

St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

Harris park

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15 February 2026 | Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIphon

Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of
your name.

Cf. Psalm 30:3-4

COMMUNION ANTIphon

They ate and had their fill,
and what they craved the Lord gave
them; they were not disappointed in
what they craved.

Cf. Psalm 77:29-30

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 –

6th Sunday Ordinary Time Yr. A 15 Feb 2026

Introduction: Today's readings challenge us to choose freely and wisely to observe the laws given by a loving and caring God. He revealed His laws to His Chosen People through Moses and the prophets in the Old Testament, and through His own Son, Jesus, in the New Testament. For the Israelites, the Torah was not a set of laws, but the instruction or *teaching* intended to promote the holiness and wholeness of each believer. It was the revealed will of a caring God, for the people with whom He had made His covenant. In today's gospel Jesus as a new law-giver reinterprets four Mosaic laws.

Life messages: 1) We need to obey God's Law, appreciating its basic principles: In obeying God's law and Church law, let us remember the two basic principles on which these laws are based, namely, the principle of reverence and the principle of respect. In the first four of the Ten Commandments, we are asked to reverence God, reverence His holy Name, reverence His holy day, and reverence our father and mother. The next six commandments instruct us to respect life, one's personal integrity, one's good name, the legal system, another's property, and another's spouse.

2) We need to forgive, forget, and move toward reconciliation as soon as possible. St. Paul advises us "Be angry [righteous anger] but do not sin" (Eph 4:26).

Respect life in all its stages, in words and deed: Jesus explains that the fifth commandment means respecting life in all its stages by honoring others in words and deeds. This means that we have to control our anger because it is the rawest, strongest and most destructive of human emotions. Describing three stages of anger and the punishment each deserves, Jesus advises his disciples not to get angry in such a way that they sin. 1) Anger in the heart has two forms: a) a sudden, blazing flame of anger which dies suddenly, and b) a surge of anger which boils inside and lingers so that the heart seeks revenge and refuses to forgive or forget. Jesus says that this kind of anger demands trial and sentencing by the Village Court of Elders. 2) Anger in speech: Using words which are insulting ("raka"="fool"), or damaging to the reputation ("moros" meaning a person of loose morals). Jesus says that such an angry one should be sent to the Sanhedrin or Jewish religion's Supreme Court for trial and sentencing. 3) Anger in action: Sudden outbursts of uncontrollable anger often result in physical assault or abuse. Jesus says that such anger deserves hellfire as its punishment. In short, Jesus teaches that long-lasting anger is bad, contemptuous speech or destroying someone's reputation is worse and harming another physically is the worst.

Life messages:

1) We need to obey God's Law, appreciating its basic principles:

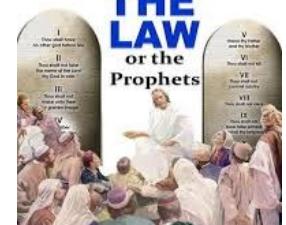
2) We need to forgive, forget, and move toward reconciliation as soon as possible.

3) We need to be true to God, to ourselves and to others.

WHAT JESUS SAID:

Think **NOT** that
I AM come to Destroy

**THE
LAW
or the
Prophets**



(Anthony Kadavil)

Other News and Events

Eucharist28: A National Journey of Prayer and Renewal Begins

(Extracts taken from Catholic Outlook Written By the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, 2 February 2026)



The official journey toward the International Eucharistic Congress 2028 (Eucharist28), to be held in Sydney, has formally begun with the launch of the Eucharist28 website and the rollout of national parish resources across Australia. Eucharist28 marks a significant moment in the life of the Church in Australia, coinciding with the centenary of the first International Eucharistic Congress held in Sydney in 1928. More than a single event, the Congress is being shaped as a multi-year national pilgrimage of prayer, formation, and renewal, inviting Catholics across Australia, Oceania, and beyond to rediscover the transforming power of the Eucharist.

The newly launched website (eucharist28.org) provides a growing collection of catechetical and devotional resources designed for individuals, families, parishes, and schools. These include podcasts, personal testimonies, and theological reflections intended to deepen understanding of the Eucharist as the source and summit of Christian life.

Speaking about the hopes for the Congress, Bishop Richard Umbers, General Secretary for Eucharist28, said:

“My hope is that people in Sydney, across Australia, Oceania and the whole world will discover for the first time or rediscover the joy of being nourished by Christ and be strengthened to become His presence in our communities – other Christs for the life of the world.”

As part of the preparatory journey, parishes are being invited to participate in a nationwide Holy Hour on Sunday, 1 March 2026, the Second Sunday of Lent. This coordinated moment of Eucharistic Adoration will mark the start of the Year of Prayer in the lead-up to 2028. On this day, every parish in the country is encouraged to hold an hour of Eucharistic Adoration following Mass.

It is hoped that Catholics across the nation may be united in prayer, asking for a Eucharistic transfiguration of their own lives and communities. Each parish is invited to embrace this moment in its own way, expressing the unity in diversity that characterises the Church.

