

St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

Harris park



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28 December 2025 | The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and
the Infant lying in a manger.

Luke 2:16

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Our God has appeared on the earth,
and lived among us.

Baruch 3:38



**No Weekday Masses till the end
of January**

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) 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.

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 –

Feast of the Holy Family First Sunday of Christmas

“Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you.” Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23

A family's escape to Egypt

They travel at night. She nuzzles their infant daughter against her, he carries a bag with a few necessities for the baby; their only worldly possessions are in his backpack. They are desperate to escape this place that is no longer home. Violence has shattered their lives. They are marked by their tribe, their language, their social class, their poverty.

Or they're crammed into a truck or car with far too many kms on it. His job moved somewhere else, so they're on the move to find work and maybe settle into the life every parent wants for their children.

Or the “journey” is travelled not along a rocky road but within a broken heart: trying to find one's way as a single parent after a spouse's death or divorce, taking on a world difficult enough for a couple let alone a single woman or man. The journey is a painful juggling of emotions and practicalities in the course of a night that seems will never see dawn.

What drives them along this dangerous road is hope: hope for a safe harbor to raise their children, hope for work to support themselves and their families, hope that they might reclaim their dignity as human beings.

So they run from the brutality and cruelty of “Herod,” seeking to make a new life in whatever Egypt they can find.

A different place and time, but the same journey.

The Gospel of Mary and Joseph's escape to Egypt has been lived by countless families in every place and time.

This Christmas, Mary, Joseph and the Child are escaping gangs in Guatemala, running from militant terrorist groups in Syria, fleeing government police in nations throughout Africa and Asia.

The Holy Family is Christian, Jewish, Islam, and every religious and spiritual sect; the Holy Family is white, black, brown, yellow; the Holy Family speaks every tongue and dialect on earth.

At Christmas, as we celebrate the gift of our own families, Matthew's Gospel on this Feast of the Holy Family confronts us with the struggles of many families and God's call to us, as their brothers and sisters, to make a place for them where they will find safety, justice and dignity as God's own. 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. John



Other News and Events

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.

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 Luke's, Blacktown – Wednesday, 7 January

St Patrick'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.



New vision and direction for Catholic Youth Parramatta

By Mary Brazell, 19 December 2025, Catholic Outlook
Catholic Youth Parramatta (CYP) has reprioritised its mission for 2026 and beyond in response to the needs of the community.

Informed by the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, the continued listening and sharing of young people in parishes and schools and an acknowledgement of where the Holy Spirit is guiding our Church, CYP's new Mission Plan aims to form and awaken "a community of disciples among young people in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, where leadership is nurtured, accompaniment is intentional and encounters with the living presence of Jesus Christ are at the heart of our work and service."

CYP's outgoing manager Qwayne Guevara said the new plan had "been a fruit of the way in which we've strived to do youth ministry in the Diocese".

"It's our attempt at articulating a vision that aligns with the Pastoral Plan, but also honours our communities, the experiences of our young people and looks forward to what is going to be some significant moments of grace in our Church."

Through discussion and consultation, the CYP team has designated three mission priorities in their service to young people: leadership and formation, accompaniment and listening, and encounter and community.

"It's clear that across the Diocese, when asked about what CYP is, the answer is different to different people depending on their community and their experience of youth ministry and of the Church," CYP Facilitator Sebastian Duhau said.

"These consultations have been an opportunity to enable our youth ministry leaders and young people across the Diocese to contribute to what the vision and mission of CYP is in

acknowledgement that we exist for them."

A drone shot of pilgrims who participated in this year's Good Friday Night Walk at CommBank Stadium, Parramatta. Image: Alphonsus Fok/Diocese of Parramatta



Parish Updates

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)

Mass on New Year's Day at St Oliver's

At 9:00 am

There will be no mass on New Year's Eve.

Please remember the Notice about the Parish Self-Assessment Review on Working With Children Check (WWCC) Registers

Fr Paul would like to ask for the assistance of all volunteers who may be required to have a WWCC.

This data will provide evidence that our Ministry Teams who work directly with children are suitable, supported and are up to date with verified Working With Children Check Numbers; and, all those in volunteer ministries, as Mandatory Reporters, are up to date with their Mandatory Safeguarding Training.

PARISH READING ROSTER: 3/4 JANUARY

Saturday 5:30 pm Jackie Perumal / Kristine Alba

Sunday 8:00 am Anthony Melham / Katherine Katrib

10:00 am Carol Isaac / Nick Tagnipis

Diocesan Notices



**SING A NEW SONG!
SCHOOL HOLIDAY
MUSIC WORKSHOP**

COME ALONG FOR A FUN DAY OF SINGING AND
EXPLORATION OF SACRED MUSIC

SESSION DATE & TIME
Primary & High School
Years 4 - 12

WEDNESDAY 21 JANUARY
9:30am - 2pm
ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, CLOISTER HALL
MORNING TEA & LUNCH PROVIDED

STUDENTS WILL FORM A CHOIR TO LEAD THE
SINGING AT THE 11AM SOLEMN MASS
WITH BISHOP VINCENT
ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL
SUNDAY 25 JANUARY

FOR MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION
SCAN THE QR CODE
REGISTRATIONS CLOSE WEDNESDAY 14 JANUARY

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.

At Our Parish



**JOIN OUR
VOLUNTEER
COMMUNICATORS
NETWORK**

USE YOUR GIFTS TO HELP
SHARE THE GOOD NEWS!

Writers
Photographers
Videographers
Social Media Creatives

ACROSS OUR PARISHES AND MINISTRIES
EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST TODAY

Grab your FREE copy of the Catholic Outlook Magazine!

The latest quarterly edition of the Catholic Outlook Magazine is out now, keeping you connected with exciting news and events in the Diocese of Parramatta. In this Advent/Summer edition, you will find:

- Bishop Vincent's Christmas message
- The Migrant Jubilee cross visiting Western Sydney
- Stories of love at the annual Wedding Anniversary Mass
- Reflections for the Advent and Christmas season

Pick up your copy from your church or parish office today! Also available online via catholicoutlook.org/magazine

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 Doueihy | 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. For mass offerings or special intentions, you may use the envelopes provided at the church foyer.

Mass Readings

First Reading

Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

The Lord honours the father in his children,
and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.
Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins,
he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own,

he shall be heard on the day when he prays.

Long life comes to him who honours his father,

he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age,

do not grieve him during his life.

Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy,

do not despise him in your health and strength;

for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten

but will serve as reparation for your sins.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 127:1-5

℟ Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.

You will be happy and prosper. ℟

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;

your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. ℟

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.

May the Lord bless you from Zion

all the days of your life! ℟

Second Reading

Colossians 3:12-21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins.

The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same.

Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Col 3:15a,16a

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts,
and the fullness of his message live within you.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:

I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled:

'He will be called a Nazarene.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

