

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

17 August 2025 | Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
And look on the face of your anointed
one; one day within your courts is
better than a thousand elsewhere.

Psalm 83:10-11

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

With the Lord there is mercy;
in him is plentiful redemption.

Psalm 129:7



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

Twentieth Sunday in Year C

A pillar of fire led the Hebrews through the Sinai desert on their way to the Promised Land. In the fullness of time, that holy fire takes flesh in Jesus. We become conscious of that creative signatory flame standing around the Easter fire. That Easter fire is the fulfillment of Jesus' strong desire to bring fire to the earth after he had suffered the "baptism by fire" of his passion, death and resurrection.

Jesus acknowledges that following Him may bring about division even within families. Discipleship comes with a cost requiring us to prioritise our commitment to God above all else. But we are not alone in this. The Letter to the Hebrews refers to a "cloud of witnesses," These are those who have gone before us in faith inspiring us to persevere despite the difficulties. In our first reading we find Jeremiah sinking into the mud of a well after he had been thrown in there for speaking God's message. With the "cloud of witnesses" and the witness of Jeremiah, we have models of enduring and courageous discipleship.

The readings call us to fix our eyes on Jesus, who is the origin of our faith. As we face challenges to our discipleship, we look to him. In this Gospel text, it is significant that it is not extraordinary, dramatic suffering which constitutes the baptism of fire Jesus talks about, but the intimate, painful misunderstandings that the choice of discipleship brings to families.

St. Oliver Plunkett, Archbishop in Ireland in the 17th century knew the high cost of discipleship by being martyred for his faith. Our parish bears his name and in October we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his canonization. We would like to commemorate this as a major celebration with a garage sale, cake stalls, a jumping castle, raffle tickets, face-painting etc. Please come to support. We are meeting this Tuesday evening at 7.00pm (19th August) in the school hall to do some remote planning. Please bring your talents, ideas and skills!

Fr. Paul

Martyrs of the Oates Plot

This drawing, dated the same year as the execution of Oliver Plunkett in 1681, by the Stuart-era pastel portraitist, Edward Luttrell, places Oliver Plunkett amid the eight Oates Plot Jesuit martyrs in a circle around the Jesuit IHS monogram, which is an abbreviation of the Greek word for the name of Jesus.



Other News and Events

Bishop Vincent Presents Dr Nora Nonterah: 2 September

In the next iteration of the *Bishop Vincent Presents* series, the Diocese of Parramatta will welcome Dr Nora Nonterah, a leading African theological ethicist from Ghana. She will be presenting on Tuesday 2 September

at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. As a lay woman and recent delegate to the Synod on Synodality in 2023 and 2024, Dr Nora will offer a powerful reflection on leadership, discipleship, and the wisdom of women in the Church. Register today by visiting <https://parracatholic.org/events/nora/>

Bishop Vincent Presents Cardinal Stephen Chow SJ: 15 September

The second of two *Bishop Vincent Presents* public lectures in September will feature Cardinal Stephen Chow SJ, Bishop of Hong Kong and one of the most senior Church leaders in Asia. He will be presenting on Monday 15 September at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta on the topic of 'Bridge Building'. With a background in psychology and education, and a deep pastoral heart, Cardinal Chow brings wisdom, courage, and compassion to the challenges facing the Church in our time. Register today by visiting <https://parracatholic.org/events/cardinalchow/>

Vinnies brings lunchtime musical performances to the streets of Parramatta

By the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW, 11 August 2025
St Vincent de Paul Society NSW will be hosting lunchtime musical performances from schools across Sydney this August. The Society NSW has held community outreach, soundtracked by local schools, to Parramatta over several decades, raising awareness of the services offered locally in the region.

Gilroy Catholic College in Castle Hill commenced the lunchtime musical performances on Tuesday 12 August at Centenary Square.

Catherine McAuley (Westmead), Parramatta Marist High School (Westmead), Our Lady of Mercy College (Parramatta), Mt St Benedict College (Pennant Hills), St Edmund's College (Wahroonga) and St John Paul II Catholic College (Schofields) will also perform throughout August.

"We encourage everyone to come down to Centenary Square to hear wonderful music and learn more about the services the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW offers in the local community," said Louis Hearnden, St Vincent de Paul Society NSW Metropolitan Regional Director.

