

St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

Harris park



Website: www.stoliversharrispark.org.au
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Office Address: 35 Wigram St, Harris Park NSW 2150
Tel: (02) 88638801 Email: harrispark@parracatholic.org

30 August 2026 | Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry
to you all the day long.
O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of mercy to all who call to you.

Psalm 85:3, 5

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How great is the goodness, Lord,
that you keep for those who fear
you.

Psalm 30:20

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

22nd Sunday Yr. A - Social Justice Sunday – Living the Gospel in times of Social Division



Setting your face for the road ahead:

Jesus' road to Calvary entailed setting his face with determination for Jerusalem and enduring suffering and the carrying of a heavy cross. If you have to set your face to go to a particular place, it suggests a certain determination in you. Like Peter in today's Gospel, we want to project our image of who Jesus should be - a king without suffering. It is much easier to stay within our own comfort zone or with an image of Jesus who does not

suffer. Jesus shakes Peter to the depth of his being. From Jesus applauding Peter as a happy man because "it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in Heaven to scathing words of "Get behind me Satan," Jesus challenges the false self which masquerades as "good" in us. The way which the Father has pointed out to Christ his Son leads to Calvary.

There is conflict between Jesus and Peter in the emergent Church. Likewise, our Australian society has for some time now witnessed an alarming rise in antisemitism, Islamophobia, and other forms of racism. The tragic massacre of 15 Jewish people at Bondi in December 2025 marks a grave escalation in violent hatred and signals a troubling decline in community safety and social cohesion. We still need to seek out reconciliation with our First Peoples for the untold stories of their massacres by early white settlers in Van Dieman's Land, Myall Creek, NSW through the 19th and early 20th centuries. There was also the confiscation of their land and the "stolen generation."

Fr. Eugene Stockton, a Diocesan priest of our Diocese, Aboriginal Chaplain, Scripture Scholar and Archaeologist died in Springwood on 5th August 2026. Eugene brought to his ministry the radical teaching of Christ and the ability to encounter people where they are. His life offered a powerful answer to a fractured and polarised world.

How are we to live the Gospel in these times?

1. Remaining close to Christ in prayer, the Bible and the sacraments;
2. Practising a "culture of encounter": listening before reacting, seeking to understand the fears and hopes of others and choosing relationship over caricature;
3. Exercising restraint in what we say - especially online - rejecting gossip, slander. Dehumanising labels and the sharing of unverified claims;
4. By concrete acts of compassion and justice: standing with those targeted because of their faith or background; supporting families under economic pressure and working for the common good through parish, school and community initiatives.

On this Social Justice Sunday, let us practise a culture of encounter: first with God in prayer; then in listening before reacting to others; then in our attitude to Creation. Let us exercise restraint in our words, listen and be familiar with silence where God speaks. And exercise concrete acts of compassion and justice towards others.

Fr. Paul

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands in which the Diocese of Parramatta sits, the land of the Darug and Gundungurra people. We pay our respects to First Peoples past, present and emerging for they hold the traditions, memories and wisdom entwined with the land that we meet on today.

¹Australian Catholic Bishops Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division (2026), 3

Other News and Events

Catholic Care WSBM – Free Legal Clinic – Fortnightly starting 7 September

Access FREE legal advice on matters including Family Law, Care and Protection, Local Court matters, Wills and Estates, Traffic offences. When: Every second Monday from 11 am starting 7 September. Where: Catholic Care, 3/163 Macquarie Rd, Springwood. To make a booking call (02) 8843 2500 or (02) 8843 2545. Walk-ins welcome.

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



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



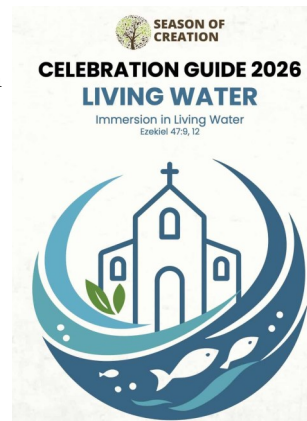
Fr Paul's Corner

Next Weekend-6th September we celebrate **Father's Day**, **Retired Priests** and the **beginning of the month for the Season of Creation**.

We remember the influence of our fathers in forming our lives. We remember them for their guidance and inspiration.

It is also a time to remember our retired priests and the Appeal for the retired priests of the Diocese.

