

St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

Harris park

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6 April 2025 | Fifth Sunday of Lent

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

Cf. Psalm 42:1-2

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord. Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.

John 8:10-11



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.

"Welcome to heaven. Your table is ready."

There was a dedicated old priest who had always wondered what the real difference was between heaven and hell. One day, he had a dream in which God showed him.

First, God showed him hell. The old priest was flabbergasted to find no flames, no horned pointy-tail devils – only crowds of angry people pressing around long, wooden picnic tables. At each place was a large wooden bowl of food and 3-metre-long wooden spoons. By pushing and shoving into place at the table, the angry people managed to get their long spoons into the bowls, but they were unable to turn the spoons around and get them into their mouths. Their frustration and the accompanying bitterness and bickering were sheer hell!

Then the old priest was given a glimpse of heaven. He was amazed to discover the same massive wooden picnic tables, the same huge wooden bowls of food, and the same 3-metre wooden spoons. But in heaven there was a spirit of peace, thoughtfulness, even joy. In heaven, the people were feeding one another.

Today's Gospel centres on the need to change our own hearts before we demand the conversion of others. To enter the kingdom of God, to realise the reign of God among us in the here and now, we must embrace a new attitude toward God and one another, an attitude based on compassion, generosity, forgiveness and justice; an attitude that seeks to lift up the fallen rather than self-justification in the failings of others, an attitude not centred on self but in the common good.

The story of the adulteress, a later addition to John's Gospel (probably added in the third century), is a cherished tale from the then rich oral history of Jesus' life. Once again, the scribes and Pharisees set up a trap to discredit Jesus. According to the Mosaic code, adultery was considered among the gravest of sins, punishable by death; but the law of the Roman occupiers forbade the Jewish authorities to impose and carry out the death sentence on anyone. The dilemma facing Jesus, then, is this: If Jesus condemns the woman, he undermines his own teachings on forgiveness and puts him in conflict with the Roman authority; if he does not condemn her, he breaks faith with the covenant Law.

Jesus' response to their hypocrisy challenges the Jews' understanding of judgment and authority; God reserves the role of judging others to himself; to us belongs the work of forgiveness and reconciliation. God's commandments are addressed to each one of us as individuals to keep; we are called to judge our own actions and pass sentence on our own lives. While the scribes and Pharisees view authority as a licence to criticize, censure and condemn this woman, Jesus sees authority as a gift for transforming her life and reconciling her with God.

Admittedly, the Pharisees and scribes' approach to morality does have a certain appeal: root it out and cut it down. But Jesus challenges them to a more lasting, permanent conversion:

Put down your stones of indignation and anger and look to your hearts, to that place within every one of us, where good and evil meet. Understand the disappointments, the despair, the selfishness that drives you to sin. Realise the hurt, the pain, the destruction that others suffer because of your own sin. Put aside your rationalisations and excuses and embrace the love and mercy of God, who knows our hearts better than we do ourselves.

Confronting the demons of the world must begin with confronting the demons within our own hearts, we cannot lift up the fallen until we realise that we, too, are fallen; we cannot raise others to health and hope until we seek our own healing; we cannot pass sentence on others until we judge our own lives. Jesus calls us to realise the old priest's vision of heaven in our own time and place. Heaven dawns in the humility to feed one another from the bounty of God's table; hell is the hunger and poverty of selfishness and acrimony.

Father of forgiveness, make us a people of compassion. Give us the courage to reach out to those who fall along the road we all travel that we may transform what is evil into the reflection of your love. Humble us with the grace to seek forgiveness when we fall so that we may replace the hurt we have caused with healing and reconciliation.

Other News and Events

ELECTION STATEMENT 2025 Called to Bring Hope in the Year of Jubilee

As Australians prepare to vote in the federal election, Catholics have a vital role in shaping our nation's future. Our faith calls us to engage in democracy, to build, in the words of Pope St. John Paul II, "a civilisation of love," 1 and to contribute "to the good of society in a spirit of truth, justice, solidarity, and freedom." 2

This election coincides with the Holy Year of Jubilee, themed 'Pilgrims of Hope.' Pope Francis reminds us that "all of us have received the gift and task of bringing hope wherever hope has been lost, lives broken, promises unkept, dreams shattered, and hearts overwhelmed by adversity." 3

To bring hope, we must first become people of hope; as Pope Benedict XVI declared, "the one who has hope lives differently." 4

The Jubilee reminds us that voting is not just a civic duty but an opportunity to advance the common good and pave the way for hope.

Key issues to reflect on before voting

In determining our electoral choices, Australian Catholics search always to uphold the sanctity of life, protect the vulnerable, support and strengthen families, promote the common good, and foster a just society where all Australians can thrive.

