

St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

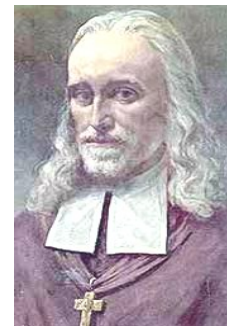
Harris park

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25 May 2025 | Sixth Sunday of Easter

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

Cf. Isaiah 48:20

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

John 14:15-16



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.

Gospel Reflection for the Sixth Sunday of Easter

"... the Father will give another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it sees nor knows him." John 14: 23-29

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL:

In his Last Supper discourse, Jesus leaves his fledgling Church his gift of peace and the promise of the Spirit. Christ's gift of peace is not the absence of trouble and hostility ("as the world gives peace"); Christ's peace is the Scriptural concept of shalom, meaning the pursuit of everything which makes for the highest good. The peace of Christ finds its core in the Gospel principles of humble servanthood and holy justice.

The "Advocate" (or "Paraclete," as found in some translations of John's Gospel), who intercedes and intervenes on behalf of good, is the exact opposite of the "adversary," Satan. The Advocate/Paraclete is that presence of God within us that opens our hearts and minds to the promptings of God's Word as proclaimed by Jesus.

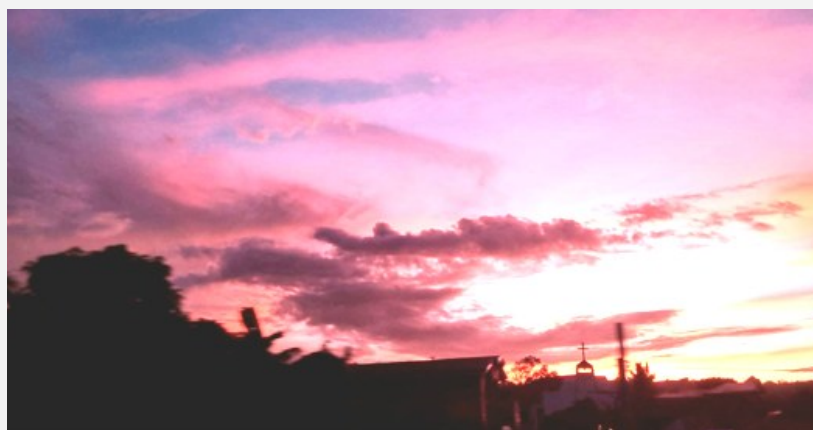
FROM THE GOSPEL TO LIFE:

The peace the Risen Jesus leaves us is not passive acquiescence or the absence of hostility and conflict; the peace of Jesus is a mindset: a constant seeking out of God's love, justice and mercy, an understanding of our "connectedness" to God and to one another as children of the same God.

In sacrament, in Scripture, in community, in our living of the Gospel in our everyday lives, the Risen Christ is in our midst. In even our smallest act of selfless kindness – prompted by the Paraclete instructing our open hearts and spirit – we reveal the presence of the Easter Christ in our little piece of the world.

In today's Gospel, Jesus promises that he and his Father will "make our dwelling" with us when we "keep [Jesus'] word" of love, forgiveness, reconciliation and peace.

Whenever we act out of compassion, the Advocate is at work in our midst; whenever we put aside our own fears of inadequacy to reach out to someone in need, the Holy Spirit is moving among us. The Spirit, the Advocate, is present in our care often without our realizing it, enabling us to make the justice and mercy of the Gospel a reality in our own time and place.



Other News and Events

Pope Leo XIV at Inauguration Mass: 'Let us walk towards God and love one another'

(By Vatican News, 20 May 2025)

Pope Leo XIV holds up the Book of the Gospels during Holy Mass for the Beginning of his Pontificate in St Peter's Square on the Fifth Sunday of Easter, 18 May 2025. Image: Vatican News



Pope Leo XIV presides at the Mass of Inauguration of his Petrine Ministry in Saint Peter's Square, and invites the Church to walk together along the path of God's love and remain united in one family.

Greeting over 200,000 pilgrims, leaders from around the world, and representatives of Christian denominations, Pope Leo XIV marked the joyous start to his Petrine Ministry, officially inaugurating it with Mass in Saint Peter's Square on Sunday, 18 May. Religious delegations included Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Zoroastrian and Jainists, among the many present for the celebration.