The Season of Creation runs from 1st September (the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) to 4th October (the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of Ecology). The global theme for the 2026 Season of Creation is "Living Water," paired with the symbol of Immersion in Living Water. Inspired by the biblical vision in Ezekiel 47. 1-12, this theme highlights a powerful river flowing from the temple of God that grows continuously deeper, transforming barren lands, reviving stagnant waters, and fostering vibrant, flourishing ecosystems of landscapes and care for humanity. It is a wonderful image of the waters welling up to eternal life which speaks of our Baptism from which graces flow to us through all our life. Baptism makes us co-responsible with God for partnering in Creation, loving and raising up those on the margins, and worshipping God as our Creator.



Parish News & Updates

Bishop's FATHER'S DAY APPEAL

HONOUR A LIFETIME OF FAITHFUL SERVICE THIS FATHER'S DAY

DONATE AT

parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal

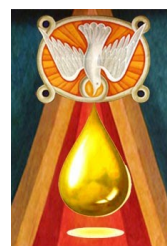


Bishop's Father's Day Appeal – Honour a lifetime of faithful service

We give thanks for the fathers, grandfathers, mentors and spiritual fathers who have guided us with love, wisdom and faith. Among them are our priests, who have devoted their lives to serving God's people. They have celebrated the Sacraments with us, prayed with us, accompanied our families and helped bring us closer to Christ. After a lifetime of faithful service, many of our senior priests now need practical care and support as they face the challenges of ageing, illness and retirement. Your generous tax-deductible gift will help care for our retired and unwell priests and ensure they can live with the dignity, care and support they deserve. Please give generously at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or scan the QR code. Thank you for caring for those who have spent their lives caring for us.

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>



Catholic Earthcare Season of Creation Gathering 2026: 3-4 September

Caritas Australia and Catholic Religious Australia warmly invite you to participate in the Catholic Earthcare Season of Creation Gathering 2026: Listen, Reflect, Act, a **national online event on 3-4 September 2026**. The Gathering offers inspiring keynote presentations and practical workshops to help participants deepen their faith and respond to the call to care for our common home. Parishioners can register individually for \$20. Groups can register for \$100 to join online from the same location. Learn more and register: www.caritas.org.au/soc-gathering

PARISH READING ROSTER : 5/6 September 2026

Saturday 5:30 pm Jackie Perumal / Siji Devasia

Sunday 8:00 am Seini & Ipolito Lasalo

10:00 am

Geoff & Monica Officer

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/>.

Pro-life rally outside NSW Parliament House: 15 September

A pro-life rally is to be held outside NSW Parliament House, at 6pm on Tuesday September 15th in support of a bill banning the practice of sex-selective abortion. A show of significant numbers will greatly help this cause as we advocate for the protection of all unborn children and particularly our baby girls who are especially vulnerable. They have no voice but ours. Please do all you can to attend and bring others with you. This will be a family friendly event. More information can be found at: <https://www.drjoannahowe.com.au/nswrallyforlifeseptember2026>

Positions Vacant:

Parish Secretary – St Madeline's Sophie Barat Parish, Kenthurst
More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

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

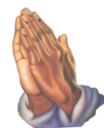
12th September, at which I will be on the panel discussing the issues facing good Catholic GPs today. Parishioners interested in finding out how to identify good Catholic GPs for their care are especially invited to come along. Also invited are our Youth interested in Healthcare as a profession on leaving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

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 | 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 Doueihy | Dominique & Therese 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: 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 | 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

Jeremiah 20:7-9

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.
I am a daily laughing-stock,
everybody's butt.
Each time I speak the word, I have to howl
and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'
The word of the Lord has meant for me
insult, derision, all day long.
I used to say, 'I will not think about him,
I will not speak in his name any more.'
Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,
imprisoned in my bones.
The effort to restrain it wearied me,
I could not bear it.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 62:2-6,8-9

℟ My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. ℟

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. ℟

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. ℟

For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. ℟

Second Reading

Romans 12:1-2

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

cf Ephesians 1:17,18

Alleluia, alleluia!
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our heart,
that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 16:21-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said 'this must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Feast Days this week:

31 August: St. Aidan
1 September: St. Anna the Prophetess
2 September: St. Ingrid of Sweden
3 September: St Gregory The Great

