

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: harrisark@parracatholic.org

23 August 2026 | Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
save the servant who trusts in you,
my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord,
for I cry to you all the day long.

Cf. Psalm 85:1-3

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The earth is replete with the fruits of
your work, O Lord; you bring forth
bread from the earth and wine to
cheer the heart.

Cf. Psalm 103:13-15

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

21st Sunday in Yr. A- Keys to the Kingdom

In our first reading (Isaiah 22.19-23), the robe and the sash indicate that Eliakim has been invested with authority. The key symbolizes jurisdiction and the tent peg is a sign of stability. This passage prepares us for today's Gospel, Matthew 16.13-20.

In northern Galilee, near the Lebanese border and Syria is the source of the Jordan river flowing out of a cave at the base of Mt. Hermon. This place called Caesarea Philippi is Matthew's setting for "the Sunday of the keys" where Jesus hands to Peter the keys of ecclesial authority and leadership. Dwarfed by high cliffs, caverns and pagan temples, is a small group of apostles, one of whom is about to be named "Rock."

The question asked of the disciples by Jesus "But you, who do you say I am?" is the same question posed to each of us today. Who do YOU say God is for you?

Are we able to name God for who He really is? At Caesarea Philippi in northern Israel, around 30AD, Peter names Jesus for who He is: "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Jesus, in his turn, names Peter for who he is: "You are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my Church."

But Jesus was quick to explain to the apostles that he was no political Messiah. Rather, he was a Messiah who must suffer, die, and be raised to life again. How could this ministry given to Peter by Jesus die with Peter? Peter and his successors hold the keys to the Kingdom of God, and the gates of hell will never prevail against it. At Vatican II, the Council affirmed that same teaching authority of the Church by stating that "Authority is always to be exercised as a service and in a collegial manner for the building up of the community" (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, No. 27).

Following Vatican II, the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission issued a document entitled "An Agreement Statement on Authority in the Church" (1977). According to this commission, the model of authority in the Church is not political, sociological, structural or juridical but rather one of koinonia or 'communio' i.e. a union based on mutual loving service in the truth of Christ, activated by the Holy Spirit in order to create community with God and all persons. Pope Francis called this 'Synodality' which is the vehicle for carrying our Church through the 21st century.

Fr. Paul



Feast Days this week:

August 24: St Bartholomew

August 27: St. Monica

August 28: St. Augustine of Hippo



Other News and Events

Parish Feast Day Triduum & Celebration at St. Padre Pio Parish: 17-20 September

All are welcome to join St. Padre Pio Parish, Glenmore Park in celebrating the Feast Day of St Padre Pio. A 3-day Triduum Novena and Mass will be held on Thursday 17 Sept and Friday 18 Sept at 7:00pm and on Saturday 19 September at 5.30pm. On Sunday 20 September, a procession will start at 10am, followed by the Feast Day Mass, Veneration, Blessing with his Relic and fellowship meal. For any enquiries: (02) 4789 2232 or glenmorepark@parracatholic.org

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.

Eucharist28 Update: Eternal Life in the Eucharist

The International Eucharistic Congress ('Eucharist28') is coming to Sydney in 2028! At every Mass, the celebration of the Eucharist is a moment of communion, where we are united in Christ, whose body and blood we share. In the Scriptures, Jesus tells us, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life" (John 6:54). This invitation is for everyone, even those who have died. At each Mass, the Church offers the Eucharistic sacrifice for the faithful departed, that they may experience eternal life and unity with Christ. To discover more, visit eucharist28.org



Fr Paul's Corner

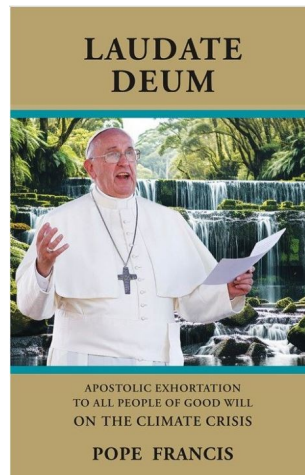
The Season of Creation

Care of Creation: During the month of September, the Church directs our attention to the Care of Creation. Laudate Deum, the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis in 2023, recalls Jesus' invitation to all of us to be attentive to the beauty and preciousness of nature around us and to contemplate the beauty sown by his Father: "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow..." (Matthew 6.28-29).

"God has joined us so closely to the world around us that we can feel the desertification of the soil almost as a physical ailment, and the extinction of a species as a painful disfigurement. Let us stop thinking, then, of human beings as autonomous, omnipotent and limitless, and begin to think of ourselves differently, in a humbler and more fruitful way." (Laudato Deum, n.68)

A new Mass formulary "For the Care of Creation" was added to the Roman Missal in 2025. It follows the call of the bishops at the Synod of Amazonia which spoke of "our care for one another and our care for the Earth as intimately bound together... and attacks on nature have consequences for people's lives."

