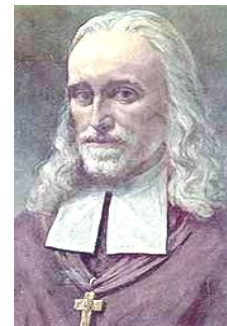


St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

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



10 August 2025 | Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Look to your covenant, O Lord,
and forget not the life of your poor
ones for ever.

Arise, O God, and defend your cause,
And forget not the cries of those who
seek you.

Cf. Psalm 73:20, 19, 22, 23

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord,
who gives you your fill of finest
wheat.

Psalm 147:12, 14



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

19th Sunday in Year C

Homelessness Awareness Week / Vocations Awareness Week

On any given night across NSW around 35,000 people are experiencing homelessness, a 27% increase over the last decade. And the numbers of people sleeping rough has increased by 69% in just the last two years, with significant increases in regional areas such as the north coast. While the cost of living continues to soar and social housing supply stagnates, more and more people will find themselves in precarious housing situations and at-risk homelessness. This risk of homelessness is even higher for certain population groups including First Nations people, women and children fleeing domestic and family violence, refugees and people seeking asylum, and people living with disability.

A few nights ago, I was speaking with the husband of a refugee family. He was tired of his young family being moved on from house to house in the rental market. He has to be out of the house by the end of this month, and he says its cut-throat in the real estate game. "We've had to move seven times in the past twelve years- it's like the owners push us out every two years so that they can up- the- rent with another family." "But," as he said, "we could be in Gaza."

This family set out from persecution in their homeland, and, as our Hebrews 11 says in our second reading about Abraham-"he went out, not knowing where he was going." None of us know clearly where we are going but "faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11.1-2). Our first reading from the Book of Wisdom highlights the wisdom of trusting in God's providence. Like the Israelites we are called to trust that God will guide us through the uncertainties of life.

"Happy that servant if his master's arrival finds him at his employment." Jesus tells his disciples to seek security not in the realities of this world but in the treasures of God's kingdom. Generosity is one of the treasures of God's kingdom. Where have you been generous in terms of your money, your time, a compassionate word, a willingness to help, even giving up something you deeply treasure for another?

Know that whatever you give, God will reward you with "an inexhaustible treasure," both now and in eternity.

Jesus, you are my treasure!

- Fr. Paul Marshall



Other News and Events

Responding in Mercy – Pilgrims of Hope: 10 September and 5 November

The Mercy Futures team is privileged to present **Sr Áine Barrins RSM** all the way from Ireland, who will be joining them in Parramatta to share her invaluable insights into *Catherine McAuley, Woman of Hope*. This is an unprecedented two-part presentation which will take place over our final two sessions – **10 September and 5 November, 6:30 pm**. Come along and bring a friend (or few) and be part of this unique presentation. Both these sessions will also be livestreamed, and the link will be provided closer to the date. **Please RSVP to mercyfuture@parrasom.org.au with any dietary requirements by 3 September (part 1) or 29 October (part 2).**



Where: Parramatta Congregation Centre, 6 Victoria Rd. Parramatta (Catherine McAuley Room)

Entries open for the 2025 The Good Oil Writers' Award

Entries are invited for The Good Oil 2025 Writers' Award, an initiative of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan in partnership with Garratt Publishing. In this Jubilee Year in the Church, the theme of the award is Pilgrims of Hope. The award aims to support and encourage the development of aspiring and published writers. Entry is free and open to writers aged 18 and over. **Entries close at 5pm AEST on Friday 29 August 2025.** For further information, visit: <https://www.goodsams.org.au/article/entries-invited-for-the-good-oil-2025-writers-award/>

Catholic Religious Australia 10,000 for 10 Initiative

To mark the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Catholic Religious Australia has launched the "10,000 for 10" initiative to encourage the planting and/or protection of 10,000 trees. If you cannot plant a tree, you can protect one or make a donation to a not-for-profit organisation focused on regenerative projects. To learn more, visit <https://www.catholicreligious.org.au/10000-for-10>

National Social Justice Statement Launch – Serving Homeless People with Mental Ill-Health: 13 August

You are invited to the online launch of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement for 2025–2026 on 13 August 2025, 12pm–1:30pm AEST. The new statement will focus on "Signs of Hope on the Edge – Serving Homeless People with Mental Ill-Health". Please register at tinyurl.com/sjslaunch25-26

Sydney's Picnic for Peace: 31 August

You are warmly invited to bring a plate and break bread with a stranger at Sydney's first ever "Picnic for Peace". It is an interfaith, cross-cultural, and intergenerational event that celebrates what Sydney is truly made of: a city of compassion, courage, and peace. Come along on 31 August 2025, 12pm – 2pm, Wentworth Common in Sydney Olympic Park. Find out more and register at picnicforpeace.org



Homeless Jesus, by sculptor Timothy Schmalz, outside Newman College, Melbourne. Image: Australian Jesuits.

