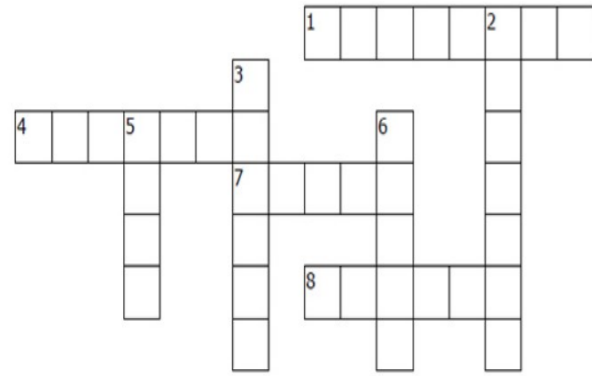


The Rewards of Service

R B Q S L O S E K X F S D E O
W A T E R Q N Y Y T S A I V S
D A M K N Q H W B M H Y S H M
L I T T L E P P H F I A C I C
X T R U T H H B S O R V I J L
R T R E W A R D J F I I P V C
R N C G O N E S K X G Q L R W
H G G N Q Z M H Z B H E E E R
Y D I E A G R R R W T T D C X
G I T V U N G U J Z E L J E H
T H B X E T Y F Z H O T U I C
J E W E J S H O P C U I K V U
J P L M Q Q F O N V S L B E P
Q U E L E R R A U E S H Q S T
R V S M O P H J S Q A N I U R



ACROSS

1. A follower of Jesus
4. To gladly receive someone into your own house
7. An odorless, colorless, tasteless liquid; H2O
8. Small; not large

DOWN

2. A person who speaks for God
3. Recognition of someone's good behavior
5. The opposite of hot; having a very low temperature
6. A fact that has been proven

RIGHTEOUS	LOSE	TRUTH	ANYONE
WATER	PROPHET	ONES	WHO
RECEIVES	DISCIPLE	COLD	GIVES
REWARD	TELL	CUP	LITTLE

PROPHET	TRUTH	DISCIPLE	COLD
LITTLE	WELCOME	REWARD	WATER



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26
J L Z S R D Y F W M A B C U G V O H E I N X K T Q P

1. 13-14-26 _____
2. 13-17-2-6 _____
3. 24-5-14-24-18 _____
4. 26-5-17-26-18-19-24 _____
5. 2-20-24-24-2-19 _____
6. 5-19-9-11-5-6 _____
7. 5-19-13-19-20-16-19 _____
8. 9-11-24-19-5 _____
9. 11-21-7-17-21-19 _____
10. 15-20-16-19-4 _____

CUP	WATER	TRUTH	REWARD	PROPHET
RECEIVE	LITTLE	COLD	GIVES	ANYONE



OUR LADY OF LOURDES

PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS
"Still a wonderful place to pray & stay."

Parish Priest: Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran
Pastoral Care of the Sick: Bathista Emmanuel 0405833655
Parish Office Team: Mrs Erika Hien, Alison Issanchon, Kim Dang, Sarah Lenthall
Parish Office Email: secretary@olol7hills.com.au
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall

Office Hours: Monday-Friday: 9am - 3.00pm
Telephone: 9622 2920
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.com.au
Parish School: Our Lady of Lourdes 8869 6800
Principal: Ms Keiran Byrnes
Parish Church: 7 Grantham Rd, Seven Hills 2147

13th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A • 28 June 2020

All are welcome to join us for **Our Lady of Lourdes, Seven Hills, Sydney, NSW, Australia Facebook LIVE-STREAM WEEKEND MASSES** celebrated by Fr. Henry Huu Duc Tran on **Saturdays 6PM (Vigil), Sundays: 8AM, 9:30AM and 5PM (Vietnamese) AEDT (UTC +11):** <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>
People do not need a Facebook account as it will be appear publicly.

Our Lady of Lourdes

Ever immaculate Virgin, Mother of mercy,
health of the sick, refuge of sinners,
comfort of the afflicted,
you know my needs,
my troubles, my sufferings;
cast on me a look of pity.

By appearing in the grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, from which you dispense your favours, and already many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and physical.

I come, therefore, with the most unbounded confidence to implore your maternal intercession.

