

St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

Harris park



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2 August 2026 | Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O God, come to my assistance;
O Lord, make haste to help me!
You are my rescuer, my help;
O Lord, do not delay.

Ps 69:2, 6

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the bread of life, says the Lord;
whoever comes to me will not hunger
and whoever believes in me will not
thirst.

John 6:35

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

18th Sunday in Yr. A

'Give them something to eat yourselves!' (Jesus)

This week we have heard on the news about some tainted food on sale in our grocery stores. But Jesus gives us a bread, not only untainted, but the pure Bread of the Angels- the gift of Himself, the Bread of True Life.

A great miracle before a multitude: The miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 is found in all four Gospels, although the context and emphasis varies. Told no less than six times in the four Gospels, the event of the loaves and fish is the only miracle so emphasized. This is the only miracle, other than the Resurrection, that is told in all four Gospels, a fact that speaks of its importance to the early Church. [Compare Mark 6:35-44, Luke 9:12-17, and John 6:1-14]. The miraculous feeding narrative expresses the conviction that, through Jesus, we share in God's own abundance and in the promises made to God's covenant people: "The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs," we sing as our Responsorial Psalm (Ps 145) Refrain today. Matthew says that there were about 5,000 men, not including women and children. According to some commentators, this means that there could have been as many as 20,000-30,000 people present. The miracle suggests the Old Testament story of the people of Israel being fed with manna in the wilderness, as well as that of the multiplying of oil and bread by Elisha (II Kgs 4:1-7). The Gospel story should be treated as a witness to the power of God and an implicit declaration of Jesus' Divinity. In the Synoptic accounts, the story also shows Christ, giving the disciples the loaves and fish to distribute to the crowd, thus empowering them to continue his works of compassion. We may regard this incident, in which Jesus multiplied loaves and fish in order to feed his hungry listeners, as both a miracle of Divine providence and a Messianic sign. The lesson for every Christian is that, no matter how impossible his or her assignment may seem, with Divine help it can be done, "for with God, nothing will be impossible" (Lk 1:37; RSV2 Catholic). The twelve baskets clearly represent the twelve tribes of Israel as well as the twelve apostles who are part of the New Israel. They will become the twelve sources transmitting God's generous comfort and aid to His people. (Anthony Kadavil)



Other News and Events

Celebrate the Feast of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop: Saturday 8 August

Join the Sisters of Saint Joseph and Mary MacKillop Place as we celebrate the Feast of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop on Saturday 8 August. Make a pilgrimage to Mary's tomb, spend time in prayer in the Chapel, and celebrate the Eucharist with us at one of our Feast Day Masses:

8:00am & 6:00pm – Chapel

10:00am & 1:00pm – Glen Roy Green (outdoors)

The 10:00am and 1:00pm Masses will be AusLan interpreted, and the 10:00am Mass will be livestreamed for those unable to attend in person.

Other ways to celebrate Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop's Feast:

Walk with Mary in Hope and Wonder – Online Novena

30 July – 7 August | 7:30–8:00pm (AEST) | Via Zoom

Whether you're joining from interstate, overseas, or simply unable to travel, all are warmly welcome! Join us on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/92816949299>

Baulkham Hills Parish Gala Dinner: Friday 18 September

Join Baulkham Hills Parish for a memorable evening in support of their treasured heritage-listed church on Friday 18 September at 6:00pm at Fontana Amarosa, 49 Balmoral St, Blacktown. The evening includes a three-course dinner, live band & DJ, raffles and auction prizes. To buy tickets, call (02) 9639 0598 or email admin@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au.

Feast Days this week:

August 1: St. Alphonsus Liguori

August 2: St. Peter Julian Eymard and St. Eusebius of Vercelli

August 4: St. John Vianney and Bl. Frédéric Janssoone

August 5: Dedication of Basilica of St. Mary Major

August 6: Transfiguration of Jesus

August 7: St. Cajetan and Pope St. Sixtus II and Companions

August 8: St. Dominic and St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Fr Paul's Corner

• In seminary news, we welcome back **Joey Nicario** from the Philippines after the recent loss of his Dad. Please keep Nilo Nacario in your prayers.

