

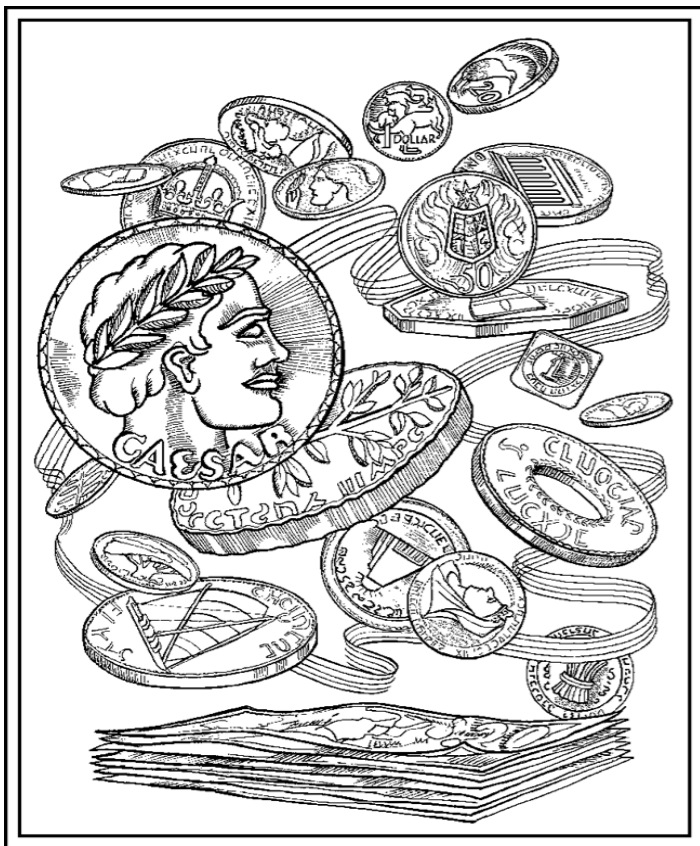
ACROSS

- 2. A usually flat piece of metal used for money.
- 4. A statement that agrees with fact or reality.
- 6. To give someone money in return for something.
- 7. A religious group who were strict followers of the law.

DOWN

- 1. A picture of a person -- usually showing the face.
- 3. The details of how something is going to be accomplished.
- 4. Money paid to the government.
- 5. A situation from which it is difficult or impossible to escape.

TAXES	TRAP	PORTRAIT	PLANS
TRUTH	PAY	PHARISEES	COIN



"Give to Caesar what is Caesar's,
and to God what is God's"
Matthew 22:21.

Paying Taxes to Caesar
Matthew 22:15-22

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

GOD	WORDS	DISCIPLES	OPINION
CAESAR	TAXES	AMAZED	REPLIED
WAY	PLANS	GIVE	TRAP
PHARISEES	TEACHER	INTEGRITY	TRUTH

Choose the word that best matches the definition

- ___ 1. A religious group who were strict followers of the law.
A. pharisees B. republicans C. hypocrites D. democrats
- ___ 2. The details of how something is going to be accomplished.
A. taxes B. plans C. trap D. words
- ___ 3. A situation from which it is difficult or impossible to escape.
A. trap B. plans C. truth D. coin
- ___ 4. Something that we speak or write.
A. taxes B. amazed C. words D. trap
- ___ 5. Someone who gives instructions to students.
A. teacher B. pharisees C. portrait D. Caesar
- ___ 6. A statement that agrees with fact or reality.
A. plans B. words C. truth D. trap
- ___ 7. To give someone money in return for something.
A. trap B. pay C. plans D. truth
- ___ 8. Money paid to the government.
A. trap B. portrait C. Caesar D. taxes
- ___ 9. What a person thinks about something.
A. trap B. opinion C. truth D. plans
- ___ 10. A usually flat piece of metal used for money.
A. coin B. taxes C. words D. pay



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@lol7hills.com.au
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall

