

St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

Harris park

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4 May 2025 | Third Sunday of Easter

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

Cf. Psalm 65:1-2

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jesus said to his disciples: Come and eat. And he took bread and gave it to them, alleluia.

Cf. John 21:12-13



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 Third Sunday of Easter 4 May

Chapter 21 is a kind of "appendix" to John's Fourth Gospel: John 20:30-31 seems to be the original ending of the Gospel. The events recorded in Chapter 21 may have been included to challenge those who doubted the physical resurrection of Jesus, who believed that what the disciples saw were visions or hallucinations. Here the Risen Jesus is a very real and physical presence, who points to the fish, lights the fire, cooks and serves fish.

Today's Gospel records two events that take place at the Sea of Tiberias after the resurrection. In a scene reminiscent of Luke 5: 1-11, Peter and a group of apostles have been fishing all night and have caught nothing. At daybreak Jesus appears on shore and tells them to try casting their net on the starboard side. The catch is a living parable of the Church's apostolic activity: the number **153** is probably intended as a universal number (some have suggested that it represents the number of known species of fish at the time), indicating the Church's mission to all men and women; the unbroken net may also be seen as a symbol of the new Church.

The marvelous catch includes two typical Johannine themes: the contrast of light and darkness, day (the resurrection) and night (sin and evil), and the Eucharistic overtone of the meal, of Jesus taking bread and fish and giving it to Peter and the disciples.

After the meal, sitting by the fire he has made, Jesus invites Peter to atone for his triple denial of Jesus by the fire in the high priest's courtyard by declaring three times his complete love and unfailing devotion to him in the light of this Easter fire. We can hear the pain and the hurt in Peter's voice, but his conviction in his response after Jesus asks him the third time: "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus is not taunting Peter but calling him to move beyond the past to take on the challenges ahead. In forgiving Peter as he does, Jesus transforms Peter's regret and shame into understanding and commitment to the gospel the fisherman has witnessed. Jesus the Good Shepherd passes on the role of servant/shepherd to Peter and his brothers. It is a moment of re-creation and resurrection for Peter.

Thoughts to ponder

When we act out of love, when we put aside our own fears and expectations for the sake of others, when we seek to imitate the selfless compassion of the Risen One, we will discover how strong and indestructible our own "nets" are; we will realize a "catch" of good things despite the hopelessness of the night, the fear of the unknown deep, the weight of the catch we struggle to haul to shore.

Jesus' lifting up of Peter's love and commitment transforms Peter's utter failure into understanding and wisdom that enables Peter to take on his role in the post-Resurrection story. The Easter Christ calls Peter and his brothers, and now all of us, to take on his work of reconciliation: to possess – despite our doubts and disappointments – the heart of the Risen Jesus to forgive and seek forgiveness, to be the means of enabling God's mercy to be realized in our own families, neighborhoods and communities. Through forgiveness and in constantly seeking reconciliation with others, we enable such "resurrection" to take place in our own families, neighborhoods and communities.



Other News and Events



Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB, the Archbishop of Perth and president of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference, part of his exclusive interview with Gerard O'Connell, America's Vatican correspondent (published in Catholic Outlook)

Before he returned to Perth, Western Australia, after representing the Australian bishops at Francis' funeral.

Gerard O'Connell: What stands out to you from the 12 years and 39 days that Francis was pope?

Archbishop Timothy Costelloe: A couple of things come to mind immediately. One is the extraordinary focus that the pope has given us on the mercy and compassion of God. It's so fundamental to the Gospel, but Francis has made it the center of his proclamation of the Gospel. That has touched people's hearts so much.

It is summed up beautifully in that famous expression that came very early on in the papacy, where he talked about the **church as a field hospital in the midst of a battle** and saw the church as a place where people's wounds should be healed and their hearts should be warmed. I think that is a very good description of the ministry of Jesus, and it was the ministry of the pope.

