

St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

Harris park

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30 March 2025 | Fourth Sunday of Lent

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; Exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

Cf. Isaiah 66:10-11

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.

Luke 15:32



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.

4th Sunday of Lent Yr. C

Introduction: Traditionally, the Fourth Sunday of Lent is called *Laetare Sunday* (Rejoice Sunday). Anticipating Easter joy, today's readings invite us to rejoice by being reconciled with God through repentance and the confession of our sins and by celebrating our coming home to be with our loving and forgiving God.

Scripture lessons summarized: In the first reading, the Chosen People of God are portrayed as celebrating, for the first time in their own land, the feast of their freedom, by using wheat that had grown in the Promised Land. In today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 34), a rejoicing Psalmist invites us, "*Glorify the Lord with me; let us together extol His Name!*" In the second reading, St. Paul invites the Corinthian Christian community to rejoice because Jesus has reconciled them with God by his suffering and death.

Today's Gospel celebrates the joy of the prodigal son on his "*homecoming*" where he discovers his father's forgiving and overflowing love. It is also the story of the joy of a loving and forgiving father who celebrates the return of his prodigal son by throwing a big party in his honor, a banquet celebrating the reconciliation of the son with his father, his family, his community, and his God. At the same time, in his self-righteous elder brother's angry reaction to the prodigal's return, Jesus invites us to avoid self-righteousness and self-justification by imitating the repentant younger brother. Let us admit the truth that we are an assembly of repentant, sinful people, who are now ready to receive God's forgiveness, to experience Jesus' Personal Presence in the Holy Eucharist as our loving and forgiving God and so to love and forgive each other making, generous and lasting peace.

Life messages: 1) Let us return to our Heavenly Father with repentant hearts: As prodigal children, we face spiritual famine all around us in the form of drug and alcohol abuse, fraud and theft in the workplace, murders, abortions and violence, pornography, premarital sex, marital infidelity, and priestly infidelity, as well as in hostility between and among people. All of these evils have proliferated because we have been squandering God's abundant blessings, not only in our country and in our families, but also in our personal lives. Hence, let us repent and return to our Heavenly Father's home.

2) Holy Mass enhances our "pass over," from a world of sin to a world of reconciliation. At every Mass, we come to our loving Heavenly Father's house as prodigal children acknowledging that we have sinned ("*I confess to Almighty God*"). In the Offertory, we give ourselves back to the Father, and this is the moment of our surrendering our sinful lives to God our Father. At the consecration, we hear God's invitation through Jesus: "... *this is My Body, which will be given up for you... this is the chalice of My Blood ... which will be poured out for you...*" (= "*All I have is yours*"). In Holy Communion, we participate in the banquet of reconciliation, thus restoring our full relationship with God and our fellow human beings.

Other News and Events

Deacon Tony elected to International Diaconate Centre Board, By Outlook Contributor, 25 March, 2025

Deacon Tony Hoban, of the Diocese of Parramatta, has been elected to the Board of the International Diaconate Centre (IDC). The IDC has its offices in Germany and has almost 1800 members who come from 73 countries. Of these, 1100 members are from Europe (most in Germany and Austria), 187 from North America and just 23 from Oceania.

The purpose of the IDC is to study and promote the Diaconate in the Catholic Church worldwide; to collect and exchange details of practical experiences of deacons worldwide; ecumenical cooperation in the spirit of Vatican II; to maintain close relations with the Apostolic See, especially the Dicastery for Clergy; and to maintain contacts with Commissions, Bishop Conferences, national associations and institutions involved with the Permanent Diaconate worldwide. The IDC also organises international study conferences, generally every four years.

The election of the new Board and Assembly of Delegates occurred in February during the most recent study conference in Rome, which occurred in the same week as the Jubilee for Deacons that concluded with a Mass attended by 4000 deacons in St Peter's Basilica.