Office Hours: Monday-Friday: 9am - 3.00pm
Telephone: 9622 2920
Parish Website: www.lol7hills.com.au
Parish School: Our Lady of Lourdes 8869 6800
Principal: Ms Keiran Byrnes
Parish Church: 7 Grantham Rd, Seven Hills 2147

WEEKDAY MASS Tuesday-Friday 8.00am
WEEKEND MASS Saturday Vigil 6pm
Sunday 8am & 9.30am

RECONCILIATION Saturday 4.30-5.30pm
BAPTISMAL PREPARATION 18th November 2020 7.30pm
Baptisms 2nd & 4th Sunday 11am

29th Sunday of Ordinary Time
Year A • 18 October 2020

All are welcome to join us for **Our Lady of Lourdes, Seven Hills, Sydney, NSW, Australia Facebook LIVE-STREAM WEEK-END 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/LOL7Hills/>



IMPORTANT REMINDER

IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING ANY FLU LIKE SYMPTOMS PLEASE STAY HOME AS THE MASS IS STILL AVAILABLE ON LIVE-STREAM THROUGH OUR OLOL FACEBOOK PAGE.

Due to the COVID-19 cases continuing to rise, the NSW Government are now on HIGH ALERT and we expect police may conduct random inspections of places of worship for COVID-19 safety compliance., as it has occurred in some parishes. Parishes are reminded to continue to practice *hygiene* and *physical distancing* measures. our church capacity at the moment is 100 to meet with physical distancing requirement.

By Law, we must continue to:

- Use **Hand Sanitisers** available upon entry and exit
- Everyone to **Sign in**, when entering the Church
- **1.5 m physical distance** should be kept between people at all times, *Please sit behind the calculated space marked with the white tape*
- Members of the same household may sit together in the designated areas
- Keep your distance when lining up for Holy Communion.

Breach of any of these orders referenced under the Public Health Act is a criminal offence and can attract penalties.

PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS TO THE CHURCH SAFE.



On consideration of the most recent NSW Health advice, the Diocese of Parramatta highly recommends all worshippers at Masses in the Diocese to wear a mask to, during and from Mass and other services. We understand the inconvenience that masks may pose, but the health of our parishioners and the wider community is our highest concern. We sincerely thank you for understanding, and for playing your part in keeping our community safe.

Let us Pray for the Sick



Chula Abey, Leonila Ahillon, George Alagiah, David Barrow, David Benjamin, John Bourke, Barrie Chamberlain, Gabriel Chung, Myrna G Cruz, Paul Daniel, Ronald Gomez, Anthony Janicska, Wendy & Klaus, Lawrence Family, Gerard Marcello, Maria V, Mark McGilligan, Mary Mifsud, Blago Milicevic, Laurel Morris, Patricia Oreo, Lekisha, & Grace Panilio, Roger & Kimberley Payoe, Wiranjan Peiris, Salome Pillay, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Susantha Seranayake, Bernie Sivapatham, Rose Stambouliah, 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: Anthony Chi Thien Nguyen, Josette Sultana, Lakshman Wijesekera, Laticia Benedicto, Ilumunada Rondario, Leonard Collins.

Anniversaries: Joseph Bartok, Frede Borg, Bertram & Gladys Bosen, Reggie Dalgado, Lourdes F De Venecia, Lazaro C Fernandez, Evangeline F Garcia, Felina & Apolinario Maglaya, Mangion Family, Antonio Marra, Herbert McKertich, Pauline Meilak, Adele Moroney, Denis Morrissey, Paula Mula, Joshep Nguyen, Romeo Palmos, Robert Pickup, Jose Sanchez, Rohan Senanayake, Tony Vassallo, Aloysius Welanggoda, John Portelli.

