

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

16 August 2026 | Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

Ps 83:10-11

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The With the Lord there is mercy;
in him is plentiful redemption.

Psalm 129:7

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

20th Sunday in Year A- Truthful persistence rewarded



Trustful persistence rewarded. Jesus first ignores both the persistent cry of the woman and the impatience of his disciples to send the woman away. He then tries to awaken true Faith in the heart of this woman by an indirect refusal, telling her, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But the woman is persistent in her request. She kneels before him and begs, "Lord, help me." Now Jesus makes a seemingly harsh statement, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." The term "dogs" was a derogatory Jewish word for the Gentiles. Dogs were regarded by the Jews as unclean, because they would eat anything given to them, including pork. The woman noticed, however, that Jesus had used the word *kunariois*, (the word for household pets), rather than *kuon*. (the ordinary Greek word for dogs). She also observed that Jesus had used the word for dogs in a challenging way, urging her to answer in kind -- a sort of test of the woman's Faith. So, she immediately matched wits with Jesus. Her argument runs like this: Pets are not outsiders but insiders. They not only belong to the family but are part of the family. While they do not have a seat at the table, they enjoy intimacy at the family's feet. Hence, the woman replied: "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table!" (v. 27), expressing her Faith that Jesus could and would heal her daughter. Jesus was completely won over by the depth of her Faith, her confidence and her wit and responded with delight, "Woman, great is your Faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." We notice that the woman was refused three times by Jesus before he finally granted her request; it was only at her the fourth attempt that Jesus rewarded her persistence, curing her daughter in answer to her pleas. This silently underlines Jesus' teaching (Lk 18:1-8) amplified by Paul in Eph 6:18) that we must persist in prayer. This Gospel episode is also an account of a woman who got more from the Kingdom of God than she had hoped for. She had come to Jesus asking for one miracle, and she got two: her daughter was exorcised of her demonic possession and received a new life, and the mother herself, through her experience with Christ, found a new life as well. The greatness of this woman's Faith consists in: a) her willingness to cross the barrier of racism; b) her refusal to be put off or ignored because of her position in life and c) her humility in admitting that she did not deserve the Master's attention and time. The Catechism reminds us that the woman in today's Gospel recognized in Jesus the messianic power attributed to the awaited "Son of David" (CCC #439). For, if one truly believes that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, one trusts him and fashions one's prayer requests accordingly (CCC #2610). (Tony Kadavil)



15 August: Feast of the
Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary

Feast Days this week:

August 18: St Helena

August 18: St. Andrew the Tribune

August 20: St. Bernard

August 21: St. Pius X

August 22: The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Other News and Events

Bethany Pilgrimage for Women: 29 August

The theme for 2026 is "Totus Tuus" ("Totally Yours"). There will be a decade of the rosary, reflection and personal prayer at each church. Adoration and Confession will be available at times also. This event is perfect for active women who would like to spend a day in prayer whilst pushing themselves physically in order to pray for themselves or family. Water, snacks and light lunch provided. Registration is essential \$20 www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1569560 For more info call Victoria on 0494173359 or email bethanypilgrimage@gmail.com

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/>.

Annual African Mass 2026: 27 September

The African Catholic communities of the Diocese of Parramatta, in collaboration with the Diocesan Office for Migrant Chaplaincies and the Nigerian and Ghanaian Chaplaincies, warmly invite you to the African Mass 2026. Join us on Sunday 27 September from 1pm–5pm at Mary Queen of the Family Parish (St Patrick's Church), 51–59 Allawah Street, Blacktown, for a vibrant celebration of faith, culture and community. Refreshments and entertainment will be provided following Mass. All are welcome.

Fr Paul's Corner

The Parramatta Way of Safeguarding is to respond to safeguarding concerns, complaints and reports.

The Diocese of Parramatta commits to a Complaints Management Process which is effective and accessible, with a focus on ensuring the complainant is supported in the process.

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.

