

Acolytes, Ministers, Readers and Altar Servers, please remember to arrive ready 10 minutes before the beginning of Mass

		January 5/6	
Acolytes	Vigil	David Christian	
	8am	Gerard Marcello	
	9.30am	Ramzee Michael	
Ministers	Vigil	Mariane Descombes	
		Edith, Ernie Gartner,	
		Frank Paiva	
	8.00am	Jemma Sarmiento	
		Vinnie Zahra	
		Winnie Marcello, Suzy Nermorin	
Readers	9.30am	Paul Gow, Kamela Maka	
	Vigil	Noreen Rosario, Perpetual Fernandes	
	8.00am	Kathy Walker, Adrien Walker	
Altar Servers	9.30am	Ian, Ryan Epondulan	
	Vigil	Madisen, Genevieve Estil,	
	8.00am	VOLUNTEERS	
Musicians		Jayden Cortis,	
		Aaron, Isaac Rosario	
	9.30am	Marc, Carl Gallema,	
	Vigil	Diana, Philip, Sean Park	
Children's Rosary	8am	Fr Henry	
	9.30am	Grace Notes	
Flowers		Christine Clarke	
	Vigil	2nd & 3rd Sunday of the month Only	
Bookshop	8am	Menezes	
	9.30am	39 Winnipeg St	
Morning Church Cleaning		Seven Hills	
	Tea	Fenty & Santih	
Welcomers	6pm	Vinnie	
	8am	Volunteer	
	9.30am	Edmund	
		Young Adults Group	
	10 Jan	Elodia Colussi, Elizabeth Mead	
	6pm	Judith Deloso, Ram Ugre, VOLUNTEERS	
	8am	Joyce Hillbrick, Rita Paolini, Olivia Cortis, VOLUNTEERS	
	9.30am	Maria Michael, Lena Falzon, VOLUNTEERS	

		January 12/13	
Acolytes	Vigil	John Jordan	
	8am	Terry Jordan	
	9.30am	David Christian	
Ministers	Vigil	Charmaine Jansz, Louise La Guidara	
	8.00am	Fennie Balatbat,	
		James Dinning,	
		Ernie, Edith Gartner	
		Winnie Marcello,	
		Adrian Walker	
Readers	9.30am	Dawn Manamperi, Nancy Shami	
	Vigil	Rob Simpson, Alison Punch	
	8.00am	Priya Joachim, Karen Eleazar	
Altar Servers	9.30am	Mariane Descombes, Jeanine Nonato	
	Vigil	Yxaak Dino	
	8.00am	Alex La Guidara	
Musicians		Alexandra, Mikayla Simpson,	
		Samuel Paul	
	8.00am	Chrisha Gonzales,	
		Lucas Pascu,	
Children's Rosary		Lewis Savic	
	9.30am	Larissa Leary,	
Flowers		Mary-Rose Mejalli	
	Vigil	Umesh Samara-Sekera	
Bookshop	8am	VOLUNTEERS	
	9.30am	Magnificat	
Morning Church Cleaning		Fr Henry	
	Tea	Tongan Choir	
Welcomers	19 Jan	2nd & 3rd Sunday of the month Only	
	6pm	Soares	
	8am	3 Pretoria Rd, Seven Hills	
	9.30am	Lucinda & Orindo	
		Marinela	
		Edith	
		Fenty Saputra	
		Malayalee Community	
		Andrew Fedrigo, Ramzee Michael	
		Mary Jordan, Annette Peatman, VOLUNTEERS	
		Helen Gonzales, VOLUNTEERS	
		VOLUNTEERS	

### PARISH DIARY

JANUARY		
16	Baptism Preparation Meeting	7:30pm
28	Legion of Mary Meeting	1:30pm
FEBRUARY		
1	Exposition and Divine Mercy	7:00pm
3	Sacramental Program Enrolment Mass	9:30am
4	Legion of Mary	1:30pm
4	St Vincent de Paul Meeting	7:00pm
6	Sacramental Program Meeting	6:30pm
7	Healing Mass	8:00am
7	Christ Community Prayer Group	9:00am