Remembrance: Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Gasper & Maria Dalgado, Natalie & Carlos D'Souza, Mrs Jesuth, Harold, Marc & Rosine LaFleur, Joseph Binh Chanh Lam, Sharon & John Lawrence, Lourda Motha, Stephen & Louis Mula, Mary Muscat & Muscat Family, Mile Perak, Roseline Ratnam, Ilumidada Rondario

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, Parish Office and Meeting Room Roof painted, Church roof cleaned and ceiling repaired and painted.

ON-LINE BANK DONATIONS

BSB: 067 950;
Account Number 000552;
Account Name: Seven Hills Catholic Church.
(please include your NAME and ENVELOPE NUMBER in the reference description, or write DONATION if you haven't joined the Planned Giving Prog.

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.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(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.)*

The 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.
earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness. *(R.)*

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 1:1-5

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.

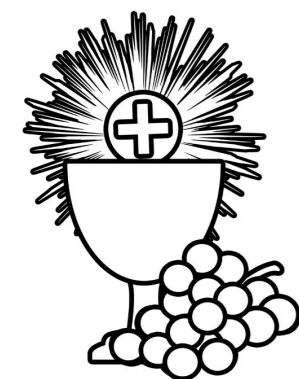
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to 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.'



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.**

“Fratelli tutti”: short summary of Pope Francis’ Social Encyclical (continued)

By Isabella Piro

Chapter Five: better politics

The theme of the fifth chapter is “A better kind of politics”, which represents one of the most valuable forms of charity because it is placed at the service of the common good (see Par 180) and recognizes the importance of people, understood as an open category, available for discussion and dialogue (see Par 160). This is the populism indicated by Francis, which counters that “populism” which ignores the legitimacy of the notion of “people”, by attracting consensus in order to exploit them for its own service and fomenting selfishness in order to increase its own popularity (see Par 159). But a better politics is also one that protects work, an “essential dimension of social life”. The best strategy against poverty, the Pontiff explains, does not simply aim to contain or render indigents inoffensive, but to promote them in the perspective of solidarity and subsidiarity (see Par 187). The task of politics, moreover, is to find a solution to all that attacks fundamental human rights, such as social exclusion; the marketing of organs, tissues, weapons and drugs; sexual exploitation; slave labour; terrorism and organized crime. The Pope makes an emphatic appeal to definitively eliminate human trafficking, a “source of shame for humanity”, and hunger, which is “criminal” because food is “an inalienable right” (Par 188-189).

The politics we need, Francis also underscores, is a politics centred on human dignity and not subjected to finance because “the marketplace, by itself, cannot resolve every problem”: the “havoc” wreaked by financial speculation has demonstrated this (see Par 168). Hence, popular movements have taken on particular relevance: as true “torrents of moral energy”, they must be engaged in society with greater coordination. In this way – the Pope states – it will be possible to go beyond a Policy “with” and “of” the poor (see Par 169).

Another hope present in the Encyclical regards the reform of the UN: in the face of the predominance of the economic dimension, a task of the United Nations will be to give substance to the concept of a “family of nations” working for the common good, the eradication of poverty and the protection of human rights. Tireless recourse “to negotiation, mediation and arbitration” – the Papal Document states – the UN must promote the force of law rather than the law of force (see Par 173-175).

Chapter Six: dialogue and friendship

From the sixth chapter, “Dialogue and friendship in society”, further emerges the concept of life as the “art of encounter” with everyone, even with the world’s peripheries and with original peoples, because “each of us can learn something from others. No one is useless and no one is expendable” (see Par 215). Then, of particular note, is the Pope’s reference to the miracle of “kindness”, an attitude to be recovered because it is a star “shining in the midst of darkness” and “frees us from the cruelty ... the anxiety ... the frantic flurry of activity” that prevail in the contemporary era (see Par 222-224).

