

St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

Harris park



Website: www.stoliversharrispark.org.au
Postal Address: PO Box 9394 Harris Park NSW 2150
Office Address: 35 Wigram St, Harris Park NSW 2150
Tel: (02) 88638801 Email: harrispark@parracatholic.org

8 February 2026 | Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who
made us,
for he is the Lord our God.

Psalm 94:6-7

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,
his wonders for the children of men,
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,
and the hungry he fills with good
things.

Cf. Psalm 106:8-9

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 –

5th Sunday Ordinary Time Yr. A 8th Feb 2026

Salt and Light

A little boy was taken by his mother to see a famous cathedral. On the windows were the pictures of various Christians. As he was watching the sunbeams shining through the stained-glass windows, he asked his mother, "Who are those people on the windows?" She said, "They're saints." The little boy looked at the windows and said, "Well, now I know what saints are. They are people who let the light shine through." That little boy got it right. That's what a saint is - someone who lets the light of Jesus shine through his life. (Tony Kadavil)

What obscures the light of Christ shining through our lives? Can we blame what blocks us to the Godlessness and secularism around us? Maybe. But let's look within. What do we see swirling around in our inner lives? What are the darkneses we confront today? The deep and timeless darkneses may be fears of failure, fears of rejection, fears of abandonment - that might begin our list. It might also be loneliness or regrets or despair we can't let go of.

We hide our light by 1. Not having the courage to speak up for Christ 2. By going along with the crowd 3. Denying the Light 4. Letting sin take over the light in our life 5. Not explaining to others why we believe in Christ 6. Ignoring the needs of others.

You are salt of the Earth:

"You are the salt of the earth." What does Jesus mean by this statement? The qualities of salt are manifold. In the ancient world salt was highly valued. The Greeks called salt divine and the Romans said, "There is nothing more useful than sun and salt." The English word 'salary' literally means 'salt' money.

salt *purifies* as in a salt water pool-likewise, we need to consider the purity of our speech as Christians; our purity of conduct and even our purity of thought.

Salt has certain antiseptic qualities: we can sterilize wounds with a salt water solution-likewise a Christian must have a certain antiseptic influence on life in society-e.g. by defeating corruption.

As salt *preserves* food, we have to preserve our Christian faith, our Christian cultural values and moral principles. We need to strive to promote peace; preserve dialogue; preserve justice; preserve community

So, we need to be "salt to the earth" and "light to the world" and like the boy looking at the stain glass windows in the cathedral, we need to say with him: "Well, now I know what saints are. They are people who let the light shine through."

Fr. Paul



Other News and Events



Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD STL
Bishop of Parramatta
Bethany Centre, 470 Church St, Parramatta NSW 2150, Australia
PO Box 3066, North Parramatta, NSW 1750
☎ 02 8838 3400 📠 02 9630 4813
✉ bishop@parracatholic.org
🌐 parracatholic.org

6 February 2026

Dear friends in Christ,

This year marks the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis. For this reason, Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a Special Year in honour of the Poverello ("little poor man" as he was affectionately known), offering a plenary indulgence to foster spiritual renewal, peace, and reconciliation.

This Franciscan Jubilee invites the faithful to imitate St Francis's evangelical virtues of poverty, humility, compassion and service to the poor. The Pope encourages us to be bridge builders in the time that is "marked by so many seemingly interminable wars, by internal and social divisions that create mistrust and fear". His mission to the Sultan of Egypt was a witness of love, mutual respect and dialogue. For this reason, St Francis is revered not only by Christians but also by Muslims, and Assisi is internationally recognised as the centre for inter-religious dialogue and reconciliation.



The Pope also emphasised that peace with God, peace among humans, and peace with creation are "inseparable dimensions". The Franciscan vision of peace is not limited to the relations among human beings but also embraces the whole of creation. Francis, who recognises in every creature a reflection of divine beauty, reminds us that peace must be extended to the whole cosmos. This insight resonates with particular urgency in our time. Peace with God, peace among human beings and with creation are inseparable dimensions of a single call to universal reconciliation.

As a Franciscan bishop, I am deeply committed to the legacy of St Francis. I encourage you all to take advantage of the Franciscan Jubilee Year with a view to revitalising the Gospel life and witness we are called to give, personally and collectively.

Until January 10th, 2027, the faithful can obtain a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions - sacramental confession, Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Pope - by making a pilgrimage to any Franciscan conventual church or place of worship dedicated to St Francis anywhere in the world. Here are the following places in our Diocese:

- The Good Shepherd Church, Plumpton
- St Bernadette's Church, Dundas Valley
- Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Kellyville
- Franciscan Shrine of Holy Innocents, Kellyville
- Poor Clares Monastery, North Richmond
- Our Lady of Consolation Chapel, Rooty Hill

Furthermore, the elderly, the sick, and those who, for serious reasons, cannot leave their homes can obtain the plenary indulgence by spiritually joining in the jubilee celebrations and offering their prayers, pains, or sufferings to God.

I pray for a spiritually enriching year through the intercession of Our Lady of Poverty and St Francis.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv
Bishop of Parramatta

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>

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:

- Monday 9 February at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown, from 7pm.
- 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

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. Next week we will take our recently arrived Timorese seminarians into the street immersion experience. Along with Cassandro, Flavio, Dino, Pancho and Oni from Timor Leste, we also welcome a new seminarian, Joey Nicoara who last Friday 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: 14/15 FEBRUARY

Saturday 5:30 pm Jackie Perumal / Siji Devasia

Sunday 8:00 am Anne Haddad / Victoria Micalizzi

10:00 am

Carol Isaac / Nick Tagnipis

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.

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 <https://www.trybooking.com/DIENC> or the QR code.



At Our Parish

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.



FaithLIFE Scripture Short Course: Begins 10 February

FaithLIFE Scripture offers a 3-session Catholic Bible study and faith formation short course on how to engage with the Bible through the Catholic tradition during turbulent times. The program will run on Tuesday 10, 17 and 24 February at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes, from 7pm to 9pm. The program is facilitated by Scripture scholar Dr Michele Connolly RSJ and is open to adults of all ages and supports ongoing adult faith formation. To register, visit <https://parracatholic.org/events/faithlife-scripture-session-1/>

Diocesan World Day of the Sick: 11 February

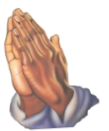
A Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on 11 February 2026 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health 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 begin again on Tuesday, the 10th of February.



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: 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

Isaiah 58:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

Share your bread with the hungry,
and shelter the homeless poor,
clothe the man you see to be naked
and do not turn from your own kin.
Then will your light shine like the dawn
and your wound be quickly healed over.

Your integrity will go before you
and the glory of the Lord behind you.
Cry, and the Lord will answer;
call, and he will say, 'I am here.'

If you do away with the yoke,
the clenched fist, the wicked word,
if you give your bread to the hungry,
and relief to the oppressed,
your light will rise in the darkness,
and your shadows become like noon.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 111:4-9

℟ A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

He is a light in the darkness for the upright:
he is generous, merciful and just.
The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honour. ℟

The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever.
He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. ℟

With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory. ℟

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

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

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

John 8:12

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
the man who follows me
will have the light of life.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 5:13-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