• **Macky Amores and JV** are currently doing their parish placement in Alice Springs and at the Santa Theresa Mission. Desert places provoke identification and re-ordering of boundaries. It confronts people with their edges. Macky and JV will minister alongside the Divine Word Missionaries with the local Indigenous- Arrrente people.

• **Bishop Vincent** is taking the lead with landscaping and gardening around the seminary with creative topiary. The centrepiece is a dove over the world which images the name of our seminary- 'Holy Spirit,' and surrounded by an emu and kangaroo-Australia's emblems.

Fr Paul

The **Parramatta Way of Safeguarding**, developed in 2021, is a statement combining the voices of the community for the community.

The Parramatta Way of Safeguarding is to...

- Act with justice, and state that we have a zero tolerance for any form of abuse or harm to children or any person;
- Act with justice, and ensure that laws and obligations are upheld, and safety is paramount.

St Oliver Plunkett Parish is committed to being a safe place for children and adults at risk to grow in their faith.



Parish News & Updates

Emergent Issues for parishes from the 2023 Synod

Last Tuesday night about 12 of our parishioners gathered at the Diocesan Offices-Bethany Centre- with other parishes of the Parramatta local deanery-Rydalmere, Parramatta Cathedral, North Parramatta, Guildford, Granville, Dundas and Harris Park- to explore what aspects of the 2023 Synod were emerging in parish life.

We heard a reminder of the themes that came from our Parramatta Diocesan Synod in 2023, namely:

- Being an inclusive and welcoming Church
- Being a humble and healing Church
- Being a Listening Church
- Being a Church renewed in Spirit and Prayer
- Being a Church that reaches to the margins
- Being a Church walking together

In discussions within our Harris Park Group, we were mindful of our earlier post synod discussions and our reflections on Tuesday 21st July re-visited the above themes. It was felt by our parish representatives that themes 1 and 5 above were two current priorities-that need more attention: we are doing well with welcome e.g. with St. Oliver commemorations and bake-outs, but that more could be done week-by-week to improve welcome and

inclusivity. It was also felt that there were more elderly people and people with disabilities isolated in homes and nursing homes who we could reach out to. Theme 4 was one we looked at in 2023. In response, we have a Rosary Group; Adoration and Benediction on Fridays at 4pm and Sunday evenings at 5pm; we also pray the Divine Office of the Church at 6.40am every morning in the church.

Other issues were also raised on Tuesday night, and I wish to call together an open meeting in the next month or so to discuss other issues such as a Youth Group and consolidation of our Parish Council and other matters. But items 1 and 5 above are two important focus areas.

Fr Paul

Toongabbie Legal Centre (TLC) Fundraising

Toongabbie Legal Centre (TLC) would like to thank the Parish for their generous support of the raffle tickets sale last week. All proceeds directly support their free legal Clinic which provides free legal advice to the disadvantaged and vulnerable members of Western Sydney.

"Educating Communities, Advancing Justice | Since 2007"



PARISH READING ROSTER : 8/9 August 2026

Saturday 5:30 pm Jim Hanna / Siji Devasia

Sunday 8:00 am Anthony Melham / Katherine Katrib

10:00 am

Geoff & Monica Officer

Diocesan Notices

Annual Walk on the Solemnity of the Assumption: 15 August

Join the Annual pilgrimage walk on the Solemnity of the Assumption, beginning with 11:00am Mass at the Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents, Kellyville, followed by a 14km walk to St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Refreshment stops will be held at St Michael's, Baulkham Hills, and St Monica's, North Parramatta. The pilgrimage concludes with prayers at approx. 6pm. Banners and statues are welcome, and you may join the walk at any point. For enquiries, contact Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Office on (02) 9629 2595.

Married Couples' Retreat – Reflect, Renew & Reconnect: 5 September

At the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1 Marion Street, Blacktown, 8:30am–4.30pm, includes Mass with Bishop Vincent, light refreshments, and lunch. Couples will explore topics including Expressions of Love, Living Your Vocation of Marriage, 7 Principles of Making Marriage Work, Creating a Marriage First Aid Kit, and a Couple Prayer and Commitment Ceremony. Cost is \$45 per couple. Places are strictly limited. Bookings are essential. Register now at <https://parracatholic.org/marriedcouplesretreat/>.

