

St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

Harris park

Website: 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



23 March 2025 | Third Sunday of Lent

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the
snare. Turn to me and have mercy
on me, For I am alone and poor.

Psalm 24:15-16

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The sparrow finds a home, and the
swallow a nest for her young: by
your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King
and my God. Blessed are they who
dwell in your house, for ever
singing your praise.



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)

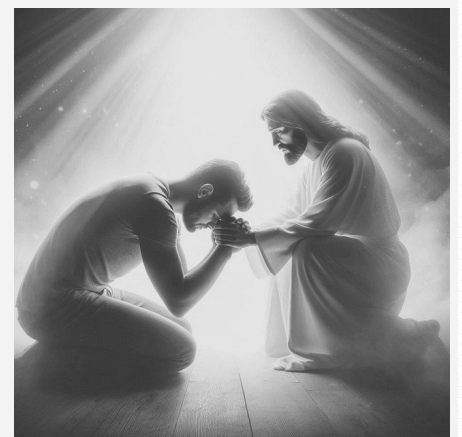
Thinking about becoming a Catholic
or know someone who may be
interested in exploring the Catholic
faith? Contact the Parish Office for
more details on joining the RCIA
program.

Lent III [C] Sunday (March 23)

Central theme All three of today's readings speak of God the Father's mercy and compassion, even in disciplining His children by occasional punishment in the form of natural or manmade tragedies, while giving them second chances to repent of their sins and renew their lives, despite their repeated sins. God expects us to show our repentance and renewal of life, especially during Lent, by producing fruits of love, mercy, forgiveness, and selfless service, instead of remaining like a barren fig tree in Christ's Church.

Scripture lessons: The first reading tells us how God showed His mercy to His chosen people in Egyptian slavery by giving them Moses as their leader and liberator. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (v 6) revealed Himself to Moses from the burning bush and assured Moses of His Divine presence with His people and of His awareness of their sufferings in Egypt. God declared His intention to use Moses as the leader who would rescue His enslaved people. Then God revealed His name as Yahweh ("I AM Who AM") and renewed His promise to the patriarchs (v 8), to give them a "land flowing with milk and honey." Our Responsorial Psalm (Ps 103), reminds us of God's unfailing mercy: "Merciful and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger and abounding in kindness." The second reading warns us that our merciful God is also a disciplining God. Paul reminds the Christians of Corinth that they must learn from the sad experience of the unfaithful Israelites in the desert who were punished for their sins by a merciful and just God. The merciful and gracious God is also just and demanding; hence, the Corinthians, and we, must be free from sexual sins and idolatry. Today's Gospel explains how God disciplines His people and invites them to repent of their sins, to renew their lives, and to produce the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Citing two tragic events, Jesus exhorts the Jews to repent and reform their lives. With the parable of the barren fig tree, Jesus also warns them that the merciful God will not put up with them indefinitely. Although God patiently waits for sinners to repent, giving them grace to do so, He will not wait forever. Time may run out; therefore, timely repentance is necessary. Hence, one can say, "A Lent missed is a year lost from the spiritual life."

Life Messages: **1) We need to live lives of repentance:** (a) We never know when we will meet a tragedy of our own. Let us turn to Christ, acknowledge our faults and failings, and receive from him mercy, forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. b) There is no better way to take these words of Jesus to heart than to go to sacramental confession, and there is no better time to go to confession than during Lent. (c) Repentance helps us in life and in death. It helps us to live as forgiven people and helps us to face death without fear. **2) We need to be fruitful trees in God's orchard.** Lent is an ideal time "to dig around and manure" the tree of our life so that it may bring forth fruits of repentance, reconciliation, forgiveness, humble service, and sensitivity to the feelings of others. **3) We need to make the best use of the "second chances" God gives us.** Our merciful Father always gives us second chances. During Lent, too, we are given another chance to repent and return to our Heavenly Father's love through the sacrament of reconciliation, the "Sacrament of the second chance."



(Anthony Kadavil)

Other News and Events

Historic Rite of Election at St Patrick's Cathedral: 124 Catechumens take transformative step in faith

(By Beckie Lee, 19 March 2025, Catholic Outlook)

Bishop of Parramatta, Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, celebrated the exultant occasion with the catechumens, their families and friends; as they signed their names in the Book of Elect for the first time – an essential part of their transformative journey that will involve the catechumens being baptised, confirmed and receiving the Eucharist for the first time. Bishop Vincent described the feeling of seeing the catechumens as one of “great joy”. “Thank you candidates and catechumens for your response to the call.”

Reflections on the journey to become Catholic

- Seventeen-year-old Zane travelled more than 40 kilometres from his parish of St Monica's Richmond to attend the ceremony in Parramatta. Asked what being a Catholic meant to him, Zane said, “I think it means being a part of the body of Christ. “There's a long history and to know that you're part of the Church that was founded back in 33AD. “You have this whole line and history of Catholics and saints and priests and bishops and they're all part [it].”