Another thing that I reflect on as a bishop is that **Francis has given us a new model of leadership in the church. It is leadership based on simplicity, on humility, on closeness to people, on openness to people.** His famous insistence that the church should be a home for "tutti, tutti, tutti," "todos, todos, todos"—that is something that leadership in the church needs to reflect on, whether we're bishops or other people who have leadership roles. That idea of being close to people, meeting them where they are, being welcoming of them as they are and then wanting to accompany them in their journey, hopefully toward an ever deeper living of the fullness of their lives, is very important for the leadership of the church.

In a week's time, there will be a conclave. What do you hope will come from that?

This is a question that everybody is asking everybody. I did say on one occasion that the real question is not what kind of pope I want or what kind of pope somebody else wants. **The real question is: What kind of pope does the Lord want us to find for the good of the church moving forward?** I know that sounds like I'm avoiding the question, but it's not really. In the end, I always come back to the question of fidelity. The church is called to be faithful to the Lord, to the Gospel, to the reality of who we are as the church. The pope has a key role to play as a leader and a unifier in terms of those sorts of things. Fidelity to the Gospel can sound a little bit trite, but the Gospel is very radical when you look into it. The kinds of things that Jesus asks of his disciples, particularly in terms of their leadership of the early communities, turn the world upside down, just as Jesus turned things upside down. Nowhere else is the leader best exemplified by the gesture of getting on your hands and knees and washing people's feet.

Parish Updates

CONGRATULATIONS and WELCOME to **Olivia Martin McGuinness** who will receive the **Sacrament of Baptism** this Friday, the 9th of May 2025, at the 9:30 am school mass at St Oliver's. We pray and ask God to bless you and your family.



Reminder:

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

PARISH READING ROSTER NEXT WEEK: 10/11 May

Saturday 5:30 pm Reema & Nelton D'Souza

Easter Sunday 8:00 am Anne Haddad / Victoria Micalizzi

10:00 am Carol Isaac / Nick Tagnipis

Solemn Mass for Pope Francis: Honouring a humble Pope of the people, By Belinda Gadd, 29 April 2025 (Published in Catholic Outlook)

More than 700 people gathered at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta to honour the life and legacy of Pope Francis on Sunday 27 April 2025.

Born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 17 December 1936, Pope Francis became the 266th pope of the Catholic Church in 2013. He was the first Jesuit pope, the first from the Americas, and the first to take the name Francis, inspired by St Francis of Assisi, symbolising humility, peace and care for the poor. During his papacy, he championed social justice, environmental care through *Laudato Si'*, interfaith dialogue, and a Church that reaches out to the marginalised. Pope Francis died on Easter Monday, 21 April 2025, following a life of humble service.

The Solemn Mass was presided over by Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta, accompanied by Vicar-General Fr Peter Williams AM, Vicar-General Luis Fernando Montano Rodriguez PP, and other clergy from the Diocese. In his homily, Bishop Vincent reflected on Pope Francis' life and ministry, recalling his courageous leadership and deep commitment to building an open, humble, and missionary Church.

"Though saddened by his loss, we are filled with gratitude for the rich legacy he left to us," he said. **"Here in our Diocese, his outreach to the marginalised, his bridge-building with non-Catholics and his vision of a synodal church have resonated strongly with us."**

Bishop Vincent also spoke of the upcoming election of a new pope, urging the congregation to pray together during this time of transition. **"Let us accompany each other in prayer for the election of the new pontiff. May we persevere as Pilgrims of Hope and witnesses of the Gospel for the transformation of the world."**

The Mass received media interest from the Sydney Broadcasting Corporation (SBC), SBS, Channel 7, and Australian Associated Press (AAP), helping share this moment of remembrance with the broader Australian community.

Pope Francis' enduring impact will continue to shape the Catholic Church in Parramatta, Australia, and globally. As those gathered at the Mass were reminded, Pope Francis showed that greatness is not found in power or prestige but in humble service and love for the most vulnerable among us.