Obtain most loving mother,
my requests, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
Amen.



Let us Pray for the Sick

Leonila Ahillon, George Alagiah, David Barrow, John Bourke, Barrie Chamberlain, Gabriel Chung, Myrna G Cruz, Paul Daniel, Andrew Fedrigo, Lou Fedrigo, Ronald Gomez, Anthony Janicska, Wendy & Klaus, Lawrence Family, Julia Lordan, Mark McGilligan, Kathleen McMillan, Maria V, Mary Mifsud, Blago Milicevic, Laurel Morris, Patricia Oreo, Lekisha Grace Panlilio, Roger & Kimberley Payoe, Wiranjan Peiris, Janina Pisch, Debra Price, Susantha Seranayake, Bernie Sivapatham, Rose Stambouliah, Josette Sultana, Denis Symon, Sue Tipaldo.

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. We can also arrange for Holy Communion or a visit if required.

Let us Pray for the Deceased

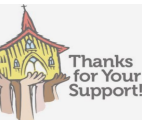
Recently Deceased: Dorothy Abeyrama, Rolily Burac, Mary Cabatu, Maurice Camenzuli, Theresa and Gerald Chetcuti, Sr RoseAnne (Doreen Croke), Jim de Salis, John Doraisamy, Wenry Farparan, Theresa Fernandes, Carmen Grima, Margolit Phillips, Vincete Virueda, Felix Weinman, Merium Welangoda, Mary Zammit.

Anniversaries: Anita Alagiah, Sam Borg, Jacqueline & Edmond Clarisse, Louis & Vivian Fernandes, VA Francis, Teresa Alice Fernandes, Nevis Fernando, Evangesta Kingsley, Donald Lordan, Fr Lorenzo Loria OP, Salvatore Loria, Edouard Mahomudally, Beryl McKertich, Rita & Anthony Mifsud, Motha Family, Paula Mula, Muscat Family, George & Mary Paiva, Pat & Jack Renshaw, Chantal & Alexis Sauzi, Mary Silva, Priscilia Villanueva, Peter Tran Van Nhon., Martina & Carmelo Galea

Remembrance: Maria & Gregorio Almodovar, Alverico Family, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Bernard Le Minh Danh, Elsie, Jean & Karl Garrick, Sharon & John Lawrence, Thein Bich Lien, Pauline Meilak, Motha Family, Stephen & Louis Mula, Paiva Family, Roseline Ratnam, Eugenie Tran Thein Tai, Therese Tran, Paul Le Minh Truc.

MONEY MATTERS

Envelopes \$1821.00
Loose \$871.00
TOTAL \$2692.00
WEEKLY TARGET: \$ 3500.00



Planned Giving Program

On behalf of the Parish Community, I would like to thank you so much for your ongoing support, which has been very vital to keep our Parish going strong. Current projects being including the Hall Kitchen renovation, Parish Meeting Room painting. You are invited to join a Direct Debit program.

ON-LINE DIRECT DEPOSIT

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

IN-PERSON BANK DEPOSIT (at a Bank Institute/Branch)

Seven Hills Catholic Church
BSB: 062 315
Acc Id # - 00901486
AGENT # - 660

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



HAVE YOU VISITED OUR PARISH WEBSITE LATELY?? Our parish website is updated regularly with news and upcoming events - everything from youth news to social justice to Live-stream Mass times, bulletins, and much more - a great way to stay up to date with what's on in

our parish! Visit www.olol7hills.org.au

FIRST READING A reading from the second book of the Kings 2 Kgs 4:8-11. 14-16

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.'

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her?' he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **(R.)**

Happy the people who acclaim such a king,
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,
who find their joy every day in your name,
who make your justice the source of their bliss. **(R.)**

For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength;
it is by your favour that our might is exalted:
for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord;
our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans Rom 6:3-4. 8-11

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people.
Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 10:37-42

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.

'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward.

'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

**My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the altar.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.**



Pope Francis: John the Baptist teaches us to bear witness to Jesus

By Vatican News

In his greetings to the Italian-speaking faithful at the weekly General Audience, Pope Francis recalled the liturgical solemnity of the day.