Chapter Seven: renewed encounter

The value and promotion of peace is reflected on in the seventh chapter, “Paths of renewed encounter”, in which the Pope underlines that peace is connected to truth, justice and mercy. Far from the desire for vengeance, it is “proactive” and aims at forming a society based on service to others and on the pursuit of reconciliation and mutual development (see Par 227-229). Thus, peace is an “art” that involves and regards everyone and in which each one must do his or her part in “a never-ending task” (see Par 227-232). Forgiveness is linked to peace: we must love everyone, without exception – the Encyclical reads – but loving an oppressor means helping him to change and not allowing him to continue oppressing his neighbour (see Par 241-242). Forgiveness does not mean impunity, but rather, justice and remembrance, because to forgive does not mean to forget, but to renounce the destructive power of evil and the desire for revenge. Never forget “horrors” like the Shoah, the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, persecutions and ethnic massacres – exhorts the Pope. They must be remembered always, anew, so as not to become anaesthetized and to keep the flame of collective conscience alive. It is just as important to remember the good (see Par 246-252).

“Just War”

Part of the seventh chapter, then, focuses on war: “a constant threat”, that represents “the negation of all rights”, “a failure of politics and of humanity”, and “a stinging defeat before the forces of evil”. Moreover, due to nuclear chemical and biological weapons that strike many innocent civilians, today we can no longer think, as in the past, of the possibility of a “just war”, but we must vehemently reaffirm: “Never again war!” The total elimination of nuclear arms is “a moral and humanitarian imperative”. With the money invested in weapons, the Pope suggests instead the establishment of a global fund for the elimination of hunger (see Par 255-262).

Death penalty

Francis expresses just as clearly a position with regard to the death penalty: it is inadmissible and must be abolished worldwide. Not even a murderer loses his personal dignity” – the Pope writes – “and God himself pledges to guarantee this” (Par 263-269). There is emphasis on the necessity to respect “the sacredness of life” (Par 283) where today “some parts of our human family, it appears, can be readily sacrificed”, such as the unborn, the poor, the disabled and the elderly (Par 18).

Chapter Eight: religion and fraternity

In the eighth and final chapter, the Pontiff focuses on “Religions at the service of fraternity in our world” and emphasizes that terrorism is not due to religion but to erroneous interpretations of religious texts, as well as “policies linked to hunger, poverty, injustice, oppression” (Par 282-283). a journey of peace among religions is possible and that it is therefore necessary to guarantee religious freedom, a fundamental human right for all believers (see Par 279).

The Encyclical reflects, in particular, on the role of the Church: she does not “restrict her mission to the private sphere”, it states. While not engaging in politics she does not, however, renounce the political dimension of life itself, attention to the common good and concern for integral human development, according to evangelical principals (see Par 276-278).

Lastly, Francis quotes the “[Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together](#)”, which he signed on 4 February 2019 in Abu Dhabi, along with the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Ahmad Al-Tayyib: from that milestone of interreligious dialogue, the Pontiff returns to the appeal that, in the name of human fraternity, dialogue be adopted as the way, common cooperation as conduct, and mutual knowledge as method and standard (see Par 285).

Pope at Audience: God remains near to us in suffering when we pray

By Delvin Watkins

Pope Francis continued his catechesis cycle on prayer at the weekly General Audience, focusing on the Book of Psalms. He called the Old Testament book a "gymnasium and home of countless men and women of prayer."

How to pray

As part of the books of wisdom, the Psalms communicate to the believer "knowing how to pray".

"In the Psalms we find all human sentiments: the joys, the sorrows, the doubts, the hopes, the bitterness that colour our lives," said the Pope.

God, he added, inspired the language of prayer in the books so that those who read them might learn how to praise, thank, implore, and invoke Him.

"In short, the Psalms are the word of God that we human beings use to speak with Him."

The prayers in the Psalms arise out of lived experience, not abstract ideas, said the Pope. "To pray them it is enough for us to be what we are," with all our problems and uncertainties.

Question of suffering

Pope Francis went on to explore how the Psalmist confronts the issue of suffering, saying it is accepted as part of life and thus transformed into a question.

"Until when?" he said, is the question that remains unanswered.