To read more about Catholic Social Teaching, scan the QR code or visit this link: bit.ly/ElectionStatement2025



Fifth Sunday of Lent 5th and 6th of April 2025

The life-changing work of Caritas Australia is only made possible by the unwavering generosity of our supporters and the dedication of our local partners on the ground.

Our partners are the true heroes, working tirelessly on the frontlines every day to transform lives and build brighter, more hopeful futures for their communities.



UNITE AGAINST POVERTY
this Lent

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

thank you

Warmest welcome to Fr Michael Gathuku who will be celebrating this Sunday's masses at 8 am and 10 am.

Thank you for coming to our parish of St Oliver's.

Requests from Fr Paul:

•Please come and help **make crosses for Palm Sunday** on Thursday, 10th April at 3:15 pm, Holy Spirit Seminary.

•Please pray for our children from St Oliver's and Rosehill Primary Schools who will be making their **first Reconciliation** on 9/10th April.

•Please take note of the following:

***NO weekday masses during Easter week, Tuesday to Wednesday.**

***9:00 am Mass, Friday, 25th April (ANZAC Day)**

Please collect your planned giving envelopes for 2025-2026, if you have not collected yours yet. Thank you so much for your continuing support...



Parish Schedule during Lent

11th April, 7:30 pm, Second Rite of Reconciliation

Holy Week Timetable

Palm Sunday (13 th April)	Saturday Vigil Sunday	5:30 pm 8:00 am / 10:00 am
Holy Thursday (17 th April)	No morning mass 7:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper	
Good Friday (18 th April)	10:00 am Stations of the Cross 3:00 pm Passion of the Lord 4:15 pm 1 st Rite of Reconciliation	
Holy Saturday (19 th April)	5:00 am Pilgrims on The Good Friday Walk arrive at St Oliver's 12 Noon Vigil at the Tomb (b/w the church & seminary) 7:30 pm EASTER VIGIL	
Easter Sunday (20 th April)	8:00 am / 10:00 am Mass	

PARISH READING ROSTER NEXT WEEK: 12/13 APRIL 2025

Saturday 5:30 pm Jackie Perumal / Siji Lino
Jim Hanna / Robert Aquino

Palm Sunday 8:00 am Anthony Melham / Katherine Katrib
Anne Haddad / Victoria Micalizzi

10:00 am Natasha & Kaitlyn Joseph
Geoff & Monica Officer

Diocesan Notices

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

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.

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/

Pontifical Holy Land Good Friday Collection 2025

As a reminder that every year on Good Friday, a collection is taken up in every Catholic Church to support the people and places of the Holy Land. The Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land have the unique responsibility of caring for the Holy Places as well as caring for the Christians living in the Holy Land.

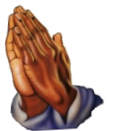


Our Community

Please remember that on Holy Saturday, the 19th April, at 5:00 am, the Pilgrims on The Good Friday Walk will arrive at our church. Everyone is welcome to join these pilgrims when they stop here to pray.



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: Rebecca Llanillo | 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, 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: Jocelyn Lusaña 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 & 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: 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 harrisparke@parracatholic.org. For mass offerings or special intentions, you may use the envelopes provided at the church foyer.*

Mass Readings

First Reading

Isaiah 43:16-21

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord,
who made a way through the sea,
a path in the great waters;
who put chariots and horse in the field
and a powerful army
which lay there never to rise again,
snuffed out, put out like a wick:

No need to recall the past,
no need to think about what was done before.
See, I am doing a new deed,
even now it comes to light; can you not see it?
Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness,
paths in the wilds.
The wild beasts will honour me,
jackals and ostriches,
because I am putting water in the wilderness
(rivers in the wild)
to give my chosen people drink.
The people I have formed for myself
will sing my praises.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 125

℟ The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed
like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on
our lips there were songs. ℟

The heathens themselves said: What marvels the Lord
worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. ℟

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry
land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they
reap. ℟

They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the
sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves. ℟

Second Reading

Philippians 3:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the
supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For
him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on
everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and
be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for
perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes
from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes
through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith.
All I want is to know Christ and the power of his
resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the
pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my

place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have
become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still
running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus
captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from
thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I
forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I
am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us
upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Joel 2:12-13

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
With all your heart turn to me,
for I am tender and compassionate.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

John 8:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he
appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to
him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who
had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand
there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master,
this woman was caught in the very act of committing
adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn
women like this to death by stoning. What have you to
say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something
to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing
on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their
question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who
has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.'
Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When
they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with
the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who
remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman,
where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir'
she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go
away, and do not sin any more.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