Homelessness Week 2025, Monday 4 August to Sunday 10 August. The theme for Homelessness Week 2025 is "Homelessness Action Now".

There is, however, no simple and quick solution to the lack of housing. Simply to build more houses for new owners will increase their prices as wealthy investors buy them. To reduce rapidly the cost of houses, however, will bring economic turmoil and political suicide. There needs to be a staged combination of removing the incentives for investment in houses, much more public investment in social housing and protection of people who rent. (Taken from article in **Catholic Outlook: A reflection for Homelessness Week**, By Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ, 5 August 2025)

Parish Updates

Altar Server Training

Any children of the parish who have made their first communion are invited to attend our church training sessions for altar serving. There will be three sessions on three **Tuesdays 19th, 26th August and Tuesday 2nd September from 4.00-5.00pm.**

It's a great way to involve your child in the wonder of the sacred and in service of the community around God's Word and the Altar.

Please contact the parish office to register if you have not yet informed Fr Paul.

Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary: 15 August

Masses at St Oliver's for this feast day will be held at 7:00 am (as normal) and 9:30 am during school mass.



PARISH READING ROSTER NEXT WEEK: 16/17 August

Saturday	5:30 pm	Gerard Pinto / Robert Aquino		
Sunday	8:00 am	Anthony Melham / Katherine Katrib	10:00 am	Geoff & Monica Officer

Diocesan Notices

MET Natural Fertility Instruction Sessions: 19 August
MET Natural Fertility are organising a series of instruction sessions on the Natural Family Planning methods offered by the Diocese of Parramatta via Zoom. Learn how to chart your cycle, space out pregnancies and identify the best time to reach your family goals. The next session on the Sympto-Thermal Method will be held on Tuesday 19 August from 7.15pm to 8.15pm. For more information and to register, please visit parracatholic.org/natural-fertility

Volunteers needed at Catholic Care's Mamre Creche
Are you great with young kids? Catholic Care is looking for friendly, caring volunteers to support staff during crèche sessions on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10am to 2pm at Mamre House, Orchard Hills. If you enjoy spending time with young children (aged 0-5) and have a few hours to spare, we'd love to hear from you. Volunteers will need to obtain a Working with Children Check and Police Check. To help make a difference in the lives of local families, call Catholic Care on (02) 8843 2500.

Mount Schoenstatt Monthly Shrine Time for men
Men at the Shrine is a monthly hour for men at the Schoenstatt Shrine in Mulgoa, held on the second Wednesday of the month from 8-9pm. The hour includes a brief reflection, silent personal prayer and the opportunity for confession. The Shrine has been a place of pilgrimage in the Diocese since 1968 and in 2025 is also one of the three locations in the diocese to gain the Jubilee Indulgence.

Peace, Justice & Ecology Sharings – 2025-26 Social Justice Statement: 13 August

"Peace, Justice & Ecology Sharings" are quarterly online gatherings for everyone interested in social justice, care for creation, or global peace. The next gathering on Wednesday 13 August from 6.30pm to 8pm will break open the 2025-2026 ACBC Social Justice Statement: "Signs of Hope on the Edge – Serving Homeless People with Mental Ill-Health", which will be launched on the same day. To receive a Zoom link, please RSVP to met@parracatholic.org



Volunteers needed at Catholic Care Emerton!

Catholic Care is looking for volunteers to help at their Walk-In Centre in Emerton on Tuesdays to Thursdays. Volunteers would assist welcoming people into the drop-in centre, greeting clients for counselling appointments, assisting the local Aunties' yarnning and art gatherings, reception of the OzHarvest food delivery and overall assistance with Catholic Care projects and programs. For more information, please contact Catholic Care on (02) 8843 2500.

