

# St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

## Harris park



Website: [www.stoliversharrispark.org.au](http://www.stoliversharrispark.org.au)  
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### 25 December 2025 | The Nativity of the Lord

#### The Vigil Mass & Mass at Dawn

##### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Today you will know that the Lord will come,  
and he will save us, and in the morning you will see his glory.

Cf. Exodus 16:6-7

##### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The glory of the Lord will be revealed,  
and all flesh will see the salvation of our God.

Cf. Isaiah 40:5



#### The 8 am Mass & 10 am Mass

##### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Today a light will shine upon us, for the Lord is born for us;  
and he will be called Wondrous God, Prince of peace, Father of future ages: and his reign will be without end.

Cf. Isaiah 9:1, 5; Luke 1:33

##### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Rejoice, O Daughter of Sion; lift up praise, Daughter Jerusalem:  
Behold, your King will come, the Holy One and Saviour of the world.

Cf. Zechariah 9:9

**Administrator:** Fr Paul Marshall  
**School Principal:** Pascale Rone  
School Tel: (02) 8633 8300  
**Parish Secretary:** Lilia Tolentino  
Tel: (02) 8863 8801

#### 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.

#### **Gospel Reflection –**

#### **Entering the Christmas Story 2025**

May the miracle of Christ's birth find a place in each of your hearts this day.

**Angel People and Star People:** There were two kinds of people at Christmas, Angel People and Star People. The Angel People were those who knew the story, those who knew and were living in expectation, like the Shepherds. They knew the prophecies of the coming of a Messiah and so the message of the Angel didn't surprise them. The Star People were like the Wisemen, people still on the journey, people still searching and seeking out the meaning of life. But once the Star People and the Angel People had experienced the newborn Messiah, they could no longer stay in those roles. Their lives had been changed. -- So, I want to give them different names. Since the birth of Christ, there are Seekers and there are Pointers. Now, I know what our mothers told us, "It's not polite to point," but in this instance I think it's OK. Because, we're called to point out Jesus, as Lord and Savior, to a world of Seekers. (Rev. Billy D. Strayhorn) (<http://frtonyshomilies.com/>).

So, in the Christmas story-who are the Seekers and who are the Pointers? Let's look at St. Joseph: he knew well the ancient prophecies of Israel-he would have known the quote from Micah 5 (735-710 BCE):

**"But you Bethlehem of Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, from you will come for me a future ruler of Israel whose origin is from the distant past..."**

So, Joseph was an Angel Person who knew the biblical tradition. But he was also a Star Person still searching and seeking out God's will for him because, on the one hand, he humanly wanted to save Mary embarrassment and quietly dismiss her because she was pregnant- so he was searching and seeking a way out of the dilemma. And Joseph was open to the signs God gave him. An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream telling him not to be afraid to take her as his wife.

This Christmas- let us ask ourselves how well we measure up as Joseph or the Shepherds in our Christmas story. As a Seeker (Star Person) what stars do we follow in our everyday lives- are we moved to see the face of Jesus in the homeless young person living on the streets; in the families struggling to choose between paying for food or paying the electricity bill? As an Angel Person, a Pointer, (those who are really familiar with our Christian story) do we find guidance through reading about the life of Jesus in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke or John?

As a Seeker like the Wise Men, can we see God's handiwork in Creation and the world around us? As a Pointer, where have we helped point out Christ to another over this past year? What new aspect of missionary discipleship is God calling me to choose as a reflection on the roles of the Seekers (Star People) and Pointers (Angel People) in the Christmas story? Like Joseph and the Shepherds who were both Seekers and Pointers can I look at the world and creation around me and find God trying to reveal Himself to me? Maybe in this vacation time when the mind is at rest, a Kookaburra or the scent of the bush might take my senses to another deeper and more sacred place? Maybe in a quiet moment you may pick up and be enthralled by the Parable of the Sower or the Good Samaritan or The Woman at the Well - three classical narratives from the New Testament. At Christmas the Word came among us as a babe in Bethlehem... "and the world came into being through Him, and the world did not know Him.. " (John 1.10) Do we know Him? Really know Him? How well can we answer the question Jesus asked his disciples at Caesarea Philippi: "But you, who do you say I am?" What words can we find as we gaze on God-among us as a babe in Bethlehem?

