

St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

Harris park



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1 February 2026 | Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

Psalm 105:47

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let your face shine on your servant.
Save me in your merciful love.
O Lord, let me never be put to
shame, for I call on you.

Cf. Psalm 30:17-18

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) 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 –

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

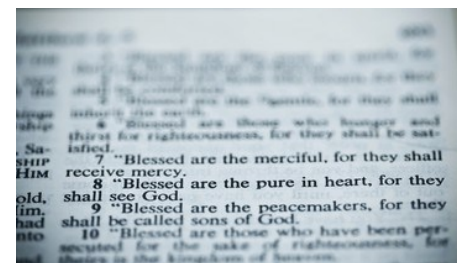
What identifies God's chosen remnant is not wealth, possessions or power over others but lowliness, humility, justice, and truthfulness. Jesus elaborates God's call to this way of living when he proclaims the Beatitudes to the crowd on the hillside.

Yet this kind of faithful living that makes God's reign present always invites insults and persecution, precisely because it challenges selfishness and self-promotion. Gospel living – the Beatitudes – turns upside down the relationships people have with each other and invites a new world order that is the presence of God's kingdom. This presence of God's Kingdom is not so much our own doing as what God is accomplishing in us. God never forsakes those who are in need.

Simply sharing in God's work of salvation – providing for those in need – is a blessing in itself that brings unequalled happiness. Our deepest happiness comes not from fulfilling our own wants and desires but from reaching out to others as God reaches out to us in blessing.

When hearing the Beatitudes, many of us would not count ourselves among the poor in spirit, the meek, the merciful etc. Nor do we tend to see ourselves as blessed. However, our very living of the Gospel is a revelation of our blessedness and of the presence of God's reign. The blessedness we share through living out the Beatitudes is but a taste of our great reward in heaven.

(from Living Liturgy-Year A)



Other News and Events

From St Clair to the Holy Doors: Walking with Mary in the Year of Hope

Pilgrims at the Basilica of Our Lady of Fatima. Image: supplied.
(Extracts from an article from Catholic Outlook written By Fr Percival Severe OSA, 21 January 2026)



Reflections from the Holy Spirit Parish, St Clair-Erskine Park Marian Jubilee Pilgrimage 2025

On 21 October 2025, 44 pilgrims from Holy Spirit Parish, St Clair-Erskine Park, and friends stepped onto a plane and into a story of grace.

Over many days, we journeyed through Fatima and Lourdes, Paris, Zaragoza and Montserrat, Lisieux and Nevers, Avila and Segovia, Cascia and San Giovanni Rotondo, Milan and finally Rome, where we passed through the four Holy Doors of the Papal Basilicas in this Jubilee Year of Hope. In Rome, the pilgrimage reached its climax with Mass at the Chapel of St Monica, where Pope Leo XIV was ordained a priest. Earlier that day, we had also attended the papal audience, a moment of great joy for the pilgrims, especially seeing Pope Leo in person – someone whom many participants had met years ago when he was still “Fr Bob” during his visits to Australia, and particularly to St Clair. In these holy places, our Augustinian charism came alive: restless hearts searching for God, journeying together “with one mind and one heart on the way to God.”

Pilgrims reflect on experience

For many, the pilgrimage began with a quiet but insistent call. Majella, one of the pilgrims, recalls having “that immediate desire to join” right in the middle of deep family challenges. Valerie speaks of “a deep longing for spiritual renewal and a desire to reconnect with my faith in a meaningful way,” especially through a call to peace “not only felt in prayer and sacred places, but one I long to cultivate in every aspect of life.” For Marthese, “it was always a dream to be a pilgrim,” a dream that finally came to life when the parish organised this journey. She and her husband Paul came home feeling “spiritual blessings and more focused at time of praying.” Gene and Nida, now in their 70s, weren’t sure at first if they could still manage such an intense journey, but slowly, through prayer, their hesitation turned into a clear “yes.” Gene speaks of “unexpected graces, answered prayers, serendipitous moments, and a happy camaraderie” among pilgrims of different ages and backgrounds. To anyone considering a similar journey, he simply says: “If you come with a humble and sincere heart, it is life-changing.”

