

“I Will Not Leave You Orphans” (Jn 14:15–21)

A Mother’s Day Reflection

This Sunday’s Gospel draws us into a very tender and almost painful moment. Jesus is speaking to His disciples just before His departure. He knows what is coming—the confusion, the fear, the deep sense of loss they will soon experience. And so He speaks gently, almost like a parent consoling a child: *“I will not leave you orphans.”*

These words are not distant or poetic. They are spoken into the raw reality of separation, into hearts that are about to feel empty.

Mother’s Day can feel like that.

For many, it is a day filled with warmth, gratitude, and celebration. But for some of us, it carries a quiet heaviness. It touches wounds that are still tender. It reminds us of a voice we can no longer hear, a hand we can no longer hold, a love we can no longer receive in the same way.

This is my first Mother’s Day without my mother. I lost her last August. And there is a silence now that I cannot quite explain. There are moments when I instinctively think of calling her, of sharing something simple—and then the reality returns. She is not there. And the heart feels it.

It is in that very place that the words of Jesus begin to ache with meaning: *“I will not leave you orphans.”*

Because loss can make us feel like orphans. Even as adults, even as people of faith, there is something in us that feels suddenly unprotected, suddenly alone. A mother’s love has a way of anchoring us quietly, almost invisibly. And when that anchor is gone, the world can feel unfamiliar.

Jesus does not deny that feeling. He does not tell us to ignore the pain. Instead, He steps into it. He promises that His presence will remain. He speaks of the Spirit who will stay with us—not far away, but within us—holding us together when our hearts feel like they are breaking.

The love our mothers gave us does not disappear. It cannot. It is woven into who we are. It lives in our memories, in our habits, in the way we care, in the way we pray. And somehow, in a mystery we cannot fully understand, that love is now held safely in God.



Still, the longing remains. And perhaps it always will.

But the Gospel gently tells us: that longing is not empty. It is held. It is accompanied. It is known.

For me, this day brings tears. Quiet ones. The kind that come not only from pain, but from love that has nowhere to go. And yet, I hold on to this promise—that I am not alone, that she is not lost, and that the God who gave her to me has not taken His love away.

“I will not leave you orphans.”

May these words rest gently in every grieving heart today. And may we find, even through our tears, a small but certain peace—that we are still held, still loved, and never alone..

Fr Sebastian

Music Ministry Formation

All Music Ministers (choir members, cantors, musicians, band members) are invited to attend the **Music Ministry Formation:**

Saturday 16 May 2026 starting with Morning Tea at 10am and then formation session until 1pm In the Church (There is a parish Mass at 9.15am which everyone is welcome to attend)

Please **RSVP** to the parish office on **9631 8135** or **parishoffice@olqp.org.au**.

Temporary Help needed - Hospitality

We need volunteers who can fill in whilst our current volunteers are unavailable for approximately 30 minutes after the **8.30am Sunday Mass from 12 May until 7 June**.

For more information, please contact the parish office at **parishoffice@olqp.org.au** or call **9631 8135**. **Thank you.**

Faith B4U...

Is your Safeguarding up to date?

All Clergy, employees and volunteers in parish ministry are required by the NSW Children's Guardian Act 2019 to be current and **complete their Safeguarding Training every 2 years**. *This is different to a Working with Children's Check (WWCC).*

Check with the Parish Office to see when you are due to update your Safeguarding Training or refer to the points below.

- If you are **new to Ministry or have not yet completed any Safeguarding training**, you need to complete the Introductory Modules 1 to 3 (Cycle 1)
- If you **completed Modules 1-3 in 2024 or earlier** You are now due to complete Modules 4 & 5 (Cycle 2)
- If you **completed Modules 4 & 5 in 2024 or earlier** You are now due to complete the Refresher Module 6 (Cycle 3)

Safeguarding Training Modules can be completed online at:
<https://learning.safeguarding.org.au/>

Onsite Face-to-Face Mandatory Training will be available on the **19th September at OLQP for Modules 4 & 5 (Cycle 2)**

Please register at: <https://parracatholic.org/events/mandatory-safeguarding-training-cycle-2-modules-4-5-19-september/>

Or contact the parish office at: parishoffice@olqp.org.au or phone: 9631 8135

Parish Team Employment Position

Co-Ordinator of Volunteers:

Initially 15 hrs/wk onsite for a suitably qualified/experienced person:

- Collaborating as a parish team member with a focus on promoting, organising and celebrating parishioner involvement in ministry/service
- Overseeing the safeguarding requirements for those in ministry/service whilst assisting processes for both practical and enriching ongoing formation

For a role description and requirements for making application, please contact: parishoffice@olqp.org.au by 12th May 2026

Let us pray...

FOR OUR SICK, that they will be nourished with hope & recognise the loving presence of God in their lives.

Chantel Adrien, Elie Aboumelhem, Mary Anjoul, Rita Attard, Amara Bewert, Ellen Boissett, Frank Borg, Haryono Budiono, Ann Bugaya, Karl Croning, Mario Curmi, Kathleen Davies, Nerida Fabri, Gabrielle Farfus, Delina Galea, Dorothy Gatt, Kay Jaunais, Margaret Jones, Rachel Karbic, Tulla Kavich, Patrick Kelly, Tyler Kenedy, Peter Kennedy, Maxine Kroebel, Michelle Makin, Joyce Mifsud, Elsie Moran, Joseph Moses, Alex Noble, Benjie Santiago, Barbara Stanton, Carmel Thompson, Cathy Vella, Eddie Vella, Joe Vella, Sue Watters, Gerard Watts, Grace Widjaya, Maureen Zarb, Joseph Zerafa, Melissa Zerafa, Muna Zora

FOR DEATH ANNIVERSARIES, that they now know the fullness of life & delight in God - may they pray for our active purpose in God's Mission.

