

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

17 May 2026 | The Ascension of the Lord

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

You kingdoms of the earth, sing to God:
praise the Lord, who ascends above the highest heavens;
his majesty and might are in the skies, alleluia.

Psalm 67:33, 35

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Christ, offering a single sacrifice for sins, is seated for ever at God's right hand, alleluia.

Cf. Hebrews 10:12

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

The ASCENSION of the LORD

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations . . . teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." Matthew 28: 16-20

"You are Jesus . . ."

Marylou A. Rajdl, M.M., a Maryknoll sister, tells this story about her work in Chicago's Chinatown:

"I did medical and social-work translations and interpretation for new Chinese immigrants. One young couple had just arrived from China. The wife spoke no English and was pregnant with their first child. She was very apprehensive. I accompanied her to each prenatal and postnatal doctor visit. Her little girl, named Dorothy, was born with a heart defect. There were many more medical visits until the child was old enough for heart surgery, which was successful. After each medical visit, I would drive the family home and say, 'God bless you and Jesus help you.' One day, the husband looked at me and said, 'Sister MaryLou, I don't know who this Jesus is whom you bless us with, but for me, you are Jesus.'"

No one of us discovered God on our own. No one comes to Jesus because they read his biography and decided that Jesus is the Saviour.

Nobody can experience the Spirit of God in a vacuum. Every one of us came to believe in Jesus because of people we love and trusted, people who loved and trusted Jesus.

We discovered the love of God in their love for us. Chapter 17 of St John's Gospel is the prayer that Jesus offers just before departing for Gethsemane on Holy Thursday night.

Jesus begins with praying for his disciples to whom he has entrusted his Gospel of reconciliation and peace. He asks God to bless the ministry they will soon begin.

That ministry has continued through the centuries every time a parent teaches their child how to pray, every time a teacher helps a student understand a Gospel story, every time someone reaches out to another with the mercy and compassion of the Gospel Jesus.

Today, give thanks for those who helped you discover God and God's love in your life — and return the favour by sharing that same Word with someone you love.



Missionaries of Charity -Mother Teresa nuns walk with child in Chunakhali, West Bengal, India. Image: Shutterstock

Other News and Events

Attendance counts at all Masses over the first four weekends in May

The National Count of Attendance for 2026 will take place over the first four weekends of May, commencing on the weekend of 2-3 May 2026. This important initiative provides valuable data to support pastoral planning and resource allocation across our Diocese and the wider Church.

Pray for Persecuted Christians in Nigeria

Christians in Nigeria continue to suffer greatly for their faith, yet many persevere with deep trust in Christ and devotion to Our Lady. Aid to the Church in Need invites you to join with John, a Catholic farmer in Nigeria, in praying a decade of the Rosary this week for persecuted Christians and all who suffer for their faith.



During this Marian month of May, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is inviting all Catholics to pray a decade of the Rosary for those suffering persecution in Nigeria.

Scan the QR code or visit www.rebrand.ly/RedRosary26

Annual Laudato Si' Week: Saturday 17 May – Sunday 24 May

Join the Catholic Church across Australia and Catholics around the world in celebrating Laudato Si' Week. This annual commemoration of Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si' encourages us to care more deeply for God's creation. This Laudato Si' Week and Pentecost, let us gather in community to nurture "seeds of hope" for our suffering planet. Can we also continue to pray as Pope Leo XIV encourages us to offer "a prayer to the Lord who conquered death without weapons or violence." You can find more ideas for contemplation and action, resources, and events in the following sections:

Laudato Si: LaudatoSiWeek.org

Caritas: <https://www.caritas.org.au/resources/parish-materials/laudato-si-week-parish/>

Fr Paul's Corner

Upcoming Feast Days:

Sunday 17 May – Ascension of the Lord

Sunday 24 May – Pentecost Sunday

Monday 25 May - Feast of Our Lady, Help of Christians

Sunday 31 May – Feast of the Most Holy Trinity

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

SAFEGUARDING EDUCATION DAY

Saturday 9th May 9.30am-4.00pm at St. Oliver's Parish Hall. Thank you again to those who attended the training.

