

St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

Harris park



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4 January 2026 | The Epiphany of the Lord

The Vigil Mass

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Arise, Jerusalem, and look to the East
and see your children gathered from
the rising to the setting of the sun.

Cf. Baruch 5:5

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The brightness of God illuminated
the holy city Jerusalem,
and the nations will walk by its light.

Cf. Revelation 21:23

The Mass During the Day

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One,
has come; and kingship is in his
grasp, and power and dominion.

Cf. Malachi 3:1; 1 Chronicles 29:12

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

We have seen his star in the East,
and have come with gifts to adore
the Lord.

Cf. Matthew 2:2

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 –

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.”
Matthew 2: 1-12

Starlight

He thumbs through the parish bulletin before Mass begins. Normally, a quick scan is all he gives the bulletin, but this particular Sunday a small box catches his eye. A group of parishioners have obtained a small house near the church and plan to turn it into a temporary residence for women and children in crisis. The project strikes a nerve with him and his wife: their daughter had escaped an abusive relationship a few years ago. He folded the bulletin and put in his pocket and called the parish office on Monday morning offering his help. He had found his star.

She was working the closing shift one Saturday night at the restaurant. As she wiped down the tables and mopped the floor, she sang. Singing was something she just did — most of the time she's not even aware she's singing. This night she sang just loud enough for a coworker to hear. "You're pretty good," he said. "Are you part of the school choir? You'd be great." It never occurred to her. Her days were filled with school and work, helping her single mom raise her younger sister. When auditions were held for the choir, her friend at the restaurant and her mom encouraged to try out. She was scared to death — but she made the cut. Her star had risen.

Like most first-time moms and dads, her pregnancy was a time of excitement — and terror. They were going to raise a child? They still felt like kids themselves! But they found in one another the confidence and trust each needed. After a long night of labor, their little Sophia was born. They'll never forget the moment the nurse placed their daughter in her arms. Her star still illuminates their lives.

In our own search for purpose and meaning, in our seeking God in times and places we need to find him, "stars" of one kind or another show us the way. Like the experience of the Magi, the "stars" of our own Epiphanies require us to put aside our own fears and doubts and risk our own safety and comfort and begin our trek to Bethlehem. In this New Year, may we open our hearts and spirits to find our "star," leading us to the joy and fulfillment of realizing God's dawning in our life.

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)

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.

The Star of Bethlehem in the crypt under the Church of Nativity. A silver star on the floor marks the spot where Christ is believed to have been born.



PARISH READING ROSTER: 10/11 JANUARY

Saturday 5:30 pm Jim Hanna

Sunday 8:00 am Emelia & Judith Buehler

10:00 am Geoff & Monica Officer

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

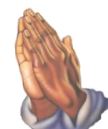
Pick up your copy from your church or parish office today! Also available online via catholicoutlook.org/magazine

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: Pantaleon Jimenez, Gerondio Jimenez, Pascuala Dionson, Tita Diongson, Macelinda Diongson, Vicente Diongson, Josefina Magsayo, Eufemia Altoveros, Quentina Quizon, Alejandro Altoveros | Joe & Clare Boulous, Isaac Moses, Ruby Moses | Pelesala Tuaimau | Bernadette Tuaimau | Namtallah & Patrick Malkoun, Frank & Ray Malkoun, Samiha Frome, Romanos Malkoun | 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, John Doumit, All deceased members of the Nicholas, Budwee & Norman families | 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: Sue O'Brien | 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: 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

Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round:
all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away
and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant,
your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you,
the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you,
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

℟ Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. ℟

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. ℟

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. ℟

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. ℟

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

You You have probably heard how I have been entrusted
by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was
by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the
mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed
through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was
unknown to any men in past generations; it means that
pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts
of the same body, and the same promise has been made to

them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!
We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during
the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to
Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the
Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have
come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he
was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He
called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the
people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be
born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is
what the prophet wrote:

*And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah you are by no
means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you
will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'*

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately.
He asked them the exact date on which the star had
appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find
out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found
him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him
homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they
set out. And there in front of them was the star they had
seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place
where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with
delight, and going into the house they saw the child with
his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him
homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him
gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were
warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned
to their own country by a different way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

