

St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

Harris park



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Tel: (02) 88638801 Email: harrispark@parracatholic.org

25 January 2026 | Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All the earth shall bow down
before you, O God,
and shall sing to you,
shall sing to your name, O Most
High!

Psalm 65:4

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

We have come to know and to
believe
in the love that God has for us.

1 John 4:16

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 –

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time Yr. A – Repent and Follow the Light

In the Gospel of this Sunday Jesus goes to “the region of Zebulun and Naphtali,” the land of the Gentiles and therefore considered a land of darkness to the Jewish people of that time. It is as though Jesus goes to the place of darkness so that the light of the Good News won't be missed but shine, in contrast, even more brightly. God, indeed, desires all of us to “see a great light.”

As Jesus begins his public ministry, he issues two commands: “Repent” and “Come after me.” The Gospel suggests that both repentance and following Jesus are ways to walk in the light that reveal the kingdom of heaven close at hand. The kingdom of heaven is neither earthly realm nor a distant place.

How does “repent” open one to heed God's call to follow him and become the light? We must be able to see the light who is Christ before we can be light for others. So one way to think about repentance is that it is turning from darkness so we can see the light.

This Australia day weekend we welcome our five new East Timorese seminarians- Flavio, Francisco, Cipriano, Cassandro and Leopoldino. For the past twelve months they have been patiently waiting for an entry visa and suspending their theological studies to learn English (which is their 4th language!). So, now we will engage them in their ongoing theological studies (in English). Please welcome them. Like our other seminarians they are a long way from their families, so let us embrace them and encourage them along their life's journey.

This Australia Day is highlighted by new legislation about hate language and behaviour and new gun laws after the 14th December massacre at Bondi. The stereotype of the calm and cool Australian has taken a bit of a shake-up this year and even the icon of swimming at our beautiful NSW beaches has taken a hit with 4 shark attacks in 3 days, and the closing of beaches. Let's also pay tribute to the graziers on the land who have suffered immense losses of livestock and property due to floods and bushfires. We are a land of drought and flooding rains.

Having said that, we need to be proud that as a nation we have been prepared to take on the difficult issues and not drift into lawlessness. Hay has been provided from around the nation for struggling farmers. As Christians, let us be mindful of the suffering of our Jewish brothers and sisters on this Australia Day: we are One but we are Many and from all the lands on earth we come.

Fr. Paul



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.”

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



Be The Witness, a production being brought to life by a team at Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown, is gathering momentum across our Parish and the Diocese with vocal auditions now having commenced. We would love to extend the invitation to all those in our parishes to our open auditions on Sunday 1st from 11am-1pm and 2pm-4pm and Monday 2nd of February from 6pm-8pm, which will take place at the Parish Office at St Patrick's Church, Blacktown. Please register to audition by emailing music@bethewitness.com.au

We would also love to invite anyone who is interested in assisting in any way in any of our teams – production, event management, communications, finance, fundraising, and prayer – to get in touch using the QR code provided. We are also currently looking for a director and choreographer. Musicians and dancers can also scan the relevant QR codes to register their interest and be kept informed of upcoming Live Band and Dance auditions.

Parish Updates

Names of the Victims of the Bondi Massacre for National Mourning Day last Thursday 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 pause to remember them in this week of National Mourning. May we, as Catholics, add our prayers for those slain. Let us pray to Our Lady Help of Christians as patroness of Australia.

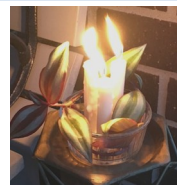
Parishioners who wish to sign the NSW Government's Book of Condolence in honour of those affected may go to this link: tinyurl.com/BondiCondolences

AUSTRALIA DAY MASS - 9.00am Monday 26th January



Let's come together on this Australia Day to remember where we have come from as a nation and discover our deepest hopes for where we may be going. Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.

Let's also remember in our deceased Dame Marie Bashir, a great Governor of NSW for 14 years, a great Australian, and one who we could all look to for her "Listening Leadership" of the people.



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: 31 JANUARY / 1 FEBRUARY

Saturday 5:30 pm Jim Hanna

Sunday 8:00 am Anthony Melham / Katherine Katrib

10:00 am

Geoff & Monica Officer

Diocesan Notices

Catholic Care Sewing and Crochet classes

All are welcome to join Catholic Care's weekly sewing and crochet classes every Thursday during school terms, 10am-1pm at Mamre House and Farm, 181 Mamre Rd, Orchard Hills. Learn new skills, connect with others, and enjoy a friendly, supportive environment. Perfect for anyone wanting to meet new people! To register, contact Catholic Care on (02) 8843 2500 or email enquiries@catholiccarewsbm.org.au

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.

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.

At Our Parish

World Day of the Sick


to be held on Wednesday, 11th February at 11am. The Mass will include and anointing of the sick, as well as a blessing for those that care and minister to the sick.

Volunteer Communicators Network

Are you savvy with a camera, writing or social media? We want to hear from you! Share your interest with us to support our storytelling in Catholic Outlook, our websites and social media. Name/contact details are required: parracatholic.org/communicators

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.



CELEBRATING

World Day of Prayer for the Sick

MASS OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES
WITH THE RITE OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

At the conclusion of Mass, a special blessing will be given for all carers and those who minister to the sick.

WEDNESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 11AM 2026

Main Celebrant: Most Rev Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv. DD.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church,
51-59 Allawah Street, Blacktown

Refreshments available following Mass. For catering purposes, RSVP to: ofw@parracatholic.org | 0460 037 795

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.



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, Agnes, Napoleon, Manuel, Virginia & Jorge Patacsil & his families, Elizabeth, Michael & Maryrose Perez & Erwin Ayuste | 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 harrispar@parracatholic.org. For mass offerings or special intentions, you may use the envelopes provided at the church foyer.*

Mass Readings

First Reading

Isaiah 8:23 - 9:3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase, they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 26:1, 4, 13-14

℟ The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; Before whom shall I shrink? ℟

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, for this I long, to live in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life, to savour the sweetness of the Lord, to behold his temple. ℟

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living. Hope in him, hold firm and take heart. Hope in the Lord! ℟

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

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

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out?

Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 4:12-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!

Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan,

Galilee of the nations!

The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light;

on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

