

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

27 September 2026 | Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All that you have done to us, O Lord,
you have done with true judgment,
for we have sinned against you
and not obeyed your commandments.
But give glory to your name and deal
with us according to the bounty of
your mercy.

Daniel 3:31, 29, 30, 43, 42

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Remember your word to your servant,
O Lord, by which you have given me
hope. This is my comfort when I am
brought low.

Cf. Psalm 118:49-50

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-sixth Sunday in Yr. A

The Image of God



We've probably all heard the story of this little girl, we call her Angelica, but her full name is Michelle Angelica. She's aspiring to become a great artist. One day Angelica spread out all her crayons and bent over a large piece of paper. For a long time, she worked and concentrated as hard as she could. When her older brother came by and asked what she was doing, she replied, "I'm drawing a picture of God." The brother smirked and said, "Nobody knows what God looks like!" Angelica simply replied, "They will when I'm finished!"

While we may have never tried to draw God's picture, all of us have implicit images of God, some of which we have articulated, some of which are even more powerful for not having been brought to consciousness. Our hymns, religious art and the prayers we've learned have all subtly shaped our theology from the time we could focus or understand the words we heard.

One way we might uncover our implicit theology is by asking what we pray for and what we expect from prayer. We can learn a lot by questioning our theology in the mode of a five-year-old. What do we think God does all day, and what do we ask God to do?

When we demand punishment for crime or we strive to learn another person's language, we are unconsciously putting our theology on display. Our day-to-day activities and choices demonstrate what we see as the meaning of life and what we think God is concerned about. I think that's the idea behind Paul's message to the Philippian community when he said to them: "Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus." Then Paul went on to quote a well-known hymn that proclaimed the scandalously new image of God that they had encountered in Christ.

The very first line proclaimed the essence of Christian faith. Christ Jesus was in the form of God. That is to say: "If you want to know what God looks like, look to this man." The next line gets to the scandal of the Christian revelation: He "did not regard equality with God something to be grasped." That means Christ was unconcerned about looking like what people thought God should look like. His mode of portraying God in human form had nothing to do with displays of power or imposing dignity. In fact, it was the opposite.

Throughout his ministry, Jesus had tried to impart this idea to his disciples. They were fine with the idea that he was God's representative, but they had their own concept of what God should look like. Writing 20 or 30 years after Jesus' death, Paul used this hymn that shows how the community was coming to understand Christ's life and message.

This hymn tells us that the God revealed in Jesus is more self-emptying than majestic. We think of power as the ability to control. But this describes divine power as the willingness to be in solidarity with humanity even, or especially, in the direst of circumstances.

Paul says, "He humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death", indicating that to be divine is to be humble. It also explains Jesus' obedience as full communion with the Father whose desire was simply to share life with humanity. As the one who was divine and human, Jesus' life portrayed self-giving as God's constant activity and humanity's greatest possibility.

The last part of the hymn is the confirmation. Christ's way of giving himself, of remaining true even through the most degrading maltreatment humanity could invent, was the most perfect portrait of the self-giving God that history will ever know. Because of that, Paul says, God exalted him.

This is heady stuff. It requires all the concentration we can give it. This song proclaims the theory, the theology. We may be able to sing it. We probably ought to measure our other hymns in its light. But we need the Gospels to see it fleshed out — not only the Gospels, but the lives of our Christian community, past, present and future.

That's exactly what Paul was telling the Philippians. You know what Christ was like. You know how Christ revealed that God's activity is an eternal self-giving, no matter the response. Therefore, go and do likewise! Let that love come alive in you! Forget your petty egoism and vanity. Show the world what divinity looks like! In the process, you will become all you were created to be.

