

# St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

## Harris park



Website: [www.stoliversharrispark.org.au](http://www.stoliversharrispark.org.au)  
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1 March 2026 | Second Sunday of Lent

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.  
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

Cf. Psalm 26:8-9

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

Matthew 17:5

### 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 –

#### Second Sunday of Lent

Jesus is transfigured before Peter, James and John. Matthew 17: 1-9

The film *Lion* is the remarkable true story of a five-year-old Indian boy named Saroo. Saroo is going to work with his older brother when the two get separated. Desperate to find his brother, Saroo searches all night. Exhausted, he falls asleep on an out-of-service train. By the time he wakes up, the train has been traveling for several hours. Saroo finds himself a thousand miles from his home in central India, lost on the dangerous streets of Calcutta. The first half of the movie is Saroo's mesmerizing and terrifying odyssey through poverty, hunger and abuse. Though small and vulnerable, he is smart and resourceful; Saroo manages to survive the unimaginable danger and cruelty of the city. But a return home to his mother and brother and sister is not to be. Saroo eventually is adopted by a loving and generous couple from Australia.

The second half of the film takes place 20 years later. Saroo has grown into a handsome, loving and talented young man who is off to Melbourne to begin a career in hotel management. A seemingly well-adjusted young professional, he doesn't give his Indian past a second thought. But one day, Saroo comes across the familiar smell of an Indian sweet he loved as a child, and he's suddenly reduced to tears. His cool professional mien cracks and crashes as his memories come rushing back.

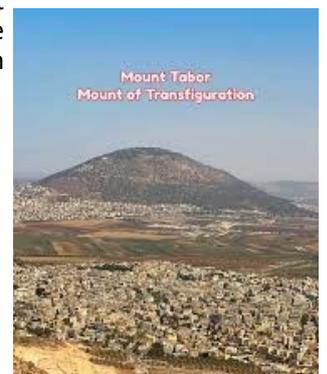
The new technology of Google Earth raises the possibility of a finding his first home. Saroo tries to stitch together the few details of those years that he can remember; on his computer and on sheets of paper he tacks to his bedroom wall, he retraces his journey from India to Australia. It's not a fast or easy process, and the effort takes an emotional toll on him and his parents and his girlfriend. But the story, of course, has the expected happy ending - but not without disappointment and anguish. Saroo discovers the big missing piece in his life and comes to understand not only where he came but who he came from.

Today's Gospel begins with a journey, as well. Jesus, Peter, James and John make their way up a mountain. After their climb, exhausted and weary, the three disciples behold Jesus in all his divinity: the divinity that is the source of his teaching and his healings.

Like Peter and his companions on the mountain, like Saroo in his search for his first home and family, we experience "transfiguring" moments when we come to understand who we are and the grace and love that has made us who we are. In our own experiences of "climbing" and searching - whether through Google Earth or at our parents' knee - we discover our connection to the extraordinary love between God the Father and the Son, between prophecy and fulfillment, between spirit and flesh.

In the Lents and Easters of our lives, may God's light illuminate our way and Christ be with us as we make our way up through our own Calcuttas and up our own transfiguration mountains.

Fr John Frauenfelder



## Other News and Events

### Pope's Lenten message: Abstain from harsh words and rash judgement

(By Devin Watkins, 17 February 2026, Catholic Outlook)

#### Ahead of the start of Lent, Pope Leo XIV invites Catholics to open ourselves to listening, fasting, and community, urging us to abstain from words of hatred in order to make space for words of hope and peace.

"I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor."

Pope Leo XIV made that invitation at the heart of his message for Lent 2026, which was released on Friday. As Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18, the Pope said this liturgical season offers Christians an opportunity to place the mystery of God back at the center of our lives.

Every journey of conversion, he said, begins by letting God's word touch our hearts, so that we may renew our commitment to follow Christ in the mystery of His saving passion, death, and resurrection.

Pope Leo focused on the importance of listening to God and to those around us, allowing ourselves to enter into authentic relationships.

"In the midst of the many voices present in our personal lives and in society," he said, "Sacred Scripture helps us to recognize and respond to the cry of those who are anguished and suffering."

Christians, said the Pope, can cultivate inner openness to listening, as God does, by growing in awareness that the poor challenge our lives and economic systems, as well as the Church. Pope Leo XIV then turned to how fasting helps open us to the deep desire for justice, which he said frees us from complacency.

"Precisely because it involves the body, fasting makes it easier to recognize what we 'hunger' for and what we deem necessary for our sustenance," he said. "Moreover, it helps us to identify and order our 'appetites,' keeping our hunger and thirst for justice alive"

Fasting, he added, teaches us to govern our desire by purifying, freeing, and expanding it, in order to direct our desire toward God and good deeds.