Diocesan Notices

Webinar 10 Years Since Laudato Si' – A Time for Hope or Despair?: 8 May

MET Parramatta and the Australian Cardijn Institute invite you to a webinar with Sebastian Salaske-Lentern and Sue Martin, who will reflect on the ecological journey that Pope Francis has taken us on in the past ten years, since his encyclical Laudato Si'. Have we made enough progress? And what can give us hope for the path ahead in this Jubilee Year? Please register to receive a zoom link for Thursday 8 May, 7pm-8pm: tinyurl.com/10-years-LS

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/

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.

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/

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.

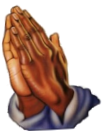
Our Community

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: 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 5:27-32,40-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The high priest demanded an explanation of the Apostles. 'We gave you a formal warning' he said 'not to preach in this name, and what have you done? You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and seem determined to fix the guilt of this man's death on us.' In reply Peter and the apostles said, 'Obedience to God comes before obedience to men; it was the God of our ancestors who raised up Jesus, but it was you who had him executed by hanging on a tree. By his own right hand God has now raised him up to be leader and saviour, to give repentance and forgiveness of sins through him to Israel. We are witnesses to all this, we and the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.' They warned the apostles not to speak in the name of Jesus and released them. And so they left the presence of the Sanhedrin glad to have had the honour of suffering humiliation for the sake of the name.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 29:2,4-6,11-13

℟. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me and have not let my enemies rejoice over me. O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead, restored me to life from those who sink into the grave. ℟

Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him, give thanks to his holy name. His anger lasts but a moment; his favour through life. At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn. ℟

The Lord listened and had pity. The Lord came to my help. For me you have changed my mourning into dancing; O Lord my God, I will thank you for ever. ℟

Second Reading

Apocalypse 5:11-14

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

In my vision, I, John, heard the sound of an immense number of angels gathered round the throne and the animals and the elders; there were ten thousand times ten thousand of them and thousands upon thousands, shouting, 'The Lamb that was sacrificed is worthy to be given power, riches, wisdom, strength, honour, glory and blessing.' Then I heard all the living things in creation – everything that lives in the air, and on the ground, and under the ground, and in the sea, crying, 'To the One who is sitting on the throne and to the Lamb, be all praise, honour, glory and power, for ever and ever.' And the four animals said, 'Amen'; and the elders prostrated themselves to worship.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

cf Luke 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 21:1-19

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples. It was by the Sea of Tiberias, and it happened like this: Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee and two more of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said, 'I'm going fishing.' They replied, 'We'll come with you.' They went out and got into the boat but caught nothing that night.

It was light by now and there stood Jesus on the shore, though the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. Jesus called out, 'Have you caught anything, friends?' And when they answered, 'No', he said, 'Throw the net out to starboard and you'll find something.' So they dropped the net, and there were so many fish that they could not haul it in. The disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord.' At these words 'It is the Lord', Simon Peter, who had practically nothing on, wrapped his cloak round him and jumped into the water. The other disciples came on in the boat, towing the net and the fish; they were only about a hundred yards from land.

As soon as they came ashore they saw that there was some bread there, and a charcoal fire with fish cooking on it. Jesus said, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.' Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore, full of big fish, one hundred and fifty-three of them; and in spite of there being so many the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' None of the disciples was bold enough to ask, 'Who are you?'; they knew quite well it was the Lord. Jesus then stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish. This was the third time that Jesus showed himself to the disciples after rising from the dead.

[After the meal Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?' He answered, 'Yes Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He replied, 'Yes, Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Look after my sheep.' Then he said to him a third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter was upset that he asked him the third time, 'Do you love me?' and said, 'Lord, you know everything; you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep.

'I tell you most solemnly, when you were young you put on your own belt and walked where you liked; but when you grow old you will stretch out your hands, and somebody else will put a belt round you and take you where you would rather not go.'

In these words he indicated the kind of death by which Peter would give glory to God. After this he said, 'Follow me.']

[Short Form: omit text in brackets.]

The Gospel of the Lord.