Fr. John

Other News and Events

Design our next Catholic Outlook Magazine front cover
We're inviting you to design the front cover of the Catholic Outlook Magazine's Christmas and Summer 2026 edition! People of all ages from across the Diocese of Parramatta are welcome to submit their artwork for consideration. Let's make this Advent and Christmas season a canvas of faith and joy – together. Please submit your entry by Friday 6 November 2026 – with a short description of your artwork – via parracatholic.org/artcomp

The FaithFeed ECHO: 6 November

Looking for a space that brings together creativity, music and meaningful conversations? Searching for a place where gifts among those in their 20s, 30s and 40s can be celebrated and empowered? Register for TFF ECHO – an experience from The FaithFeed. Food, drink and live music provided! Doors open at 7pm with live music from a 7:30pm start. Register via parracatholic.org/events/the-faithfeed-echo



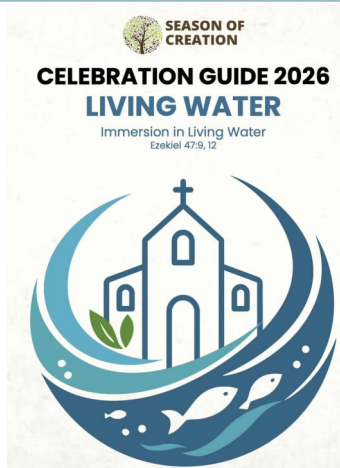
Engaging Your Faith (EYF) is back in October!

Catholic Theological College invites you, your parish staff, volunteers, and parishioners to our EYF online presentation series. The series

features nine stand-alone sessions on a range of themes, presented by CTC staff. Experienced academics from Catholic Theological College present on a variety of topics such as: science and faith issues including AI, moral theology, politics and religion, the Gospels of Matthew and John, biblical languages, canon law, and religion and ethics. Cost: \$25 per session: General audience || \$40 per session: Teachers applying for Catholic school accreditation. All sessions are booked directly through Humanitix. Please note that registrations close at 5pm two business days before each session. Email: ctc@ctc.edu.au || www.ctc.edu.au

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.



Daylight Savings:

Remember to move your clocks forward one hour next Saturday night, 3rd October.

Parish News & Updates

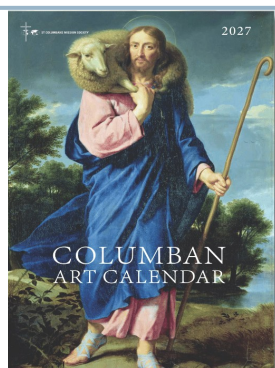
Call for new church cleaners:

Huge thanks to those who keep our church clean and attractive to parishioners. We take pride in our church as a sacred place, but daily use means that we need to constantly keep a cleaning roster going to vacuum carpets, clean the pews, prevent grass and rubbish being brought in, cleaning wax from candles etc. Ideally, we would like volunteers to only have to commit fortnightly or monthly, but to do this we need more help. We need new volunteers to sign up for our Saturday morning church cleaning roster.

Could you spare an hour or two on a Saturday morning to help? Please contact Tamra Hanna on 0401 689 768.

2027 Columban Art Calendars

Looking ahead to 2027? If you are looking for a 2027 calendar, we have limited copies of the 2027 Columban Calendars at the church foyer for only \$10 each. Please leave your payment in the box provided.



Thank you for your generous support of the Church in Malawi and the communities it serves.

Because of your kindness, children like Yamikani* will have greater access to education, nourishment, and the opportunity to build a hopeful future.

And if you chose to become a Mission Partner with a monthly gift - thank you so much for your ongoing commitment.

To learn more about the work of Catholic Mission in Malawi and around the world, please visit catholicmission.org.au/our-work.

Thank you again for your compassion, and please keep this impactful work in your prayers.

*Name changed for privacy

SAFEGUARDING IN OUR PARISH:

In our Parish of St. Oliver's, we aim to promote child safety in what we say and do. The Diocese of Parramatta's Statement of Commitment to Safeguarding outlines our commitment to being a community of safeguarding that actively promotes the dignity and rights of children and of all other persons, particularly those who may be at risk. Clergy, religious, employees, and volunteers are all required to undertake Safeguarding training and to follow the Diocesan Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Policy. Most of our parishes have a Safeguarding Champion who co-ordinates the Safeguarding training of parish volunteers. Our Safeguarding person is Milly and the parish office team.

