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

25 October 2026 | Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;
turn to the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.

Cf. Psalm 104:3-4

Communion Antiphon

We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.

Cf. Psalm 19:6

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.

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A: That They May All Be One



Life often demands focus on what we deem important, how we spend our time, what sacrifices we are willing to make and how much it will cost. The rules and resolutions we make are often good indicators of what we consider central to our livelihood.

Such was the life of Martin Luther, an Augustinian monk, who in 1517, expressed concern for the livelihood of the church. Luther disseminated ninety -five theses to various church bishops and officials in Wittenberg, Germany asking for a debate on certain issues within the church that he felt were abuses contrary to the Gospel and Jesus' teachings. His bold proclamation set into motion a series of events that would eventually become the Protestant Reformation.

As Luther was confronted by the theologians of his time for his strong convictions, so too was Jesus confronted by the Pharisees regarding the rules good, upstanding Jews should observe. "Which one of the Torah regulations is at the core of all the other commandments?" With so many rules and regulations, some would get more attention than others. The lawyer's question in today's Gospel, while apparently meant to test Jesus, is a legitimate question: "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"

Jesus responds by quoting two commands from the law which, for him, encompasses all the others: Love God and love your neighbour as yourself. Loving God is the first and the greatest commandment; therefore, by extension, loving neighbour as self is equivalent to loving God. Jesus affirms that "the whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments." While this linking was not unique to Jesus, it does get at the heart of Jesus' mission and ministry.

Matthew had already indicated this link when Jesus gives missionary instructions to his disciples. In sending them out, Jesus assures them that "whoever welcomes you, welcomes me" (Matthew 10:40). Matthew later sums up Jesus' teachings (which is the Gospel reading for the upcoming feast of Christ the King). This fitting conclusion to the liturgical year has the Lord declare: "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40). Our intimacy with the Lord will be based on the love and intimacy we have shared with all of God's people.

The reading from Exodus greatly concretizes Jesus' teaching. The alien, the widow, the orphan and the poor are our neighbours. In most societies, these people are vulnerable in so many ways because they have little or no legal or economic rights, privileges or power. Their survival depends on the goodness, generosity and compassion of others. We are commanded to treat others with compassion because our loving God is merciful and compassionate towards us, most especially when we are in need. Our God is slow to anger and rich in kindness, not counting our offenses against us. Such loving relationship with God empowers us to call upon God in our need. Jesus and all of Scripture affirm that God hears our cry for help and responds with generosity and compassion. We too need to respond in kind, for we are the living presence and image of God to one another. This demand is difficult for us to practice consistently. With Psalm 18, we acknowledge that only with God's help do we have the courage and strength to offer compassion and love to all, most especially the poor and powerless.

These readings help us focus on what is important in Christian living. How should our understanding of the demands of love and compassion for all of God's people impact relationships with fellow Christians?

On this last Sunday of October, long celebrated as "Reformation Sunday" by Protestant denominations, the church commemorates the anniversary of the Reformation. We recall the progress that has been made in reconciliation and mutual understanding between the various Christian churches, especially since the Second Vatican Council.

It is important that as Catholic Christians, we too pay attention to this significant commemoration, recalling it, realistically seeing how we might have contributed to it, seeking reconciliation and always striving for Christian unity. Today's readings provide an excellent opportunity to expound on what unites us as Christians. These scriptural passages help us focus on the essential aspects of discipleship while letting go of those things that are not crucial or essential to Christian living.

Focusing on what unites us as Christians - love of God and love of neighbour as self = reaffirms that nothing is more important to Christian living than this.

Let us strive for that unity Jesus prayed for his disciples in John 17, "that they may all be one."

Fr John Frauenfelder

News and Events

Music Workshop for Advent: 5 November
All musicians in the diocese are invited to attend the Office for Worship's upcoming music workshop on November 5th. Mr Eric Grella will focus this workshop on choosing music that is suitable for the liturgical season of Advent and will be present to answer any questions you may have. It will be held on Thursday 5th Nov 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

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



November is Dedicated to the Holy Souls

On All Saints' Day, the 1st of November, we honour all the saints, both known and unknown, and on All Souls' Day, the 2nd of November, we are dedicated to praying for those who have died.

In November, we remember the souls in purgatory who need our prayers. All masses to be celebrated at St Oliver's during this month will be offered for all those who have died, especially for those our parishioners have asked to be remembered. You may use the November mass offering envelopes to write the names of your departed loved ones which will be entered in our book of remembrance to be placed in front of the altar during this month of November. The names of the deceased will not be published in the bulletin during this month, except for those who died recently.

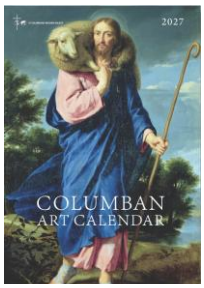
Through prayer and remembrance, we entrust our departed loved ones to God's mercy and keep their memory close to our hearts.



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: 31October/1November 2026

Saturday:	5:30 pm	Gerard Pinto / Kristina Alba		
Sunday:	8:00am	Victoria Micalizzi	10:00am	Geoff & Monica Officer

Diocesan Notice

Genuine Dialogue – A Path to Peace: 3 November
In a world that cries out for cohesion across our diverse communities, the Jubilee Year of St Francis deepens our Gospel call to be people of peace and fraternity. St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook at the foot of the Blue Mountains, is hosting Fr Patrick McInerney and members of the diocesan Interfaith Commission to share insights and reflections with us. Tuesday 3rd November 7:00-8:30PM in the Parish Centre, 46 Levy St, Glenbrook. Fr Patrick is Director of the Columban Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations and Consultor with the Vatican Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue. Please register your interest via secretary@stfinbars.org.au An opportunity not to be missed! 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

Light Night at Plumpton Parish: 30 October
Ready for a night of faith, fire and fellowship? Join us at The Good Shepherd Parish, Plumpton, 6–9pm for live music/praise and worship, testimonies, Adoration, and a powerful encounter with the Holy Spirit. Young people – bring your mates! Registration: https://www.trybooking.com/DOXEN

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: Marie Therese Nemer; Lattouf, Melan, Nemer & Essey Families | John & Triponie Pasangha, Reggie & May Perumal, Clement Fernando, Quintus Fernando, Rita Fernando, Elmo & Stella Fernando, Pius & Mercy Fernando | Eugene O'Sullivan, Olivia Pinto, Cyriaco Pinto | 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: Isaac Moses | George Adib Lattouf | Elizabeth Khoury | Consolacion 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 Nemer | 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: John & Emma Nemer | 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 **Exodus 22:20-26**

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this:
'"You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.
'"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.
'"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm **Psalm 17:2-4, 47, 51**

R. **I love you, Lord, my strength.**

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. **R.**

Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. **R.**

Second reading **1 Thessalonians 1:5-10**

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

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation **John 14:23**

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

Gospel **Matthew 22:34-40**

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.

Some Feast Days this week:

28 October:	Saints Simon the Zealot
	St. Jude Thaddaeus
31 October:	Saturday Mass of the Virgin Mary
1 November:	ALL SAINTS