Heart full of gratitude

Expressing his heartfelt gratitude for the prayerful and joyful support offered to him as he begins his pastoral ministry as Pope, Leo XIV recalled the intense emotions experienced over these past few weeks. "Following the death of Pope Francis, we felt like sheep without a shepherd," he recalled, "yet having received his final blessing on Easter Sunday, and with eyes of faith, hope, and joy, we remembered how the Lord never abandons His people."

The Pope also thanked everyone for accompanying in prayer the College of Cardinals meeting in conclave to elect the Successor of Peter as they looked at how to continue the mission of preaching the Gospel with a shepherd able to address today's challenges. He said they felt "the working of the Holy Spirit, who was able to bring us into harmony, like musical instruments, so that our heartstrings could vibrate in a single melody."

United in love and unity

"I was chosen, without any merit of my own, and now, with fear and trembling," said Pope Leo, "I come to you as a brother, who desires to be the servant of your faith and your joy, walking with you on the path of God's love, for he wants us all to be united in one family." Pope Leo XIV recalled how love and unity are the two aspects of the mission entrusted to Peter by Jesus. In the Gospel on this Sunday, Jesus entrusts the disciples to continue the mission, to be "fishers of men" and bring the "hope of the Gospel" to all people "so that all may experience God's embrace." Peter's experience of the "infinite and unconditional love of God" enabled him to take up this mission, the Pope explained.

Self-sacrificing love

Pope Leo recalled how Peter is entrusted then with "loving more" and "giving his life for the flock," a "self-sacrificing love." "The ministry of Peter is distinguished precisely by this self-sacrificing love, because the Church of Rome presides in charity and its true authority is the charity of Christ. It is never a question of capturing others by force, by religious propaganda or by means of power. Instead, it is always and only a question of loving as Jesus did."

Church, sign of unity and communion

The Holy Father expressed his hope for "a united Church, a sign of unity and communion, which becomes a haven for a reconciled world."

In the face of a world marked by so much discord and wounds caused by hatred, violence, prejudice, fear, and economic reality "that exploits the Earth's resources and marginalises the poorest," the Pope said, "we want to be a small haven of unity, communion, and fraternity within the world."

"We want to say to the world, with humility and joy: Look to Christ! Come closer to him! Welcome his word that enlightens and consoles! Listen to his offer of love and become his one family: in the one Christ, we are one," he urged. "This is the path to follow together, among ourselves but also with our sister Christian churches, with those who follow other religious paths, with those who are searching for God, with all women and men of good will, in order to build a new world where peace reigns!"

The Pope upheld the missionary spirit, adding that such an approach will keep the Church from closing itself off in small groups or taking on a feeling of superiority to the world.

"We are called to offer God's love to everyone, in order to achieve that unity which does not cancel out differences but values the personal history of each person and the social and religious culture of every people," he said.

"Brothers and sisters, this is the hour for love! The heart of the Gospel is the love of God that makes us brothers and sisters."

In conclusion, Pope Leo XIV invited all Christians to be enlightened by the Holy Spirit, so that we might build a Church "founded on God's love, a sign of unity, a missionary Church that opens its arms to the world, proclaims the word, allows itself to be made 'restless' by history, and becomes a haven of harmony for humanity."

"Together, as one people, as brothers and sisters, let us walk towards God and love one another."

With thanks to Vatican News, where this article originally appeared.



Pope Leo XIV greets the faithful at the Mass of Inauguration on

Parish Updates

Reminders:

- Acolyte/Eucharistic ministers Training : 25th May at 11:30 am - 1 pm at St Oliver's
- Commissioning of the ministers on 15th June at 10:00 am mass
- No weekday masses during the seminary break, Tuesday, 1 July to Friday, 18 July (weekend masses as normal)

National Conference for Ecumenical and Interfaith Works – 'Walking Together': 30-31 May

The Bishops Commission for Christian Unity and Inter-religious Dialogue invites Catholics engaged in ecumenical and interfaith activities to a two-day conference exploring unity, dialogue, and synodality in today's Church. Marking 1700 years of the Nicene Creed and 60 years of *Nostra Aetate*, the event includes plenary sessions, workshops, and discussions. Register for this event via <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/walking-together-2025-tickets-1271883270099>

PARISH READING ROSTER NEXT WEEK: 31 May / 1 June

Saturday 5:30 pm Jackie Perumal / Siji Lino

Easter Sunday 8:00 am Anne Haddad / Victoria Micalizzi

10:00 am Carol Isaac / Nick Tagnipis

Diocesan Notices

Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal for our Holy Spirit Seminarians.