However, we must fast in faith, humility, and communion with the Lord, and not in a way that leads to pride, said the Pope, adding that other forms of self-denial also lead to a more sober lifestyle.

Pope Leo then pointed to an under-appreciated form of abstinence, which is refraining from hurtful words.

"Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves," he said.



"Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities."

If we do so, we will let words of hatred "give way to words of hope and peace."

Pope Leo went on to emphasize the communal aspect of listening and fasting, which can be lived out in our parishes, families, and religious communities.

By listening to the cry of the poor and setting our hearts on a path of conversion to Christ, we train our conscience and improve the quality of our lives and relationships, he said.

"It means allowing ourselves to be challenged by reality and recognizing what truly guides our desires—both within our ecclesial communities and as regards humanity's thirst for justice and reconciliation."

Pope Leo XIV concluded his 2026 Lenten Message with a call for Christian communities to become places where those who suffer find welcome.

"Let us ask for the strength that comes from the type of fasting that also extends to our use of language," he said, "so that hurtful words may diminish and give way to a greater space for the voice of others."

**With thanks to Vatican News and Devin Watkins, where this article originally appeared.**

### Ukrainian Theologian Seminar: 6 March

The United Theological College invite you to two seminars by Ukrainian theologian Professor Cyril Hovorun on 6 March from 1.30pm to 5pm at the Centre for Ministry, 18 Masons Drive, North Parramatta. Professor Hovorun is one of the most celebrated of contemporary Ukrainian theologians and is highly respected on the Russian invasion. Register by 2 March by visiting <https://nswactuca.eventsair.com/cyril-serhiy-hovorun/reg>. For more information, please contact Clive Pearson on [cpearson@csu.edu.au](mailto:cpearson@csu.edu.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.

## Parish Updates

### Stations of the Cross:

Stations of the Cross began in the parish on **Friday 27th February**. They will continue through Lent each Friday at **7.00pm**.



### Lenten Parish Mission:

Our seminarian **Francisco Do Carmo (Pancho)** comes from the village of Atsabe in the mountains of East Timor. **His village is building a Catholic school** and is **seeking donations to help**. Can we take this on as part of our Mission outreach from St. Oliver's? There is a 3-minute video showing the laying of the foundation of the school which we will show after communion this Sunday.

### Eucharistic Congress 2028:

In the lead-up to the Eucharistic Congress in 2028, 2026 is a year for a call to prayer. Next Sunday **1st March at 11.15am** after the 10.00am Mass we will have a **Holy Hour** on the theme- The Eucharist: a mystery to be encountered.



### DAYS OF FASTING

ASH WEDNESDAY  
GOOD FRIDAY

#### WHAT IS FASTING?

One full meal and two smaller meals.

### DAYS OF ABSTINENCE

ASH WEDNESDAY  
GOOD FRIDAY  
EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT

#### WHAT IS ABSTINENCE?

No meat.

### START-UP FOR CHILDREN'S LITURGY – BEGINNING THIS 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**

### PARISH READING ROSTER: 8 MARCH

Saturday 5:30 pm Jackie Perumal / Siji Devasia

Sunday 8:00 am Emelia & Judith Buehler

10:00 am

Carol Isaac / Nick Tagnipis

## Diocesan Notices

### Music Workshop – Music for Easter Triduum

To be facilitated by Mr Eric Grella, our Music Formation Facilitator. This session will cover information around all the masses during the Triduum, starting with Palm Sunday and ending with Easter Sunday. Bring along any questions you might have, including but not limited to hymn selection during the Triduum. For choir members, parishioners and any others who would be interested in this great opportunity.

**Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March**  
**7pm – 9pm** at the **Bishop Bede Heather Centre** (1-5 Marion Street Blacktown).