"Today is the feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist," he said. "Let us learn from the one who was the forerunner of Jesus the ability to bear witness to the Gospel with courage, beyond our own differences, while preserving the harmony and friendship that form the basis of any credible proclamation of the faith."

The Pope also said, in his address to the Spanish-speaking faithful, that both Saint John the Baptist and King David knew how to draw people's attention to the true God.

He prayed that their example might be a source of encouragement for the faithful, so that "we may seek God's friendship through prayer, and our example might help bring God to men and women, and men and women to God."

God in the beauty of creation

Turning his thoughts towards the current temperate season in the Northern Hemisphere, Pope Francis expressed hopes that the summer might be "a time of serenity and a beautiful opportunity to contemplate God in the masterpiece of His creation."

He prayed that, despite the Covid-19 crisis, the holiday season might be "a peaceful time of rest, enjoyment of the beauty of creation, and strengthening of the ties between us and God."

Pope at Audience: We are never alone if we bring our lives to God in prayer

By Devin Watkins

Pope Francis focused his catechesis at the Wednesday General Audience on the Biblical figure of King David.

"Favored by God even from his youth, he is chosen for a unique mission that would play a central role in the history of the people of God and in our own faith."

Jesus, said the Pope, is called "son of David" and fulfilled the ancient promises of "a King completely after God's heart, in perfect obedience to the Father."

A shepherd

David's own story, said Pope Francis, begins in Bethlehem, where he shepherds his father's flock.

"He worked in the open air: we can think of him as a friend of the wind, of the sounds of nature, of the sun's rays."

The Pope said David is first of all a shepherd. He defends others from danger and provides for their sustenance. In this line, Jesus called Himself "the good shepherd", who "offers His life on behalf of the sheep. He guides them; He knows each one by name."

Later in life, when David goes astray by having a man killed in order to take his wife, he immediately understands his sin when the prophet Nathan reproves him.

"David understands right away that he had been a bad shepherd," said the Pope, "that he was no longer a humble servant, but a man who was crazy for power, a poacher who looted and preyed on others."

With a poet's soul

Pope Francis went on to reflect on what he called David's "poet's soul".

"He has only one companion to comfort his soul: his harp; and during those long days spent in solitude, he loves to play and to sing to his God."

David, said the Pope, was not a vulgar man. He often raised hymns to God, whether to express his joy, lamentation, or repentance.

"The world that presented itself before his eyes was not a silent scene: as things unraveled before his gaze he observed a greater mystery."

Contemplating life's mystery

Prayer, said Pope Francis, arises from "the conviction that life is not something that takes us by surprise, but a stupefying mystery that inspires poetry, music, gratitude, praise, even lament and supplication in us."

Biblical tradition, he noted, holds that David was the great artist behind the composition of the Psalms.

David, said the Pope, dreamed of being a good shepherd. He was many things: "holy and sinful, persecuted and persecutor, victim and murderer."

Like him, events in our own lives reveal us in a similar light. "In the drama of life, all people often sin because of inconsistency."

Bringing everything to God

Pope Francis said that, like David, there is one golden thread that runs through all our lives: prayer.

"David teaches us to let everything enter into dialogue with God: joy as well as guilt, love as well as suffering, friendship as much as sickness," he said. "Everything can become a word spoken to the 'You' who always listens to us."

David, concluded Pope Francis, knew solitude but "was in reality never alone!"

"This is the power of prayer in all those who make space for it in their lives," he said. "Prayer makes us noble: it is capable of



Mausoleum of Galla Placidia Mosaic



FROM FR. HENRY DUC

At 26 I left my homeland and began the journey literally into the unknown through places, which neither I heard, nor thought of before, and fortunately took me to this land, when I was 27 plus to start a new life.

I thought I had a rather late start, but I prove to be much, much younger compared to a man living more than 2000 year before me, the one both Christians and Jews are familiar with, and his name was Abram, who was privileged to be re-named later on as Abraham by God. Abraham was 72 years of age, when the Lord asked him to begin a new life in another country, and he and his wife Sarah just went away with no hesitation.

Despite their old age, God promised to given them a son, something which Sarah thought as impossible, so she couldn't help to laugh at the idea. However, the impossible had become possible as she conceived and gave birth to Isaac.