Risk of Significant Harm (ROSH) – Children & Young Person (Care & Protection) Act 1988



Reportable Conduct (RC) – Children's Guardian Act 2019



Numbers to Call | In an emergency dial 000 - Office of Safeguarding 8838 3419 - Report to the DCJ Helpline 132 111

REMEMBER Confidentiality is vital in all reporting and recording processes



Parish News & Updates

Message from Fr Paul

- 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-Arrante 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

Thank you from the Commissary of the Holy Land in Australia



On behalf of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, which together with the Latin Patriarchate, cares for the Catholics of the Holy Land and its several neighbouring countries, **I would like to thank you most sincerely for your kind and generous donation of \$1,482 to the Good Friday Holy Land Collection for 2026.**

I wish you the peace and hope that the Resurrection of Jesus brings and may you know his peace in your own life. Let us also continue to pray for peace and justice for the people of the Holy Land and for all in our world facing conflict and violence.

Thank you and Invitation from Toongabbie Legal Centre Inc
Thank you for your generous support for the free legal service run by Toongabbie Legal Centre Inc since 13 Oct 2007. **You are invited** to the Dedication and Blessing of the land ceremony. The Most Rev Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv Bishop of Parramatta and other religious leaders will be participating in the Multifaith Dedication Blessing Ceremony of Land acquired by Toongabbie Legal Centre Inc.

On Sunday 23 August 2026, at 11.15am, at the corner of Portico Parade /Valeria Street, Toongabbie. Guests arrive from 10.30am. Lunch will be served after the ceremony to all. Kindly register using the QR code to ensure seating and catering. <https://events.humanitix.com/justice-margaret-beazley-centre>

PARISH READING ROSTER : 22/23 August 2026

Saturday 5:30 pm Jim Hanna / Siji Devasia

Sunday 8:00 am Seini & Ipolito Lasalo

10:00 am

Emelia & Judith Buehler

Diocesan Notices

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/

Positions Vacant:

Administration Assistant (Part-Time) – Sacred Heart Parish, Mount Druitt South
Senior Development Manager – Diocese of Parramatta
More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs



The Secular Institute of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary is pleased to invite you to a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving celebrating 100 years of our international community

Sunday 13th September 2026

Main celebrant:
The Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP
Archbishop of Sydney

Please be seated by 9:45am for a 10am start
Celebration to conclude at approximately 3pm

The day will begin with Holy Mass followed by light refreshments and a program

RSVP is required for catering purposes
by 1st September 2026



Parish bus groups are encouraged,
and registration is necessary for parking
General parking will be available onsite in the valley

An exhibition on the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary
will be available for viewing in the Family Hall
from 8:30am - 6:00pm

230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa 2745
www.schoenstatt.org.au sistersjubilee@schoenstatt.org.au

Bishop Vincent Presents: Vatican correspondent Gerard O'Connell and Elisabetta Piqué: 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.

Invitation from Deacon Dr. Michael Tan

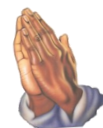
The Catholic Medical Association is hosting a GP Mini-Expo on **Saturday 12th September**, at which I will be on the panel discussing the issues facing good Catholic GPs today. Parishioners interested in finding out how to identify good Catholic GPs for their care are especially invited to come along. Also invited are our Youth interested in Healthcare as a profession on leaving school.

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: Arthur Bridge Sr. (father of Fr Arthur Bridge) | Fr Eugene Stockton | Celia Modelo | Helen Atala | Nilo Nacario | All those who died recently, especially those who used to be part of this parish community as parishioners or relations of our parishioners

Deceased: Deceased members of the Ashok Royal Family | Ernesto & Aurora Aaron | Pantaleon Jimenez, Gerondio Jimenez, Pascuala Dionson, Meliton Ortiza, Cleta Albina, Nicodemus Tagnipis, Sonanita Tagnipis | Dominique & Teresa Nguyen | 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, Jabour & Doura Nicholas & family, Saidie & Joseph Coorey & family, Najia & Toufic Samyia, All deceased members of the Nicholas, Budwee & Norman families, Jeanette Coorey, Kevin Coorey | 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: Ramon Tagnipis | 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: Ashok Royal Family | 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 harrisparke@parracatholic.org. For mass offerings or special intentions, you may use the envelopes provided at the church foyer.

Mass Readings

First Reading

Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 66:2-3, 5-6, 8

℟ O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. ℟

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. ℟

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. ℟

Second Reading

Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 15:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

The Gospel of the Lord.