# OUR LADY OF LOURDES

PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS

*"Still a wonderful place to pray & stay."*

<b>Parish Priest:</b>	Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran	<b>Pastoral Care of the Sick and Elderly:</b>	Mrs Bathista Emmanuel
<b>Parish Secretary:</b>	Mrs Erika Hien	<b>Office Hours:</b>	
<b>Sacrament &amp; Youth Co-Ordinator:</b>	Mrs Judy Barden	<b>Monday-Friday:</b>	9am - 3.00pm
<b>Parish Church:</b>	7 Grantham Rd, Seven Hills 2147	<b>Telephone:</b>	9622 2920
<b>Postal Address:</b>	PO Box 944, Seven Hills 1730	<b>Parish Office Email:</b>	secretary@lol7hills.org.au
<b>Parish Website:</b>	www.lol7hills.org.au	<b>Youth Group Email:</b>	youthlol7h@gmail.com
<b>Parish School:</b>	Our Lady of Lourdes	<b>Public School Catechist Co-Ordinator:</b>	Mr Bob McNally
<b>Principal:</b>	Ms Keiran Byrnes		

## The Epiphany of the Lord Year C 6th January 2019



<b>WEEKEND MASS</b>	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9.30am	<b>HEALING MASS &amp; ANOINTING OF SICK</b>	1st Thursday of month at 8am. <b>7 February</b>
<b>WEEKDAY MASS</b>	Tues - Friday 8am	<b>RECONCILIATION</b>	Saturday 4.30 - 5.30pm
<b>PRAYER AND WORSHIP SERVICE</b>	Monday & Saturday 8am	<b>MARRIAGES</b>	Please contact Parish Office 6 months prior to the wedding
<b>Church Open Monday-Friday</b>	Mon -Fri 8.30am-3pm (for prayer and reflection)	<b>BAPTISMAL PREPARATION</b>	16th January 2019 7.30pm Baptisms 2nd & 4th Sunday 11am
<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament &amp; Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes</b>	Friday after 8am Mass until 9am	<b>YOUTH MASS</b>	1st Sunday of the month 9.30am <b>3rd February</b>
<b>Exposition, Divine Mercy and Mass</b>	1st February 2019 7.00pm	<b>A Blessing for Children is available at all Masses</b>	

<b>READINGS FOR This Sunday</b>	1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6 2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6 Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12	The glory of the Lord shines upon you. The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body We have come from the East to worship the king.
<b>READINGS FOR Next Sunday</b>	1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22	The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it He saved us through the water of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit. When Jesus had been baptised and had been praying, the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit came upon him.

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** *Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.*

**OPENING PRAYER:** O God, who on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy, that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory.

**RESPONSE TO PSALM:** *Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Alleluia, alleluia! We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord. Alleluia!

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** *We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.*

### Grief to Grace - Healing the Wounds of Abuse

This is a spiritual retreat for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional, sexual or spiritual abuse. The retreat will be held May 26-31 2019. To request and application contact Anne by emailing info@griefftograceaus.org.au or phone 0478599241. For more information visit www.griefftograce.org

### Australia Day Celebration

Maltese Community Council of NSW will be hosting an Australia Day celebration on Sunday 20th January 2019 from 4.00pm to 6.00pm at the Holroyd Function Centre 17 Miller Street Merrylands NSW Parking available on site. Light refreshments will be served afterwards. All welcome to join the Maltese community to celebrate Australia Day.



<b>New Parishioners</b>	<b>Sick or Housebound</b>	<b>Planned Giving</b>
Would you like to join or maybe receive a visit from Fr Henry or a parishioner?	Do you know someone who would like Holy Communion or a visit?	Would you like to support our Parish? Envelopes/Credit Card/Direct Debit Available
_____	_____	_____
Name	Name	Name
_____	_____	_____
Telephone	Telephone	Telephone

Please place on the collection plate



### Let us Pray for the Sick

Rose Stambouliah, Tony Stambouliah, Debra Price, Maria Zentai, Sue Tiplado, Letitia Haines, Andrew Fedrigo, Gabriel Chung, Denis Symon

If you would like to add to our Sick List or know of any Parishioner that is unwell please contact Father Henry or the Parish Office on 9622 2920

### Let us Pray for the Deceased

Recently Deceased: Deacon James Phelan, Mary Hartnett, Simon D'Souza, Alexander Balatbat, Roseline Ratnam, Lourdes Fernandez de Venecia, Lazaro Fernandez, Victoria Almeida, Bridgette Fernandes, Alejandro Alvarado



Anniversaries: Marcel Diab, Edward Coffey, Thelma Morrissey, Fr Bill O'Connor, Sylvia (Abbott) Walker, Louis and Stephen Mula, Paul Mula, M.A. Fernando, Anton Motha, John Azzopardi, Alison Vella, Jose and Laureano Reyes, Gina and Albert Ammorao, Dennis Clarke, John Bonello, Alison Vella, Manuel Vella, Carmen Camillerie., John Lawrence

Remembrance: Pauline Meilak, Papa Maman Cyril, Harold, Rosine and Marc Lafleur, Teodoro Garcia, Lakshman Perera, Lourda Motha, Mary Muscat, Muscat Family, Albert Randall, Arlene Capistani, Roy, Mary and Des Barney, Sharon and John Lawrence

### PRAYER TO BRING CHRIST'S PEACE TO THE WORLD

God our Father, your Word, Jesus Christ, spoke peace to a sinful world and brought mankind the gift of reconciliation by the suffering and death he endured. Teach us, the people who bear his name, to follow the example he gave us. May our faith, hope and charity turn hatred to love, conflict to peace, death to eternal life.