"Every suffering calls for liberation, every tear calls for consolation, every wound awaits healing, every slander a sentence of absolution."

The Psalms, said the Pope, reminds us that life is not saved unless suffering is healed.

The person who prays, he added, knows that they are "are precious in the eyes of God, and so it makes sense to cry out."

Prayer: a cry to God

The Psalms show us that crying out to God in prayer "is the way and beginning of salvation."

Pope Francis said prayer turns pain into "a relationship: a cry for help waiting to intercept a listening ear."

"All human pains for God are sacred," he added. "Before God we are not strangers, or numbers. We are faces and hearts, known one by one, by name."

God's door always open

So, said Pope Francis, the believer finds an answer to suffering in the Psalms.

"He knows that even if all human doors were barred, God's door is open. Even if the whole world had issued a verdict of condemnation, there is salvation in God."

The Pope said the person who prays knows that problems are not always solved, but "if we are listened to, everything becomes more bearable."

God cries with us

In conclusion, Pope Francis said prayer saves us from suffering in abandonment, because our prayers rise up to God who "cries for every son and daughter who suffers and dies."

"If we maintain our relationship with Him," he said, "life does not spare us suffering, but we open up to a great horizon of goodness and set out towards its fulfilment."

Pope to Moneyval: Preventing merchants from speculating on humanity

By Vatican News

It is a task which is "particularly dear to my heart", carried out "to promote a 'clean finance', in which the 'merchants' are prevented from speculating in that sacred 'temple' which is humanity."

Pope Francis made that remark on Thursday in an address to the evaluators of the Moneyval Programme.

The Committee of the Council of Europe arrived in the Vatican on 30 September to evaluate measures against money laundering and financing of terrorism. The visit was agreed upon in 2019, and takes place in the cycle of periodic evaluations to which all jurisdictions belonging to Moneyval are subject according to a pre-established schedule.

Pope Francis recalled that "the Vatican recently introduced into its legal system measures aimed at ensuring transparency in the management of money and preventing money laundering and the financing of terrorism. On 1 June last, a *Motu Proprio* was issued for a more effective management of resources and for the promotion of transparency, oversight and competition in the procedures for awarding public contracts. On 19 August last, an Ordinance of the President of the Governorate required volunteer organizations and juridical persons of Vatican City State to report suspicious activities to the Financial Information Authority (AIF)." In his speech, the Pope expressed his desire for a financial system "that does not oppress those who are weakest and in greatest need."

He also stressed the need to "reflect anew on our relationship with money", because "in many places the supremacy of money over human beings is taken for granted."

"Sometimes, in the effort to amass wealth, there is little concern for where it comes from, the more or less legitimate activities that may have produced it, and the mechanisms of exploitation that may be behind it. Thus, situations can occur where, in touching money, we get blood on our hands, the blood of our brothers and sisters. It can also happen that financial resources are used to spread terror, to shore up the strongest, the most powerful and those prepared to sacrifice the lives of their brothers and sisters without a scruple, all in a bid to hold onto their power."

Following the lead of St. Paul VI, Pope Francis reiterated the proposal to set up a global Fund to relieve the needs of the poor and hungry by "setting aside the monies spent on military expenditures."

The Pope also recalled that the Church's social teaching has pointed out "the error of the neoliberal dogma", according to which the economic and moral orders are so "completely distinct from one another that the former is in no way dependent on the latter."

"It would seem that the worship of the ancient golden calf has returned in a new and ruthless guise in the idolatry of money and the dictatorship of an impersonal economy lacking a truly human purpose."

Indeed, he added, "financial speculation fundamentally aimed at quick profit continues to wreak havoc."

But the path traced by Jesus is clear, said the Pope.

"Jesus drove merchants from the temple precincts and stated: 'You cannot serve both God and money.' Once the economy loses its human face, then we are no longer served by money, but ourselves become servants of money. This is a form of idolatry against which we are called to react by re-establishing the rational order of things, which appeals to the common good, whereby money must serve, not rule."



