

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

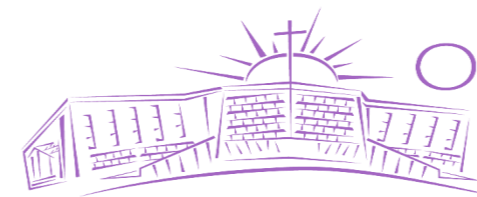
December 8/9		December 15/16	
Acolytes	Vigil 8am 9.30am Abel Do Rosario Gerard Marcello David Christian	Acolytes	Vigil 8am 9.30am Lawrence Falzon Ernie Gartner Ian Epondulan Cathy Huutchings Vinnie Zahra
Ministers	Vigil 8.00am 9.30am Derick Soares, Rosey Soares Lawrence Falzon, Helen Gonzales, Winnie Mareello, Andrew Millar, Eugene Miu, Jim Said Ian Epondulan, Artelle Lenthall Crystal Menezes, Stefanie Menezes	Ministers	Vigil 8.00am 9.30am James Dinning Edith Gartner Laura Bellissimo Barbara Chandler Anna Lopeti Kamela Maka Maria Michael Ramzee Michael
Readers	8.00am 9.30am Marianne Descombes, Jude Dias Kathy Walker, Adrian Walker	Readers	Vigil 8.00am 9.30am Denis Symon Alison Punch Benno Motha Erika Hien Megan Michael Helen Katopau
Altar Servers	Vigil 8.00am 9.30am Caron Cyril, Arshaan Netto, Arzaan Netto Matthew Said, Rebecca Said, Lewis Savic Connor Ballment, Ethan Ballment, Eric Da, Victor Da, Jerard Sarmiento	Altar Servers	Vigil 8.00am 9.30am Yxaak Dino Genevieve Estil Madisen Estil Jesseline Franco Arynan Roy Aaron Rosario Isacc Rosario
Musicians	Vigil 8am 9.30am Magnificat Fr Henry Tongan Choir	Musicians	Vigil 8am 9.30am Deanne Do Rosario Couples for Christ Folk Group
Children's Rosary	Liturgy 2nd & 3rd Sunday of the month Only Jordan 21A Abigail Street, Seven Hills	Children's Rosary	Liturgy 2nd & 3rd Sunday of the month Only Morris 45 James Street, Seven Hills
Flowers	Lucinda & Orlindo	Flowers	Fennie & Angela
Bookshop	Vigil 8am 9.30am Marinela Edith Fenty Saputra John & An O'Brien	Bookshop	Vigil 8am 9.30am Shelia Erika Hien Tea Kamela & Anna Maka
Morning Tea	13 Dec Elodia Colussi, Ruth Quadros, Elizabeth Mead, Amy Whitfield	Church Cleaning	22 Dec Andrew Fedrigo, Ramzee Michael
Church Cleaning	6pm 7am 8am Chandra Sampanthan, Rita Paolini, VOLUNTEER	Welcomers	6pm 8am 9.30am Mary Jordan VOLUNTEERS VOLUNTEERS
Welcomers	9.30am Lena Falzon, VOLUNTEERS		

PARISH DIARY

DECEMBER		
10 Dec	Legion of Mary Meeting	1:30pm
10 Dec	St Vincent de Paul Meeting	7:00pm
11 Dec	Plenary Council Meeting	7:30pm
13 Dec	Christ Community Prayer Group	9:30am
14 Dec	Advent Prayer Group	9:00am
14 Dec	Young Adults meeting	7:00pm
16 Dec	Social Justice Group - Training meeting	12:30pm
14 Dec	Legion of Mary Meeting	1:30pm
14 Dec	St Vincent de Paul Meeting	7:00pm
18 Dec	2nd Rite Reconciliation	7:30pm



Palms Australia
Make an Encounter in 2019
 Palms Encounters are rich immersions that challenge perceptions of our neighbours, guided by Palms mission volunteers with cultural experience of Timor Leste, Myanmar and Samoa.
 Timor Leste- April & Sept
 Samoa - June
 Myanmar- November
www.palms.org.au/encounters