While his family had enjoyed the precious addition of Isaac, Abraham was then instructed to take his young son to the land of Moriah to offer him as a burnt offering. Abraham unquestionably followed the Lord's instruction, and when he was about to turn his son into a sacrificial offering with a knife, the angel of God asked him to stop and grab the ram caught up in the bush nearby as the offering instead. The angel then delivered God's message of appreciation for Abraham's total dedication to the Lord, and God's ordination to make his offspring 'as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand on the seashore.' (cf. Gen 20.17).

Abraham's story seems to echo Jesus' strong message in the Gospel this Sunday about what he expects from his Apostles in term of commitment. He means to let them know that he looks for no less than a total dedication to him in their discipleship, a sort of dedication that places him before and above those they love and respect the most, namely their family members, such as father, mother, sons and daughters.

On top of such a dedication, they are also asked to carry their cross, symbol of their own troubles, hardships and suffering, to go after him.

As Jesus' disciples of today, we are called to show the Lord similar commitments, just like the Apostles in the past. We continue to be asked to prove our worthy discipleship by keeping God as the central point of our lives, and by embracing the cross of our personal problems and challenges. This has to be our number one priority, and anything less than this is not good enough.

Let us pray today for the wisdom to realize such a spiritual priority of ours, and the strength to translate it into concrete actions in our everyday lives.

Have a Christ-centric week.

Fr. Henry

PARISH NEWS...

WEEKEND MASSES INFORMATION

Thank you all for your support to make everything run smoothly regarding to our Weekend Masses, and you can help us to serve you even better by

- Following the instructions from members of our Young Adult group regarding to seating for Mass;
- Complying with Government regulations about registering, hand-sanitising, physical distancing (1.50m between each other);
- Ringing to make arrangement in advance for a seat in the church within the limit of 50 people;
- Keeping the chair setup in the Parish hall as it is;
- Showing patience and understanding when you are asked to use Parish Hall. It means that the church is full to its permissible capacity.

Thank you so much for your co-operation.

PARISH MINISTERS ROSTER

As the church has been partly re-opened, not all ministers on our roster are required to serve yet, and in order to make things easier for everyone, Fr Henry will continue to ring or send out a text each week to inform our ministers individually.

For our ministers serving Mass, it is advised that they should advice Parish Office, when they have family-members to join them.



Lourdes Over 50's meeting will be held in the Parish Hall on Thursday 9th July from 10.30 am to 1.00 pm. Covid-19 restrictions apply. Please bring your own packed lunch to comply with current restrictions.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM ENVELOPES

We are very grateful for your financial support to the Parish, as your regular and frequent contributions will assist this parish community to keep up with our ongoing maintenance projects.

New Set of Planned Giving Envelopes are now available for collection at the side door of our church.

If you are a new parishioner or an existing one and you would like to participate in the Planned Giving Program, please complete your details on the form supplied at the church side door and return it to the Parish Office or email the completed form to secretary@olol7hills.com.au

Planned Giving **ON-LINE BANK DONATIONS**, please include your **NAME** and **ENVELOPE NUMBER** in the reference description.

Receipts for the **PLANNED GIVING ONLY**— if you need receipts, please email or call the Parish Office. (Please note Planned Giving IS **NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE.**)

Community Prayer Group has resumed 9am Thursdays in the Parish Meeting Room. Please adhere to all Covid-19 restrictions. Call the Parish office for any more information.



Legion of Mary— will re-commence Thursday 2 July in the PMR at 1pm

RECONCILIATION will be held in the church, via the foyer, on **Saturdays 4:30pm-5:30pm**. There will be a sign on book, please sign it upon arrival.