Westmead Parish Gala Dinner: Friday 18 September

Join Sacred Heart Parish (Westmead) in celebrating its Diamond Jubilee, Friday 18 Sept, 6:30pm at Waterview Function Centre, Bicentennial Park. Following canapes on arrival, the evening includes a three-course dinner, DJ entertainment, raffles and auctions, with all funds going towards building the new parish church. For ticket enquiries, contact the parish office: office@sacredheartwestmead.com.au or see flyer on website: sacredheartwestmead.com.au/

Vespers of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop with Diocesan Awards: 7 August

You are warmly invited to join us for the annual Diocesan Awards & Vespers of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop on Friday, 7 August at 7pm, to be held at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. This special evening begins with Vespers (a liturgy of evening prayer) in the Cathedral, and celebrates the outstanding contributions and dedication of individuals and communities within our Diocese. You can read more about the Awards on the Diocese of Parramatta website: parracatholic.org/papal-diocesan-awards/

Baulkham Hills Parish Grow in Faith Program for Adults: From 10 August

The Baulkham Hills Parish community will be hosting a new series of Catholic talks every Monday and Thursday at 7:30pm, starting Monday, 10 August. These evenings are open to everyone aged 14 and above—for those who have been practising their faith for years, those who have drifted away from the Church, and anyone simply curious about the Christian faith. Sessions will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Baulkham Hills in the Parish Hall (underneath the church). For more information, call Lucas 0428 813 256.

Bishop Vincent Presents: Vatican correspondent Gerard O'Connell and Elisabetta Pique: 26 August

Bishop Vincent, in partnership with the University of Notre Dame Australia and Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese, warmly invites all to a special public lecture featuring two of the world's most respected Vatican journalists, Gerard O'Connell and Elisabetta Piqué. Hear their insider's account of the historic transition from Pope Francis to Pope Leo XIV. Wednesday 26 August, 6:00–8:00pm, at St Patrick's Cathedral Cloister Hall, 1 Marist Pl, Parramatta. All are welcome. Register at parracatholic.org/oconnellpique.

Our Community

Thank you for your generosity during our first collection (for the needs of the clergy actively serving in the Parramatta Diocese) and second collection (for our parish expenses).



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: Helen Atala | Nilo Nacario | Francis Xavier Dang | Rita Ippolito | All those who died recently, especially those who used to be part of this parish community as parishioners or relations of our parishioners

Deceased: Dominique & Teresa Nguyen | Marcelina Reyes Rael | Louie San Pedro | Tony Spires | Joe & Clare Boulous, Isaac & Ruby Moses | Namtallah & Patrick Malkoun, Frank & Ray Malkoun, Samiha Frome & Romanos Malkoun | Queenie & Nicholas Nicholas, Namtullah & Christine Coorey, Rizcullah & Patricia Coorey, Veronica & Jeanette Coorey, Jabour & Doura Nicholas & family, Saidie & Joseph Coorey & family, Najia & Toufic Samyia, All deceased members of the Nicholas, Budwee & Norman families, Vincent Budwee, Marica Kovacic | 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: Alonzo Rae Monis | Clare Boulous | Joe Boulous | Samuel Villamena Talisayon | For all those souls whose anniversaries occur around this time

Sick: Matthew Barretto | Isagani Rael | Kim Cunanan | Baves Ventura | 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: Jacob Barretto | 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

Isaiah 55:1-3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!
Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat
and rich food to enjoy.
Pay attention, come to me;
listen, and your soul will live.
With you I will make an everlasting covenant
out of the favours promised to David.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 144:8-9, 15-18

R. The hand of the Lord feeds us:
he answers all our needs.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. *R.*

The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live. *R.*

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
call on him from their hearts. *R.*

Second Reading

Romans 8:35,37-39

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ,
even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted,
or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even
attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph,
by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel,
no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not
any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can
ever come between us and the love of God made visible
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:4

Alleluia, alleluia!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 14:13-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining; twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord.

