

St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

Harris park



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19 April 2026 | Third Sunday of Easter

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cry out with joy to God all the earth;
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise,
alleluia.

Cf. Psalm 65:1-2

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus
in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

Luke 24:35

ANZAC DAY MASS – Next
Saturday 25th April at 9.00 am at
St. Oliver's

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

3rd Sunday of Easter Year A 2026

He Shows Up Anyway

God shows up in messy rooms, rushed mornings, unsaid prayers, and in imperfect people. He shows up when I walk alongside and accompany strangers. Even though Luke Huynh was anxious and worried about how his ordination would work out, God was powerfully present at the Diaconate ordination of Luke Huynh at Granville last weekend. The grace of the Holy Spirit was poured out on Luke and the community gathered. When we feel that our days and nights are unfinished and that life weighs down on us, God shows up anyway in the messiness and confusion of our lives.

The road to Emmaus is a powerful drama depicting two men encountering the Risen Christ. While one would naturally expect to find one of the Twelve, one is not named in this Gospel story and the other is called Cleopas, a name we have not come across before. They are not part of the initial group of disciples who follow Jesus from Galilee. Luke instead narrates an apparition to two disciples who appear to be strangers. Could this Cleopas be the husband of the Mary who stood at the foot of Jesus' cross? (John 19.25)

Do we know this man from sources other than the Gospels? It would seem so. In fact, Eusebius of Caesarea quotes an earlier Christian historian, Hegesippus, who informs us that a certain Simeon, son of Clopas, became bishop of Jerusalem after the martyrdom of James in 62.

So, the wife of Cleopas, who was at the cross, and their son Simeon who became Bishop in Jerusalem after 62 were important leaders in the early Judaeo-Christian Church. For the Gospel writer, Luke, to include the name of Cleopas in the Emmaus story would have been significant for the early Church because Cleopas was the father of Simeon, the bishop of Jerusalem. Cleopas is not a central character, like the apostles, but the mention of his name as one to whom the risen Lord appeared shows how God revealed himself to others besides the Twelve in the early days of the church.

The risen Jesus meets the disciples in their bewilderment of what had unfolded in Jerusalem. Despite their bewilderment, the feeling of desertion, their search for meaning, Jesus shows up anyway.

He shows up in messy rooms, rushing to work, in the song of a busker, and imperfect people. He shows up in me. He shows up when I compliment a teenager who is struggling with confidence. Sometimes faith is a voice crying in the wilderness. And God has never once deserted us.

Fr. Paul



Other News and Events



THANK YOU!

Caritas Australia would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the parish community of **St Oliver Plunkett** for your generous support of Project Compassion 2026.

Your support is helping to bring hope, uphold dignity and create lasting change to communities facing poverty and injustice around the world. Together, your community raised money, helping to bring clean water, education, nutritious food, healthcare and support for those living with disability - showing what's possible when we come together as a Church to live out the Gospel message of love and justice.

Thank you for uniting with us this Lent to build a more just and compassionate world.



Fr Paul's Corner

CONGRATULATIONS TO DEACON LUKE HUYNH: As the Seminary of the Holy Spirit and St. Oliver's Parish we extend our heartfelt congratulations to God and Luke who, together, shared a partnership of love and faith over 34 years culminating in Luke being called by us, the larger faith community, to the next step of his journey to priesthood. Luke will continue as a deacon in our parish of St. Oliver's as he completes his theology degree. Congratulations and our ongoing prayers, Luke.

To all our parishioners

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

- *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 for 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

SAFEGUARDING EDUCATION DAY – Please diarise Saturday 9th May 9.30am-4.00pm- St. Oliver's Parish Hall. In preparation for a parish safeguarding audit by the Government in June, our parish (and all parishes in the Diocese and our Parramatta Deanery) need to be safeguarding compliant. Anyone who works directly with children-such as Acolytes, Leaders of Children's Liturgy and those working with children in sacramental preparation need to obtain an up-to-date Working with Children Check. Even if you do not work with children, you may be working with vulnerable adults and the 9th May date is an opportunity to become informed about the protocols a parish needs to be compliant with to honour recent Safeguarding Legislation. Please RSVP to Lilia at the Parish Office harrisark@parracatholic.org by Tuesday 5th May if you are attending. Tea and coffee provided. Please bring your own lunch.

Stranger and Estranged

When the inner stranger becomes our friend
The world is enriched
We have a fresh new voice to listen to and ponder
A new perspective to enhance our view
And our home is hallowed.

When our estranged is welcomed home it's a banquet time.
Noel Davis in *The Joy of Living Our Heart's Knowing and Imagining*

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

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 : 25/26 April 2026

Saturday 5:30 pm Jackie Perumal / Siji Devasia

Sunday 8:00 am Emelia & Judith Buehler

10:00 am Geoff & Monica Officer

Diocesan Notices

Bishop Vincent's Homily for the ordination of Luke Huynh to the Diaconate

By Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, 12 April 2026, Catholic Outlook (The following was extracted from article)

Dear Luke,

You are ordained to diaconal ministry today in the context of changing times. We face considerable head winds going forward. Yet like the disciples in the Upper Room, we have the presence of the Lord, wounded, risen and vindicated. We are strengthened by his power and his example to be the wounded healers beyond our own faults and limitations. Your ordination today brings joy, hope and renewal to us. The Church here and beyond is reinvigorated by your passion for the Gospel and enriched by your gifts. Your fellow clergy and God's people are strengthened by your companionship. May your work for the faith in Jesus Christ be blessed abundantly. May Mary our Mother surround you with her maternal love, inspire you with her faithful discipleship and support you with her intercession.



Image: Donna Laurianto/threetwoone photography/Diocese of Parramatta

Ministry of Care courses: 3-24 June

Those who visit the sick and are involved in the Ministry of Communion to the Sick and Dying in Hospitals, Aged Care Facilities and in Homes are invited to attend this course on the Ministry of Care. The course will take place every Wednesday in June at 7pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Please register via parracatholic.org/ministry-of-care-courses to reserve your spot. For enquiries, please contact fwf@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/

Free Weekly Legal Clinic at Catholic Care, Emerton

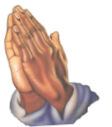
Every Thursday from 11 am at Catholic Care (11 Emert Parade, Emerton) you can visit for FREE legal advice on matters including: Family Law, Care and Protection, Local Court matters, Wills and Estates and Traffic Offences. Walk-ins are welcome, to make a booking call 8843 2500.

Our Community

PLEASE NOTE: ANZAC DAY MASS – Next Saturday 25th April at 9.00am at St. Oliver's



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: Roberto Mamaryl | Johnson Anthony | 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, 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: 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 2:14,22-33

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always,
for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me.
So my heart was glad
and my tongue cried out with joy:
my body, too, will rest in the hope
that you will not abandon my soul to Hades
nor allow your holy one to experience corruption.
You have made known the way of life to me,
you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 15:1-2, 5, 7-11

℟ Lord, you will show us the path of life.

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.' ℟

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. ℟

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay. ℟

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever. ℟

Second Reading

1 Peter 1:17-21

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Blessed If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home.

Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake.

Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

cf Luke 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 24:13-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free.

And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them.

And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