The continuing relevance of Dei Verbum

(Extracts from an article from Catholic Outlook written by Sr Margaret Beirne RSC, 23 December 2025)

As we approach the sixtieth anniversary of the conclusion of Vatican II (1962-1965), and especially its reinvigoration during the 2021-2024 Synod, it seems opportune to look back to the Council’s key documents and their implementation.

The recently concluded Synod on Synodality has given our Catholic communities a real incentive to revisit, to celebrate, and (in many cases) to finally implement the Council’s vision and teaching, readily available to all via its invaluable documents. One document that would seem to have potential for renewed reflection and implementation is the dogmatic constitution on Divine Revelation (Dei Verbum). For a start, it is short and succinct (26 paragraphs). In essence, it deals with the subject of its title, “the Word of God”, the importance of the sacred scriptures, and the benefits to the church and society of ongoing biblical study. On a practical, pastoral level, much of what the document has to say about inspiration is solidly based on the core scriptural passages 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and 2 Peter 1:19-21, with the former quoted in its entirety (a.11). “The books of Scripture must be acknowledged as teaching solidly, faithfully and without error that truth which God wanted put into the sacred writings for the sake of our salvation (2 Tim 3:16-17).”

The document’s final section affirms the liturgy’s priority for communicating the message of the Gospel that has just been proclaimed. This finds a welcome echo in the recent Synod 2024 Report: “Deepening the link between liturgy and synodality will help all Christian communities, in the diversity of their cultures and traditions, to adopt celebratory styles that make visible the face of a synodal Church” (#27).

Pope Benedict XVI convoked the Synod on “the Word of God in the life and mission of the Church” (2008) precisely to build upon and encourage further implementation of the vision and insights of Dei Verbum.

Pope Francis took this up with his apostolic letter *Aperuit illis* “He opened (the scriptures) to them”, that is, to the two disciples he accompanied on the way to Emmaus (Lk 24:35). True to his pastoral vision, Francis instituted the annual liturgical celebration of ‘**Word of God Sunday**’ offering a range of practical ways to encourage the people of God to appreciate, study, and pray the Scriptures. ***In the Australian church, this celebration will take place on 1 February 2026.***

Reflection on the Scriptures is a time-honoured way in which people come to the conviction of their call to live this out. But, as the biblical text records the eunuch replying to Philip, “How can I understand [the scriptures] unless someone guides me?” (Acts 8:31).

Parish Updates

Names of the Victims of the Bondi Massacre for National Mourning Day on 22nd January:

Matilda Poitavchenko (10 year old girl)

Adam Smyth

Alexander Kleytman

Boris and Sofia Gurman

Boris Tetleroyd

Dan Elkayam

Edith Brutman

Marika Pogany

Peter Meagher

Rabbi Eli Schlanger

Rabbi Yaakov Levitan

Reuven Morrison

Tania Tretiak

Tibor Weitzen



We paused to remember them last week on National Mourning Day. May we, as Catholics, add our prayers for those slain. Let us pray to Our Lady Help of Christians as patroness of Australia.

Parishioners who wish to sign the NSW Government’s Book of Condolence in honour of those affected may use this link: tinyurl.com/BondiCondolences



CONGRATULATIONS and WELCOME

to **William Daniel Hendricks** who will receive the **Sacrament of Baptism** this Sunday, the 1st of February 2026 at St Oliver’s. We pray and ask God to bless you and your family.



START-UP FOR CHILDREN’S LITURGY – BEGINNING SUNDAY 1ST MARCH

We are looking for interested Mums or Dads or Young Adults to lead our 5–12-year-old children in Children’s Liturgy once a fortnight at the 10.00am Mass. We would look at providing training and resources for the leaders. The plan is to call up the children at the beginning of Mass, and the leaders would lead them through a reflection on the Gospel message of that Sunday in a manner appropriate to their age and understanding. They would then come back at the Offertory time and share with the community their learnings from the day’s readings. Further inquiries:

Contact Seminarian Luke 0467 549 493

Please Note that there will be **NO PARKING IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS** on the following weekends while maintenance is being undertaken -

