

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

3 May 2026 | Fifth Sunday of Easter

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance,
alleluia.

Cf. Psalm 97:1-2

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the true vine and you are the
branches, says the Lord. Whoever
remains in me, and I in him, bears
fruit in plenty, alleluia.

John 15:1, 5

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



They had lived with Jesus only two years and some months, but with him they had learned to live with faith. Now on being separated, Jesus wants to have this strongly imprinted on their hearts: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust in me." It is his final great desire.

Then Jesus begins to tell them things that no one on earth had ever spoken before: "I am going to prepare a place for you in the house of my Father". Death will not destroy the bonds of our love. One day we will be together. "You know the way to the place where I am going". The disciples are bewildered by what they heard. How can they not be afraid? Jesus himself who had inspired in them so much trust would soon be snatched away so unjustly and cruelly. In the end, in whom can we ultimately place our hope?

Thomas intervenes to bring them down to reality. "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus responds without hesitation: "I am the way that leads to the Father". He is the way that leads from now on to the experience of God as Father. The others are not ways. They are diversions that lead us away from the truth and life. What matters most is to follow in the footsteps of Jesus until we reach the Father. Philip sensed that Jesus was not talking about just any religious experience. It is not enough to believe in an all-powerful God to experience his goodness, or in one who is too great and distant to experience his mercy. What Jesus wants is to instill in them is different. So, he says: "Show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

The response of Jesus is unexpected and magnificent: "Whoever has seen me, has seen the Father". The life of Jesus – his forgiveness, his freedom to do good, his forgiveness, his love for the 'least' – these all make the Father visible and credible. His life reveals to us that in the depths of reality there resides the ultimate mystery of goodness and love. He calls it 'Father'. Christians are sustained by these two sayings of Jesus: "Do not be afraid because I go prepare a place for you in the house of my Father" and "Whoever sees me, sees the Father". Whenever we dare to live up to something of the goodness, the freedom and the compassion that Jesus brought into the world, we will make more credible a God who is a Father and the ultimate source of our hope.

Fr John



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.



Deacon Paul with Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv following his ordination to the diaconate at St Nicholas of Myra Penrith Parish on Anzac Day, Saturday 25 April 2026. Image: Alphonsus Fok/ Diocese of Parramatta



Deacon Jeff Hood with Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv following his ordination to the diaconate at St John XXIII Parish, Glenwood-Stanhope Gardens on Sunday 26 April 2026. Image: Jazz Chalouhi / threetwoone.com.au



Fr Paul's Corner

On 11 April 2026, Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta ordained Luke Huynh to the transitional diaconate at the Holy Trinity Church, in Granville. Last weekend, our Bishop Vincent ordained Paul Tran at St Nicholas of Myra Church in Penrith on 25 April 2026 and Jeff Hood at St John XXIII Church in Stanhope Gardens on 26 April 2026.



Deacon Jeff Hood with recently ordained Deacons Luke Huynh and Paul Tran. Image: Jazz Chalouhi / threetwoone.com.au

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**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

**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.

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 Thank you very much to Gerard Pinto and Malcolm Malkoun for volunteering to assist with the attendance count at 5:30 pm Saturday and 8 am Sunday masses.



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**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 4<sup>th</sup> June to mid-July 2026.

**SAFEGUARDING EDUCATION DAY**– Please diarise Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 harrisparke@parracatholic.org by Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May if you are attending. Tea and coffee provided. Please bring your own lunch.

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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 : 9/10 May 2026

Saturday 5:30 pm Gerard Pinto / Robert Aquino

Sunday 8:00 am Seini & Ipolito Lasalo

10:00 am

Carol Isaac / Nick Tagnipis

Diocesan Notices

Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers: 12 May

All liturgical ministers – readers, servers, extra ordinary ministers are invited to attend 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.

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/

Be The Witness arrives this September - but the movement is already underway across our diocese. Join us for Witness Live! - a powerful event powered by music, story and community as we step into Be The Witness. Experience live performances (including exclusive previews from The Witness). Hear real testimonies. Connect with others who are part of this growing movement. Whether you're all-in or just curious, you need to be there. Come along. Bring a friend. Be part of it. Which Witness Live! event will we see you at? Why not all of them!

Sun 3 May – 11:30am-12:30pm at St Patrick's Church, Blacktown

Sun 10 May – 9:30-10:20am at St Andrew's church, Marayong

Sun 17 May – 5.30-6pm at St John 23rd, Stanhope Gardens

Schoenstatt Annual Marian Pilgrimage Day Sunday 17th May 2026

Program:

9.30am Sacrament of Reconciliation is available

10.00am Welcome & Opening Prayer

10.30am Holy Mass with Bishop Tony Percy - Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney

2.00pm Eucharistic Procession OR Anointing of the Sick

3.00pm Benediction

Please bring your Pilgrim Mother Shrines along.

Drinks & food will be available for purchase.

This is an outdoor event - bring your own chairs.

Address: 230 Fairlight Road Mulgoa

Contact: Sr. M. Rita 0493 026 628

Web: www.schoenstatt.org.au

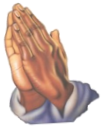


Our Community

Next Saturday, 9th May 9.30am-4.00pm, St. Oliver's Parish Hall - Safeguarding Training – Open for all parishioners, especially those working with children. B.Y.O. lunch, tea and coffee supplied.



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 | 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: Sayed Doueih | 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 | 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 Acts 6:1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked.

So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.'

The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

℟ Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. ℟

For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. ℟

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. ℟

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:4-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed.

That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!

Gospel

John 14:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?'

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. 'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

