

St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

Harris park

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9 March 2025 | First Sunday of Lent

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

When he calls on me. I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

Cf. Psalm 90:15-16

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Cf. Mt 4:4



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.

First Sunday of Lent

Central theme: Lent begins with a reflection on the Temptation of Jesus in the wilderness. The Church assigns temptation stories to the beginning of Lent because temptations come to everybody, not only to Jesus, and we seem almost genetically programmed to yield to them.

Scripture lessons summarized: The first reading describes the ancient Jewish ritual of presenting the first fruits and gifts to God during the harvest festival in order to thank Him for liberating His people from Egypt and for strengthening them during the years of their trials and temptations in the desert. The Responsorial Psalm (Ps 91), points to Satan's third temptation of Jesus in the desert as recorded in Luke's Gospel. In the second reading, St. Paul warns the early Christians converted from Judaism not to yield to their constant temptation to return to the observances of the Mosaic Laws. He reminds them that they will be saved only by acknowledging the risen Jesus as Lord and Savior. Bible scholars think that the graphic temptations of Jesus described by Matthew and Luke in their Gospels are the pictorial and dramatic representations of the inner struggle against a temptation that Jesus experienced throughout his public life. The devil was trying to prevent Jesus from accomplishing (with the willing sacrifice of his own human life), his mission of saving mankind from the bondage of sin. The evil one attacked Jesus through temptations to become the political Messiah of Jewish expectations, and to misuse his Divine power first for his own convenience and then to avoid suffering and death.

Life Messages: 1) We need to confront and conquer temptations as Jesus did, using the means he employed: Like Jesus, every one of us is tempted to seek sinful pleasures, easy wealth, and positions of authority, and is drawn to the use of unjust or sinful means to attain good ends. Jesus serves as a model for conquering temptations through prayer, penance, and the effective use of the "word of God." Temptations make us true warriors of God by strengthening our minds and hearts.

2) We need to grow in holiness during Lent by prayer, reconciliation, and sharing. We need to a) find time to be with God every day of Lent, speaking to Him and listening to Him; b) repent of our sins and renew our lives, uniting ourselves with God both by the Sacrament of Reconciliation and by forgiving those who have hurt us, while asking forgiveness of those whom we have hurt; and c) sharing our love with others through our selfless and humble service, our almsgiving, and our helping of those in need.

3) We need to be on guard against veiled temptations: Let us remember that even Spirit-filled, sanctified and vibrant Christians are still subject to the Original Temptation of Eve: "You will be like gods, knowing what is good and what is evil" (Gn 3:5). 1) We are tempted to give ourselves godlike status and treat others as our subordinates. Consequently, 2) we resent every limitation of our freedom and vigorously deny the fact that we are dependent on God and on others. 3) We don't want to be responsible for the consequences of our choices. 4) We are also tempted to accomplish honorable goals by less-than-honorable means

Anthony Kadavil

Other News and Events

The FaithFeed: 29 March

Have questions about life & faith? Join with others on the search at The FaithFeed live studio audience - hosted by Baulkham Hills Parish in the Hills Deanery - all are welcome! The FaithFeed will be held on Saturday 29 March. Doors open 7:00PM for a 7:30PM start. The night will feature faith stories, live music, activities and great conversation. RSVP via parracatholic.org/events-faithfeed

Catalyst for Renewal luncheon with Dr Susan Connelly rsj: 15 March

Join us for a luncheon with Dr Susan Connelly rsj on the ACBC's Social Justice Statement 2024-25 "Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World" on 15 March at 12.30pm. It is held at Hunters Hill Parish Hall, tickets \$35 each. For further information, call 02 4971 4090, email catalyst-for-renewal@outlook.com or book via <https://www.trybooking.com/CYPEV>

Mount Schoenstatt Monthly Shrine Time for men

Men at the Shrine is a monthly hour for men at the Schoenstatt Shrine in Mulgoa, held on the second Wednesday of the month from 8-9pm. The hour includes a brief reflection, silent personal prayer and the opportunity for confession. The Shrine has been a place of pilgrimage in the diocese since 1968 and in 2025 is also one of the three locations in the diocese to gain the Jubilee Indulgence.