### MONEY MATTERS

Envelopes \$ 1484.20  
Loose \$ 741.00  
TOTAL \$ 2225.20  
WEEKLY TARGET: \$3500.00



Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

### CUPPA FOR OUR CARPARK

Donated to date \$ 19058.62 Balance \$55941.38

### DIRECT DEPOSIT:

Banking details are  
BSB: 067 950;  
Account Number 000552;  
Account Name: Seven Hills Catholic Church.

Please mark your ref: Surname/Carpark or via  
MASTERCARD OR VISA ONLY CARD

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ weekly/fortnightly/monthly  
Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Number \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Envelopes available at rear of church

### FROM POPE FRANCIS

#### Signs of Holiness in today's world

Within the framework of holiness offered by the Beatitudes and Matthew 25:31-46, I would like to mention a few signs or spiritual attitudes that, in my opinion, are necessary if we are to understand the way of life to which the Lord calls us. I will not pause to explain the means of sanctification already known to us: the various methods of prayer, the inestimable sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation, the offering of personal sacrifices, different forms of devotion, spiritual direction, and many others as well. Here I will speak only of certain aspects of the call to holiness that I hope will prove especially meaningful. The signs I wish to highlight are not the sum total of a model of holiness, but they are five great expressions of love for God and neighbour that I consider of particular importance in the light of certain dangers and limitations present in today's culture. There we see a sense of anxiety, sometimes violent, that distracts and debilitates; negativity and sullenness; the self-content bred by consumerism; individualism; and all those forms of ersatz spirituality – having nothing to do with God – that dominate the current religious marketplace.

#### Perseverance, Patience and Meekness

The first of these great signs is solid grounding in the God who loves and sustains us. This source of inner strength enables us to persevere amid life's ups and downs, but also to endure hostility, betrayal and failings on the part of others. "If God is for us, who is against us?" (Rom 8:31): this is the source of the peace found in the saints. Such inner strength makes it possible for us, in our fast-paced, noisy and aggressive world, to give a witness of holiness through patience and constancy in doing good. It is a sign of the fidelity born of love, for those who put their faith in God (pístis) can also be faithful to others (pístós). They do not desert others in bad times; they accompany them in their anxiety and distress, even though doing so may not bring immediate satisfaction. Saint Paul bade the Romans not to repay evil for evil (Rom 12:17), not to seek revenge (v. 19), and not to be overcome by evil, but instead to "overcome evil with good" (v. 21). This attitude is not a sign of weakness but of true strength, because God himself "is slow to anger but great in power" (Nah 1:3). The word of God exhorts us to "put away all bitterness and wrath and wrangling and slander, together with all malice" (Eph 4:31). We need to recognize and combat our aggressive and selfish inclinations, and not let them take root. "Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger" (Eph 4:26). When we feel overwhelmed, we can always cling to the anchor of prayer, which puts us back in God's hands and the source of our peace. "Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts..." (Phil 4:6-7). Christians too can be caught up in networks of verbal violence through the internet and the various forums of digital communication. Even in Catholic media, limits can be overstepped, defamation and slander can become commonplace, and all ethical standards and respect for the good name of others can be abandoned. The result is a dangerous dichotomy, since things can be said there that would be unacceptable in public discourse, and people look to compensate for their own discontent by lashing out at others. It is striking that at times, in claiming to uphold the other commandments, they completely ignore the eighth, which forbids bearing false witness or lying, and ruthlessly vilify others. Here we see how the unguarded tongue, set on fire by hell, sets all things ablaze (Jas 3:6). Inner strength, as the work of grace, prevents us from becoming carried away by the violence that is so much a part of life today, because grace defuses vanity and makes possible meekness of heart. The



saints do not waste energy complaining about the failings of others; they can hold their tongue before the faults of their brothers and sisters, and avoid the verbal violence that demeans and mistreats others. Saints hesitate to treat others harshly; they consider others better than themselves (Phil 2:3).

