

St. Oliver Plunkett Parish

Harris park



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

13 September 2026 | Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

Cf. Sirach 36:18

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

Cf. Psalm 35:8

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

Twenty-fourth Sunday Yr. A : Scoring a Seven



Sometimes it's hard to figure out if the Lectionary addresses us as a philosophy class or a kindergarten class. Our reading from Sirach offers a little philosophy mixed with psychology, all under the heading of wisdom. The thrust of the entire reading is summarized in our first line: "Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight." We might wish that Mark Twain or C. S. Lewis had given us a short story illustrating that theme as both of them had a delightful ability to portray people's foolish ability to maintain their own misery while thinking they were exhibiting moral superiority.

Today's Gospel takes up the theme of what to do with anger or injury. With Peter as the one who starts the discussion, we seem to leave the college classroom and go to recess time at primary school. We can picture Peter looking around at the other disciples and raising an eyebrow as he asks Jesus, "How often do I have to forgive such as these?" With princely magnanimity, he proposes going to extremes. His question and semi-offer, "seven times?" is really a way of asking, "Should I forgive lots more often than seems to be reasonable?" Jesus responds with what could be made into a rhythmic playground chant: "Not just seven / but seventy-seven / over and again / forever and ever / Amen!"

To help the group get the message, Jesus weaves them a tale about a great con-artist who amassed a debt so big that their language didn't have real numbers to describe it. In those days, it would have taken an army of 100,000 with each soldier carrying a 50 kilo pack of silver to pay off that guy's debt. Putting on an Oscar-worthy sad face, the debtor begged for a little time to get it together, and the master let him off the hook knowing that repayment was ridiculously improbable. Then, that wicked charlatan who should have been throwing a block party to celebrate his redemption, instead threw one of his poor companions in jail for a debt that, while miniscule in comparison to the first, was way more than the poor guy could come up with. Of course, nobody cried when they heard that the once-forgiven, never-forgiving debtor ended up getting just what he had given the other.

The story Jesus told in response to Peter's question ultimately raised a much deeper question. Peter wanted to know how much he had to put up with in the community. The parable of the unforgiving debtor asks what kind of world disciples want to create.

Sirach told his readers that remembering that we are all going to die can shed important light on the choices we make today. In his novel *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, the Nobel Prize-winning author Gabriel Garcia Marquez told the story of Amaranta, a woman whose name seemed to be an indecisive combination of the words amor and amarga, love and bitterness. Amaranta had received a vision in which she learned that she was to weave her own shroud, and when she had finished, she would die. She did her work faithfully, sometimes weaving, sometimes tearing it apart, consistently reworking it until the day it was done, and she was ready to die. Her artisan task was symbolic of the undertaking of every human life. We each weave our own stories, mending, tearing, making mistakes and introducing new textures and themes; undoing and reworking until one day the task comes to completion.

As individuals, the life we weave is in our hands. We cannot determine what will come our way, but we can decide how we will weave it into our story, how we will interpret it, whether we will let it engender love or bitterness. As communities, the world we pray for can only come about through the work of human hands that are open to receive the grace and work together to make a world worthy of the people of God.

Peter asked Jesus: "How often must I forgive?" Sirach asks us: "Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself?" Jesus asks us what kind of world we wish to create. In the long run, forgiving what others have done may be a very small price to pay for the privilege of living in a world where the compassion of God appears not just seven times but "seventy-seven / over and again / now and forever / Amen!"

Fr John

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



Catholic Care WSBM – Pregnancy & Infant Loss Memorial Day at Mamre House & Farm: 13 October

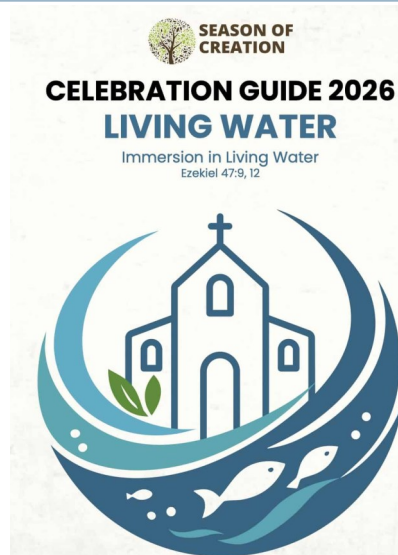
Catholic Care and White Lady Funerals will be holding a memorial service followed by the opportunity to place a plant in memory of your lost loved one in our Garden of Remembrance. Where: Mamre House, 181 Mamre Rd, Orchard Hills. Free to attend, please RSVP by 8 October to Lisa 0439 917 129 or Christy 4731 4385.

Ministry of Communion to the Sick and Dying Formation course: 17 October

Are you currently taking Communion to the sick and dying in the Diocese of Parramatta? If so, please join the Office for Worship for a day of ongoing formation to further your knowledge and understanding of this important topic. Saturday 17 Oct from 9:30am – 2pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Morning tea and Lunch provided. For more information and to register before 14 Oct at parracatholic.org/events/ministry-of-communion-formation/

Fr Paul's Corner

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

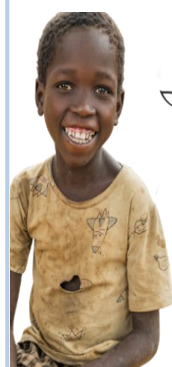
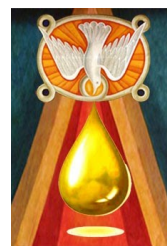


Bishop's Father's Day Appeal – Honour a lifetime of faithful service

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>



Free call: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/united

For Yamikani*, getting to school means walking long distances in pain, often without enough food or strength to make the journey. For many families in vulnerable and remote areas like rural Malawi, education has become an impossible choice.