FROM FR. HENRY DUC

In Jesus' day, the land of Israel was conquered and ruled by Roman emperors, and as part of their whole strategy to make their sovereignty felt and acknowledged, people in the entire Roman Empire were obliged to use Roman coins inscribed with the image of the head of an emperor for trading.

Out of their pride as God's Chosen people, Jewish people, of course, were outraged because they thought foreign emperors were trying to take the place of God, their God and King, so they minted their own coins for cultic purposes and used the Roman ones for businesses.

In the last many weeks, Jesus by means of his teaching about the Kingdom of God has kept the front foot as he has relentlessly had a go at the Jewish authority. He has subtly accused them for mistreating the prophets of old and refusing to pay attention to him, the Son of God.

Naturally they were unhappy with Jesus' ongoing criticisms as such, and looking for every opportunity to strike back, and this Gospel story sets up the scene for such retaliation attempt.

It began with a question baiting him for a comment about the issue whether they should be encouraged to continue to pay tax for the Romans or to stop it. It doesn't matter whether Jesus says yes or no, because either way would land him in lot of troubles.

A yes answer shall make him look bad in the eyes of Jewish people who wish for nothing but the elimination of the Romans, and a no answer, on the other hand, shall give the Roman authority enough reason to charge him a death penalty for his revolutionary stand. There seemed no way for Jesus to get out of such an inescapable trap set up by such a malicious group of men.

While they were enjoying the thought of cornering him into a no-win situation, Jesus quickly turned them into nothing but a bunch of laughter as he asked them to show him a coin, which of course was inscribed with the image of the Roman emperor. They were completely take by surprise when he uttered this famous statement, 'give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God.'

More than just to make his slippery opponents feel at awe and embarrassed before the wisdom of the Son of God, who is 'unrivalled' as the writer of the book of the prophet Isaiah acclaimed in the first reading today, Jesus was able to send out a truly significant message reminding his listeners both now and then of their dual responsibility both to the world where they live here and now, which is to make this God-created world a better and better place every day, and also to the Lord through their works of worship and praise.

Let us ask the Lord to open our ears, our mind and heart today, so that we will be able to hear his message and allow it to direct our mind and transform our heart more in tune with what Jesus expects us to do.

Have a good witnessing week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...



SPECIAL APPEAL FOR THE HOLY LAND-THIS WEEKEND

Due to Covid-19, our traditional appeal for the Holy Land on Good Friday could not take place as previous years, so we are going to have the appeal this weekend 17/18 October, 2020. Please give generously to this much needed appeal to help maintain lot of Church programs such as charity and maintenance overthere.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING REPORT The meeting began with a reflection upon an article called 'Prayer' by Bishop Daniel E. Flores going through Pope Francis' prayer life and messages. He took us back to the pope's inspiring moment marking the start of his papal ministry when he appeared for the first time at the papal balcony on top of St Peter's Square humbly asking the crowds present there and all those watching and listening to the event worldwide to pray for him, and he called it the time of 'God's swooping' into our lives to pull us into God's vision.

The bishop also talked about Francis' down-to-earth language in his preaching, his strong awareness of the present moment while celebrating the Eucharist, his definition of prayer as a response to Jesus in the flesh, his gazing concept in prayer, and even his grandmother's influence in introducing him to the devotion to Our Lady.

The Council spent some time to listen to reports from the Deanery Council, the Finance Committee, the Sacramental program, and the Young Adults, and also revisited our Children's Prayer Card initiative, whose results have been on our Mass slides recently.



National Walk for Mental Health - SUN 18 OCT 2020 10-12:30PM

Join our Social Justice Group this Sunday along with the Blacktown Network of Faith Communities for the National Walk for Mental Health supporting Mental Health Foundation Australia. Meet at The Ponds Community Hub, 45 Riverbank Drive,

The Ponds. For more info contact: Terry Jordan 0409 373 715.

