

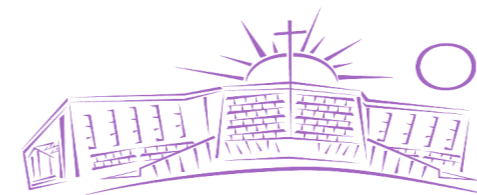
Acolytes, Ministers, Readers and Altar Servers, please remember to arrive ready 10 minutes before the beginning of Mass.

		December 1/2	
Acolytes	Vigil	Derick Soares	
	8am	Terry Jordan	
Ministers	9.30am	Ramzee Michael	
	Vigil	Anna Bellissimo, Cathy Hutchings, Christine Menezes, Jemma Sarmiento, Rosey Soares, Vinnie Zahra	
Readers	8.00am	Fennie Balabat, Lorraine Fernandes	
	9.30am	Ian Epondulan, Artelle Lenthall	
Altar Servers	Vigil	Crystal Menezes, Stefanie Menezes	
	8.00am	Pepito Ferriols, Priya Joachim	
Musicians	9.30am	Erika Hien, Megan Michael	
	Vigil	Shaun Baptist, Benjamin Clark, Noah Ebb	
Children's Rosary	8.00am	Jayden Cortis, Amelia Herczeg, Joshua Herczeg	
	9.30am	Sarah Lenhthall, Rynan Michael, Sean Park	
Flowers	Vigil	Youth for Christ	
	8am	Grace Notes	
Bookshop	9.30am	Christine Clarke	
	Vigil	2nd & 3rd Sunday of the month Only	
Morning Church Cleaning	8am	Maka Family	
	9.30am	69 Seven Hills Road, Seven Hills	
Welcomers	5 Dec	Fenty & Santih	
	6pm	Vinnie	
Church Cleaning	8am	VOLUNTEER	
	9.30am	Edmund	
Welcomers	5 Dec	Tongan Choir	
	6pm	Carole Brooks, Lourdes Spitieri, Vinnie Zahra, Suzy Nemorin	
Church Cleaning	8am	John Jordan, VOLUNTEERS	
	9.30am	Olivia Cortis, VOLUNTEERS	
Welcomers	8am	Anna Lopeti, VOLUNTEERS	
	9.30am		

		December 8/9	
Acolytes	Vigil	Abel Do Rosario	
	8am	Gerard Marcello	
Ministers	9.30am	David Christian	
	Vigil	Derick Soares, Rosey Soares	
Readers	8.00am	Lawrence Falzon, Helen Gonzales, Winnie Marelo, Andrew Millar, Eugene Miu, Jim Said	
	9.30am	Marianne Descombes, Jude Dias	
Altar Servers	Vigil	Noreen Rosario, Laura Bellissimo	
	8.00am	Kathy Walker, Adrian Walker	
Musicians	9.30am	Ryan Epondulan, Mercy Aquino	
	Vigil	Caron Cyril, Arshaan Netto, Arzaan Netto	
Children's Rosary	8.00am	Matthew Said, Rebecca Said, Lewis Savic	
	9.30am	Connor Ballment, Ethan Ballment, Eric Da, Victor Da, Jerard Sarmiento	
Flowers	Vigil	Magnificat	
	8am	Fr Henry	
Bookshop	9.30am	Tongan Choir	
	Vigil	2nd & 3rd Sunday of the month Only	
Morning Church Cleaning	8am	Jordan	
	9.30am	21A Abigail Street, Seven Hills	
Welcomers	6pm	Lucinda & Orindo	
	8am	Marinela	
Church Cleaning	8am	Edith	
	9.30am	Fenty Saputra	
Welcomers	6pm	Volunteers	
	8am	Elodia Colussi, Ruth Quadros, Elizabeth Mead, Amy Whitfield	
Church Cleaning	13 Dec	Ram Ugre, VOLUNTEERS	
	6pm	Chandra Sampanthan, Rita Paolini, VOLUNTEER	
Welcomers	8am	Lena Falzon, VOLUNTEERS	
	9.30am		

PARISH DIARY

DECEMBER		
3 Dec	Legion of Mary Meeting	1:30pm
3 Dec	St Vincent de Paul Meeting	7:00pm
5 Dec	Sacramental Program 2019 parent meeting	8:30pm
6 Dec	Christ Community Prayer Group	9:00am
6 Dec	Parish Volunteer thank you BBQ	7:30pm
13 Dec	Lourdes over 50's Meeting	10:30am



OUR LADY OF LOURDES

PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS

"Still a wonderful place to pray & stay."

