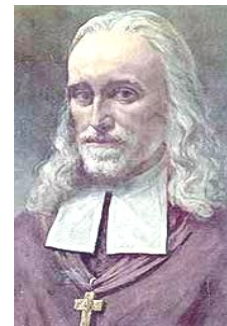


St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

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



27 April 2025 | Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Receive the joy of your glory,
giving thanks to God, who has
called you into the heavenly
kingdom, alleluia.

4 Esdras 2:36-37

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bring your hand and feel the place
of the nails, and do not be
unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

Cf. John 20:27



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 Easter – Unlocked doors free us for Mission

Locked doors don't keep Jesus out. The disciples were in a locked room in Jerusalem after the death of Jesus for fear of their lives. We are no different. We can lock Jesus out of our lives through fear, judgement, anger, frustration, anxiety, or self-preservation. Jesus came through the locked doors, not with condemnation of the disciples but with the greeting, 'Peace be with you.' The word 'Peace' ('Shalom' in Hebrew) communicates wholeness and blessing.

Last week, on Easter Monday 21st April, Pope Francis, aged 88, passed away at the Vatican. Like the disciples, we face a new and uncertain world and Church in 2025. As a Church, will we retreat back into our shell like the disciples in the locked room in Jerusalem? Will we be motivated by fear, self-preservation, protectionism? Pope Francis taught us to "step out into the deep" but this takes courage and a willingness to change.

Pope Francis stepped out into the deep first by going out to the margins. He was the first Pope to venture into Iraq even with Isis terrorist groups still active. He travelled to dangerous countries in Africa, and he chose to go to Mongolia as an outreach post into China. In September 2024, confined to a wheelchair, he visited Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste and Indonesia. Through listening to the Holy Spirit, he found vitality-not in Europe where the Church was ailing- but in the global south- Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin and South America.

He set as a goal for the present and future Church one that LISTENS – a parish that leads synodally i.e. in round-table discussions that welcomes a wider variety of talents. In Laudato Si he brought to our Church a wake-up call to be responsible stewards of our fragile world. He sought to build a Church that INCLUDES rather than EXCLUDES. Most weeks he would ring the priest in Gaza to seek out his well-being in the apocalyptic scenes of destruction that surrounded him and his people.

In the year 2000, Pope John Paul II established the 2nd Sunday after Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday. He said, "There is nothing more that man needs than Divine Mercy-that love which is benevolent, which is compassionate, which raises us above our weakness to the infinite heights of the holiness of God..." Today is Divine Mercy Sunday.

Let us pray for divine mercy for all those families afflicted by war in Gaza, in Ukraine, in Myanmar. Let us ask God's divine support to those doctors and nurses and aid workers who risk their lives in war zones.

Let us pray for the intercession of Pope Francis in the heavenly realms to call down the unimaginable depth of the mercy of God on our broken world.

A huge thank you to all the families who, in various ways enabled our Holy Week and Easter to be celebrated in a deeply meaningful way! For all the families involved in preparing the Stations of the Cross, those who sang, served, read, set up and decorated our altar and who cleaned our Church and facilities after 1400 pilgrims on the Good Friday walk.... A huge thank you!

May the courage of Pope Francis encourage our Church to seek out new missionary endeavours this Easter season and in the years to come.

Other News and Events



THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET PRAYER

On September 13, 1935, St. Mary Faustina Kowalska wrote of a vision of Jesus in her diary. Faustina stated that Jesus asked her to pray the following chaplet with her Rosary beads and to instruct others to do so.

"First of all you will say one *Our Father*, and *Hail Mary*, and the *I believe in God*."

Then on the *Our Father* beads you will say the following words: "*Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.*"

On the *Hail Mary* beads you will say the following words: "*For the sake of His sorrowful Passion have mercy on us and on the whole world.*"

In conclusion three times you will recite these words: "*Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.*"

(Faustina's Diary)

JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU

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Image re-created by Reji Joseph and inspired by the 1941 painting by Adolph Hühns, 17-878

Divine Mercy Sunday,
Sunday after Easter,
Feast of the Divine Mercy

Global leaders share their grief and sorrow for the death of Pope Francis

Many leaders spoke of Pope Francis as a pope of "firsts". Global leaders have expressed their sadness and condolences following the death of Pope Francis at the age of 88, following his battle with several health challenges in recent months. Many leaders spoke of Pope Francis as a pope of "firsts" – the first Latin American pope, the first non-European pope, the first Jesuit pope, the first pope to visit Iraq and the first pope to take the name of Saint Francis of Assisi, which shaped his papacy from the beginning to the end.

As we pray for Pope Francis, let us reflect on his prophetic words from his renowned encyclical, *Laudato Si*:

'At the end, we will find ourselves face to face with the infinite beauty of God (cf. 1 Cor 13:12), and be able to read with admiration and happiness the mystery of the universe, which with us will share in unending plenitude. Even now we are journeying towards the sabbath of eternity, the new Jerusalem, towards our common home in heaven. Jesus says: "I make all things new" (Rev 21:5). Eternal life will be a shared experience of awe, in which each creature, resplendently transfigured, will take its rightful place and have something to give those poor men and women who will have been liberated once and for all.' *Laudato Si*, no. 243.

Parish Updates

Reminder:

* Acolyte Training: 4,11, 18 May at 11:30 am - 1 pm at St Oliver's

The Diocese of Parramatta mourns the death of Pope Francis, aged 88.