Lourdes Young Adults Group & Good Shepherd Youth Choir Plumpton at Vinnies Western Sydney Virtual Sleepout - FRI 23 OCT 2020 8:30-10PM

Due to COVID-19, the two youth groups join forces in a unique Virtual Zoom Sleepout with activities on the night of Friday, 23rd October 2020 at 8:30-10PM. Please support our young adults and their fundraising goal to help those in our community who need it most. Donate at: <https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/vinnies-community-sleepout-western-sydney-2020/lourdes-young-adults-group-seven-hills>

If you would like to join us virtually or for more info contact, Ian Epondulan 0401161264.





FROM POPE FRANCIS

CHAPTER THREE—This dream made of water

43. In the Amazon region, water is queen; the rivers and streams are like veins, and water determines every form of life: "There, in the dead of summer, when the last gusts from the East subside in the still air, the hydrometer takes the place of the thermometer in determining the weather. Lives depend on a painful alternation of falls and rises in the level of the great rivers. These always swell in an impressive manner. The Amazonas overflows its bed and in just a few days raises the level of its waters... The flooding puts a stop to everything. Caught in the dense foliage of the igarapies, man awaits with rare stoicism the inexorable end of that paradoxical winter of elevated temperatures. The receding of the waters is summer. It is the resurrection of the primitive activity of those who carry on with the only form of life compatible with the unequal extremes of nature that make the continuation of any effort impossible".

44. The shimmering water of the great Amazon River collects and enlivens all its surroundings: "Amazonas, capital of the syllables of water, father and patriarch, you are the hidden eternity of the processes of fertilization; streams alight upon you like birds".

45. The Amazon is also the spinal column that creates harmony and unity: "the river does not divide us. It unites us and helps us live together amid different cultures and languages". While it is true that in these lands there are many "Amazon regions", the principal axis is the great river, the offspring of many rivers:

"From the high mountain range where the snows are eternal, the water descends and traces a shimmering line along the ancient skin of the rock: the Amazon is born. It is born every second. It descends slowly, a sinuous ray of light, and then swells in the lowland. Rushing upon green spaces, it invents its own path and expands. Underground waters well up to embrace the water that falls from the Andes. From the belly of the pure white clouds, swept by the wind, water falls from heaven. It collects and advances, multiplied in infinite pathways, bathing the immense plain... This is the Great Amazonia, covering the humid tropic with its astonishingly thick forest, vast reaches untouched by man, pulsing with life threading through its deep waters... From the time that men have lived there, there has arisen from the depths of its waters, and running through the heart of its forest, a terrible fear: that its life is slowly but surely coming to an end".

[Pope Francis, Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation **QUERIDA AMAZONIA**—to the people of God and to all persons of good will.]



DIOCESAN NEWS



Aid to the Church in Need is organizing the prayer campaign *One Million Children Praying the Rosary*. We know how powerful the prayers of children are, they fly like an arrow into the heart of God. How powerful

then is the prayer of the Rosary prayed by millions of children, and adults, all around the world! Join this prayer campaign on the 18th of October. Go to www.aidtochurch.org/one-million-children to learn more.

ACU Online Public Lecture with Sr Prof Julia Upton: 12 October

The ACU Centre for Liturgy is hosting Sr Prof Julia Upton rsm from St John's University in New York in a free online public lecture. Titled "Liturgy, Prayer, Pastoral Care and Pandemics," it will be broadcast live from New York on Monday 12 October from 10am AEST via Zoom. Registration is essential by 7 October 2020. Register by visiting www.acu.edu.au/LectureUpton



This Sunday evening 18 October at 8pm, via [Catholic Youth Parramatta's Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/catholicyouthparra), Bishop Vincent and a small team will be hosting a livestream event on [Facebook – HSC 2020 LIFTED Special](https://www.facebook.com/catholicyouthparra/videos/263123708302585/) to give Year 12 students, their families, and our Diocesan community a short window of opportunity to celebrate their dedication and perseverance during a difficult year before their first exam 38 hours later. <https://www.facebook.com/catholicyouthparra/videos/263123708302585/>

The livestream event will feature messages of support from Year 6 students and clergy, music, scripture, appearances by some Year 12 graduates, and a reflection and blessing from Bishop Vincent over a 25-minute period.

