

# St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

## Harris park



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

22 March 2026 | Fifth Sunday of Lent

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give me justice, O God, and  
plead my cause against a nation  
that is faithless.  
From the deceitful and cunning  
rescue me,  
for you, O God, are my strength.

Cf. Psalm 42:1-2

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Everyone who lives and believes in  
me will not die for ever, says the  
Lord.

John 11:26

### 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 in Lent Yr. A

Jesus had to face into great religious and political turmoil in Jerusalem. He also had to face the death of his friend Lazarus. In our Gospel this week, Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. Christ's powerful word is not only there to console us in death, but His powerful word is there for us every day of our life. Jesus did not say "I will be the life," but "I am the resurrection and the life."

As a pilgrim to Bethany, near Jerusalem, you can descend to Lazarus' tomb. You can feel a sense of resurrection there at that shrine. But we have a better shrine of resurrection. On our altar, at the consecration, we have Christ himself, the resurrection and the life.

This weekend, three of our seminarians – Jeff Hood, Luke Huynh and Paul Tran will make their Profession of Faith and Commitment to Celibacy prior to their diaconate ordination in April after Easter. What is integral and essential in faith is contained in our Creed. This Saturday night at the Vigil Mass our three seminarians will publicly sign off on their belief in these truths of our faith. They will also sign-off on an oath of fidelity to the Magisterium of the Church. Each of the seminarians will also share with parishioners what it is for him to dedicate himself in a singular way to ministry in our Church and the world. Following this they will sign off on the commitment to apostolic celibacy.

This is a significant step prior to these men called by God to the road of diaconate and the road less travelled of priesthood. You, the parish faith community, have nurtured and sustained them in the years leading up to this weekend. We cannot underestimate the prayers and faith of you, the people, who have invigorated and encouraged them along this unique call of God from the community-for the community.

Congratulations Luke and Paul and Jeff for your pilgrimage of faith along the road to priesthood. This weekend pre-figures your diaconate ordinations next month; it is a decisive moment-a choice of faith and lifestyle for God and his people.

Congratulations to Magdalena a young lady who also is choosing faith and is to receive Baptism and Confirmation and Eucharist in our parish this Sunday morning. Welcome Magdalena into our parish community.

Jesus calls each of us out of the tombs which close us in. Jesus says to the crowd gathered around Lazarus' tomb: "Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" And the dead man, Lazarus, walked out alive.

Fr. Paul



## Other News and Events



### Fifth Sunday of Lent 21–22 March 2026

Since October 2023, Caritas Jerusalem staff in Gaza have endured displacement, personal loss, and danger alongside the communities they serve. Despite unimaginable challenges, they remain committed to providing lifesaving support, standing in solidarity with families enduring this conflict.



**Please donate today.**

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

**Or online at:** [www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate](http://www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate)

**Or by calling:** 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

### 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 [movtooffice@schoenstatt.org.au](mailto:movtooffice@schoenstatt.org.au)

## Fr Paul's Corner

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

### FOOTSORE CHRIST

Footsore and weary Christ, you never gave up on your mission to reveal your Father to our world. When we grow tired and dispirited, infuse us with your passion and purpose, that the strength of your Word may become our strength so that the Gospel may continue to be faithfully proclaimed everywhere in our world. In your name we pray. Amen. (Rae Trenerry)

### DILEXI TE

It becomes clear, then, that our faith in Christ, who became poor, and was always close to the poor and the outcast, is the basis of our concern for the integral development of society's most neglected members. I often wonder, even though the teaching of Sacred Scripture is so clear about the poor, why many people continue to think that they can safely disregard the poor." (Pope Leo XIV, Dilexi Te n.23)

### SAFEGUARDING IN OUR PARISH:

In our Parish of St. Oliver's, we aim to promote child safety in what we say and do. The Diocese of Parramatta's Statement of Commitment to Safeguarding outlines our commitment to being a community of safeguarding that actively promotes the dignity and rights of children and of all other persons, particularly those who may be at risk.

Clergy, religious, employees, and volunteers are all required to undertake Safeguarding training and to follow the Diocesan Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Policy.

Most of our parishes have a Safeguarding Champion who co-ordinates the Safeguarding training of parish volunteers.

Our Safeguarding person is Milly and the parish office team.

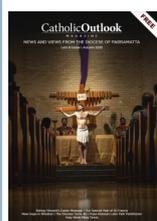


*Fr Paul*

## 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.



The latest Catholic Outlook magazine is out now, keeping you connected with news and events across the Diocese of Parramatta. Inside this edition, you'll find:

- Bishop Vincent's Easter message
- Celebrating the Special Year of St Francis in our Diocese
- A parish profile featuring the oldest church in mainland Australia

- Looking back at our first 40 years as a Diocese
- Reflections on Lent and the peace Christ teaches us ... and much more. Visit your local parish to pick up a copy or read Catholic Outlook online.