Parish News & Updates

CONGRATULATIONS and WELCOME to Levi Plan who will receive the **Sacrament of Baptism** this Sunday, the 17th of May 2026 at St. Oliver's. We pray and ask God to bless you and your family.



School / Parish Toilets Renovations

Beginning early next month (June), major renovations are planned for the school toilets. The car park will still be accessible for parking at weekend masses but there will be trucks, construction and temporary toilets located in the car park facing Wigram Street. It is anticipated that the scope of works would extend from 4th June to mid-July 2026.

Who needs to be counted for the attendance count?

Everyone who is present at the Mass or other assembly: all the adults including archbishops, bishops, priests, deacons and any other celebrants, all the children and all the babies. Don't forget to include the altar servers and anyone distributing communion.

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities for May 2026

There are several face-to-face Safeguarding Training opportunities available throughout May at different parishes. Please register directly for this training or for other convenient dates and locations by clicking on the training event at: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>. For more information, please email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

Positions Vacant:

Housekeeper Supervisor – **Holy Spirit Seminary**, Harris Park

Parish Secretary – **St Monica's Catholic Church**, Richmond

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

National Count of Attendance for 2026

Our parish need volunteers to assist with the actual head count at each mass time over the next four weekends in May. Please let us know if you can assist.

PARISH READING ROSTER : 23/24 May 2026

Saturday 5:30 pm Kristine Alba / Jim Hanna

Sunday 8:00 am Emelia & Judith Buehler

10:00 am

Patricia Armao / Natasha Joseph

Diocesan Notices

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 ofw@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795.

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/

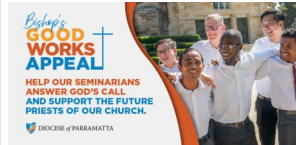
7-10 July 2026

WINTER PROGRAM

A four-day residential program to experience uni life at Campion College – sample lectures, conversations with current students, shared meals, and time to connect with like-minded peers.

Learn more and register: www.campion.edu.au/events

CAMPION COLLEGE AUSTRALIA



Bishop's Good Works Appeal

Across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, people turn to the Church for care, hope, guidance and belonging. Through the Bishop's Good Works Appeal,

our Diocese supports vital ministries including Holy Spirit Seminary, Catholic Care, the Ephpheta Centre and the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. Over the coming weeks, this Appeal will support Holy Spirit Seminary at Harris Park, helping form the future priests our Diocese will need in the years ahead. Your generosity provides education, spiritual formation, pastoral training and safe accommodation for seminarians as they answer God's call. Please give generously at parracatholic.org/appeal or scan the QR code. Thank you for supporting the future priests of our Church.

'The Power of Pentecost' annual event: 24 May

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal Parramatta Diocese and Emmaus Prayer Community Greystanes invite you to come and Celebrate Pentecost

2 pm Holy Mass, Praise & Worship, Talk, Prayer Ministry and Fellowship

COME RECEIVE THE POWER

Talk by Abraham George

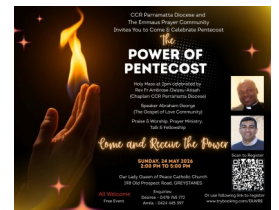
Sunday 24 May 2pm to 5pm

OLQP Church, 198 Old Prospect Road, Greystanes

All Welcome Enquiry Desiree 0478 765 772. Amila 0404

445 397

Free Event: Register via www.trybooking.com/DLWRE

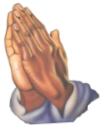


Our Community

Thank you for your generosity. FIRST COLLECTION goes to the Clergy Foundation. SECOND COLLECTION goes to the support of the Parish.



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: Rafael T. Paquia | Roberto Mamaril | Johnson Anthony | All those who died recently, especially those who used to be part of this parish community as parishioners or relations of our parishioners

Deceased: Michael Francis Ryan | Tonnie Soeterbroek, Fons Bazelmans | Clare Margaret Hastie | 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 | 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 | 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 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God.

When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 46:2-3, 6-9

℟ God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. ℟

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. ℟

God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. ℟

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers.

This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to

make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 28:19, 20

Alleluia, alleluia!
Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always, until the end of the world.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 28:16-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them.

He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that

I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