Reflecting on the spiritual impact of the Congress, Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP said:

“No one should be touched by the congress and be unchanged,” Archbishop Fisher OP said, “for no one can experience intimacy with Christ and be the same as before.”

Special Year of St Francis: Western Sydney Catholics invited to renew a call to peace

(Extracts from Catholic Outlook By Belinda Gadd, 11 February 2026)

Franciscan voices share call to peace

The Diocese of Parramatta is enriched by Capuchin Franciscans, the Poor Clares, the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, and the Secular Franciscan Order, who minister across Western Sydney, the Blue Mountains, and beyond.

Pope declares 2026 a ‘Year of Grace’

... Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a Special Year of St Francis, to be celebrated from **10 January 2026 to 10 January 2027**, marking 800 years since the death of the “Poverello of Assisi”. The Special Year commemorates the Transit of St Francis, who died in 1226 after a life shaped by the Gospel. Known as the “poor man of Assisi”, St Francis lived with simplicity, humility and trust in God, becoming a lasting sign of peace and reconciliation. Recalling St Francis’ greeting – “May the Lord give you peace” – Pope Leo stressed that Franciscan peace embraces all of creation, writing that “peace with God, peace between men and with Creation are inseparable dimensions of a single call to universal reconciliation.”

Plenary indulgences available

During this Year of Grace, Catholics may receive a plenary indulgence by devoutly taking part in Jubilee celebrations or making a pilgrimage to a Franciscan church or a place dedicated to St Francis, under the usual conditions of confession, Communion and prayer for the Holy Father’s intentions.

Those who are elderly, sick or unable to travel may share in the indulgence by spiritually joining the celebrations through prayer and offering their sufferings.

Franciscan churches and sites in the Diocese of Parramatta include:

- The Good Shepherd Catholic Church, Plumpton – under the pastoral care of Capuchin Franciscans
- St Bernadette’s Catholic Church, Dundas Valley – under the pastoral care of the Friars of St Francis
- Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, Kellyville and Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents, Kellyville – under the pastoral care of the Conventual Franciscans
- Poor Clares Monastery, North Richmond
- Our Lady of Consolation Chapel, Rooty Hill – under the pastoral care of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary

Parish Updates

Encountering God on the Streets

Our seminarians have been involved in street ministry around Parramatta and Mt. Druitt with the Vinnies Van and Parramatta Mission. They have also been involved in the Jesuit Refugee Service at Parramatta.

Along with Cassandro, Flavio, Dino, Pancho and Oni from Timor Leste, we also welcome a new seminarian, Joey Nicoara who arrived from the Philippines to begin studies with us. Welcome Joey!



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



PARISH READING ROSTER : ASH WEDNESDAY, 18 FEBRUARY

Anthony Melham / Katherine Katrib

PARISH READING ROSTER: 21/22 FEBRUARY

Saturday 5:30 pm Kristine Alba / Jim Hanna

Sunday 8:00 am Seini & Ipolito Lasalo

10:00 am Geoff & Monica Officer

Diocesan Notices

Blacktown Parish presents 'The Witness'

Telling the story of the life of Jesus through the eyes of St Peter. The team at Be The Witness have added two new dates for chorus auditions and invite all those interested to come and audition for this amazing evangelical musical production at St Patrick's Church, Blacktown on either:

- Monday 16th February – 6:30pm-8:30pm
- Monday 23rd February – 6:30pm-8:30pm

To register and book your time, please scan the QR code and fill in your details.



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

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/1FAIpQLSfZCpRA1DLrNEICkwClltsabRw4315RYq3LiRTzvAlkOFmaA/viewform>

Rosary Making Workshops

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 the following days:

- Thursday 26 February at St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith, from 7pm.
- Saturday 7 March at Holy Spirit Parish, St Clair-Erskine Park, from 2pm.
- Tuesday 10 March at Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown, from 7pm.

Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for more information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Holy Spirit Mission Retreat: 21 February

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal Parramatta community is hosting their annual Holy Spirit Mission event on Saturday 21 February from 12pm to 5pm at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes. Join us for prayer and praise, testimonies, talks and prayer ministry as you seek a deeper understanding and connection with the Holy Spirit. Register for this free event via www.trybooking.com/DIENC or the QR code.



Our Community

Ash Wednesday, 18th February: Mass Time at St Oliver's, 7:00 pm



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: Cesar Francia | Liza Cuevas Reyes | Jeanette Abraham | Sue O'Brien

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, Coorey, 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: Peter Duong | 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 | 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 harrispark@parracatholic.org. For mass offerings or special intentions, you may use the envelopes provided at the church foyer.*

Mass Readings

First Reading

Sirach 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Sirach (or Ecclesiasticus)

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34

R Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord! They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law! They are happy those who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts. **R**
You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care. May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. **R**
Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word. Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law. **R**
Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end.
Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart. **R**

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

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

When we have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began.

It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

cf Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 5:17-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, not one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.'

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.'

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.'

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.'

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.'

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