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 and Elderly:	Mrs Bathista Emmanuel
Parish Secretary:	Mrs Erika Hien	Office Hours:	8.30am - 3.00pm
Sacrament & Youth Co-Ordinator:	Mrs Judy Barden	Monday-Friday:	8.30am - 3.00pm
Parish Church:	7 Grantham Rd, Seven Hills 2147	Telephone:	9622 2920
Postal Address:	PO Box 944, Seven Hills 1730	Parish Office Email:	secretary@lol7hills.org.au
Parish Website:	www.olol7hills.org.au	Youth Group Email:	youthlol7h@gmail.com
Parish School:	Our Lady of Lourdes	Public School Catechist Co-Ordinator:	Mr Bob McNally
Principal:	Ms Keiran Byrnes		

Second Sunday of Advent
9th December, 2018
Year C



WEEKEND MASS	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9.30am	HEALING MASS & ANOINTING OF SICK	1st Thursday of month at 8am. 3 January
WEEKDAY MASS	Tues - Friday 8am	RECONCILIATION	Saturday 4.30 - 5.30pm
PRAYER AND WORSHIP SERVICE	Monday & Saturday 8am	MARRIAGES	Please contact Parish Office 6 months prior to the wedding
Church Open Monday-Friday	Mon -Fri 8.30am-3pm (for prayer and reflection)	BAPTISMAL PREPARATION	16th January 2019 7.30pm Baptisms 2nd & 4th Sunday 11am
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes	Friday after 8am Mass until 9am	FAMILY MASS YOUTH MASS	23rd December 9.30am 1st Sunday of the month 9.30am 6th January
Exposition, Divine Mercy and Mass	4th January 2019 7.00pm	A Blessing for Children is available at all Masses	

READINGS FOR This Sunday	1st Reading: Baruch 5:1-9 2nd Reading: Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 Gospel: Luke: 3:1-6	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.
READINGS FOR Next Sunday	1st Reading: Zephania 3:14-18 2nd Reading: Phil 4:4-7 Gospel: Luke: 3:10-18	With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you. The Lord is near. What, then, must we do?

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: *O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.*

OPENING PRAYER: Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

RESPONSE TO PSALM: *The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: *Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God..*

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

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

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: Roseline Ratnam, Frank Strangio, Francis Cook, Lakshantha Fernando, Lourdes Fernandez de Venecia, Lazaro Fernandez, Victoria Almeida, Bridgette Fernandes, Alexander Balatbat



Anniversaries: Xavier Motha jnr, M.A. Fernando, Veronica Pombar, Jose Font

Remembrance: Harold Lafleur, Rosine Lafleur, Marc Lafleur, Lakshman Perera, Lourda Motha, Muscat Family, Papa Maman Cyril, Mary Muscat, Teodoro Garcia, Roy, Mary an d Des Barney.

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 is to others.

MONEY MATTERS

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



Your generosity is greatly ap.....

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 2019: Classes will resume in January 2019. Start date will be announced after Christmas.

LOURDES OVER 50S GROUP: Next meeting Thursday 14th February 2019

FROM POPE FRANCIS

"In the twenty-fifth chapter of Matthew's Gospel (31-46), Jesus expands on the Beatitude that calls the merciful blessed.



If we seek the holiness pleasing to God's eyes, this text offers us one clear criterion on which we will be judged. "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me" (35-36). In fidelity to the Master. Holiness, then, is not about swooning in mystic rapture. As Saint John Paul II said: "If we truly start out anew from the contemplation of Christ, we must learn to see him especially in the faces of those with whom he himself wished to be identified". The text of Matthew 25:35-36 is "not a simple invitation to charity: it is a page of Christology which sheds a ray of light on the mystery of Christ".

In this call to recognize him in the poor and the suffering, we see revealed the very heart of Christ, his deepest feelings and choices, which every saint seeks to imitate. Given these uncompromising demands of Jesus, it is my duty to ask Christians to acknowledge and accept them in a spirit of genuine openness, sine glossa. In other words, without any "ifs or buts" that could lessen their force. Our Lord made it very clear that holiness cannot be understood or lived apart from these demands, for mercy is "the beating heart of the Gospel".

