

St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

Harris park



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Tel: (02) 88638801 Email: harrispark@parracatholic.org

9 August 2026 | Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Look to your covenant, O Lord,
and forget not the life of your poor
ones for ever. Arise, O God, and
defend your cause, and forget not the
cries of those who seek you.

Cf. Ps 73:20, 19, 22, 23

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The bread that I will give, says the
Lord, is my flesh for the life of the
world.

Cf. John 6:51

Weekday Mass times

Tuesday to Friday: 7:00 am

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday: Vigil 5:30pm

Sunday: 8:00 am & 10:00 am

**Extra mass for Feast of the
Assumption on 15 August at 9 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

19th Sunday in Yr. A



Gospel exegesis: The context: Today's lesson, the account of Jesus' walking on the Sea of Galilee, is one of the best-known passages in the New Testament. It forms a narrative bridge between the Jewish and Gentile portions of Jesus' ministry, as well as giving us a theologically rich story about Jesus in its own right. In Matthew's Gospel, the story follows the rejection of Jesus in his hometown of Nazareth (13:54-58), the death of John the Baptist (14:1-12), and the feeding of the five thousand (14:13-21). It precedes the account of

his healing of the sick at Gennesaret (14:34-36) and his confrontation with the Jewish authorities over the nature of tradition (15:1-9). In addition to being a collection of miracle stories (feeding, walking, healing), the stories also form a complex of narratives which, when taken together, speak about both those who recognized in Jesus the One promised by Israel's religious tradition and those whose doubts or vested interests had blinded them to the miraculous power in their midst. "In Matthew's inspired theology, the Divine Presence in human history unfolds in three stages: (1) God forms the people of Israel and remains with them in good times and bad; (2) in fulfillment of the Divine promise transmitted by the prophets, Jesus, the Messiah and Incarnate Son of God, is present among his people as their savior; (3) in these last days, the Risen Lord, through his disciples, is present to extend his saving mission beyond his particular historical time and land to all nations." The one constant in the drama of the Divine Presence in history is the necessity of human response to the saving presence with total trust. (Campion P. Gavalier, O.S.B.)

The challenge of trusting Faith: Jesus' walking on the water follows the miraculous feeding in Matthew, Mark, and John. However, the account of Peter's walking on the water is found only in Matthew. Thus, Matthew's retelling of this event also says something about Peter and his Faith. While we might emphasize Peter's fear, his sinking and his "little" Faith, we need to look also at his leap of Faith. Peter represents all who dare to believe that Jesus is Savior, take their first steps in confidence that Jesus is able to sustain them, and then forget to keep their gaze fixed on him when they face storms of temptations. From the depth of crisis, however, they remember to call on the Savior, and they experience the total sufficiency of his grace to meet their needs. It is this type of the "little Faith" of Peter which Jesus later identifies as the rock on which he will build his Church. The only Faith Jesus expects of his followers is a Faith which concentrates solely on Him. In other words, when we simply heed Our Lord, we can do great things. So, with His grace, we have to raise our awareness of God's presence in our lives. As we become more aware, we will step out and proclaim that presence, even in surprising places. (Tony Kadavil)



Other News and Events

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

"Though our crosses and sorrows are in a manner great, our own dear Lord's love is much greater."

Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop (1871)



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/>.

Feast Days this week:

August 10: St. Lawrence

August 11: St. Clare of Assisi

August 14: St. Maximilian Kolbe

August 15: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

There will be mass at 9:00 am on Saturday at St Oliver's.

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- 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

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.

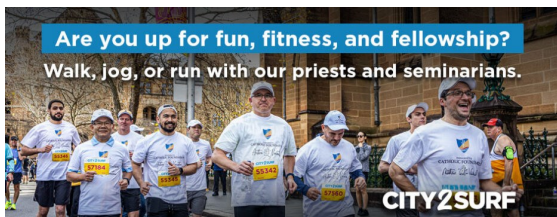
St Oliver Plunkett Parish is committed to being a safe place for children and adults at risk to grow in their faith.



Parish News & Updates

City to Surf -Sunday 9th August

All the best wishes for Bishop Vincent and our seminarians leading the Active4Vocations City2Surf Team, supporting our Holy Spirit Seminary. Now is the time for you to get up and running too-whether you choose to walk, stroll, jog or run! For registration, please click on <https://tinyurl.com/city2surf-2026-join>



PARRAMATTA CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

Active 4 Vocations

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Fr Paul has also requested that you remember in your prayers **Aki Tavalou** who passed away in 2025 – a committed parishioner and man of faith and a young man. A memorial ceremony will be held for Aki Tavalou and his family.



**Thank you from the Commissary of the Holy Land in Australia**



Holy Land Commissariat

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.

### PARISH READING ROSTER : 15/16 August 2026

Saturday 5:30 pm Gerard Pinto / Kristina Alba

Sunday 8:00 am Victoria Micalizzi

10:00 am

Carol Isaac / Nick Tagnipis

## Diocesan Notices

### 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 Multifaitth 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>

### 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](mailto:office@sacredheartwestmead.com.au) or see flyer on website: [sacredheartwestmead.com.au/](http://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](http://parracatholic.org/jobs)

### Holy Cross Procession in honour of the Assumption: 14 August

On Friday, 14 August, on the Vigil of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Holy Cross Parish Granville will hold its annual candlelight procession in honour of this day. Following Holy Mass at Holy Trinity Church at 6:00 p.m. the procession will form and walk to Holy Family Church. For enquiries, contact Holy Cross Granville Parish Office on 0497 190 444.

### 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](http://parracatholic.org/oconnellpique).

### Be The Witness Group Discounts Now Available!

Bring your group to Be The Witness – The Musical and save! Book 4+ tickets and save \$5 per ticket, or book 10+ tickets and save up to \$10 per ticket! Terms and conditions apply. This is a perfect opportunity for churches, ministry groups, and friends coming together for an unforgettable musical experience! Don't miss out – book now using the QR code!

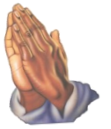


## Our Community

**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:** 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:** Ernesto & Aurora Aaron | Pantaleon Jimenez, Gerondio Jimenez, Pascuala Dionson, Meliton Ortiza, Clea 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:** 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](mailto:harrispar@parracatholic.org). For mass offerings or special intentions, you may use the envelopes provided at the church foyer.*

# Mass Readings

## First Reading

1 Kings 19:9,11-13

### *A reading from the first book of the Kings*

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

### The Word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 84:9-14

℟ Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
a voice that speaks of peace.

His help is near for those who fear him  
and his glory will dwell in our land. ℟

Mercy and faithfulness have met;  
justice and peace have embraced.  
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth  
and justice look down from heaven. ℟

The Lord will make us prosper  
and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
Justice shall march before him  
and peace shall follow his steps. ℟

## Second Reading

Romans 9:1-5

### *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

What I want to say now is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

### The Word of the Lord

## Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 129:5

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I hope in the Lord,  
I trust in his word.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel

Matthew 14:22-33

### *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

### The Gospel of the Lord.