First Sunday of Lent 8th and 9th of March 2025

Project Compassion 2025 shares three stories from around the world. We'll meet **Toefu-ata'iga** - (*Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah*) from Samoa, **Lam** from Vietnam and **Irene** from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Each of this year's stories reflects diverse challenges, yet they are united by the shared determination to overcome adversity and create better futures for themselves and their communities.



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

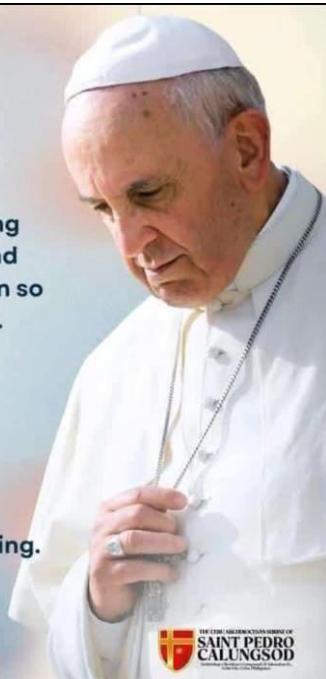
Or by calling: 1800 024 413

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 Updates

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: 8/9 MARCH 2025

Saturday 5:30 pm Jackie Perumal / Siji Lino

Sunday 8:00 am Seini & Ipolito Lasalo

10:00 am Natasha & Kaitlyn Joseph

Diocesan Notices

Safeguarding the Elderly Project: 13 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 Thursday 13 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. Please contact Maria Kervin (Manager, Prevention, Healing & Support) at: mariakervin@parracatholic.org if you would like more information on hosting such a Morning Tea within your own Parish with your Ministry Team.

Bookings now open: Diocese of Parramatta's Jubilee Youth Pilgrimage

Young people (18-35) across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are invited to embark on an 18-day pilgrimage to the Jubilee of Youth in Rome from 19 July – 5 August 2025. The journey includes a visit to Greece, tracing the footsteps of Saint Paul, before heading to Rome for the celebration. To book your spot or for more information visit parracatholic.org/jubileeyouth2025

Marriage Enrichment Weekend: 23-25 May

We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love! Come and join us on 23-25 May at a Marriage Encounter Weekend at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW – a stunning & tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney. Book online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wwme.org.au

MET Celebrating Holy Week Liturgies: 11 March

Musicians and Liturgy Planners are invited to attend an evening exploring Music for the Easter Triduum on Tuesday 11 March 2025 from 7pm to 9pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. The session will be presented by Eric Grella, Music Formation Facilitator, Mission Enhancement Team. Registrations are essential, please RSVP online by 6 March <https://parracatholic.org/events/music-easter-triduum/> All enquiries please contact ofw@parracatholic.org | 0488 000 211

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: Mark Tremoli, Deacon Rodrigo (Rudy) Rupac | Ophelia Paraan | Reynaldo Quintos | 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, Namtullah & 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, 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 harrisark@parracatholic.org. For mass offerings or special intentions, you may use the envelopes provided at the church foyer.

Mass Readings

First Reading

Deuteronomy 26:4-10

A reading from the first book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: 'The priest shall take the panner from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement:

“My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty, and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us, they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, the Lord, have given me.”

‘You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God.’

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 90(91):1-2,10-15

℟ Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty says to the Lord: ‘My refuge,

my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!’ ℟

Upon you no evil shall fall,

no plague approach where you dwell.

For you has he commanded his angels,

to keep you in all your ways. ℟

They shall bear you upon their hands

lest you strike your foot against a stone.

On the lion and the viper you will tread

and trample the young lion and the dragon. ℟

His love he set on me, so I will rescue him;

protect him for he knows my name.

When he calls I shall answer: ‘I am with you,’

I will save him in distress and give him glory ℟

Second Reading

ROMANS 10:8-13

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

Scripture says: The word (that is the faith we proclaim) is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

Luke 4:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.’ But Jesus replied, ‘Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.’ Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, ‘I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.’ Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. ‘If you are the Son of God,’ he said to him ‘throw yourself down from here, for scripture says: He will put his angels in charge of you to guard you, and again: They will hold you up on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.’ But Jesus answered him, ‘It has been said: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.’ Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time.

The Gospel of the Lord.