

St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

Harris park



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Tel: (02) 88638801 Email: harrispark@parracatholic.org

12 April 2026 | Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, That in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

1 Peter 2:2

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

Cf. John 20:27

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 Easter

Becoming Community



In her book, *Jesus Risen in Our Midst*, Immaculate Heart of Mary Sr. Sandra Schneiders points out that we are accustomed to translations that misinterpret this verse by adding a word not found in the Greek text to the second part of Jesus' command. Jesus commissioned his disciples to forgive sins, but when he talked about retaining or holding on, the word "sin" is not in the phrase. Jesus commissions them to forgive others' sins but to "retain" or hold on to people, not to their past sins. As Schneiders suggests, to retain the sin of another is to cling to the sin and reject the sinner - hardly the mission of Jesus.

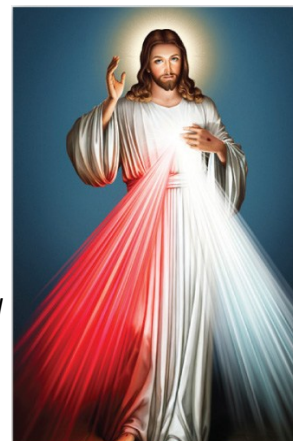
Thomas is Jesus' key dialogue partner in the second appearance story which begins just like the first: with peace. Except for his need to touch the risen Jesus, we don't know the details of Thomas' struggle to believe. Did he find the testimony of the first witnesses unconvincing? Was it doubt that death could really be overcome? Perhaps he couldn't believe that they could all really be forgiven for their betrayals. Whatever blocked him, it was symbolized in what Jesus had suffered; Thomas had to see for himself that one so wounded could be living and loving. So, Jesus acted out exactly what he had told the disciples to do: demonstrating how to be forgiving and hold fast to one who could be lost, Jesus invited Thomas to touch him and to take his place in the believing community. Thomas needed no further evidence.

Believing was a challenge in the early church, just as it is now. The first Christians struggled with how to understand the ongoing presence of Jesus. They came to know that they needed to be signs to others — to witness to and demonstrate peace, forgiveness and mercy. We have not seen him, but we have seen signs of his presence in others. Perhaps more importantly, others must see signs of his presence in us. Presence is mysterious and profound. When we experience it, we are called to pay it forward as we have received it.

In this second week of Easter the early community and especially Thomas stand as witnesses to us. Their stories encourage us to allow Christ's word of peace and reconciliation to touch us and move us into mission. They remind us that locked doors are ineffective against the appearance of grace and that Christ approaches closed minds with love and often even a touch of friendly humour.

This weekend Luke Thien Quoc Huynh takes a significant step in his journey of faith as he commits himself to the service of God's people in his Ordination to the Diaconate. Let us pray for Luke that he may walk with us opening the door for Christ to enter more deeply into our lives as we serve one another and build up our community of faith.

Fr John Frauenfelder



Divine Mercy Sunday,
Sunday after Easter,
Feast of the Divine Mercy

Other News and Events



THANK YOU!

Caritas Australia sincerely thanks you for your generous support of Project Compassion this Lent. If you still have your Project Compassion box or donation envelope at home, please return it next week at Mass. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps to bring hope and opportunity to people experiencing poverty and injustice.

Together, we are *Uniting Against Poverty* and walking alongside vulnerable communities as they build stronger, more sustainable futures.



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

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

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

Fr Paul's Corner

To all our parishioners

You're Invited to Celebrate Luke Huynh, Paul Tran and Jeff Hood's **Ordinations to the Diaconate** on the following dates.

- Saturday, 11th of April, at 6:00 pm, **Luke Huynh**
Holy Trinity Church, Cnr Randle St and 47 Bennalong St, Granville
- Saturday, 25th of April, at 6:00 pm, **Paul Tran**
St Nicholas of Myra Church, 326 High St, Penrith
- Sunday, 26th of April, at 6:00 pm, **Jeff Hood**
St John XXIII Church, 160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement and financial support of our seminarians.

We hope you can join us for one or more of these Ordination Masses.



Seminarians Luke Huynh, Jeff Hood, Paul Tran

Parish News & Updates

Sacrament of First Eucharist 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please complete the form in this link, <https://forms.gle/Vw5qwAFfrtYm6mZ18> if you wish for your child to begin preparation for the Sacrament of First Eucharist in 2026.

Children must have already received the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to commencing this program. Preparation will take place through a formation program that is family-centred and community based.

In accordance with CSPD requirements, children must be at least 8 years of age to receive this Sacrament.

Please refer to the timetable in the link outlining the session dates, times, and the celebration of the Sacrament Mass.