Christopher McGrath, Antonio Nardo, Faride Sassine, Carmen Theuma

FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED, may our Lord embrace them with unimaginable joy & bless those who grieve with the power of hope.

Jay Khadij

40 Years of the Diocese of Parramatta

You are invited to join His Excellency, Archbishop Charles Balvo, the Apostolic Nuncio to Australian and Most Rev Bishop Vincent Long, Bishop of Parramatta for a special Mass to celebrate 40 years of the Diocese of Parramatta.

Together, let's celebrate and give thanks for the growth, development and many blessings that have shaped our faith and Catholic community over four decades.

Sunday 31 May at 2pm, St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta

Please bring a plate of afternoon tea to share

RSVP at parracatholic.org/40years

Greystanes Maltese Seniors

Monday 11 May @ 10.30am, in the St George Preca Centre

Gardening Tips, Q&A with Doris Mielak

All members & friends welcome.

Contact Marisa Previtera OAM, JP 0414 863 123

Eucharistic Ministers who visit the Housebound

Thank you to all the Eucharistic Ministers who take communion to those who are unable to join us at our weekend Masses. This vital ministry enables those who are not with us physically to remain connected with the parish community and to know that our prayers and thoughts are with them.

The Parish Team asks all Eucharistic Ministers who visit people in their homes or nursing homes to pick up their identification lanyards from the parish office. This new process was explained at the recent Eucharistic Ministers meeting. All Eucharistic Ministers who visit people are asked to wear these lanyards as a means of identification and support for your ministry.

When you come to the parish office please bring a passport size photo of yourself, or we can take one of you at the parish office.

Should you have any questions, please see a member of the parish team. Thank you for your cooperation and for your ministry.

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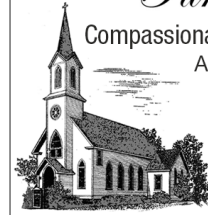
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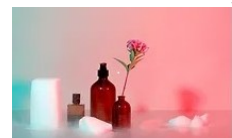
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Our Mission: To grow as a community in the likeness of Christ.

Parramatta Diocese Code of Conduct

Most ministers would have received an email recently with the request to complete a Code of Conduct acknowledgement form. This was sent to ministers who are *not* in child-related ministries. The parish team asks that you **complete this form as soon as possible and return it to the parish office** during office hours, or email it to lisa.bright@olqp.org.au

If you did not receive an email, you can pick up a form from the parish office or sacristy.

Please reach out to the parish team if you have any questions. We thank you for your cooperation and gifts in ministry.

Positions vacant

Housekeeper Supervisor - Holy Spirit Seminary, Harris Park.

Parish Secretary - St Monica's Catholic Church, Richmond

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

THE POWER OF PENTECOST

The CCR Parramatta Diocese & The Emmaus Prayer Community
Invite you to come and Celebrate Pentecost

Praise & Worship, Testimony, Talk, Adoration, Prayer & Fellowship

COME RECEIVE THE POWER

Talk by Abraham George

Sunday 24 May 2pm to 4:30pm

OLQP Church, 198 Old Prospect Road, Greystanes

All Welcome

Free Event

Enquiry: Desiree 0478 765 772

Amila 0424 445 397

Did you know...

"...the Church recognizes in those who are poor and who suffer, the *likeness of its poor and suffering founder*" (*Lumen Gentium*, 8). Since the Church is called to identify with those who are least ... "we have to state, without mincing words, that there is an inseparable bond between our faith and the poor" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 48).

• How does my *faith* lead me to be actively engaged with the *poor*?

FEAST DAYS

This week we celebrate

14th Thursday **St Matthias**, apostle

Christ's Catholic Community

Come and join us in understanding the Gospels more deeply. Fridays at 10am in the Youth room.

Contact: Mary Testa 0403 302 283

This Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Acts

8:5-8, 14-17

2nd Reading

1 Peter

3:15-18

Gospel

John

14:15-21

Next Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Acts

1:1-11

2nd Reading

Ephesians

1:17-23

3rd Reading

Matthew

28:16-20

Mass Times

Monday - 9:15am

Tuesday - 9:15am

Wednesday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Thursday - 9:15am

Friday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Saturday - 9:15am (except January

- Vigil 5:00pm (live streamed)

Sunday - 7:00am | 8:30am | 10:30am | 6:00pm

Mass for Peace - all welcome - followed by Anointing of the Sick - 1st Saturdays 9:15am (except January)

Memorial Mass - all welcome - and offered for recent losses and 1st/2nd anniversaries - 2nd Saturdays 9:15am

Reconciliation:

Saturday - 4:00pm - 4.45pm

Please join us via Facebook or Website, olqp.org.au, every Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

Rosary in the church: Weekdays at 8:30am & Friday nights at 6:30pm

ZOOM option available Friday night for those who cannot travel to the church for rosary.

Meeting ID: 896 7944 2594 | Passcode: rosary

P: 9631 8135 | E: parishoffice@olqp.org.au

Emergency Contact Only 0447 509 207

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Parish Office hours: 9am - 1pm, 2pm - 4pm Monday to Friday

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