FROM POPE FRANCIS

Chapter 8 CHAPTER EIGHT— WORK

268. The bishops of the United States have pointed out that “young adulthood often signals a person’s entrance into the world of work. ‘What do you do for a living?’ is a constant topic of conversation because work is a major part of their lives. For young adults, this experience is highly fluid because they move from job to job and even from career to career. Work can dictate their use of time and can determine what they can afford to do or buy. It can also determine the quality and quantity of leisure time. Work defines and influences a young adult’s

identity and self-concept and is a prime place where friendships and other relationships develop because generally it is not done alone. Young men and women speak of work as fulfilling a function and providing meaning. Work allows young adults to meet their practical needs but even more importantly to seek meaning and fulfilment of their dreams and visions. Although work may not help achieve their dreams, it is important for young adults to nurture a vision, learn how to work in a truly personal and life-giving way, and to continue to discern God’s call”. [148]

269. I ask young people not to expect to live without working, depending on others for help. This is not good, because “work is a necessity, part of the meaning of life on this earth, a path to growth, human development and personal fulfilment. In this sense, helping the poor financially must always be a provisional solution in the face of pressing needs”. [149] Hence, “together with the awe-filled contemplation of creation which we find in Saint Francis of Assisi, the Christian spiritual tradition has also developed a rich and balanced understanding of the meaning of work, as, for example, in the life of Blessed Charles de Foucauld and his followers”. [150] 270. The Synod noted that in the area of work, young people can “experience forms of exclusion and marginalization, of which the first and most serious is youth unemployment, which in some countries reaches exorbitant levels. Besides making them poor, the lack of work impacts negatively on young people’s capacity to dream and to hope, and it deprives them of the possibility of contributing to the development of society. In many countries, this situation depends on the fact that some sectors of the young population lack adequate professional skills, perhaps because of deficiencies in the system of education and training. Often job insecurity among the young is linked to economic interests that exploit labour”. [151]

271. This is a highly complex and sensitive issue that politics must make a priority, especially at present, when the speed of technological advances and the concern to reduce labour costs can lead quickly to the replacement of many jobs by machines. It is also a crucial societal issue because employment for a young person is not merely a means of making money. Work is an expression of human dignity, a path of development and of social inclusion. It is a constant stimulus to grow in responsibility and creativity, a protection against the tendency towards individualism and personal gratification. At the same time, it is an opportunity to give glory to God by developing one’s abilities .

272. Young people do not always have the chance to decide what kind of work they will do, or how their energies and talents will be spent. Because, alongside their own aspirations, abilities and choices, there is the harsh reality of the job market. It is true that you cannot live without working, and that sometimes you have to accept whatever is available, but I ask you never to give up on your dreams, never completely bury a calling, and never accept defeat. Keep seeking at least partial or imperfect ways to live what you have discerned to be your real calling. 273. When we discover that God is calling us to something, that this or that is what we were made for – whether it be nursing, carpentry, communication, engineering, teaching, art or any other kind of work – then we will be able to summon up our best capacities for sacrifice, generosity and dedication. Knowing that we don’t do things just for the sake of doing them, but rather we endow them with meaning, as a response to a call that resounds in the depth of our being to offer something to others: that is what makes these occupations bring a sense of deep fulfilment. As we read in the ancient biblical book of Ecclesiastes: “I saw that there is nothing better than that a man should enjoy his work” (3:22)

[Pope Francis, apostolic exhortation, *CHRISTUS VIVIT* — to the young people and the entire people of God]

CHRISTUS VIVIT



LAUDATO SI' PRAYER

Loving God,
 Creator of Heaven, Earth, and all therein contained.
 Open our minds and touch our hearts,
 so that we can be part of Creation, your gift.
 Be present to those in need in these difficult times,
 especially the poorest and most vulnerable.
 Help us to show creative solidarity
 as we confront the consequences of the global pandemic.
 Make us courageous in embracing
 the changes required to seek the common good.
 Now more than ever, may we all feel interconnected and inter-
 dependent.
 Enable us to succeed in listening and responding
 to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.
 May their current sufferings become the birth-pangs
 of a more fraternal and sustainable world.
 We pray through Christ our Lord,
 under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians.
 Amen

Pope Francis’ Prayer to Mary during the coronavirus pandemic

O Mary,
 you always shine on our path
 as a sign of salvation and of hope.
 We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
 who at the cross took part in Jesus’ pain, keeping
 your faith firm.

You, Salvation of all People,
 know what we need,
 and we are sure you will provide
 so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
 we may return to joy and to feasting
 after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
 to conform to the will of the Father
 and to do as we are told by Jesus,
 who has taken upon himself our sufferings
 and carried our sorrows
 to lead us, through the cross,
 to the joy of the resurrection.
 Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother
 of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are
 in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious
 and blessed Virgin.