Parish Priest: Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran
Parish Secretary: Mrs Erika Hien
Sacrament & Youth Co-Ordinator: Mrs Judy Barden
Parish Church: 7 Grantham Rd, Seven Hills 2147
Postal Address: PO Box 944, Seven Hills 1730
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.org.au
Parish School: Our Lady of Lourdes
Principal: Ms Keiran Byrnes

Pastoral Care of the Sick and Elderly: Mrs Bathista Emmanuel
Office Hours Monday-Friday: 8.30am - 3.00pm
Telephone: 9622 2920
Parish Office Email: secretary@olol7hills.org.au
Youth Group Email: youthholol7h@gmail.com
Public School Catechist Co-Ordinator: Mr Bob McNally

**First Sunday of Advent
 2nd December, 2018
 Year C**



WEEKEND MASS Saturday Vigil 6pm
 Sunday 8am & 9.30am
WEEKDAY MASS Tues - Friday 8am
PRAYER AND WORSHIP SERVICE Monday & Saturday 8am
Church Open Monday-Friday Mon -Fri 8.30am-3pm (for prayer and reflection)
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes Friday after 8am Mass until 9am
Exposition, Divine Mercy and Mass 7th December 7.00pm

HEALING MASS & ANOINTING OF SICK 1st Thursday of month at 8am. **6 December**
RECONCILIATION Saturday 4.30 - 5.30pm
MARRIAGES Please contact Parish Office 6 months prior to the wedding
BAPTISMAL PREPARATION 16th January 2019 7.30pm Baptisms 2nd & 4th Sunday 11am
FAMILY MASS 23rd December 9.30am
YOUTH MASS 1st Sunday of the month 9.30am
2nd December
A Blessing for Children is available at all Masses

READINGS FOR This Sunday
 1st Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16
 2nd Reading: Thess 3:12 - 4:2
 Gospel: Luke: 21:25-28, 34-36

READINGS FOR Next Sunday
 1st Reading: Baruch 5:1-9
 2nd Reading: Phil 1:4-6, 8-11
 Gospel: Luke: 3:1-6

I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David. When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts in holiness. Your redemption is close at hand.

Jerusalem — God will show you splendour. Show yourself sinless and without blame in the day of Christ. All people shall see the salvation of God.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: *To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.*

OPENING PRAYER: Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

RESPONSE TO PSALM: *To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, Show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: *The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.*

DIOCESAN NEWS...

The Epiphany Pilgrimage: the journey of the Magi
 Are you looking for a different way to start the 2019 new year? Maybe to meet some new people, get fit and conclude the Christmas season on a spiritual high? The Epiphany Pilgrimage is a not-for-profit, 7 day, 110 km Catholic pilgrimage through the Blue Mountains which coincides with the Feast of the Epiphany. The pilgrimage begins at Emu Plains on 2 January, 2019 and finishes at Bell on 8 January, 2019. Registrations for the full pilgrimage close 9 December with day walk registrations available on the day. For further information and to register see www.epiphanypilgrimage.org or for general information and current news see <https://www.facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage/>.

New Parishioners	Sick or Housebound	Planned Giving
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

Maria Zentai, Sue Tipaldo, Letitia Haines, Rose Alexander Balatbat, Andrew Fedrigo, Gabriel Chung, Gordon McLandsborough, Helen Diab, Letitia Haines, Maria Zentai, Nancy Youssef, Paul Gerard, Rose Stambouliah, 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

Let us Pray for the Deceased



Recently Deceased: Carmelita C Cornford; Lakshantha Fernando; Mary Muscat; Evangeline Garcia; Brian Harnett; Marlene Manganpat, Lourdes Fernandez de Venecia, Lazaro Fernandez.