"Our members will be on hand for a chat to let people know about the support in available through our local Vinnies support centre in Harris Park and other services in Western Sydney"



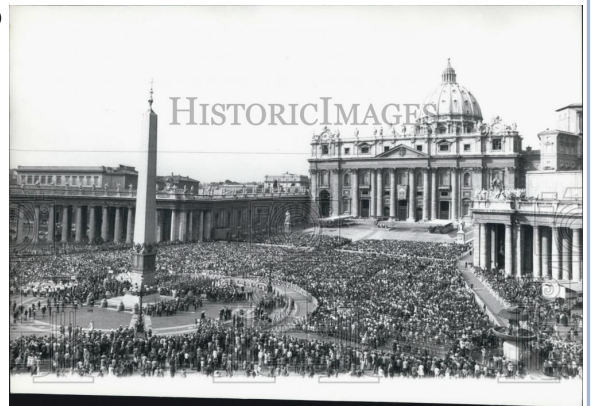
Parish Updates

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST OLIVER PLUNKETT'S SAINTHOOD

This year marks 50 years since Oliver Plunkett was canonised as a Saint. As one of two parishes in NSW dedicated to St Oliver, we would like to commemorate this very special occasion in October with a major celebration - even bigger than the successful Feast Day we celebrated recently. But we need your support - and your ideas and expertise.

COMMEMORATING 50 YEARS OF ST OLIVER'S CANONISATION - SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER 2025		
Name	Email address	Phone

If you can help, please add your name and contact details to the sign-on sheets at the church entrances AND come to our first planning meeting THIS TUESDAY (19 August) at 7pm in the school hall.



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.

Found medibank card at school playground

Please let our priest or parish staff know if you lost this card on the weekend of 9/10 August.

Have a great and blessed weekend, everyone.



PARISH READING ROSTER NEXT WEEK: 23/24 August

Saturday 5:30 pm Jackie Perumal / Siji Lino
Sunday 8:00 am Emelia & Judith Buehler

10:00 am Natasha & Kaitlyn Joseph

Diocesan Notices

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.

Fr Joseph Lam book on Pope Leo XIV

Fr Joseph Lam, Parish Priest at the Parish of Baulkham Hills, has produced a new book that explores the traces of St Augustine in the words and messages of the successors of St Peter since 2005: Benedict XVI, Francis and Leo XIV. The book is \$45, with proceeds to help the renovation of the old heritage building at Baulkham Hills. To pre-order the book, please contact admin@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au.

Mt Schoenstatt Shrine Time Winter Special: 24 August

All are welcome to attend the Winter Special Shrine Time at the Mt Schoenstatt Shrine in Mulgoa on Sunday 24 August from 7pm to 8pm. This is an evening of praise & worship, silence, prayer, reflection, confession and benediction. This month's winter special will be followed by a social bonfire, roasted marshmallows and hot chocolate! Contact Sr M. Rita for more details on 0493 026 628 or srrita@schoenstatt.org.au

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.

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities: 1-3 September

The next sessions of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held on the following days at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre:

- Monday 1 September for Initial training (Modules 1-3) from 9.30am to 2.30pm
- Tuesday 2 September for Renewal training (Modules 4 and 5) from 10am to 1.39pm
- Wednesday 3 September for Refresher training (Module 6) from 10am to 12noon.

Please register directly for this training or for other convenient dates and locations by clicking on the training event at: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>. For more information, please email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

Our Community

Noël! Noël! at St Patrick's Cathedral

General tickets are now available for the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra's much-loved Noël! Noël! concert at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Join us for an unforgettable evening of festive music in our beautiful church on Tuesday 16 December, 7.30pm. Tickets will sell quickly, so grab yours today by visiting <https://www.brandenburg.com.au/live-concerts/events/noel-noel-2025/>



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

Jeremiah 38:4-6,8-10

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank.

Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he said 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well, where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 39:2-4,18

℟ Lord, come to my aid!

I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry. ℟

He drew me from the deadly pit,
from the miry clay.
He set my feet upon a rock
and made my footsteps firm. ℟

He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.
Many shall see and fear
and shall trust in the Lord. ℟

As for me, wretched and poor,
the Lord thinks of me.
You are my rescuer, my help,
O God, do not delay! ℟

Second Reading

Hebrews 12:1-4

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shamefulness of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

John 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 12:49-53

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

