

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

26 July 2026 | Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in
his house;
he himself gives might and strength
to his people.

Cf Psalm 67:6-7, 36

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.

Psalm 102:2

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

17th Sunday in Year A

The first two parables in today's Gospel – the parables of the buried treasure and the pearl – are lessons in the total attachment to Christ and detachment from the things of the world demanded of the disciple in order to make the reign of God in himself, and in the world, a reality. Having a personal relationship with Christ, that is, making Christ's view of life one's own, is the most beautiful, the most precious thing in the world. But most of the time, we are chasing false treasures like money, social status and pleasure. Jesus is our true treasure.

The parable of the pearl hunter: A well-to-do merchant on the lookout for quality pearls finds a very precious pearl ("pearl of great price"), and he immediately "sells everything" to buy it. In our day, pearls have lost much of their value. Firms have learned to culture them in vast pearl beds and even to make them artificially. However, in Biblical times, the pearl was probably the costliest and most sought-after gem. Jesus wants us to know that the Kingdom of God is worth all we have. He has come to offer us God's Kingdom, a unique pearl of the greatest price. The genuine disciples are those who respond to this opportunity with joy and selfless commitment, eagerly giving top priority to life in the Kingdom by doing God's will, whatever it may be. The "treasures" and "pearls" of lasting value are the things of God. They are the love of family and friends, the support of community, and the sense of fulfillment that rises from serving and giving for the sake of others. In order to attain such treasure, we must "sell off" our own interests, ambitions, and agendas and thus free ourselves to embrace the lasting values of the compassion, love, and mercy of God Who reconciles us to Himself. This parable teaches us that, although we are baptized Christians, we still need to pursue the true and full meaning of the Gospel, which can escape us for many years. We always need to understand more, to love more, and to serve more. The first and second parables also remind us that the most precious things in life are to know God and to live according to the Gospel. "Isn't it possible that what we want most is something very selfish: possessions, security, power, pleasure, comfort? What would the world be like if, instead of these, our one really valuable pearl was something like world peace based on justice for all? or the development of a classless society based on respect for all and the priority of need over want? or the worship of God through prayer, service, and a preferential option for the poor? What would the world be like? Jesus says it would be like the Kingdom of God/Heaven. Buying the treasure and the pearl is the beginning of wisdom; living out the influences of these purchases is righteousness." (Father Larry Gillick, SJ, Creighton University)



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

Wherever you are, you're invited to make an online pilgrimage through Mary's life. Across nine evenings, we'll journey through the significant moments that shaped her faith, courage, and hope, discovering how her story can inspire our own pilgrimage of life. 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>



CAMPION COLLEGE OPEN HOUSE
11.15AM-2.00PM SAT 1 AUG 2026

Open to prospective students and their families.
A great opportunity for high-school students who are exploring university study in the humanities.
Register to attend: www.campion.edu.au/events

Join us for Open House: 11.15am-2.00pm, Sat 1 August 2026

Free event – Registration required

Campion College
8-14 Austin
Woodbury Pl
Toongabbie NSW 2146

Register to attend: www.campion.edu.au/events

Fr Paul's Corner

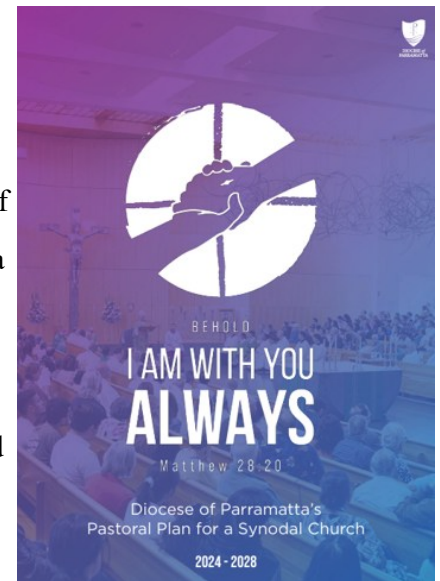
The Parramatta Way of Safeguarding is to involve Clergy, Staff and Parish Volunteers in the conversation about what makes Parishes safe for children and adults at risk

The Diocese of Parramatta is committed to synodality where all people, including adults at risk are involved in discussions and communications about safeguarding practices to ensure we are a humble and healing church.