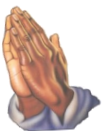
Our Community

Liturgical Ministry Course Begins September 2025

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in September 2025 in Blacktown. This free formation is open to anyone in the diocese interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Ministers of Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. To enrol and for more information, please contact the Office for Worship ofw@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795. Registrations close 19 August, 2025 but spaces are limited so enrol now to avoid disappointment.



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: All those who died recently, especially those who used to be part of this parish community as parishioners or relations of our parishioners

Deceased: Soloman & Mam Saidi Frangie | Reggie & May Perumal, John & Tripony Pasangha, Xavier & Clara Fernando, Pius & Mercy Fernando, Irwin & Joan Jayawardana | 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, Veronica Coorey | Namtallah & Patrick Malkoun | Frank & Ray Malkoun | Romanos Malkoun | Samiha Frome | Joe & Clare Boulous, Isaac Moses, Ruby Moses | Artemio, Abraham, Augustus, Rebecca & Tranquilina Patacsil; Yolanda & Donald Muir; Rachael Sumagui, Rebecca Llanillo, Luzviminda Nolasco | 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: For all those whose anniversaries of death occur around this time

Sick: John Joaquin Patacsil, Virginia, Agnes, Napoleon, Manuel & Jorge Patacsil & his families, Elizabeth, Michael & Maryrose Perez, Naty & Maria Aurora Degamo & Erwin Ayuste, Ellen Patacsil | All the Sick especially those who are sick in our parish community

Special Intentions: John Joaquin, Agnes, Napoleon, Manuel, Virginia & Jorge Patacsil & his families; Elizabeth, Michael & Maryrose Perez; Erwin Ayuste | For all our special intentions and for those who have asked us for prayers

Thanksgiving: Ruby Gonsalvez and family | Alice Monis | 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

Wisdom 18:6-9

A reading from the book of Wisdom

That night had been foretold to our ancestors, so that, once they saw what kind of oaths they had put their trust in, they would joyfully take courage.

This was the expectation of your people, the saving of the virtuous and the ruin of their enemies; for by the same act with which you took vengeance on our foes you made us glorious by calling us to you.

The devout children of worthy men offered sacrifice in secret and this divine pact they struck with one accord: that the saints would share the same blessings and dangers alike;

and forthwith they had begun to chant the hymns of the fathers.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 32:1, 12, 18-20, 22

℟ Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.

They are happy, whose God is the Lord, the people he has chosen as his own. ℟

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. ℟

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.

The Lord is our help and our shield.

May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. ℟

Second Reading

Hebrews 11:1-2,8-19

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of the realities that at present remain unseen. It was for faith that our ancestors were commended.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. By faith he arrived, as a foreigner, in the Promised Land, and lived there as if in a strange country, with Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. They lived there in tents while he looked forward to a city founded, designed and built by God.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

[All these died in faith, before receiving any of the things that had been promised, but they saw them in the far distance and welcomed them, recognising that they were only strangers and nomads on earth. People who use such terms about themselves make it quite plain that they are in search of their real homeland. They can hardly have meant the country they came from, since they had the opportunity to go back to it; but in fact they were longing

for a better homeland, their heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, since he has founded the city for them.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.]

[Short Form: omit text in brackets.]

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 24:42a,44

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready:

You know not when the Son of Man is coming.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 12:32-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples: [‘There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom.

‘Sell your possessions and give alms. Get yourselves purses that do not wear out, treasure that will not fail you, in heaven where no thief can reach it and no moth destroy it. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.]

‘See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.’

[Peter said, ‘Lord, do you mean this parable for us, or for everyone?’ The Lord replied, ‘What sort of steward, then, is faithful and wise enough for the master to place him over his household to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Happy that servant if his master’s arrival finds him at this employment. I tell you truly, he will place him over everything he owns. But as for the servant who says to himself, “My master is taking his time coming,” and sets about beating the menservants and the maids, and eating and drinking and getting drunk, his master will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not know. The master will cut him off and send him to the same fate as the unfaithful.

The servant who knows what his master wants, but has not even started to carry out those wishes, will receive very many strokes of the lash. The one who did not know, but deserves to be beaten for what he has done, will receive fewer strokes. When a man has had a great deal given him, a great deal will be demanded of him; when a man has had a great deal given him on trust, even more will be expected of him.]

[Short Form: omit text in brackets.]

The Gospel of the Lord.