But there is hope. Led by Fr Matthew Semba, a new primary school is being built, offering children a safe place to learn, grow, and look ahead with renewed possibility.

This World Mission Month, you are invited to share in this mission, standing with families as they rebuild their lives and create a brighter future for their children.

*Name changed for privacy

PARISH READING ROSTER : 19/20 September 2026

Saturday 5:30 pm Gerard Pinto / Kristina Alba

Sunday 8:00 am Emelia & Judith Buehler

10:00 am

Patricia Armao

Diocesan Notices

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>

At the Well Gathering – Half Day Retreat: 19 September

Centred on the theme “We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song,” we will explore the hope at the heart of our faith and what it means to carry that hope in our everyday lives. Whether you’re looking for community, creativity or formation, this Half Day Retreat has something for you. \$35 per person. Limited spots are available. Register at <https://parracatholic.org/events/at-the-well-retreat/> to secure your place!

Positions Vacant:

Parish Secretary – St Madeline’s Sophie Barat Parish, Kenthurst
Paralegal & Compliance Support – Diocese of Parramatta
More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Express your interest to be a Stall Holder or Performer at LIFTED Live in the Forecourt 2026!

Be part of a vibrant evening filled with music, dance, activities, food, and community fun hosted by Catholic Youth Parramatta on Saturday, 24th October, within the precinct of St Patrick’s Cathedral, Parramatta. We invite local performers, small business and organisations to express their interest via the links below! Expressions of Interest close Sunday 20th 11:59pm. Stall Holder EOI: <https://forms.gle/9cbyafAiumdgWW1dA> Performer EOI: <https://forms.gle/cza7pTd48eNL9MxM6>

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.

Got your wedding plans under control?

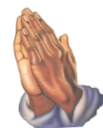
How prepared are you for marriage? Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life. We give you a chance to spend time together to strengthen and enrich your relationship. For further information visit our web site: www.engagedencounter.org.au Choose any of the coming Weekends: Nov 14-15, Feb 13-14

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: Lucreta Leonardo | Peter Phillip Helen | Tony Haddad | Alwyn Phillips | All those who died recently, especially those who used to be part of this parish community as parishioners or relations of our parishioners

Deceased: Andrew A. Pitaía, Bishop Arnold Arawa | (Unknown) “Recently passed away family members and other souls | 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 | 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: Vincent Budwee | Maurice & Martha Haddad, Barabaran Karam | Alonzo Rae Monis | 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: (Unknown) Family members’ peace | John Joaquin, Agnes, Napoleon, Manuel, Virginia & Jorge Patacsil & his families; Elizabeth, Michael & Maryrose Perez; Erwin Ayuste | For all our special intentions and for those who have asked us for prayers

Thanksgiving: Kimberley, Wap-Hill, Sidney & Richard | 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 harrispar@parracatholic.org. For mass offerings or special intentions, you may use the envelopes provided at the church foyer.*

Mass Readings

First Reading

Sirach 27:30 – 28:7

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus

Resentment and anger, these are foul things,
and both are found with the sinner.
He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of
the Lord,
who keeps strict account of sin.

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,
and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.
If a man nurses anger against another,
can he then demand compassion from the Lord?

Showing no pity for a man like himself,
can he then plead for his own sins?

Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment;
who will forgive him his sins?

Remember the last things, and stop hating,
remember dissolution and death, and live by the
commandments.

Remember the commandments, and do not bear your
neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High,
and overlook the offence.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 102:1-4, 9-12

℟ The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. ℟

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. ℟

His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. ℟

For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins. ℟

Second Reading

Romans 14:7-9

A reading from the letter of Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others;
if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the
Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This
explains why Christ both died and came to life: it was so that
he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!
I give you a new commandment:

love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

Gospel

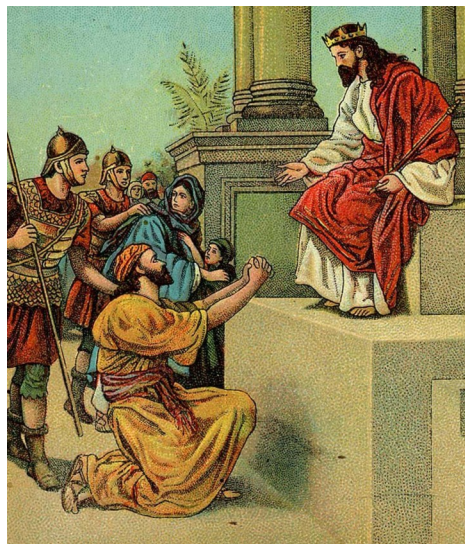
Matthew 18:21-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I
forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven
times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-
seven times.

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king
who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When
the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten
thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his
master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his
wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt.
At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet.
"Give me time" he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And
the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go
and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he
happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one
hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began
to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me" he said. His fellow
servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me
time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on
the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should
pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed
when they saw what had happened, and they went to their
master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master
sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said "I cancelled all
that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not
bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had
pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over
to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is
how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each
forgive your brother from your heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Feast Days this week:

September 14: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

September 15: Our Lady of Sorrows

September 16: Sts. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

September 17: St. Robert Bellarmine and St. Hildegard of Bingen