17/18 January || 24/25 January || 31 January / 1 February

PARISH READING ROSTER: 7/8 FEBRUARY

Saturday 5:30 pm Gerard Pinto / Robert Aquino

Sunday 8:00 am Emelia & Judith Buehler

10:00 am

Patricia Armao / Natasha Joseph

Diocesan Notices

AUDITIONS
FOR THE BIGGEST MUSICAL IN WESTERN SYDNEY

Be The Witness




Register to join the core team

Chorus

- **Sunday, 1st Feb** – 11-1pm and 2 - 4pm
- **Monday, 2nd Feb** – 6pm to 8pm

Parish Office, St Patrick's Church, Allawah St, Blacktown

Email – music@bethewitness.com.au to book

Musicians and Dancers

Scan the QR code and register to be informed of our Live Band and Dance Auditions

DANCERS



MUSICIANS



Blacktown Parish presents 'The Witness'

The community of Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown, are bringing to life the musical "The Witness" – telling the story of the life of Jesus through the eyes of St Peter. For vocal auditions, contact our Music Director, Marianne Fernandes, at music@bethewitness.com.au. To learn more, visit Be The Witness – The Musical or email info@bethewitness.com.au.

Be a stronger you – Free empowerment course for women

Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains has partnered with Survivor Voice Australia to run a free six-week empowerment program for women who have experienced domestic violence and abuse. The program will start in February 2026 in the Blue Mountains. Contact Catholic Care to express your interest: (02) 8843 2500.

Catholic Healthcare formation and support Mass: 22 February

The Diocese's Catholic Healthcare ministry, in collaboration with the Hawkesbury Deanery, is organising a monthly formation and support Mass for those in the healthcare ministry of the Church on Sunday 22 February at Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Rouse Hill, at 5:30pm. There will be an afternoon tea before the Mass from 4pm for those who wish to attend for networking and support purposes. For further information, please contact Deacon Michael Tan on Michael.Tan@parracatholic.org.

At Our Parish

Annual Diocesan Red Mass: 3 February

Fr Robert Riedling, Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, cordially invites members of the judiciary and legal community, public service officials, law students and their families to the annual Red Mass. Join us on Tuesday 3 February at 7pm, refreshments will be served following the Mass. Please RSVP by Friday 30 January to enquiry@stpatscathedral.com.au or call (02) 8839 8400.

St Josephine Bakhita Memorial Mass & Community Celebration: 8 February

You are warmly invited to the annual St Josephine Bakhita Memorial Mass & Community Celebration on Sunday 8 February at 12:30pm at St Patrick's Church, MQOF Parish, Blacktown. The South-Sudanese and Sudanese Catholic Community, supported by the Mission Enhancement Team, will celebrate their national patron saint, share their spirituality, culture and cuisine, and pray for the victims of modern slavery and human trafficking. All are welcome to attend.



Rosary Making Workshop: 9 February

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on Monday 9 February at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for more information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Diocesan World Day of the Sick: 11 February

A Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on 11 February 2026 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. To register, please visit parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-the-sick-mass/

Our Community

The 7 am weekday masses at St Oliver's will resume this coming week.



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: Dame Marie Bashir (former Governor of NSW for 14 years) | Jeanette Abraham | Sue O'Brien | Fahim Laoulach

Deceased: Reggie & May Perumal, John & Tripony Pasangha, Rita Fernando, Cyril Fernando, Kule & Irene Nagalingam | Joe & Clare Boulous, Isaac Moses, Ruby Moses | Namtallah & Patrick Malkoun, Frank & Ray Malkoun, Romanos Malkoun, Mary Malkoun & Samiha Frome | 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

Anniversary: Flory Pinto | Samantha Diaz

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: 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

Zephaniah 2:3,3:12-13

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

Seek the Lord,
all you, the humble of the earth,
who obey his commands.
Seek integrity,
seek humility:
you may perhaps find shelter
on the day of the anger of the Lord.

In your midst I will leave
a humble and lowly people,
and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the
name of the Lord.
They will do no wrong,
will tell no lies;
and the perjured tongue will no longer
be found in their mouths.
But they will be able to graze and rest
with no one to disturb them.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 145:7-10

℟ Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

It is the Lord who keeps faith forever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. ℟

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. ℟

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. ℟

Second Reading

1 Cor 1:26-31

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: *if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.*

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 5:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad;
your reward will be great in heaven.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle:

they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn:

they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:

they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful:

they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart:

they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers:

they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:

theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