Advent is a time of waiting on the Lord. I have come to appreciate a little more the acceptance and patience called for in waiting to heal after surgery. Thank you all for your prayers and I look to return to ministry in the New Year. Thanks are due to many parishioners who have led us in prayer and liturgy-particular thanks to Fr. John Frauenfelder and Luke Huynh, seminarian, who have helped plan and celebrate Advent and Christmas, to Lilia Tolentino our Parish Secretary, to Deacon Leon who manages our Parish Finances and Michael Machado who tallies our weekly collections; and to Jim Hanna and parish families for amazing fund-raising efforts during the year; for our musicians, readers, acolytes and servers; for those dedicated cleaners and flower-arrangers and all of you who comprise the Body of Christ at Harris Park!

Blessings on all your families this Christmas 2025. May this Christmas help us come to realise the tremendous gift of HOPE waiting to bear fruit within ourselves and we wait to recognise how we can gift Hope to others-the hope of God's love in our world.

Fr. Paul



## Other News and Events

### The Vigil Mass & Mass at Dawn

First reading

Isaiah 62:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

About Zion I will not be silent,  
about Jerusalem I will not grow weary,  
until her integrity shines out like the dawn  
and her salvation flames like a torch.

The nations then will see your integrity,  
all the kings your glory,  
and you will be called by a new name,  
one which the mouth of the Lord will confer.  
You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord,  
a princely diadem in the hand of your God;

no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken',  
nor your land 'Abandoned',  
but you shall be called 'My Delight'  
and your land 'The Wedded';  
for the Lord takes delight in you  
and your land will have its wedding.

Like a young man marrying a virgin,  
so will the one who built you wed you,  
and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride,  
so will your God rejoice in you.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Psalm 88:4-5,16-17,27,29

**R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have  
sworn to David my servant: I will establish your  
dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all  
ages.' **R.**

Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk,  
O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy  
every day in your name, who make your justice the  
source of their bliss. **R.**

'He will say to me: "You are my father, my God, the  
rock who saves me." I will keep my love for him  
always; for him my covenant shall endure.' **R.**

### SECOND READING

Acts 13:16-17,22-25

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in  
the synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began to  
speak:

'Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of  
our nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our  
people great when they were living as foreigners in  
Egypt; then by divine power he led them out.

Then he made David their king, of whom he  
approved in these words, "I have selected David son of  
Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my  
whole purpose." To keep his promise, God has raised  
up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as  
Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he  
proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole  
people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said,  
"I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is

coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal.'"

### Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Tomorrow there will be an end to the sin of the world  
and the saviour of the world will be our king.

**Alleluia!**

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.**

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother  
Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to  
live together she was found to be with child through  
the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of  
honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to  
divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do  
this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a  
dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid  
to take Mary home as your wife, because she has  
conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will  
give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus,  
because he is the one who is to save his people  
from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the  
words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son  
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us.' When Joseph  
woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told  
him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he  
had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a  
son; and he named him Jesus.

### The Gospel of the Lord.



### CHRISTMAS READING ROSTER: 24/25 DECEMBER 2025

**Christmas Eve** 7:00 pm Jim Hanna / Kristine Alba

**Midnight Mass**

Jackie Perumal

**Christmas Day** 8:00 am Anne Haddad / Victoria Micalizzi

10:00 am

Geoff & Monica Officer

### NEXT PARISH READING ROSTER: 27/28 DECEMBER 2025

**Saturday** 5:30 pm Gerard Pinto / Robert Aquino

**Sunday** 8:00 am Seini & Ipolito Lasalo

10:00 am

Natasha & Kaitlyn Joseph

## Diocesan Notices

### Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January. Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at [parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross](http://parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross).



### Four stops, one united journey

In the summer of 2026, the Cross will be hosted by four parishes across the Diocese. Our African, Filipino, Tongan and Cantonese migrant chaplaincies will lead preparations and celebrations, showcasing the richness of faith expressed through many cultures, languages and musical traditions:

**St Nicholas of Myra, Penrith – Tuesday, 6 January**

**St Patrick's, Blacktown – Wednesday, 7 January**

**St Luke's, Marsden Park – Friday, 9 January**

**St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta – Saturday 10 – Sunday 11 January**

"It's an opportunity for families to pray together, give thanks for their journey, and reflect on what it means to be a Pilgrims of Hope," Fr Gayan said.