Share your Good News Stories! 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>

SATURDAY SESSIONS –GROW & SHARE FAITH

Come and join the Saturday Sessions zooming between 11 am to 12:15 pm to share and grow in faith. Amazing topics. This week's is on the plenary, A Journey of Discernment: The Plenary Council. Contact Lisa Bright (Lisa.Bright@parracatholic.org) to get on the mailing list. Past topics are at the well. (thewell.org.au)

St Bernadette's Lalor Park Wednesday Evening Devotions

St Bernadette's Parish, Lalor Park, is hosting weekly devotions to Mary Immaculate and St Bernadette every Wednesday evening at 7pm, followed by Mass at 7.30pm. All are welcome. For more information, contact the parish office on 02 9672 4037 or admin@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au



St Vincent de Paul Society

NSW

good works

Family Assistance 1800 606 724
Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm

Anyone who is experiencing financial hardship may benefit from the service. Emergency relief may be given in the form of food parcels, food vouchers, and assistance with utility bills, clothing, furniture and referral. The assistance given is based on the assessment conducted by our volunteer members at the time of the home visit.

Domestic Violence - Alert 1800 737732
https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Find_Help/NSW/General_support

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.



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.

OCTOBER 2020		
21	Confirmation 3rd Meeting	6.30pm
22	Christ community Prayer Group	9am
22	Legion of Mary	1.30pm
22	Finance Committee Meeting	8pm
24	Confirmation 3rd Meeting (RPT)	4.30pm
28	Confirmation Practice Group 1	6.30pm
30	Confirmation Mass GROUP 1	7.00pm

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!



17/18 October 2020	
Acolytes	Vigil: James Dinning 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am Eugene Miu
Ministers	Vigil: Louise La Guidara, Rosey Soares 8am: Lorraine Fernandes, Anne McNally 9.30am: Artelle Lenthall, Nancy Shami
Readers	Vigil: Catherine Rodrigues, Alison Punch 8am: Andrew Millar, Priya Joachim 9.30am: Ian Epondulan, Ryan Epondulan
Altar Servers	Vigil: Alex La Guidara, Jayden Rambukwella 8am: SUB REQ. 9.30am Chisha Gonzales, Sarah Lenthall, Daniel Tenn, Florencia Wanandy, Gabrielle Wanandy
Flowers	Fennie & Angela
Church cleaning	24 October Helen Gonzales, John Mitchell, Novelo Paylaga, Adrian Pint, Johnson Rosario, Maricel Santos
Welcomers	Vigil: VOLUNTEER, Annette Peatman 8am: Rita Paolini, Suzy Nemorin 9.30am: Helen Gonzales, Lena Falzonn

24/25 October 2020	
Acolytes	Vigil: Ernie Gartner 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am Ramzee Michael
Ministers	Vigil: Benno Motta, SUB REQ 8am: Lorraine fernandes, Priya Joachim 9.30am: Paul Gow, Eugene Miu
Readers	Vigil: Jemma Sarmiento, Stefanie Menezes 8am: Maricel Santos, Pepito Ferriols 9.30am: Megan Michael, SUB REQ
Altar Servers	Vigil: Caron Cyril, Jesseline Franco, SUBREQ 8am: Amelia Herczeg, Joshua Herczeg 9.30am Connor Ballment, Ethan Ballment, Riley Ballment, Rynan Michael, Matthew Shawcross
Flowers	Priya, Mary B & Annette
Church cleaning	28 October Sue Abela, Jacinta Warner
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso, Ram Ugre 8am: Joyce Hillbrick, Rita Paolini 9.30am: VOLUNTEER, Mara Michael