ST. OLIVER PLUNKETT CATHOLIC CHURCH

35 Wigram Street, Harris Park NSW 2150
PO Box 9394 Harris Park NSW 2150

www.stoliversharrispark.org.au
(02) 88638801 harrispark@parracatholic.org

11 October 2026 | Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.

Psalm 129:3-4

Communion Antiphon

The rich suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

Cf. Psalm 33:11

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) 88638801

Office Hours:
Tuesday & Friday:
10:00am-3:00pm
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.

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

God's Surprise Party

In ancient Peru, long before the days of the marauding Spaniards, the Inca's preferred method of conquest was to overcome people with kindness. Emissaries of the Inca would go to a place not yet in the empire with an overabundance of gifts, signs of what the people could expect if they would become part of the Inca realm. Those who refused the offer learned some hard lessons from the Inca armies. They became the unfortunate subjects of a policy of dividing and exiling rebellious people from their home territory, neutralizing their threat to the empire. Long before the days of the mafia, the Inca made offers nobody should refuse.

That history sounds like a replay of the offers we hear in today's readings, except for the fact that Isaiah and Jesus outdid the Inca. When Isaiah gives us a picture of God's feast on the mountain, he wants our mouths to water. Picture chocolate cake, lemon meringue pie, creamy pastries, fresh fish, roasted lamb and beef on the spit, berries and cherries, milk and honey. The wine selection is like no other — aged to perfection.

This isn't just any celebration of a victory or national holiday. This is God's surprise party for humanity, specially planned for people who have been trapped in chaos and tragedy. Natural disasters and war have left them devastated. They've also failed to live their own ideals. According to Isaiah, they arrive veiled in mourning garb. This party is the last thing they expect.

Then they encounter God. Whatever their conception of the Almighty, they hardly expected God to hurry out like a mother and wipe the tears from their faces. They came, scarred from their battles, guilty of everything human beings could imagine, and God invited them in. When no penalty could compensate for their wrong, God made no reproach. The whole earth was coming under the judgement of love. Nothing less. That's Isaiah's story.

Jesus too talks about a party. He tells of a king (guess who?) who's prepared a wedding feast for his son. When everything is all set, the clergy, nobles and artists snub the servants bearing the invitation. Not to be dismayed, the king tries again. This time the fancy folk beat and kill the servants. So, the king sends them a marauding army. He sent more servants to find people worthy of his feast. This time they succeeded, and the banquet hall brimmed with a motley crowd gathered from the streets.

The simple people in Jesus' audience surely got a good chuckle from the story. The chief priests and elders probably found it a bit less enjoyable. But Jesus hid a riddle in the middle. After a moment of consideration, the listeners start scratching their heads asking what counts as worthy? The feasters included bad and good alike. What was the entrance requirement?

Jesus hid a couple of cryptic hints in the afterword to the story, the scene where the king caught sight of somebody who didn't dress for the party. The king went right to him to ask why. Obviously, if everybody from the streets had been able to present themselves appropriately, he could have done so as well. When the man refused to respond, the king treated him like those who refused to come at all — he cast him out into the darkness. Then, as if a proverb would explain it all, Jesus says, "Many are invited, but few are chosen."

Who are the chosen? Like the people who accepted the Inca's invitation, they are the ones willing to receive God's surprising and free offers. Their religious role or social position means so little that the higher the rank, the less likely they are to be at the banquet. Moral standing is hardly a qualification as Jesus made quite clear with the words, "bad and good alike." (Oh, how that word "alike" can disturb the ones who think they're good!) The only difference between the banqueters and those gnashing their teeth in the dark was the partygoers' whole-hearted acceptance of the invitation.

Jesus prefaced this parable saying that he was going to talk about the kingdom of heaven. As is clear to anyone who has read Isaiah, Jesus used images from his tradition and gave them his own particular twist.

Today, we see the banquet as a symbol of Communion and our celebration of the Eucharist. This parable invites us to consider who God is inviting and with whom we are willing to share the communal bread and wine. At each Eucharist we pray, "Lord I am not worthy." That doesn't matter to God. All that counts is our willingness to receive what we don't deserve. It's a surprising offer nobody should refuse.

Fr John

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

Music Workshop for Cantors: 15 October
All Cantors and solo musicians in the diocese are invited to attend the Office for Worship's new upcoming music workshop on September 10th. Mr Eric Grella will focus this workshop on tips and skills for those who are beginners and also advanced cantors. It will be held on Thursday 15th Oct at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre from 7pm-8:30pm. Please register via parracatholic.org/music-workshop

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

Fr Paul's Corner

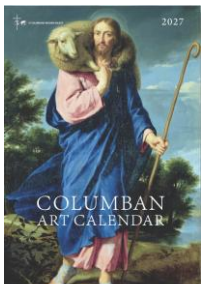


Remembering St. Francis of Assisi in the Season of Creation:
Last October 4th, we recall the memorial of St. Francis of Assisi- the patron saint of ecology and the end of our Season of Creation in the Church's Liturgical Year.
"For Francis, every being is a gift from God. Everything speaks to us of God. Everything speaks to us of God. The universe in its unity and diversity is a sacrament of God. Thus, loving the works of God and loving God are inseparable." (Bishop Vincent Long, Catholic Outlook magazine, Spring 2026,11)
In terms of our Care of Creation, as a parish, have we come close to fulfilling God's dream for us? Let us dream of a mission:
· Pacific island communities- our near-neighbours- are among the first and most profoundly affected by the climate crisis-especially rising sea levels. While we seem powerless to prevent climate change, can we twin with a Pacific Island parish to help fund a retaining wall to prevent saline waters intruding on their fresh drinking water?
· Water resources are becoming increasingly scarce; can we share our Water engineering and technology wisdom gained over the years as one of the driest continents in the world? How can water engineers share their knowledge of water allocation in the Murray-Darling river systems with other countries such as Somalia and Sudan who are experiencing massive drought?
· We are expecting the biggest El Nino event to continue building at an increasing rate and what hit Europe and Indonesia with huge bushfires in the Northern hemisphere in their summer will likely hit us in Australia this summer as well. Could some of us train as rural fire fighters for the upcoming fire-season?
· Here in western Sydney, our summer temperatures can be 10 degrees hotter than coastal Sydney. The concrete jungles around all our suburban areas contribute to the build up of heat affecting the elderly and vulnerable. How can we influence local councils to build more water features and vegetated areas with shade-trees to cool the areas of excessive heat?

Parish 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.

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: 17/18 October 2026

Saturday:	5:30 pm	Jackie Perumal / Siji Devasia		
Sunday:	8:00am	Anthony Melham / Katherine Katrib	10:00am	Carol Isaac / Nick Tagnipis

Diocesan Notice

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

Faith in Action – The Radical Love Story of Dorothy Day: 19 October
You are invited to an evening of conversation with Martha Hennessy, peace activist and member of the Catholic Worker Movement, co-founded by her grandmother Dorothy Day: Monday 19 October 2026, 5:30pm – 8:00pm, at Parramatta Mission, 119 Macquarie St, Parramatta. Registration is essential. Please register online at tinyurl.com/dorothyday-parra

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 1635. 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

Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass: 15 November
Join us for the annual Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass to be held on Sunday 15 November at 2:30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, followed by afternoon tea. Those celebrating a significant wedding anniversary will receive a certificate. If you would like to attend, please register your full names, years married, and numbers attending via parracatholic.org/events/wedding-anniversary-mass by 6 November.

Community Updates

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)

Mass Intentions Of The Week

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: Louis Royal, Pushparaj, Paapathi | Irudhaya Joseph, Rathina Mary & Louis | 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, Romanos Malkoun & Samiha Frome | 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: Maria Muoi & Peter Thanh | Rebecca (Tp) Conferido Marasigan | 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 Intention: 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: Luigi, Jackie & Jonathan Perumal | Mrs. Lourduraj & Regan | 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 harrispark@parracatholic.org. For mass offerings or special intentions, you may use the envelopes provided at the church foyer.

Mass Readings

First reading **Isaiah 25:6-10**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

On this mountain,
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples
a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines,
of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines.
On this mountain he will remove
the mourning veil covering all peoples,
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,
he will destroy Death for ever.
The Lord will wipe away
the tears from every cheek;
he will take away his people's shame
everywhere on earth,
for the Lord has said so.
That day, it will be said: See, this is our God
in whom we hoped for salvation;
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.
We exult and we rejoice
that he has saved us;
for the hand of the Lord
rests on this mountain.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm **Psalm 22**

R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **R.**

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **R.**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **R.**

Second reading **Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Philippians

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

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 22:1-14**

Jesus began to speak to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He despatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out on to the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Some Feast Days this week:

October 12: St Wilfred , Bishop
October 13: St Edward the Confessor
October 14: St Callistus I, Pope, Martyr
October 15: St Teresa of Jesus Virgin, Doctor of the Church
October 16: St Hedwig, Religious;
St Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin;
St Richard Gwyn, schoolmaster, Martyr
October 17: St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop, Martyr