"We warmly invite parishioners, friends and neighbours to join us and share in this moment of grace."

### Pieces of the past

The wooden Cross itself is a sacred symbol of Catholicism, containing significant relics of the Holy Family and St Mary of the Cross MacKillop – patron of the Diocese of Parramatta and Australia.

Relics of the Holy Family, gifted by the Order of the Discalced Augustinians, include:

Fragments from the Holy Crib of our Lord

Veil of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Cloak of St Joseph

A relic from the 1914 original cedar coffin of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop was gifted by the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

## At Our Parish

### Christmas Mass Times at St Oliver's

#### Christmas Mass Times:

24 December, Vigil mass, 7pm

Midnight Mass, Carols from 11:30 pm

Christmas Day: 8am & 10am



### Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Eucharist 2026 Registration at St Oliver's



Dear Parents and Carers, please complete the form in the link given below, if you wish to begin preparation of your child for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Eucharist in 2026. This will take place through a formation, family-centred community process. The requirement by CSPD is that your child is at least 8 years old in order to receive both Sacraments. Please submit applications by **30th January 2026**.

Please note that we generally celebrate the Sacrament during Holy Week. This date is to be confirmed.

The registration link for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist in 2026 —

<https://forms.gle/BJP355dqb1mpqz419>

(This message is from our Sacramental Coordinator)

## Our Community

Starting 1st December, there will be no 7 am weekday masses at St Oliver's until the end of January but weekend Masses will be as normal.



*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.*



**Deceased:** Sayed Doueihi | Queenie & Nicholas Nicholas, Namtullah & Christine Coorey, Rizcullah & Patricia Coorey, Jeanette & Veronica Coorey, Jabour & Doura Nicholas & family, Saidie & Joseph Coorey & family, Najia & Toufic Samyia, Vincent Budwee, 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 | Artemio, Abraham, Augustus, Rebecca & Tranquilina Patacsil; Yolanda & Donald Muir; Rachael Sumagui, Melissa, 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

**Recently Deceased:** Julieta F. Gonzaga | Kevin Abood | Fahim Laoulach

**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 Patacsil, 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:** Luigi, Jackie & Jonathan Perumal | 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](mailto:harrisparke@parracatholic.org). For mass offerings or special intentions, you may use the envelopes provided at the church foyer.*



# Mass Readings

## Mass During the Day

### First Reading

Isaiah 62:11-12

#### A reading from the prophet Isaiah

This the Lord proclaims  
to the ends of the earth:  
Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Look,  
your saviour comes,  
the prize of his victory with him,  
his trophies before him.'  
They shall be called 'The Holy People',  
'The Lord's Redeemed.'  
And you shall be called 'The-sought-after',  
'City-not-forsaken.'

### The Word of the Lord

#### Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 96:1, 6, 11-12

℟ A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born  
for us.

The Lord is king, let earth rejoice,  
let all the coastlands be glad.  
The skies proclaim his justice;  
all peoples see his glory. ℟

Light shines forth for the just  
and joy for the upright of heart.  
Rejoice, you just, in the Lord;  
give glory to his holy name. ℟

### Second Reading

Titus 3:4-7

#### A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for  
mankind were revealed, it was not because he was  
concerned with any righteous actions we might have done  
ourselves; it was for no reason except his own  
compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing  
water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit  
which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus  
Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be  
justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to  
inheriting eternal life.

### The Word of the Lord

#### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Glory to God in the highest,  
Peace to his people on earth.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel

Luke 2: 15-20

#### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Now when the angels had gone from them into heaven,

the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go to  
Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the  
Lord has made known to us.' So they hurried away and  
found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.  
When they saw the child they repeated what they had  
been told about him, and everyone who heard it was  
astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary,  
she treasured all these things and pondered them in her  
heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and  
praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was  
exactly as they had been told. .

### The Gospel of the Lord.



*May the God of hope fill you with all joy  
and peace as you trust in him, so that you  
may overflow with hope by the power of  
the Holy Spirit.*

*Romans 15:13*