It is not good when we look down on others like heartless judges, lording it over them and always trying to teach them lessons. That is itself a subtle form of violence. Saint John of the Cross proposed a different path: "Always prefer to be taught by all, rather than to desire teaching even the least of all". And he added advice on how to keep the devil at bay: "Rejoice in the good of others as if it were your own, and desire that they be given precedence over you in all things; this you should do wholeheartedly. You will thereby overcome evil with good, banish the devil, and possess a happy heart. Try to practise this all the more with those who least attract you. Realize that if you do not train yourself in this way, you will not attain real charity or make any progress in it". **Pope Francis, apostolic exhortation, GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE**

### FROM FR. HENRY DUC

For the Jewish people, God's salvation tends to be something exclusive, since they believe that it is a God-given gift they had inherited from Abraham, their ancestor, whom we, Christians, are also proud to call our father in faith.



On the other hand, our Christian belief is rather inclusive, for we believe that God's salvation is universal, meaning it is a gift that God has given to all nations and people through His Son, Jesus. This Sunday, we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, a Greek word meaning 'manifestation which aims to highlight such a significant aspect of Christianity.

By revealing Himself to the Wise men from the east through the light of the star, the infant Saviour seems to send out to every one this very clear message: that the Son of God was born into the world and he is here to bring salvation both to the people of Israel represented by the shepherds and to the rest of the world represented by the Wise men.

Though the evangelist gives us no exact detail of how many Wise men came to pay homage to Jesus at Bethlehem, we often refer to them as the three Kings or Wise men based on the three gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh they brought along to offer Jesus, and their ability to decode the celestial message from above.

Traditionally there was a custom to mark the lintels of doorways with chalk. For instance, the markings for this year 2019 include 20 + C + M + B + 19, and the three letters represent the three initials of the names of the Wise men: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, written between the numbers of the year, and separated by four crosses.

As we celebrate this feast of Jesus' manifestation to the world, let us celebrate the universal dimension of our faith, and give praise and thanks to God for calling us all to share such a precious gift. Pray that we may be proud and faithful witnesses to that faith as we leave the church and return to our own homes and communities, and to make the light of Christ to shine through our exemplary lives.

Have a happy New Year, a Christ-like one.  
Fr. Henry



### PARISH NEWS...

#### CHRISTMAS THANK YOU

Thank you so much to all our parish staff, ministers, musicians, singers and helpers of all kinds for their generous dedication and hard works to make our Christmas celebrations this year so special and wonderful. I also like to acknowledge the kindness of so many of our parishioners in keeping me in their prayers or sending me cards and presents. May the Child Jesus bless you manifold for your labours of love.

**RCIA** We are inviting all who are interested to become Catholic to join our RCIA program 2018-2019. Please contact Fr Henry for a chat before the start of the program.

#### LOURDES OVER 50S

Next meeting Thursday 14th February 2019

**TAI CHI 2019:** Classes will resume in January 2019. Start date will be announced in the coming weeks.

#### Parish Office Holiday Hours

During January, the office hours will be reduced due to the holiday period. If you require assistance, please call 9622 2920 and leave a voicemail message if no one is available. These messages are checked daily and we will endeavour to assist you as soon as possible. Thank you.

#### St Vincent de Paul

The St Vincent de Paul group would like to thank everyone from the parish and school community who contributed to the Christmas hampers. Your generosity allowed many people in our local community to have a brighter Christmas with gifts of food, drink and toys provided.



### DIOCESAN NEWS...

#### Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses 2019

If you would like to join our Liturgical Ministry, the Institute for Mission will be providing sessions on the following: Ministers of the Word, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying, Altar Servers and Acolytes and Safe Ministry. There are two compulsory Evenings for Understanding Liturgical Ministries which will be held 18th and 21 Feb. All Meetings are held on Monday and Thursday evenings 7-9pm. Dates are listed on the application form. For those who wish to become Acolytes, before you register your interest in any of these courses please talk to Fr Henry and complete an application form that can be found at the rear of the church.

#### St Patrick's Gift Shop

St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta is opening an on-site gift shop. Opening hours will be 10am-3pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays. For more information, visit <https://stpatscathedral.com.au/>

#### St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish, Upper Blue Mountains

We will be celebrating two special Masses early next year: Sunday 20 January Santo Nino holy Mass and celebration according to the Filipino tradition (English language). The Mass will take place at St Canice's Church, Katoomba at 12pm, followed by refreshments. All are welcome. Sunday 10 February Holy Mass in Spanish. The Mass will take place at St Canice's Church, Katoomba at 12pm, followed by refreshments. All are welcome.