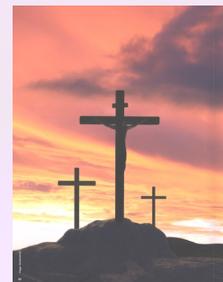


**CONGRATULATIONS and WELCOME to Magdalena Maple** who will receive the **Sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation** this

Sunday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2026 at St Oliver's. We pray and ask God to bless you and your family.

### Holy Week Timetable 2026 – St. Oliver's, Harris Park

- 2nd Rite of Reconciliation  
7.00pm Wednesday 25th March
- Palm Sunday, 29 Mar  
5.30pm Vigil Mass  
8.00am Sunday  
10.00am Sunday
- Holy Thursday, 2 April  
7.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
- Good Friday, 3 April  
10.00am Stations of the Cross  
3.00pm Passion of the Lord
- Holy Saturday, 4 April  
10.00am Reflection at the Tomb  
7.00pm Easter Vigil
- Easter Sunday, 5 April  
8.00am Mass  
10.00am Mass



### PARISH READING ROSTER: 28/29 MARCH

|          |         |   |
|----------|---------|---|
| Saturday | 5:30 pm | Jackie Perumal / Siji Devasia / Kristine Alba / Jim Hanna   |
| Sunday   | 8:00 am | Anthony Melham / Katherine Katrib / Emelia & Judith Buehler |
|          | 10:00am | Geoff & Monica Officer / Natasha Kaitlyn 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 [drcretreatreg@gmail.com](mailto:drcretreatreg@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.

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### 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.

### Bishop Vincent presents Archbishop Ryan Jimenez: 21 April

Archbishop Ryan Jimenez, Archbishop of Agana in Guam and President of the Episcopal Conference of the Pacific is the first guest speaker for this year's Bishop Vincent Presents series. Join us at 6pm on Tuesday 21 April in Cloister Hall, St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, for an evening with Archbishop Jimenez as he reflects on the theme "An Immigrant Bishop for an Immigrant Church." To register, please visit [parracatholic.org/jimenez](http://parracatholic.org/jimenez)

### Positions Vacant:

Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains  
Facilities & Contract Manager – Diocese of Parramatta. Applications close 17 March 2026.  
Property & Project Coordinator – Diocese of Parramatta. Applications close 17 March 2026.  
More details at: [parracatholic.org/jobs](http://parracatholic.org/jobs)

## 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.**



Mass  
Intentions  
Of The Week

*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:** Morfeo Sumiran | Tim Brown | 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 | Melhem Family | 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

Ezekiel 37:12-14

### *A reading from the prophet Ezekiel*

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

## The Word of the Lord

### Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 129

℟ With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,  
Lord, hear my voice!

O let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my pleading. ℟

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,  
Lord, who would survive?  
But with you is found forgiveness:  
for this we revere you. ℟

My soul is waiting for the Lord,  
I count on his word.  
My soul is longing for the Lord  
more than watchman for daybreak.  
(Let the watchman count on daybreak  
and Israel on the Lord.) ℟

Because with the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption,  
Israel indeed he will redeem  
from all its iniquity. ℟

## Second Reading

Romans 8:8-11

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

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

## The Word of the Lord

### Gospel Acclamation

John 11:25, 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;  
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

## Gospel

John 11:1-45

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

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. – It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, ‘Lord, the man you love is ill.’ On receiving the message, Jesus said, ‘This sickness will end not in death but in God’s glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.’ Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, ‘Let us go to Judaea.’ The disciples said, ‘Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?’ Jesus replied: ‘Are there not twelve hours in the day? A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by;

but if he walks at night he stumbles,  
because there is no light to guide him.’

He said that and then added, ‘Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.’ The disciples said to him, ‘Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.’ The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by ‘rest’ he meant ‘sleep’, so Jesus put it plainly, ‘Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.’

Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, ‘Let us go too, and die with him.’

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, ‘If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.’ ‘Your brother’ said Jesus to her ‘will rise again.’ Martha said, ‘I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said:

‘I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,  
and whoever lives and believes in me  
will never die.

Do you believe this?’

‘Yes, Lord,’ she said ‘I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.’

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, ‘The Master is here and wants to see you.’ Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him.

When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’ At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, ‘Where have you put him?’ They said, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus wept; and the Jews said, ‘See how much he loved him!’ But there were some who remarked, ‘He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man’s death?’ Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, ‘Take the stone away.’ Martha said to him, ‘Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.’ Jesus replied, ‘Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

‘Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me,  
but I speak

for the sake of all these who stand round me,  
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.’

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, here!

Come out!’ The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, let him go free.’

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

## The Gospel of the Lord.