Will you help our seminarians to be 'Pilgrims and Sowers of Hope' for God's people? With your prayers and generosity, they can continue to grow in faith and formation, as they prepare to become priests who will sow hope, faith and love in the hearts of God's people. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal at parracatholic.org/appeal or scan this QR code. Thank you.



THANK YOU
FOR SUPPORTING OUR
HOLY SPIRIT SEMINARIANS
TO SOW 'SEEDS OF HOPE'

To learn about the impact of your kindness, please visit:

parracatholic.org/appeal-thankyou



Pentecost Scripture Reflection with Dr Deborah Snoddy: 28 May

What does the Holy Spirit look like in your life? How can Scripture stretch our imagination when comes to Pentecost and the Holy Spirit? Register for the Diocesan Pentecost Scripture Reflection Evening with Dr Deborah Snoddy on Wednesday 28 May at 6:30- 8:30pm. RSVP via parracatholic.org/events/pentecost-scripture-night or get in touch with the team via met@parracatholic.org

Feast of St Anthony of Padua: 11-13 June

Join St Anthony of Padua Parish, Toongabbie in celebrating the Feast of St Anthony of Padua. There will be 9:30am and 7pm Triduum Masses, Novena, blessing of the Sick (11 June), Blessing of the Children (12 June), and a candlelight procession (13 June). All welcome.

Positions Vacant:

- Sacramental program and Special Religious Education Coordinator, at St Anthony of Padua Parish Toongabbie, permanent part-time position, 15 hours per week. Please forward applications and resumes to the Parish Secretary for secretary@stanthonyschurch.org.au by 9 June 2025. For more information you may contact 9631 3316
 - Safeguarding: Healing and Support Counsellor: Diocese of Parramatta
 - Senior Facilitator – Parish Engagement Lead
 - Property Lawyer: Diocese of Parramatta
- More details at: parracatholic.org/about/jobs/

Our Community

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.



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: John & Tripony Pasangha, Reggie & May Perumal, Joe & Fatima Cerera, Clement/Quintus, Cyril/Felix & Rosita, Rita Fernando, Mrs Richard Fernando | 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: Samuel Diaz | 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: Richard, Wap-Hill, Sidney & Kimberley | 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

Acts 15:1-2,22-29

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Some men came down from Judaea and taught the brothers, 'Unless you have yourselves circumcised in the tradition of Moses you cannot be saved.' This led to disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas had had a long argument with these men it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas and others of the church should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the apostles and elders.

Then the apostles and elders decided to choose delegates to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; the whole church concurred with this. They chose Judas known as Barsabbas and Silas, both leading men in the brotherhood, and gave them this letter to take with them:

'The apostles and elders, your brothers, send greetings to the brothers of pagan birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that some of our members have disturbed you with their demands and have unsettled your minds. They acted without any authority from us; and so we have decided unanimously to elect delegates and to send them to you with Barnabas and Paul, men we highly respect who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accordingly we are sending you Judas and Silas, who will confirm by word of mouth what we have written in this letter. It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials: you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols; from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from fornication. Avoid these, and you will do what is right. Farewell.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 66:2-3,5-6,8

℟. O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. ℟

Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. ℟

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. ℟

Second Reading

Apocalypse 21:10-14,22-23

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

In the spirit, the angel took me to the top of an enormous high mountain and showed me Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from God out of heaven. It had all the radiant glory of God and glittered like some precious jewel of crystal-clear diamond. The walls of it were of a great height, and had twelve gates; at each of the twelve gates there was an angel, and over the gates were written

the names of the twelve tribes of Israel; on the east there were three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. The city walls stood on twelve foundation stones, each one of which bore the name of one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I saw that there was no temple in the city since the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were themselves the temple, and the city did not need the sun or the moon for light, since it was lit by the radiant glory of God and the Lamb was a lighted torch for it.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 14:23-29

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him
and make our home with him.
Those who do not love me do not keep my words.
And my word is not my own:
it is the word of the one who sent me.
I have said these things to you
while still with you;
but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything
and remind you of all I have said to you.
Peace I bequeath to you,
my own peace I give you,
a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.
You heard me say: I am going away, and shall return.
If you loved me you would have been glad to know
that I am going to the Father,
for the Father is greater than I.
I have told you this now before it happens,
so that when it does happen you may believe.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

