norman families | 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: Ruby Moses | Godofredo San Pedro | Cyriaco Pinto | For all those whose anniversaries of death occur around this time

Sick: Virginia, Agnes, Napoleon, Jorge, Neil, Manuel & 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: John Joaquin, Manolo, Agnes & Napoleon Patacsil; Elizabeth, Michael & Maryrose Perez; Erwin Ayuste | For all our special intentions and for those who have asked us for prayers, Manuel Patacsil

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 harrispar@parracatholic.org. For mass offerings or special intentions, you may use the envelopes provided at the church foyer.*

Mass Readings

First Reading

Genesis 15:5-12,17-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

Taking Abram outside, the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can.' 'Such will be your descendants,' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldaeans to make you heir to this land.'

'My Lord,' Abram replied 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land,
from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 26(27):1,7-9,13-14

℟. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; before whom
shall I shrink? **℟.**

O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and
answer. Of you my heart has spoken: 'Seek his face.' **℟.**

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face.
Dismiss not your servant in anger; you have been my
help. **℟.**

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of
the living. Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! **℟.**

Second Reading

Philippians 3:17 - 4:1

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

[My brothers, be united in following my rule of life.
Take as your models everybody who is already doing
this and study them as you used to study us. I have told
you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are
many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of
Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods
into their god and they are proudest of something they

ought to think shameful; the things they think important
are earthly things.] For us, our homeland is in heaven,
and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for,
the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these
wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious
body. He will do that by the same power with which he
can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way
but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much,
dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

[Short Form: omit text in brackets.]

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

Luke 9:28-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went
up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his
face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as
lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to
him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory,
and they were speaking of his passing which he was to
accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions
were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his
glory and the two men standing with him. As these
were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is
wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents,
one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' – He
did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud
came and covered them with shadow; and when they
went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a
voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the
Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had
spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept
silence and, at that time, told no one what they had
seen.

The Gospel of the Lord.