Deacon Tony, along with his wife Annette, was the first deacon to establish an urban Catholic faith community in Australia, at St Luke's at Marsden Park, in the Diocese of Parramatta. He led the community for almost seven years until it became a parish at the beginning of 2025. He is also the Chair of the National Association of Deacons (NAD) in Australia and he sees many similarities between it and the IDC.

Deacon Tony, with wife Annette and Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv. Image: St Luke's Catholic Parish.



Fourth Sunday of Lent 29th and 30th of March 2025

Irene lives in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and faced immense challenges after losing her father to war and raising her children in poverty. With support from Caritas Australia, Irene received vocational training in sewing and farming and can now support her whole family.



Photo credit: Arlette Bashizi/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

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities: 3 May

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Renewal Training will be held on Saturday 3 May at Holy Family Church, Emerton for Cycle 2 (Modules 4-5). More training opportunities will be available throughout 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 Updates

Parish Schedule during Lent

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

- 28 March - Station of the Cross
- 4 April - Station of the Cross
- 11 April - Second Rite of Reconciliation

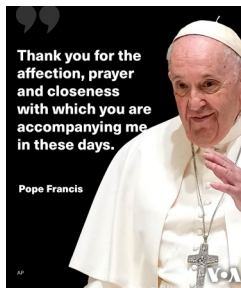
Welcome home Holy Father!

By Andrea Tornielli, 24 March 2025, Catholic Outlook.

38 days have gone by since February 14, when Pope Francis left the Vatican to be hospitalized at the Gemelli Polyclinic Hospital. These weeks have been challenging for an 88-year-old patient battling bilateral pneumonia.

Yet, throughout this time, he was surrounded by an outpouring of prayers for his recovery: personal prayers, the prayers of communities, rosaries and Eucharistic celebrations. They came not only from Catholics and Christians but also from people of other faiths and those without religious beliefs, who sent him good thoughts and well-wishes. After weeks of concern but also of trust and surrender to the will of the He who grants us life and may call us to Himself at any moment, today, we have seen him again. On the day of his return to the Vatican, we received his blessing again.

Welcome home, Holy Father!



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:

harrisparke@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: 5/6 APRIL 2025

Saturday 5:30 pm Gerard Pinto / Robert Aquino

Sunday 8:00 am Seini & Ipolito Lasalo

10:00 am Geoff & Monica Officer

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.

Children's Liturgy Workshop: 15 May

Are you a part of children's liturgy or looking to get started? Come along to this informative workshop to learn more about the Diocesan guidelines, meet children's liturgy teams from other parishes, and ask any questions you may have about this rewarding ministry. This workshop will be held at Bishop Bede Heather Centre 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown on Thursday 15 May at 7-8:30pm. Please RSVP via parracatholic.org/events/OFW by 12 May. For enquiries, please contact ofw@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795.

Good Friday Stations of the Cross at Mount Schoenstatt: 18 April

Join us at Mount Schoenstatt Shrine, Mulgoa on Good Friday (18 April) for the Stations of the Cross, commencing at 10am from the Valley to the Shrine. Contact Sr. M. Rita for further information on 0493 026 628 or visit the website: www.schoenstatt.org.au or Facebook page /MtSchoenstattMulgoa

Music Workshop 'Exploring Music for the Solemnities': 8 May

Musicians from the Diocese of Parramatta and beyond are invited to attend this workshop led by MET Music Formation Facilitator Eric Grella. The workshop will outline suggested hymns and explore music new and old for the many Solemnities and Feasts that occur in the period of Eastertide. Bring any music related questions along on Thursday 8 May to the Bishop Bede Heather Centre 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown at 7pm. Please RSVP by 2 May via parracatholic.org/events/OFW. For enquiries, please contact ofw@parracatholic.org or 0488 000 211

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

Joshua 5:9-12

A reading from the book of Joshua

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 33:2-7

℟. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; In the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. ℟

Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us praise his name, I sought the Lord and he answered me; from all my terrors he set me free. ℟

Look towards him and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed. This poor man called; the Lord heard him and rescued him from all his distress. ℟

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

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

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 15:18

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:
Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

Luke 15:1-3,11-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said

'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