Anniversaries: Aurora Nonato, Bill Falzon, Gabriel Singh, Gerry Leon, John Spiteri, Lionel Bosen, Marcelo Capuyan Snr, Rosary Silva, Vincent Gomez, Vivian Silva, Xavier Motha jnr,

Remembrance: All those listed in our Remembrance book for November, Esperance D'Lima, Gwen & Percy Burtles, Harold Lafleur, John & Sharon Lawrence, Lakshman Perera, Lourda Motha, Marc Lafleur, Mary and Des Barney, Muscat Family, Papa Maman Cyril, Pauline Meilak, Reggie Dalgado, Rosine Lafleur, Sheena Landagan, Stephen & Louis Mula, Wayne Cregan,

PRAYER FOR ALL CHURCH LEADERS

Lord, Jesus Christ, watch over those who are leaders in your Church. Keep them faithful to their vocation and to the proclamation of your message. Teach them to recognise and interpret the signs of the times. Strengthen them with the gifts of the Spirit and help them to serve their subjects, especially the poor and the lowly. Give them a vivid sense of your presence in the world and a knowledge of how to show it to others.

MONEY MATTERS

Envelopes \$ 1626.00
Loose \$ 804.00
TOTAL \$ 2430.00
WEEKLY TARGET: \$3500.00



Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

CUPPA FOR OUR CARPARK

Donated to date \$ 18993.62 Balance \$56006.38

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

TAI CHI 2018: All are welcome to join every Friday morning from 9.15-10.30am which is a 75 minutes class. \$10 per class. All ages are welcome to attend.

FROM POPE FRANCIS

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”



Jesus himself warns us that the path he proposes goes against the flow, even making us challenge society by the way we live and, as a result, becoming a nuisance. He reminds us how many people have been, and still are, persecuted simply because they struggle for justice, because they take seriously their commitment to God and to others. Unless we wish to sink into an obscure mediocrity, let us not long for an easy life, for “whoever would save his life will lose it” (Mt 16:25).

In living the Gospel, we cannot expect that everything will be easy, for the thirst for power and worldly interests often stands in our way. Saint John Paul II noted that “a society is alienated if its forms of social organization, production and consumption make it more difficult to offer this gift of self and to establish this solidarity between people”. In such a society, politics, mass communications and economic, cultural and even religious institutions become so entangled as to become an obstacle to authentic human and social development. As a result, the Beatitudes are not easy to live out; any attempt to do so will be viewed negatively, regarded with suspicion, and met with ridicule.

Whatever weariness and pain we may experience in living the commandment of love and following the way of justice, the cross remains the source of our growth and sanctification. We must never forget that when the New Testament tells us that we will have to endure suffering for the Gospel’s sake, it speaks precisely of persecution (Acts 5:41; Phil 1:29; Col 1:24; 2 Tim 1:12; 1 Pet 2:20, 4:14-16; Rev 2:10).

Here we are speaking about inevitable persecution, not the kind of persecution we might bring upon ourselves by our mistreatment of others. The saints are not odd and aloof, unbearable because of their vanity, negativity and bitterness. The Apostles of Christ were not like that. The Book of Acts states repeatedly that they enjoyed favour “with all the people” (2:47; 4:21.33; 5:13), even as some authorities harassed and persecuted them (4:1-3, 5:17-18).

Persecutions are not a reality of the past, for today too we experience them, whether by the shedding of blood, as is the case with so many contemporary martyrs, or by more subtle means, by slander and lies. Jesus calls us blessed when people “utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account” (Mt 5:11). At other times, persecution can take the form of gibes that try to caricature our faith and make us seem ridiculous.

Accepting daily the path of the Gospel, even though it may cause us problems: that is holiness.

Pope Francis, apostolic exhortation, GAUDETE ET EXULTATE

FROM FR. HENRY DUC

Nearly a month ago, as I took my mum to the airport for the flight back to Vietnam, I was rather surprised to see a tall Christmas tree standing on the ground outside the arrival area. I pointed it out to my sister and jokingly said to her, ‘The secular world must be more religious than the religious world over here.’



As you walk into the church this weekend marking the first Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the new Liturgical year, you are welcome by the traditional symbols of Christmas, namely the Christmas trees and the crib reminding us of the festive time of Christmas.

Advent, in fact, is a very significant season in the Church, for it helps to prepare us both for the commemoration of the nativity of Jesus and the Second Coming of Christ at the end of time. From a historical point of view, Advent made its first appearance through the teaching of the Council of Saragossa

(380), calling the laity to be mindful of the obligation to attend church daily from December 17 to January 6, and then from the fifth century, the Gallian Church initiated a three-day-a-week fast starting from around November 11 and extended to Christmas.