It is essential that your child attends all preparation sessions together with at least one parent or caregiver. This ensures your child is fully prepared to receive this important Sacrament and supports your family's ongoing faith journey.

Please submit all applications by Monday 20 April 2026.

Kind regards,

St Oliver's Sacramental Program



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 coordinates the Safeguarding training of parish volunteers. Our Safeguarding person is Milly and the parish office team.



Fr Paul



Planned Giving Envelopes

Please collect your planned giving envelopes for 2026-2027, if you have not collected yours yet. Thank you so much for your continuing support...



PARISH READING ROSTER : 18/19 April 2026

Saturday 5:30 pm Gerard Pinto / Robert Aquino

Sunday 8:00 am Anthony Melham / Katherine Katrib

10:00 am

Carol Isaac / Nick Tagnipis

Diocesan Notices

A conversation with the Sisters of Saint Joseph on Homelessness: 23 April

In partnership with the Sisters of Saint Joseph, join us for an hour-long conversation on zoom at 5.00pm on Thursday 23 April to raise some possible responses to the urging of the 2025 Bishops' Statement: Signs of Hope on the Edge. If you would like to participate in this conversation, please register by Wednesday 1 April: <https://parracatholic.org/events/online-conversation-homelessness/>

Vinnies Frederic Ozanam Mass & Commissioning: 30 April

Vincentian members and staff are invited for a special Mass and the commissioning of Central Council President Leon Ross, celebrated by Bishop Vincent Long. Thursday, 30th April at 12:30 pm, St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Mass will be followed by light refreshments in the Parish Hall. RSVP by Friday, 24 April to Earnest Henry: 0466 564 022 or Earnest.Henry@vinnies.org.au

Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers: 12 May

All liturgical ministers – readers, servers, extra ordinary ministers are invited to join us for our Annual Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers on 12 May 2026 at 7:30pm, at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Families and friends are also invited. Liturgical ministers are asked to please arrive by 7pm and be seated by 7:15pm. To register the number of guests and ministers attending please register by Thursday, 7th May via ofw@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795.

Sistine Chapel Revelations – An Immersive Exhibition: 16 May to 19 July

Experience the Sistine Chapel: Revelations immersive exhibition at St Mary's Cathedral forecourt, Sydney (16 May–19 July 2026). Discover breathtaking digital recreations, sacred art, and the story of salvation. Book tickets at sistinechapelsydney.com.au.

Nominations open for the 2026 Papal & Diocesan Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2026 Papal and Diocesan Awards, recognising individuals – both religious and lay – who have made outstanding contributions to the Catholic Church and its community. Do you know someone who deserves to be recognised? Nominations close at midnight on 30 June 2026. For more information or to submit a nomination, visit parracatholic.org/contribute/papal-diocesan-awards/

Be The Witness: Casting, Chorus and September Performances Announced

Be The Witness – The Musical, endorsed by Bishop Vincent, is progressing strongly. Acclaimed local theatre director Jon-Claire Lee has been appointed, rehearsals are underway with a 60-member chorus, and performances are confirmed at Riverside Theatres, 10–16 September 2026, including school matinees on 15–16 September. Casting Call for lead roles, Choreographer call and Marketing, Social Media volunteer opportunities are now open.

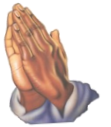
Email twisydau@gmail.com or register [@bethewitness.com.au](http://bethewitness.com.au)

Our Community

PLEASE NOTE: Weekday Masses will resume this week on 14th April.



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: Maxcyne Castellino | George Almonte | All those who died recently, especially those who used to be part of this parish community as parishioners or relations of our parishioners

Deceased: Bishop Arnold Arowa, Andrew Allen Pitaia | Raymond, Etour & Joe Romanos | 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, Rebecca & Petronillo 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: For all those souls whose anniversaries occur around this time

Sick: Marcia Clayburn, Roseline & Craig Meyn | Zachariah Cortez | Antonio Pires | 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: Sidney Lavyo Imbun | 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. For mass offerings or special intentions, you may use the envelopes provided at the church foyer.*

Mass Readings

First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 117:2-4,13-15, 22-24

℟ Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Let the sons of Israel say:

'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say:

'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say:

'His love has no end.' ℟

I was thrust, thrust down and falling

but the Lord was my helper.

The Lord is my strength and my song;

he was my saviour.

There are shouts of joy and victory

in the tents of the just. ℟

The stone which the builders rejected

has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,

a marvel in our eyes.

This day was made by the Lord;

we rejoice and are glad. ℟

Second Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time.

This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour.

You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

John 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe! Alleluia!

Gospel

John 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