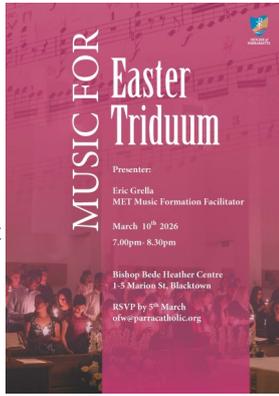
**RSVP 5<sup>th</sup> March to [OFW@parracatholic.org](mailto:OFW@parracatholic.org)**

### FaithLIFE Lenten Scripture night by Dr Michele Connolly RSJ: 3 March

Are you looking to read the Bible during Lent but don't know where to start? Consider the FREE Diocesan Lenten Scripture Night guided by Scripture scholar Dr Michele Connolly RSJ on Tuesday 3 March from 7pm–9pm at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes. RSVP via [www.parracatholic.org/events/lenten-scripture-night](http://www.parracatholic.org/events/lenten-scripture-night) OR email [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org)

### 2026 ACBC Social Justice Statement on the cost of living

The Australian Bishops have released the first of two Social Justice Statements for 2026, titled "The Cost of our Living: Economic and Social Justice for the Common Good". The new statement and accompanying resources can be found at [socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://socialjustice.catholic.org.au). Printed copies and prayer cards can be ordered directly from the ACBC at [shop.catholic.au](http://shop.catholic.au)



## At Our Parish

### Annual 24 Hours For The Lord: 13-14 March

You are warmly invited to take part in 24 Hours for the Lord, at the Schoenstatt Shrine in Mulgoa. Commencing with mass and confession from Friday 13 March at 6:30 pm and ending with mass at 5:30 pm on Saturday 14th March. The Shrine will remain open all night for 24 hours of prayer, adoration, and quiet reflection. Whether you come for a few minutes or stay longer, this is a beautiful opportunity to step away from the busyness of life and spend time in the gentle presence of the Lord. All parishioners, families, and visitors are welcome to drop in.

### St Patrick's Primary Parramatta Centenary Celebration: 14 March

The St Patrick's Parramatta School Community warmly invites all former staff, students, and families to join us in celebrating 100 years of faith, learning and community on Saturday 14 March at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Mass begins at 1:30pm, with an afternoon tea to follow. Let us come together in Eucharist to share memories and celebrate companionship across generations. RSVP via <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfZCpRA1DLrNElCkwClltsabrOw4315RYq3LiRTzvAlkOFmaA/viewform>

### Winbourne Retreat Centre Spirituality for Modern Life: 21 March

The Winbourne Edmund Rice Retreat Centre, Mulgoa, is holding a reflection day on 'Jesus – Christ yesterday, today and tomorrow' on Saturday 21 March from 9.30am to 12.30pm. Christ's life offers a blueprint for our own, yet we must still discern how to live that pattern within our own experience. For more information or to book, contact (02) 4773 5555 or email [info@winbourne.org](mailto:info@winbourne.org).

## Our Community

**The law of fasting binds those who have completed their eighteenth year, until the beginning of their sixtieth year; the law of abstinence binds those who have completed their fourteenth year.**



*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:** Carmen D'Costa | Cesar Francia | Liza Cuevas Reyes | Jeanette Abraham | Sue O'Brien

**Deceased:** Marcelline Simoes | Most Rev. Bishop Arnold Arowa, Andrew Allen Pitiaia | 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, Coorey, Budwee & Norman families | Artemio, Abraham, Augustus, Rebecca & Tranquilina Patacsil; Yolanda & Donald Muir; Rachael Sumagui, Melissa, Petronillo & 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:** Felicia Mary Subramaniam | Cyriaco Pinto | Peter Duong

**Sick:** John Joaquin Patacsil, Virginia, Agnes, Napoleon, Manuel & Jorge Patacsil & his families, Elizabeth, Michael & Maryrose Perez, Naty & Maria Aurora Degamo, Erwin Ayuste, Ellen Patacsil, Emma Llanillo | 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 | Wap-Hill, Sidney, Kimberley, Richard | 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](mailto:harrisparke@parracatholic.org). For mass offerings or special intentions, you may use the envelopes provided at the church foyer.*

# Mass Readings

## First Reading

Genesis 12:1-4

### *A reading from the book of Genesis*

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:  
I will curse those who slight you.  
All the tribes of the earth  
shall bless themselves by you.'  
So Abram went as the Lord told him.

### **The Word of the Lord**

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

Psalm 32:4-5,18-20, 22

℟ Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

The word of the Lord is faithful  
and all his works to be trusted.  
The Lord loves justice and right  
and fills the earth with his love. ℟

The Lord looks on those who revere him,  
on those who hope in his love,  
to rescue their souls from death,  
to keep them alive in famine. ℟

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.  
The Lord is our help and our shield.  
May your love be upon us, O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in you. ℟

Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.  
O Lord, open my lips  
and my mouth shall declare your praise. ℟

## Second Reading

2 Timothy 1:8-10

### *A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy*

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News. In many men's obedience many will be made righteous.

### **The Word of the Lord**

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

Matthew 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:  
this is my beloved Son, hear him.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

## Gospel

Matthew 17:1-9

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

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

### **The Gospel of the Lord.**