If I encounter a person sleeping outdoors on a cold night, I can view him or her as an annoyance, an idler, an obstacle in my path, a troubling sight, a problem for politicians to sort out, or even a piece of refuse cluttering a public space. Or I can respond with faith and charity, and see in this person a human being with a dignity identical to my own, a creature infinitely loved by the Father, an image of God, a brother or sister redeemed by Jesus Christ. That is what it is to be a Christian!

Can holiness somehow be understood apart from this lively recognition of the dignity of each human being? For Christians, this involves a constant and healthy unease. Even if helping one person alone could justify all our efforts, it would not be enough. The bishops of Canada made this clear when they noted, for example, that the biblical understanding of the jubilee year was about more than simply performing certain good works. It also meant seeking social change: "For later generations to also be released, clearly the goal had to be the restoration of just social and economic systems, so there could no longer be exclusion".

Pope Francis, apostolic exhortation, GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE

FROM FR. HENRY DUC

If you have a chance to drive along the M4 these days, particularly the Westbound section from Parramatta, you can't miss some massive road works taking place in the process of widening the freeway so important and so endearing to so many of us living this Western part of Sydney.



This major upgrading project of our infrastructure is not simply costly, it is inconvenient, interrupting and frustrating as well since it requires us to slow down from 100km, even 110km to 80km, even 40km in some parts on the road, causing traffic jams during peak hour and hence turning M4 into the highway of madness! For the good of the future, we, however, need to be prepared to make a sacrifice or two today.

From the M4 experience we have here and now, let us turn to the 'spiritual highway' that John the Baptist talks about throughout his mission to prepare his contemporary for the coming of the Saviour. Forgive me for stretching John's concept and symbol a bit here to make the point, since John just humbly encourages people to 'prepare a way for the Lord' by straightening his paths and winding ways, filling up valleys, lowering mountains and hills and making rough roads smooth.

From an epistemological viewpoint, John obviously invites us to take initiatives to turn our heart, mind and soul into a suitable and worthy place to welcome the Lord. Accordingly, mountains of haughtiness and egoism must be flattened; valleys of divisions, envy and hatred must be overcome; and winding ways and rough roads of selfishness, intolerance and carelessness must be confronted. In a nutshell, it is a manifold spiritual transformation we are invited to take on board by John and in people-friendly terms we might call it the Christian way of living.

So, no matter when and where we go in the car this week, let's bring with us John's highly symbolic imagery of a 'spiritual highway', as a spiritual companion to remind us of the Christian way of living, which we are called to walk along, especially during these days of preparation for the commemoration of Christmas 2018.

Have a good week of preparation for Christmas

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...



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

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.**

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.



Thank you to the many very generous parishioners who have assisted with our Christmas Appeal. Your generosity will result in many families from our community having a much brighter Christmas season.

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.

CHRISTMAS MASSES - Can you help?

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church from this weekend for anyone who would like to serve at one of our Christmas Masses. Please add your name to the sheet if you would like to be involved.

Also, an invitation is extended to anyone wishing to join the **Midnight Mass group choir.** Please contact the parish office for further details.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 PARISH GROUP SHARING

This Plenary Council has been called to bring our Catholic Church up to date so that it continues to be relevant to all people in these modern times. The Council has called for input from every Parishioner. In this next meeting, we want to list the most important issues facing our church at Seven Hills and send them to both the Plenary Council and to the Parramatta Diocese. **Please make time to come to this important meeting on 11 December at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room. Remember: Every voice matters. Every person matters.**

Parish Partnership Programme

(Social Justice Group). We are participating in a six month trial next year, **supporting families seeking asylum who are being left without government support.** If you would like to be involved, training has been arranged in the parish meeting room on Sunday 16th Dec 12:30 - 3:30 pm. Please contact Terry Jordan 98963711 or 0409373715 to register.

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/>.