

St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

Harris park

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11 May 2025 | Fourth Sunday of Easter

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

Cf. Psalm 32:5-6

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.



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 Easter - Good Shepherd (Vocations) Sunday

God speaks to us in subtle ways which bring peace and certainty when we listen well.

What is your name – who are you? Can you find a way to hear the sound of the genuine in yourself? (Howard Thurman, *"The Sound of the Genuine."*) There are so many noises and distractions going on inside of us. What do you do, or where do you go, to get still enough to find the gentle song being sung in your life by God?

It requires learning to listen for and recognize over time the voice and character of God in our hearts and daily lives: "The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice."

Discernment is about seeing, knowing, and being known. Do you want to be seen and known by God?

Our Christian community offers unique opportunities for spiritual formation and discernment. Together, we are called to let God become the centre of our lives, speak to us, guide us, hold us and renew the depths of our being. We have the freedom to say yes to God's call and to choose to live it in very specific ways. Our faith communities help us make and sustain that choice.

Does the Good Shepherd only call certain people? Does the Good Shepherd call me? Why would the Good Shepherd want us to hear His voice?

First, he calls us to his way of life, so that like him, we may return to the Father. Jesus put it simply: "Enter into your Master's joy." Who can imagine the joy of God which we will share in our Father's house? Are we treasuring too many things which, though they may seem important each day and each hour are as nothing compared with our eternal destiny?

Secondly, the Good Shepherd's voice comes to us under many guises and through many people. It comes through our parents and our teachers. They have embraced their call (*vocation*) to be the Good Shepherd's helpers and to be his voice guiding and encouraging us.

Like those called to the vocation of marriage and parenthood, when God calls men to the priesthood, and women and men to religious life by the call of the heart, we say they have a *vocation*, a calling to the work of Christ. On this Good Shepherd Sunday, let us pray that more of us may still our hearts to listen to the still small voice of God who continually calls all of us to use our gifts and choose pathways back to God's Home. Our mothers bring a unique blessing through their loving service of family and

society. Pope Francis certainly heard the call of God and chose the way of priesthood which eventually led him to serve the Universal Church and the World. For some, their vocation will be through single life, for others married life, for others an alternative lifestyle, for others a celibate lifestyle. God calls each of us uniquely. What is God's still, small voice calling you to at this time of your life?

Today, Mother's Day, we honour the unique Vocational Call of Motherhood. Mothers serve as society's moral compass, promoting compassion, patience, nurturance, understanding, advocacy and unconditional love.

Let's pray especially for our Mums today. God bless our Mums!

Henri Nouwen *Discernment* (London, UK SPCK 2013) 17-18



Other News and Events

Pope Leo XIV: 'Peace be with all of you'

Pope Leo XIV greets the faithful and the world invoking peace and pledging to work for a united Church faithful to Jesus and to the Gospel.



Pope Leo XIV greeted the city of Rome and the world with these words at his first appearance as the Successor of Peter from the Central Loggia of St Peter's Basilica:
 Pope Leo XIV: Greetings to Rome and to the world
 Peace be with you! Dearest brothers and sisters, this was the first greeting of the risen Christ, the good shepherd who gave His life for the flock of God. I, too, would like this greeting of peace to enter your hearts, to reach your families and all people, wherever they are; and all the peoples, and all the earth: Peace be with you.

This is the peace of the Risen Christ, a disarming and humble and preserving peace. It comes from God. God, who loves all of us, without any limits or conditions. Let us keep in our ears the weak but always brave voice of Pope Francis, who blessed Rome - the Pope who blessed Rome and the world that day on the morning of Easter.

Allow me to continue that same blessing. God loves us, all of us, evil will not prevail. We are all in the hands of God.

Without fear, united, hand in hand with God and among ourselves, we will go forward. We are disciples of Christ, Christ goes before us, and the world needs His light. Humanity needs Him like a bridge to reach God and His love. You help us to build bridges with dialogue and encounter so we can all be one people always in peace.

Thank you Pope Francis!

Thank you to my Cardinal brothers who chose me to be the Successor of Peter and to walk together with you as a united Church searching all together for peace and justice, working together as women and men, faithful to Jesus Christ without fear, proclaiming Christ, to be missionaries, faithful to the gospel.

I am a son of Saint Augustine, an Augustinian. He said, "With you I am a Christian, for you a bishop." So may we all walk together towards that homeland that God has prepared for us.

To the Church of Rome, a special greeting:

We have to look together how to be a missionary Church, building bridges, dialogue, always open to receiving with open arms for everyone, like this square, open to all, to all who need our charity, our presence, dialogue, love.

[In Spanish]:

Hello to all and especially to those of my diocese of Chiclayo in Peru, a loyal, faithful people accompanying the bishop and helping the bishop.

[Returning to Italian]:

To all you brothers and sisters of Rome, Italy, of all the world, we want to be a synodal church, walking and always seeking peace, charity, closeness, especially to those who are suffering.

Today is the day of the Supplicatio [Plea] to Our Lady of Pompei.

Our blessed mother Mary always wants to walk with us, be close to us, she always wants to help us with her intercession and her love. So let us pray together for this mission, and for all of the Church, and for peace in the world.

We ask for this special grace from Mary, our Mother.

Hail Mary... [accompanied by the crowds in St Peter's Square and around the world.] - (Vatican News, 08 May 2025)

"Thrilled and in awe": The Diocese of Parramatta and Sydney's west celebrate the election of Pope Leo XIV

The Diocese of Parramatta joins the universal Church in joyful celebration of the election of Cardinal Robert Prevost OSA as the 267th successor to St Peter – with the papal name Pope Leo XIV.