For instance, in our area of the Pacific, the islands of Kiribati and Tuvalu and Fiji are already vulnerable to high tide flooding and in the next 30 years they will experience 15cm of sea level-rise affecting coastal communities.



Parish News & Updates

Bishop's Annual Father's Day Appeal

On the weekend of 5-6 September, the annual Bishop's Father's Day appeal will take place. This year's focus will be on Fr John O'Neill, recently retired Parish Priest of St John Vianney's, Doonside. This appeal supports all the retired priests of the Diocese, and your donations are very much appreciated. Full information will be provided next week, but if you wish to get in early, please visit <https://parracatholic.org/donate/clergy-support-foundation>

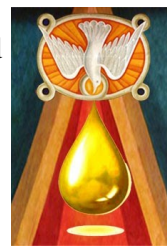
Message from Fr Paul

- 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- Arrente 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

Sacrament of Confirmation 2026 Enrolment

To be eligible for preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation at this time your child should be 10 years of age by the 30th June, 2026. Although, we do recommend that your child be in Year 5 (or above). Families are asked to carefully consider their availability before registering, as attendance at all sessions is an important part of the preparation process. Please register before **25th of September 2026**. Please note: The Sacrament of Confirmation Mass will be on **Sunday 22nd November 2026 at 10:00am**. Link for the Sacrament of Confirmation 2026 registration: <https://forms.gle/bMvzr2LSvKij2DES8>



Invitation from Toongabbie Legal Centre Inc

You are invited to the Dedication and Blessing of the land ceremony with the Most Rev Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv Bishop of Parramatta and other religious leaders 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**. 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 : 29/30 August 2026

Saturday 5:30 pm Gerard Pinto / Kristina Alba
Sunday 8:00 am Anthony Melham / Katherine Katrib

10:00 am Patricia Armao

Diocesan Notices

HOLY SHROUD EXHIBITION

Be a witness to the Holy Shroud Exhibition at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, from 6-13 September 2026. A **special presentation, "The Shroud Puzzle Solved,"** by author, journalist and Shroud expert Mr William West will be held on Sunday, **6 September at 1:00 pm** in Cloister Hall. All are welcome.

Married Couples' Retreat – Reflect, Renew & Reconnect: 5 September, 8:30am–4:30pm

At the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1 Marion Street, Blacktown, includes Mass with Bishop Vincent, light refreshments, and lunch, Commitment Ceremony, Creating a Marriage First Aid Kit and a Couple Prayer. Cost: \$45 per couple. Places are strictly limited. Bookings are essential. Register at <https://parracatholic.org/marriedcouplesretreat/>.



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

Be a Witness to the **Holy Shroud of Turin Exhibition** at St Patrick's Cathedral: 6-13 September

An extraordinary opportunity to encounter the mystery and history of the Holy Shroud of Turin. Show in the Chapel St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta from 6-9 September 2026. Open all day. 10-13 September 2026 - Open till late. And while you're there, experience Be the Witness, a powerful musical exploring the life of Jesus through the eyes of Peter from 10-13 September 2026 at Riverside Theatre, Parramatta.

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.

THE CATHOLIC GP MINI EXPO

Courageous Catholic Medicine in a Secular World

So many people ask us: "Where can I find a Catholic GP?" And so many Catholic GPs simply want to work in a practice that supports ethical medicine.

It's time to have a conversation about the highs and lows of the ethical medicine journey.

Please join our panel as we discuss what it means to be a Catholic working as a General Practitioner.

Bishop Bede Heather Centre
1-5 Marion Street
Blacktown NSW 2148

Saturday, 12 Sept 2026
2:00 - 4:30 PM

NEW SOUTH WALES
CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

RSVP via our email admin@catholicmedicine.org
by Friday, 11 September 2026

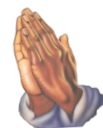
If you have any questions for our panelists please email them with your RSVP.

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: Alwyn Phillips | 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: Dominique & Therese Nguyen | Deceased members of the Ashok Royal Family | Ernesto & Aurora Aaron | Pantaleon Jimenez, Gerondio Jimenez, Pascuala Dionson, Meliton Ortiza, Cleta Albina, Nicodemus Tagnipis, Sonanita Tagnipis | 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: Alice Monis | 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 harrispar@parracatholic.org. For mass offerings or special intentions, you may use the envelopes provided at the church foyer.*

Mass Readings

First Reading

Isaiah 22:19-23

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord of Hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.
I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.
I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;
should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.
I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 137:1-3,6,8

℟ Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. ℟

I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. ℟

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. ℟

Second Reading

Romans 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom
and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his
motives or understand his methods! Who could ever
know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his
counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend
him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by
him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he
put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the
Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the
Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the
prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?'
Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he
said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon
son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not
flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in
heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this
rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the
underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you
the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind
on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever
you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'
Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone
that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.

