

# St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

## Harris park



Website: [www.stoliversharrispark.org.au](http://www.stoliversharrispark.org.au)  
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Tel: (02) 88638801 Email: [harrispark@parracatholic.org](mailto:harrispark@parracatholic.org)

15 March 2026 | Fourth Sunday of Lent

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.  
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;  
Exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

Cf. Isaiah 66:10-11

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed,  
I saw and I believed in God.

Cf. John 9:11, 38

### *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 of Lent Yr. A: What are our Blind spots?**

We all have blind-spots – these arise in our personalities, our marriages, our parenting, our priesthood and our work habits. We, too, are often blind to the presence of the Triune God dwelling within us and fail to appreciate His presence in others. Yet God wants to heal our blindnesses. Even practising Christians can be blind to the poverty, injustice, and pain around them. We can be reassured, however, that Jesus wants to heal all our blindnesses so that we can be the most authentic person we can be.

What are some of those examples of blindness? The blindness of:

- Ignoring the impact of past people/events and my family of origin and how that shapes my present reality.
- Ignoring the feelings, hurts, and pains beneath the surface of my life - rarely being honest with myself.
- Dividing life into 'secular' and 'sacred' compartments i.e. compartmentalising God into "Christian activities" while usually forgetting about him while at work, play, shopping or studying
- Covering over brokenness, weakness and failure
- Living without limits- "trying to do it all"
- Judging the spiritual journeys of others - preoccupied with others' ways of living life

"Lord, give me your eyes." This is a simple and beautiful prayer to open us to our blindness-that we may see things as Christ sees things, that is, to SEE THROUGH THE EYES OF FAITH. We pray "Lord give me your eyes" so that we may see not only the good things that God has given the person, but also that we may be able to look with compassion on the various hardships the person has endured, leading to that person's irritating habits.

Then there is cultural blindness-our culture has become anaesthetised to the violence, the sexual innuendo, and the enormous suffering of the world around us. We have been blinded to what it means to love selflessly and sacrificially.

Then there is the challenge not to allow the world and Satan to blind us so that we forget our real identity and call: the world likes to distract us from the fundamental first love of God for us-that we are children of the light and most beloved of God. Know that you are loved and a child of the Light.

Fr. Paul



## Other News and Events

## Fr Paul's Corner

Come closer to the suffering love of Christ



### SACRED SECRETS

— THE SHROUD OF TURIN —

A profound journey into the Passion of Jesus

And many other hand-picked programs, including retreats, reflections, sacred stories, and prayerful songs to accompany you through Lent and toward Easter.



BEGIN YOUR LENTEN JOURNEY

shalomworld.org/lent

No registration. No cost. Available on phone, computer, and TV.



**Shalom Media Australia** is a Catholic media ministry serving families through faith-filled programs, reflections, and evangelisation initiatives. As we approach the holy season of Lent, Shalom World has prepared a special collection of Lenten programs for individuals and families to help families deepen their spiritual journey towards Easter.

The Lenten portal offers:

- Lenten Programs (for all): <https://shalomworld.org/lent>
- Lenten Kit for Kids (Ages 6–12): <https://shalomworld.org/lenten-kit>

Completely free of cost || Accessible on phone, computer, and TV

### 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.

### Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary Celebrations: 6 April

You are invited to celebrate with us the 75 years of the arrival of the first Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary to Australia AND 60 years of the Schoenstatt Movement in Australia. Join us on Easter Monday, 6th April 2026 from 1:30pm – 5:30pm at Mount Schoenstatt – 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa 2745. Please bring a plate to share for afternoon tea. Parallel children's program will also be available. RSVP Shirley Hall 0417 153 930 [movtoffice@schoenstatt.org.au](mailto:movtoffice@schoenstatt.org.au)

*Some sharing from Fr Paul: I would like to put some more educative and reflective articles in our bulletin.*

### RE-THINKING OUR USE OF POWER

In the current world conflicts in Ukraine-Russia; Iran-Israel-USA, we need to step back from militarisation to re-think through the consequences of senseless killing of people by drones, bombs and technology. Some cautionary insight from Pope Francis from three years ago:



“It is chilling to realise that the capacities expanded by technology “have given those with the knowledge and especially the economic resources to use them, an impressive dominance over the whole of humanity and the entire world. Never has humanity had such power over itself, yet nothing ensures that it will be used wisely, particularly when we consider how it is currently being used....In whose hands does all this power lie, or will it eventually end up? It is extremely risky for a small part of humanity to have it.”

(Pope Francis, Laudate Deum, 2023 n.23)

### A poem by Rae Trenerry:

God of far horizons,  
You see the end from the beginning,  
And everything in between.

Stretch our minds and imaginations,  
Widen our focus away from only ourselves,  
That we might see possibilities  
Beyond the now, into the not-yet.  
May our spirits sing, and soar with anticipation  
Of new adventures

In the name of Christ, who is our map. Amen.

## Parish News & Updates

### Stations of the Cross:

Everyone is welcome to join us pray the Stations of the Cross at St Oliver's church every Friday through Lent at **7.00pm**.



**CONGRATULATIONS and WELCOME to Willow Grace Dive and Charli-Rose Dive** who will receive the **Sacrament of Baptism** this Sunday, the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2026 at St Oliver's. We pray and ask God to



### Special Notice for our Acolytes

If you have not done this last weekend, please pick up your envelopes containing copies of Working with Children Notification Form and Code of Conduct Policy and return the completed form this weekend. Many thanks.