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

Our Commitment to Safeguarding is guided by the words of Micah (6:8):

'This is what the Lord asks of you: only this, to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God.'



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) volunteers will be selling raffle tickets this weekend, along with some merchandise items. All proceeds will directly support their free legal clinic provided for over 17 years to disadvantaged, marginalised and vulnerable people of Western Sydney. Tickets are \$2.00 each or \$20.00 for a book of 10 tickets – with ten prizes. There will be pancakes for sale: 2 for \$5.



PARISH READING ROSTER : 1/2 August 2026

Saturday 5:30 pm Gerard Pinto / Robert Aquino

Sunday 8:00 am Seini & Ipolito Lasalo

10:00 am

Natasha & Kaitlyn Joseph

Diocesan Notices

From stories to solidarity – A table talk on Homelessness: 9 August

Join us for an afternoon of conversation, connection and community as we explore how relationships can inspire meaningful action on housing insecurity and homelessness. What is the call to us as members of the Diocese of Parramatta? What strategies can we put in place? What to Expect: Light refreshments, Table conversations in mixed groups, Practical action we can take together. All are welcome! Please register at <https://parracatholic.org/events/pje-table-talk-homelessness/>

Annual Walk on the Solemnity of the Assumption: 15 August

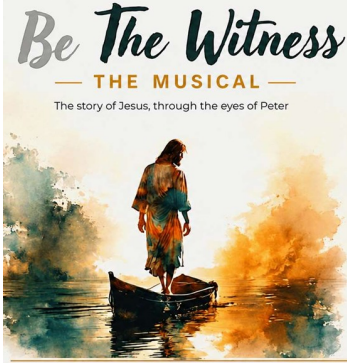
Join the Annual pilgrimage walk on the Solemnity of the Assumption, beginning with 11:00am Mass at the Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents, Kellyville, followed by a 14km walk to St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Refreshment stops will be held at St Michael's, Baulkham Hills, and St Monica's, North 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/>.

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.



Be The Witness
— THE MUSICAL —
The story of Jesus, through the eyes of Peter

www.bethewitness.com.au

10–13 September 2026
Riverside Theatres
Parramatta

SPECIAL PARISH GROUP OFFER

GROUP BOOKINGS 20+ Discounted Price!

Don't miss out! Book Now 

 **SCAN TO BOOK YOUR GROUP TODAY!**

www.bethewitness.com.au

With the support and encouragement of Bishop Vincent Long

Presented by Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown

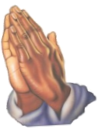
Special Parish Group Offer: a new Parish Group Discount is now available for groups of 20+ people. For more information and a gallery of images visit www.bethewitness.com.au. Contact: Minette Mendens 0452 562 725 twysydau@gmail.com.

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 | Paul Bazelmans | Peirina Tigga | All those who died recently, especially those who used to be part of this parish community as parishioners or relations of our parishioners

Deceased: Marcelina Reyes Rael | Louie San Pedro | Tony Spires | John & Tripony Pasangha, Reggie & May Perumal, Joe & Fatima Corera, Daphne Perumal, Xavre & Clara Fernando | 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, 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: 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 | Agnes Patacsil | 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

Mass Readings

First Reading

1Kings 3:5,7-12

A reading from the first book of Kings

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its number cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 118:57,72,76-77,127-130

R Lord, I love your commands.

My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than silver and gold. **R**

Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live
for your law is my delight. **R**

That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold.
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:
I hate false ways. **R**

Your will is wonderful indeed;
therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light
and teaches the simple. **R**

Second Reading

Romans 8:28-30

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

We know that by turning everything to their good, God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

cf Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 13:44-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