DIOCESAN NEWS



REFUGEE WEEK check out the details on our website or Social Justice Page or Diocesan Social Justice Page.

Thank you for items delivered, a full boot load was delivered to Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Tuesday morning for which they were very thankful. JRS needs have increased by 240% during Covid-19 they are currently helping to feed 750 people/week. **If you can help** by buying any of the following products and bringing them to Church and putting them in bins provided: New winter blankets, Basmati Rice, Cooking Oil, Long life milk, "Tinned tuna, red kidney beans, lentils, chickpeas and fruit", Biscuits & muesli bars, Oats & cereal, Tinned tomatoes, Tea & Coffee TOILETRIES: Nappies (large sizes), Toothpaste & toothbrushes, Shampoo, Sanitary pads & napkins, Razors & shaving foam, Deodorant (male & female) or Soap. Items will be taken to JRS by Social Justice Group with

Divine Retreat Centre Divine Mercy Evening: 3 July

The Divine Retreat Centre in Somersby, NSW is holding an evening to celebrate the Divine Mercy on Friday 3 July from 6pm to 8.30pm. The evening will include Reconciliation, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Mass. Please call 0468 486 782 or email drcsydney@gmail.com to confirm attendance. Visit www.divineretreatcentre.org.au for more information.

Divine Retreat Centre Family Growth Retreat: 10 – 12 July

The Divine Retreat Centre in Somersby, NSW is hosting a live-in family growth retreat from 6pm Friday 10 July to 4pm Sunday 12 July. Please call 0468 486 782 or email drcetreatrego@gmail.com to confirm attendance. Visit www.divineretreatcentre.org.au for more information.

Share your Good News Stories!

Thank you for all that you continue to do to share the love and peace of God. Our Pastoral Planning Office welcomes your good news stories of hope and encouragement during COVID-19 to share with parishes and communities across our Diocese. If you have a good news story to offer, please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/goodnewsstory>

Institute for Mission – Formation opportunity for adults

The Institute for Mission’s Reflective Ministry Program (Word and Mission) is going ahead starting from 18 August. In keeping with COVID-19 restrictions, the IFM will operate under the relevant health authority guidelines. Part Two is being offered for free as a response to COVID-19 with limited spots available. For details and registration, visit <https://www.ifm.org.au/reflective-ministry> or contact Sr Grace on grace.roclawska@ifm.org.au.

CatholicCare is still open and operational

CatholicCare Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains services remain open and operational during the current COVID-19 outbreak. Individual offices have been closed to clients, but the service continues to operate with care and support offered via phone, video conferencing/telehealth and online. Some programs are continuing to run groups via video conference. To make a referral, call (02) 8843 2500 (Mon-Thu 8.30am-8pm, Fri 8.30am-5pm, Sat 9am-1pm), email – enquiries@ccss.org.au or visit ccss.org.au.

ENCYCLICAL LETTER LAUDATO SI' OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS ON WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR COMMON HOME LAUDATO SI



Saint Francis of Assisi - My appeal (continued from last week's bulletin)

17. Theological and philosophical reflections on the situation of humanity and the world can sound tiresome and abstract, unless they are grounded in a fresh analysis of our present situation, which is in many ways unprecedented in the history of humanity. So, before considering how faith brings new incentives and requirements with regard to the world of which we are a part, I will briefly turn to what is happening to our common home.

18. The continued acceleration of changes affecting humanity and the planet is coupled today with a more intensified pace of life and work which might be called “rapidification”. Although change is part of the working of complex systems, the speed with which human activity has developed contrasts with the naturally slow pace of biological evolution. Moreover, the goals of this rapid and constant change are not necessarily geared to the common good or to integral and sustainable human development. Change is something desirable, yet it becomes a source of anxiety when it causes harm to the world and to the quality of life of much of humanity.

19. Following a period of irrational confidence in progress and human abilities, some sectors of society are now adopting a more critical approach. We see increasing sensitivity to the environment and the need to protect nature, along with a growing concern, both genuine and distressing, for what is happening to our planet. Let us review, however cursorily, those questions which are troubling us today and which we can no longer sweep under the carpet. Our goal is not to amass information or to satisfy curiosity, but rather to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it.