In the attempt to highlight the two-folded dimension of Advent, the Gospel account literally talks about the end time with the cosmic change and earthly unrest, and calls us listeners to remain watchful and stay awake for the return of the Son of Man. We can see in this text another layer of meaning to encourage us to be spiritually watchful and awake for the celebration of Christmas.

To be spiritually watchful and awake perhaps, mean to be conscious of the spiritual dimension of Christmas and to increase our prayers and good works to give praise and thanks to God for giving us the best gift: his own Son to lead us into God’s kingdom.

Let us pray that we may be able to prepare ourselves for the commemoration of Jesus’ nativity this year in the way Jesus encourages us to follow, that is to focus more on giving more time to God in prayers and to others in works of charity.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ADVENT PRAYER GROUP

All are invited to join Fr Henry for the Advent Prayer Group from 9.00 -9.30am on all Fridays during the Advent season starting from 7th December.

PARISH SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Our parish will celebrate the **Second Rite of Reconciliation** with the help of our local clergy on **Tuesday 18th December at 7.30pm**. The **First Rite of Reconciliation** (one to one) will be held on **Thursday 20th December from 8.30-9.30am, Friday 21st December from 9.00-10am & Saturday 21st December from 9.00-10am**.

English tutors - We have been approached by Fr Andrew of the Catholic Coptic Church at Prospect for help with his conversational English. If you could be available for an hour or two each month at a time to suit you and Fr Andrew, he would be very grateful as he is keen to improve his ability to preach in English. If you can help please contact **Adrian on 0408649327**.

Four2Eight will meet **this weekend** after the 9:30am Mass for our Christmas Party! Come along and join in the fun.



THANK YOU EVENING FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS

Are you involved in one of the very many volunteer ministries in our parish? If so, you are invited to a **BARBECUE** on **THIS THURSDAY 6th December** in the **PARISH HALL** from 6.00pm Food and drinks will be

supplied **so for catering purposes it is very important for you to please write your name, phone number and numbers attending on the sheets at the REAR church doors**. So far only 37 people have indicated they are coming along so if you haven’t written your name down and are planning to come along, please add your name to the list so we can make sure we can cater to the number of people coming. Thank you.



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.



CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Tags for St Vincent de Paul Christmas hampers are available at the back of the church. Hampers are required to be brought in by 9th December to enable them to be handed out before Christmas.

ST VINCENT de PAUL MEETINGS

Meetings are held **every Monday** at 7.00pm except during January

Bishop’s Christmas Appeal for Homeless Young Mothers in our Diocese.

CatholicCare’s Houses to Homes is one of the vital services supported by our Diocese through Parramatta Catholic Foundation. Houses to Homes gives hope, help, compassion, care and shelter to disadvantaged, homeless young mums who have nowhere and nobody else to turn to. Every year, 30 to 50 mothers and mothers-to-be, rely on Houses to Homes for safe shelter, food and the skills to build a better life.



This Christmas, we’re counting on your faith, hope and charity to support homeless mothers and children in crisis. Your compassionate gifts and prayers will support the shelter, independent living and parenting skills programs that homeless mums desperately need.

Please give with a generous heart via the envelopes on the pews or donate online at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal. Thank you for sharing God’s unconditional love this Christmas.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 PARISH GROUP SHARING

The surprising thing about this sharing is that the group has met four times so far and each time joined in a lively discussion on issues needing change within the church. Our members spend up to 2 hours each time discussing spiritual matters where every voice is heard, and everyone enjoys this religious experience which normally happens so rarely. This time for input to the Plenary Council is quickly coming to an end so Fr Henry has asked that we meet to list the most important issues facing our church of today and send them to the Plenary Council. He would like to see more of parishioners come to this important meeting to be held on 11 December at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room. **Remember: Every voice matters. Every person matters.**

PARISH MORNING TEA - CAN YOU HELP? We are in need of volunteers to assist with the usual parish morning tea after the 9:30am Mass next weekend 9th December. If you can help, please contact the parish office on 96222920.

MINISTERS - NEW ROSTER

Forms are available at the back of the church for ministers to renew their information for the next rostering period January - June 2019. All updates must be received by Monday 3rd December so the roster can be completed and published by 17th December.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2019

An information meeting will be held **this week on Wednesday 5th December** with a repeat of this meeting on **Saturday 8th December** for any parents wishing to enrol their child to celebrate the **Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy**