# 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

## 18 October 2026 | Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Entrance Antiphon**

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

Cf. Psalm 16:6, 8

**Communion Antiphon**

The Son of man has come to give his life as a ransom for many.

Mark 10:45

**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.

### 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

### God and Caesar

Jesus was being trapped in a pincer movement on the question to see whether he would declare himself on the side of those who opposed paying taxes to the Romans (the Pharisees) or on the side of those who collaborated with the Romans (the Herodians). The question posed to Jesus was an attempt to draw him into the world of politics. Politics had a bad name in Jesus' time as it does today, but Jesus is not lured into their trap. Jesus springs his reply. He asks them to show him the coin used for the poll tax.

Like the Pharisees, Jesus is probably not opposed to paying taxes if this is necessary for peaceful co-existence (see Matthew 17.24-27) but such an obligation is worthless when compared to the ultimate loyalty that is owed to God.

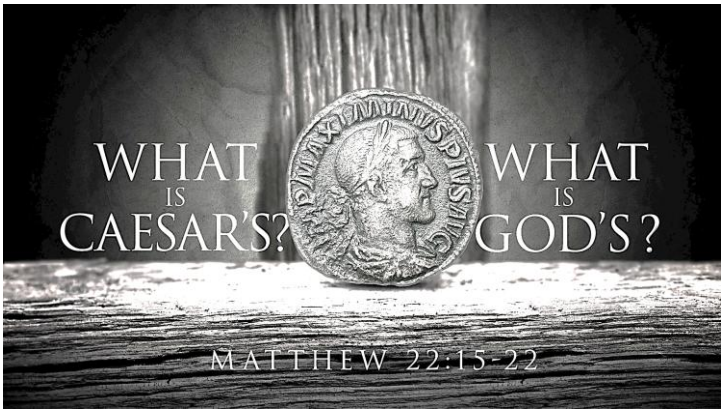
"In Jesus' hand, the coin becomes a kind of parable. Real wisdom recognises the legitimate function of human authority in relation to God's authority. Vatican II reminded Christians, 'as citizens of two cities, to strive to discharge their earthly duties conscientiously and in response to the Gospel Spirit.' What is demanded is that we engage in the difficult discernment of how we live in history and society and also, and above all, be aware of our commitment to the reign of God. As with most of his parables, Jesus does not elaborate "how" to do this."

Instead, Jesus leaves it to our initiative to discern how we are to discharge our civic obligations with respect to God's reign. Jesus gives us an ethical task rather than a detailed description because he gives us freedom and relies on our ingenuity to honour His reign while building the common good.

Such an ethical task finds realization in current controversies such as how we bring in ethical considerations to the matter of runaway AI technologies. The 'city of God' (ethical considerations) needs to be brought alongside the 'city of humankind' (rapid and runaway AI technology). They are both sides of the same coin and need each other.

In Jesus' hand the coin becomes a kind of parable for all of life.

Fr. Paul



# 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

**Toongabbie Legal Centre is hosting an Annual Dinner on 31 October 2026.** 5:30 pm – 11.45 pm
Blacktown Leisure Centre Stanhope, Stanhope Gardens




Book via Humanitix

# Fr Paul's Corner

**World Mission Sunday: 18 October**

(From Catholic Mission email)

Join the universal Church and our global family in celebrating the 100th anniversary of World Mission Sunday under the theme, 'One in Christ, united in mission'.

This year, as we celebrate 100 years of World Mission Sunday, the Church across the world reflects on the theme chosen by Pope Leo XIV, "One in Christ, United in Mission." This is not only a theme – it is a spiritual truth.

On this 100th World Mission Sunday, we remember the countless missionaries – past and present – who gave and still give their lives to the Gospel. Many left homeland and comfort to serve remote communities. Others remained in their home countries but lived with missionary intentionality, supporting the Church's global mission through prayer and sacrifice.

As we celebrate 100 years of World Mission Day, we are reminded by Pope Leo XIV that we are 'One in Christ, United in Mission'.

Every year, the Pope shares a special message with us all. This year, Pope Leo XIV asks us to be 'One in Christ, United in Mission'. That means we are all part of God's family, and he is asking us to help, love, and care for those in need, wherever they are.

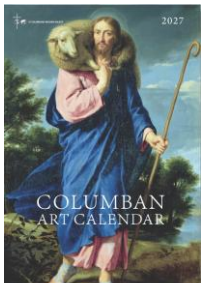
Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

'Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

# 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:** 24/25 October 2026

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| Saturday: | 5:30 pm | Jim Hanna / Adrian Agasen | | |
| Sunday: | 8:00am | Emelia & Judith Buehler | 10:00am | Patricia Armao |

# Diocesan Notice

**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.

**Parramatta Street Feast: 17 November**
You are warmly invited to the Parramatta Street Feast, a Festival of Welcome: 17 November 2026, 10:45am–2:30pm, St Patrick's Cathedral Precinct, Parramatta. It's a space for people from all walks of life to come together in a spirit of community, solidarity and friendship, and to enjoy delicious food, free services, creative activities and great music! You can support the Street Feast as a volunteer, or share your talent by hosting an activity table. Find out more and express your interest at parracatholic.org/streetfeast

**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

**Serving at the Altar Workshop: 14 November**
A day of ongoing formation for acolytes and ministers of the altar will be held at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre on Saturday 14 November, 2026 from 9:30am-3pm. Morning tea and lunch will be provided. Topics covered: Basic structure of the Mass: including how various rites can be inserted into the Mass, practical scenarios of planning celebrations, the use of incense, benediction, planning Mass with the Bishop and time for all your questions. Please register by 9 November at parracatholic.org/events/ofw

**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)**




*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**: Nagova Malek | 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:** Elizabeth Khoury | Consovacion Concepcion | 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:** Jemal, Kone Wetzell (birthdays) | 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:** Rosa Wetzel & family | 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 45:1,4-6**

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whom he has taken by his right hand
to subdue nations before him
and strip the loins of kings,
to force gateways before him
that their gates be closed no more:

'It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,
of Israel my chosen one,
that I have called you by your name,
conferring a title though you do not know me.
I am the Lord, unrivalled;
there is no other God besides me.
Though you do not know me, I arm you
that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun
that, apart from me, all is nothing.'

**The Word of the Lord**

**Responsorial Psalm** **Psalm 95:1,3-5,7-10**

**R. Give the Lord glory and honour.**

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**

Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens. **R.**

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts. **R.**

Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness. **R.**

**Second reading** **1 Thessalonians 1:1-5**

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians**

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

**The Word of the Lord**

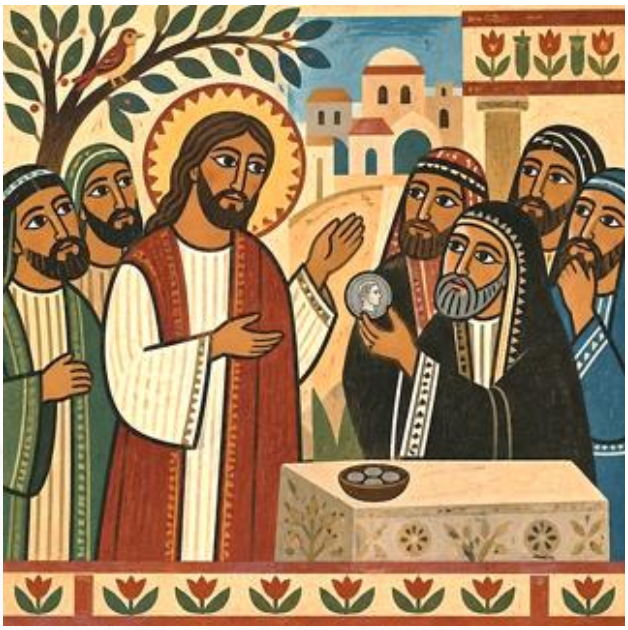
**Gospel Acclamation** **Philippians 2:15-16**

Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia!

**Gospel** **Matthew 22:15-21**

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**



**Some Feast Days this week:**

October 12: St Wilfred , Bishop
19 October: Saints John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues
Saint Paul of the Cross
22 October: Saint John Paul II (Pope)
23 October: World Mission Day (observed in various Australian dioceses)
Saint John of Capistrano
24 October: Saint Anthony Mary Claret
Saturday Mass of the Virgin Mary