PARISH READING ROSTER : 3/4 October 2026

Saturday 5:30 pm Jim Hanna / Adrian Agasen

Sunday 8:00 am Victoria Micalizzi

10:00 am

Carol Isaac / Nick Tagnipis

Diocesan Notices



Annual Marian Procession at Our Lady of the Rosary, Kellyville: 10 October

The Marian Procession is a special parish celebration honouring Our Lady of the Rosary, the Patroness of our parish and community. Following the 6:00pm Vigil Mass on Saturday, 10 October 2026, parishioners will process from Our Lady of the Rosary Church to the Shrine of the Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents, Kellyville, praying the Rosary and singing Marian hymns.

Bishop Vincent Presents: Kim Daniels on 'AI, Pope Leo and the future of human dignity'

Join us on **13 October at 6 pm** to hear from one of the Church's foremost experts on Catholic Social Thought and its importance in the age of artificial intelligence. A lawyer by training, Ms Daniels served for 10 years as a member of the Vatican Dicastery for Communication until 2026, and during the Synod on Synodality from 2021-2024 was an expert participant and coordinator of the study group that focused on the Church's mission in the digital age. Registration is essential, visit parracatholic.org/kim-daniels



Public Talk on Nurturing an Australian Spirituality – Pre-Colonisation, Colonisation and Walking Together: 1 November

Join Aboriginal Catholic leader Evelyn Parkin as she explores the meeting of Aboriginal and Christian spirituality, the impact of colonisation, and pathways for walking together. This presentation is part of a series titled the Stockton Conversation, named after the late Fr Eugene Stockton, STD, LSS, who was its inspiration and patron. Sunday 1 November 2026, 2.00pm, Mavis Wood Hall, Mid-Mountains Community Centre, 7 New Street, Lawson. All welcome.

WYD27 Songwriting Competition: Submissions close 16 December

Young people of the Diocese of Parramatta, we want your original song to inspire our pilgrims on their journey to World Youth Day! Open to individuals or groups aged 16–35. All musical genres welcome. Find out more and submit your song via our WYD27 website: parrawyd.org

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>

Major Pilgrim Relic & Exhibition of St Carlo Acutis: 28-30 September

The First-Class Major Pilgrim Relic of St Carlo Acutis will be at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta from 28 to 30 September. Come and pray before the Major Pilgrim Relic of St Carlo Acutis and experience the Vatican International Exhibition of The Eucharistic Miracles of the World. The Major Pilgrim Relic will be housed in the Chapel for personal prayer and veneration throughout the visit. All welcome. Find the full program on parracatholic.org/events/relic-exhibition-st-carlo-acutis

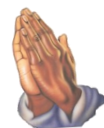


Our Community

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: 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: Dominador Dimero, Leonor Dimero | Pantaleon, Jimenez, Gerondio Jimenez, Pascuala Dionsion, Meliton Ortiza, Cleta Albina, Nicodemus Tagnipis, Sonanita Tagnipis, Aurellia Navarro | Dominique Nguyen, Theresa Le | Daraban Karam | (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, Vincent Budwee, Tannous Haddad, 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 | 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: Thomas Leong Sr. | (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: 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

Ezekiel 18:25-28

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 24:4-9

℟ Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. ℟

Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth. In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord. ℟

The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. ℟

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-11

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

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine,
yet he did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings in the heavens,
on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

John 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!
My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 21:28-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Some Feast Days this week

September 27: St. Vincent de Paul
September 28: St. Wenceslaus and
St. Lorenzo Ruiz
September 29: Sts. Michael, Gabriel,
and Raphael
September 30: St. Jerome and
St. Francis Borgia
October 1: St. Thérèse of the Child
Jesus
October 2: The Holy Guardian Angels