- Married couple Zheng Yu Yang (John) and Areum Leon (Christine) migrated to Australia from Korea, and joined St Anthony of Padua Parish Toongabbie last Christmas. They were keen to become Catholic primarily for their young son, Jace. “Now we have Jace, we want to bring him into this faith because it's very friendly and very forgiving as well.” “We want to teach him the way of the Lord.” Christine added, “It's really important that we have community, faith and love.”



Third Sunday of Lent 22nd and 23rd of March 2025

Lam is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Through the I-SHINE program Lam completed a six-month course developing his graphic design skills. He now runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income.



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 024 413 413.

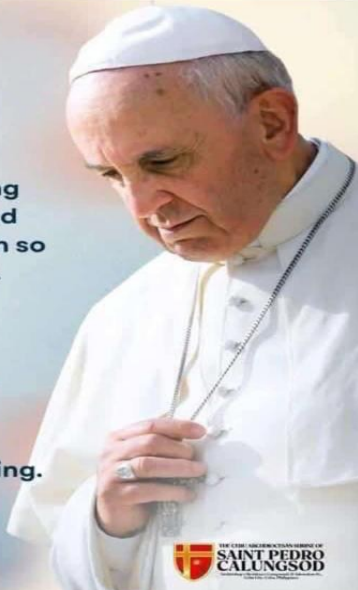
Parish Updates

Prayer for Pope Francis

Heavenly Father,
We thank you for the loving service of Pope Francis and the hope he has inspired in so many in your great mercy.

Have mercy on him in his illness now, we pray, and guide the medical staff in his care.

Grant him peace and healing.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



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

Planned Giving Envelopes for 2025-2026

To those who are in this program, please collect your new set of envelopes. For those who may be interested to participate in the program, please call us on (02) 8863 8801 or email: harrisparc@parracatholic.org

Thank you so much for your kind, generous and continuing support for the parish of St Oliver's.



PARISH READING ROSTER NEXT WEEK: 29/30 MARCH 2025

Saturday 5:30 pm Kristine Alba / Jim Hanna

Sunday 8:00 am Anne Haddad / Victoria Micalizzi 10:00 am Patricia Armao / Natasha Joseph

Diocesan Notices

Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal for Catholic Care's chaplaincy services

This Lent, will you be a pilgrim of hope to people who may break in the face of suffering? Your kind-hearted gift and prayers will help our chaplains at Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains offer pastoral care, comfort and Christian companionship that can bring healing and transformation. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal at parracatholic.org/appeal or scan this QR code.



Thank you.

Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers: 13 May

In this Jubilee Year of Hope all liturgical ministers - readers, servers and extra ordinary ministers are invited to join us for our Annual Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers. Families and friends are also invited. This celebration will take place at 7:30pm on 13th May 2025, at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. To register your attendance and guests please visit parracatholic.org/events/liturgical-ministers-commissioning-mass/

Young Adult Faith Formation Session on St Anthony of Padua: 6 April

Young Adult Faith Formation sessions continue on Sunday 6 April 2025 at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall, South Mt Druitt (9 Ropes Creek Rd Mt Druitt) at 7pm. The speaker is **Rev Dr Paschal Corby OFM Conv.** who will talk about and lead discussion on St Anthony of Padua. All adults 18-35 are encouraged to come along and enjoy some faith formation, pizza, and fellowship! If you have any questions, please call Mark on 0477 004 678.

Bookings now open: Diocese of Parramatta's Adult 35 years+ Jubilee Pilgrimage

Join a life-changing 19-day pilgrimage from 7 to 25 September 2025, exploring sacred sites in Greece, Turkey, and Rome. Open to adults aged 35 and over, this journey follows St. Paul's path and the early Church, culminating in the Jubilee Year of Hope in Rome. Bookings close on 2 May 2025, with a deposit of \$800 required at the time of booking. The final payment is due by 7 July 2025. Don't miss this incredible faith experience. For more information and to register, visit parracatholic.org/jubileepilgrimage2025/

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!

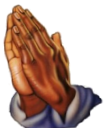
If you wish to hear more about what this ministry entails, please come along to a meeting to hear Fr. John and Fr. Paul explain its significance. See it as a time of discernment. What may the Holy Spirit be saying to you? The group is open to women and men over the age of 18.

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: Brian Peterson | Pacita S. Flores | 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 Doueihy & 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: Jocelyn Lusañea Tababa | 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

Exodus 3:1-8,13-15

A reading from the book of Exodus

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush.

Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said.

'Here I am,' Moses answered. 'Come no nearer,' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your fathers,' he said, 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow, the home of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This,' he added, 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "I Am has sent me to you."' And God also said to Moses, 'You are to say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 102:1-4,6-8,11

℟ The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. ℟

It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. ℟

The Lord does deeds of justice, gives judgement for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses and his deeds to Israel's sons. ℟

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. For as the heavens are high above the earth so

strong is his love for those who fear him. ℟

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12

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

I want to remind you, brothers, how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning, and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:17

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Repent, says the Lord;

the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."'

The Gospel of the Lord.