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta, welcomed the announcement with prayerful optimism. (Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta with Cardinal Prevost OSA, now Pope Leo XIV.)



"This is a joyful moment for the universal Church and a deeply meaningful one for our local community in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains."

"Pope Leo XIV brings a missionary heart, shaped by decades serving among the poor in Peru. As an Augustinian, he will gift the Church and the world with a deeply contemplative spirit," Bishop Vincent said.

"I have met him on several occasions, as have many of the Augustinians in our Diocese who know him well. He is a humble, prayerful man, dedicated to Christ and steeped in the mystical charism of the Augustinian tradition and I pray that he will guide our church with renewed hope and joy during this challenging time," he said.

For the local Augustinian community in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, the announcement brings both excitement and profound personal connection. Fr David Austin OSA, Assistant Priest at Holy Spirit Parish St Clair and former Provincial of the Australian Augustinians, was "absolutely thrilled" with the news and described Pope Leo XIV not only as a spiritual leader but also "a personal friend."

Rachael Kama, a member of the Diocese's Mission Enhancement Team and Asia-Pacific Lay Representative for the Augustinians, shared her surprise and joy upon hearing the news. Having met "Fr Bob" – as many still affectionately call him – at multiple international gatherings, she remembered his humility vividly. "He is a very humble man. When I was at the OSA International Lay Congress last year, he was driving people to and from the airport!" she said.



(L) Rachael Kama, a member of the Mission Enhancement Team in the Diocese and OSA Asia Pacific Lay Representative, at the last OSA International Lay congress in Rome in 2024

Parish Updates

Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday, 13th of May at 7 pm. Thank you to those who have replied and able to attend.

Reminder:

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

PARISH READING ROSTER NEXT WEEK: 17/18 May

Saturday 5:30 pm Kristine Alba / Jim Hanna

Easter Sunday 8:00 am Seini & Ipolito Lasalo

10:00 am Geoff & Monica Officer



Diocesan Notices

Holy Family Parish 60-Year Jubilee Celebration, Holy Family Parish Mt Druitt: 1 June

Join us as we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt, since its establishment in 1965. The celebrations will take place on Sunday, 1 June 2025: Mass at 10:30am with Bishop Vincent followed by a Multicultural Festival and lunch. If you have any memorabilia to share, wish to register for the event, or need more information, please email us at jubilee@holyfamily.org.au. We look forward to celebrating this special milestone with our parish community!

Ministry of Care Courses: 4- 25 June

Those who visit the sick and are involved in the Ministry of Communion to the Sick and Dying in Hospitals, Aged Care Facilities and in Homes are invited to attend this course on the Ministry of Care. It will be held every Wednesday evening at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre in Blacktown. Attend all 4 sessions to receive a certificate of completion or just attend the session(s) that interest you. Please visit parracatholic.org/events/OFW to reserve a spot. For enquiries, please contact ofw@parracatholic.org or 0488 000 211.

Nominations open for the 2025 Papal & 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/

SAVE THE DATE: Tri-Diocesan Social Justice Evening 25 June 2025

The Tri-Diocesan Social Justice Evening is an annual collaboration between the Archdiocese of Sydney and the Dioceses of Parramatta and Broken Bay. This year, Parramatta will be hosting on Wednesday 25 June 2025, 6:30pm – 9:00pm, St Monica's Parish Hall, 8 Daking St, North Parramatta. Engaging speakers will discuss the ACBC Social Justice Statement 2024-25 "Truth & Peace – A Gospel Word in a Violent World", while you can enjoy a delicious meal and good company.

Schoenstatt's Annual Marian Pilgrimage

WITH MARY - PILGRIMS OF HOPE

SUNDAY 18TH MAY

230 FAIRLIGHT ROAD, MULGOA 2745

9.30 am	Sacrament of Reconciliation available
10.15am	Welcome & Opening Prayer
10.30am	Holy Mass (Bishop Vincent Long)
2.00pm	Eucharistic Procession
	Alternatively: Anointing of the sick
3.00pm	Benediction

Sr. M. Rita 0493 026 628 srrita@schoenstatt.org.au



This is an outdoor event. Please bring your own chairs. Drinks & food will be available for purchase. Please bring along your Pilgrim Mother Shrines.

Our Community

Condolence Book for the passing of Pope Francis

For anyone wishing to write condolence messages, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is organising a condolence book to pass onto the Apostolic Nuncio to Australia, Archbishop Charles Balvo, who was appointed Nuncio by Pope Francis in 2022. Please email your message to condolencebook@catholic.org.au.



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: Luis Diaz Vega | Pope Francis | 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 | Queenie & Nicholas Nicholas, Namtullah & Christine Coorey, Rizcullah & Patricia Coorey, Jabour & Doura Nicholas & family, Saidie & Joseph Coorey & family, Najia & Toufic Samyia, All deceased members of the Nicholas, Budwee & Norman families | 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, Melissa | | 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 13:14,43-52

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to the synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats.

When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God has given them.

The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly. 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

I have made you a light for the nations,
so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.'

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 99:1-3, 5

R We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing for joy. **R**

Know that he, the Lord, is God. He made us, we belong to him, we are his people, the sheep of his flock. **R**

Indeed, how good is the Lord, eternal his merciful love. He is faithful from age to age. **R**

Second Reading

Apocalypse 7:9, 14-17

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their

hands. One of the elders said to me, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

John 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 10:27-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus Jesus said:

The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;
I know them and they follow me.
I give them eternal life;
they will never be lost
and no one will ever steal them from me.
The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone,
and no one can steal from the Father.
The Father and I are one.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