Pope Francis in the Vatican, January 2023. Image: Shutterstock
The death of Pope Francis on Monday 21 April 2025, at the age of 88 has been met with profound grief and sorrow across the Diocese of Parramatta.

The Catholic church has lost a fearless and prophetic pastor who has unhesitatingly preached the Gospel and reminded the church that it must always reform itself and be close to ordinary people – especially the poor, the suffering and the marginalised.

Vatican News confirmed the Holy Father's death on Easter Monday. The Pope was admitted to the Agostino Gemelli Polyclinic Hospital on Friday, February 14, 2025, after suffering from a bout of bronchitis for several days. Pope Francis' clinical situation gradually worsened, and his doctors diagnosed bilateral pneumonia on Tuesday, February 18. After 38 days in hospital, the late Pope returned to his Vatican residence at the Casa Santa Marta to continue his recovery. During the last week, he made several 'surprise' public appearances at Palm Sunday Mass and Easter Sunday Mass in St Peter's Square.

And in our increasingly violent and ethically challenged world, Francis's prophetic voice will be especially acutely missed. Very few leaders today possess his credibility, authenticity and willingness to oppose violence and war and to defend the environment so passionately.

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, the Bishop of Parramatta, said that while this Jubilee year of Hope would eventually end, Pope Francis would always be remembered for keeping the flame of hope, and the message of God's love, alive in a world that needs both more now than ever.

"He showed the rest of us how to find God's love, and how to show God's love," Bishop Vincent said.

"While today is a day of profound grief and sadness for us here in Parramatta and indeed right around the world, it is also a day to give thanks for the life of a man who gave so much to so many.

"He was an example to the rest of us that the source of all wisdom and sustenance is to be found in the Holy Spirit. And by spreading that message to as many parts of the globe as possible, he is the true embodiment of hope."

"He will forever be remembered as a champion of peace and humanity," Bishop Vincent said.

'Here in Parramatta, let us all offer our prayers for the spirit of the Holy Father, and guidance for the Church at this time of grief.'

Globally there will be nine days of mourning for the Holy Father. In Parramatta, there will be a Mass for Pope Francis in St Patrick's Cathedral, with details to be shared shortly. (Published in Catholic Outlook)

PARISH READING ROSTER NEXT WEEK: 3 / 4 May

Saturday 5:30 pm Jackie Perumal / Siji Lino

Easter Sunday 8:00 am Anthony Melham / Katherine Katrib

10:00 am Natasha & Kaitlyn Joseph

Diocesan Notices

3 Diocesan Retreat Opportunities

The diocese is hosting three retreat opportunities for adults of all ages to engage more with this Jubilee Year of Hope. Take the time to step away from your usual routine to experience a diocesan retreat - a sacred space for prayer, reflection, renewal and encounter with God. For timeframes and details, see the three options of retreats below:

May 24: <https://parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-retreat-24-may/>

August 16: <https://parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-retreat-16-august/>

November 15: <https://parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-retreat-15-november/>

Safeguarding the Elderly Project

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 host a morning tea with your parish or ministry team. 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 for more information.

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. Nominations close at midnight on 31 May 2025. For more information or to submit a nomination, visit parracatholic.org/contribute/papal-diocesan-awards/

Special Mass for the Canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis, Rouse Hill: 27 April

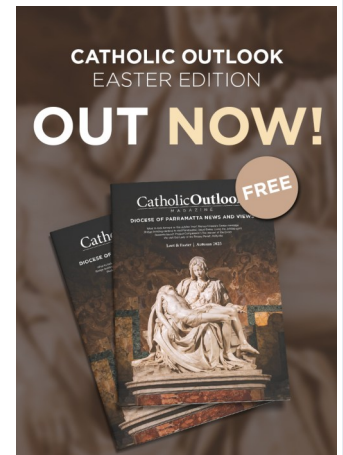
A special Mass will be celebrated by Fr Tom Green on Divine Mercy Sunday, 27 April at 10am at Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Rouse Hill in celebration of the Canonisation of Bl Carlo Acutis which will be held in Rome at the Jubilee of Teenagers. All welcome.

Study of Luke's Gospel with Dr Laurie Woods: Fridays 2–30 May

Join us for an enriching study of Luke's Gospel, led by Dr Laurie Woods and hosted by the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD). Sessions will take place each Friday in May from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. All parishioners are welcome to attend. For more information or to RSVP by 30 April, contact ccd.training@parracatholic.org

Low Cost Counselling Services

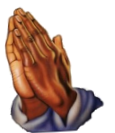
Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains provides low cost and affordable counselling services for individuals seeking support. Whether you're looking for general guidance or assistance with specific challenges like grief, loss, or family matters, Catholic Care is here to help. Call Catholic Care on 8843 2500 for a friendly chat today.



Our Community



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: Brenda Marjorie Spence | Fr David Coffey | All those who died recently, especially those who used to be part of this parish community as parishioners or relations of our parishioners

Deceased: Said El Boustany | 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, Rebecca Llanillo | Queenie & Nicholas Nicholas, Namtallah & 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: Yolanda Roxas | 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: Mario D'Souza | Philip Scully | 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

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

Acts 5:12-16

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 117:2-4,22-27

℟ Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.' Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.' ℟

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. ℟

O Lord, grant us salvation; O Lord, grant success. Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes. We bless you from the house of the Lord; the Lord God is our light. ℟

Second Reading

Apocalypse 1:9-13,17-19

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One, I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

John 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe! Alleluia!

Gospel

John 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