### When should I complete my Safeguarding Training?

All Clergy, employees and volunteers in parish ministry are required by the NSW Children's Guardian Act 2019 to be current and complete with Safeguarding Training.

Check with your Parish Office when you are due to update your Safeguarding Training.

If you are new to ministry, you must complete the Introductory Modules 1-3 (Cycle 1).

If you completed Cycle 1 modules two years ago, you must complete Renewal Modules 4 and 5 (Cycle 2)

If you renewed your Cycle 2 two years ago, you must complete a Refresher Module 6 (Cycle 3)

Safeguarding Training Modules can always be completed online at <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au/>. Face-to-face training opportunities can be found at <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>.

### 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?

### PARISH READING ROSTER: 21/22 MARCH

Saturday 5:30 pm Gerard Pinto / Robert Aquino

Sunday 8:00 am Seini & Ipolito Lasalo

10:00 am

Patricia Armao / Natasha Joseph

## Diocesan Notices

### Lenten Retreat at Corpus Christi Parish, Cranebrook: 22-25 March

Join us for a prayerful Lenten Retreat at Corpus Christi Catholic Church from 22–25 March, led by Fr Abraham Kunnatholy CMI. Enjoy Mass, guided reflections and fellowship to renew hearts and prepare for Holy Week. All are warmly welcome. Contact the parish office for more details.

### Launch of Fr Joe's new book: 26 March

Fr Joe, Parish Priest of Baulkham Hills, has just published a new book with the title "Augustine on Listening, Humility and Unity. The Augustinian Root of Pope Leo XIV." Launched by Sister Dr Margaret Ghosn, Theologian and Principal of Maronite College of the Holy Family in Harris Park, and Most Rev Vincent Long Nguyen, Bishop of Parramatta. Join us on Thursday 26 March 2026 at 7pm at St. Michael's Downey Room, 1 Chapel Ln, 2153 Baulkham Hills. To register: [admin@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au](mailto:admin@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au)

### Divine Retreat Centre offerings for March 2026

The Divine Retreat Centre in Somersby, NSW is hosting a variety of single-day and weekend residential retreats throughout March. For more information and bookings, please contact (02) 4372 1598 or email [drcretreatrego@gmail.com](mailto:drcretreatrego@gmail.com) to confirm attendance. Visit [www.divineretreatcentre.org](http://www.divineretreatcentre.org) for more information. Visit [www.divineretreatcentre.org](http://www.divineretreatcentre.org) for more information.

### Free Weekly Legal Clinic at Catholic Care, Emerton

Every Thursday from 11 am at Catholic Care (11 Emert Parade, Emerton) you can visit for FREE legal advice on matters including: Family Law, Care and Protection, Local Court matters, Wills and Estates and Traffic Offences. Walk-ins are welcome, to make a booking call 8843 2500.

### 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).

### Women's Breakfast – Celebrating the Feast of St Joseph: 21 March

All women are warmly invited to a special community breakfast celebrating the Feast of St Joseph and honouring the legacy of Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph, on Saturday 21 March, 8:00am – 10:00am at Mary MacKillop Spirituality Ministry, 33 Barina Downs Rd, Baulkham Hills. Cost: \$20 per person (breakfast included). Guest speaker: Sr Virginia Bourke rsj. Bookings essential. All women are welcome.

**Enrolling now for 2027** – Belong to something Greater Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese has 80 welcoming schools delivering excellence in education for today's students. Our caring teachers get to know every student to understand their needs, interests and abilities. We teach children to become responsible, caring and productive young people. Visit [parra.catholic.edu.au](http://parra.catholic.edu.au) to find a school near you.

### Stations of the Cross at Mount Schoenstatt: 3 April

Join us on Good Friday April 3rd at 10 am (beginning in the valley) for Stations of the Cross. Address: Mount Schoenstatt – 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa 2745. All welcome.

## 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 | All those who died recently, especially those who used to be part of this parish community as parishioners or relations of our parishioners

**Deceased:** John & Triponie Pasangha, Reggie & May Perumal, Felix and Rosita Fernando, Quintus Fernando, Clement Fernando, Rita Fernando, Cyril Fernando, Kule & Irene Nagalingam | Joe & Clare Boulous, Isaac & Ruby Moses | Namtallah & Patrick Malkoun, Frank & Ray Malkoun, Romanos 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 | David (Dib) & Theresia Romanos | Romanos Family | Pamela Romanos | Evelyn Betros | Tony, Kevin & 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:** Joan Wright | Cyriaco Pinto | Peter Duong | For all those souls whose anniversaries occur about this time

**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:** Cristina Yara Pipi | 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 [harrispar@parracatholic.org](mailto:harrispar@parracatholic.org). For mass offerings or special intentions, you may use the envelopes provided at the church foyer.*

# Mass Readings

## First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

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

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

## The Word of the Lord

### Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22

℟ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit. ℟

He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort. ℟

You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing. ℟

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever. ℟

## Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

### *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians*

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:  
Wake up from your sleep,  
rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.

## The Word of the Lord

### Gospel Acclamation

John 8:12

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
whoever follows me will have the light of life.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

## Gospel

John 9:1-41

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

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him.  
'As long as the day lasts

I must carry out the work of the one who sent me;  
the night will soon be here when no one can work.  
As long as I am in the world  
I am the light of the world.'

Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered.

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.'

So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Jesus said:

'It is for judgement  
that I have come into this world,  
so that those without sight may see  
and those with sight turn blind.'

Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied:

'Blind? If you were,  
you would not be guilty,  
but since you say, "We see,"  
your guilt remains.'

## The Gospel of the Lord.

