

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

		<b>December 22/23</b>
<b>Acolytes</b>	Vigil 8am 9.30am	<b>Ernie Gartner Louis Fernandes Eugene Miu</b>
<b>Ministers</b>	Vigil	<b>Christine Menezes, Stefanie Menezes</b>
	8.00am 9.30am	<b>Fennie Balatbat, Lorraine Fernandes Paul Gow, Artelle Lenthall</b>
<b>Readers</b>	Vigil	<b>Perpetual Fernandes, Crystal Menezes</b>
	8.00am 9.30am	<b>Priya Joachim, Christine Woodward</b>
	Vigil	<b>VOLUNTEERS Noah Ebb</b>
<b>Altar Servers</b>		<b>Christian Milicevic Caitlyn Rambukwella Jayden Rambukwella</b>
	8.00am	<b>Joshua Ramachandran Tanisha Ramachandran Matthew Shawcross</b>
	9.30am	<b>Sofia Culili Chrisha Gonzales Karuniya Maruthanayagam Mary-Rose Mejalli Daniel Tenn</b>
<b>Musicians</b>	Vigil 8am 9.30am	<b>Perrys Angels Perrys Angels Maria Balatbat</b>
<b>Children's Rosary</b>	Liturgy	<b>2nd &amp; 3rd Sunday of the month Only Falzon 2 Wallpark Ave, Seven Hills</b>
<b>Flowers</b>		<b>Priya &amp; Mary B</b>
<b>Bookshop</b>	Vigil 8am 9.30am	<b>Greg Edith Carole</b>
<b>Morning Tea Church Cleaning</b>	26 Dec	<b>John &amp; An O'Brian Sue Abela, Felicity Gravina, Joyce Muscat</b>
<b>Welcomers</b>	6pm 8am 9.30am	<b>Ram Ugre, Mary Bonnici, VOLUNTEER Joyce Hillbrick, VOLUNTEERS Helen Gonzales, VOLUNTEERS</b>

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

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

		<b>December 29/30</b>
<b>Acolytes</b>	Vigil 8am 9.30am	<b>David Christian Terry Jordan Ramzee Michael</b>
<b>Ministers</b>	Vigil	<b>Abel Do Rosario, Marinela Simic</b>
	8.00am	<b>Anne McNally, Adrian Walker</b>
	9.30am	<b>Carole Brooks, Barbara Chandler</b>
<b>Readers</b>	Vigil	<b>Denis Symon, Mariane Descombes</b>
	8.00am	<b>Bob McNally, Andrew Millar</b>
	9.30am	<b>Mercy Aquino, Laura Bellissimo</b>
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Vigil	<b>Alexander Bateman-Paul Caron Cyril Makayla Dalmati Jesseline Franco</b>
	8.00am	<b>Chrisha Gonzales VOLUNTEERS</b>
	9.30am	<b>Erika Naing Jaylen Niang Riley Niang Florenca Wanandy Gabrielle Wanandy</b>
<b>Musicians</b>	Vigil 8am 9.30am	<b>Perrys Angels Fr Henry Maria Balatbat</b>
<b>Children's Rosary</b>	Liturgy	<b>2nd &amp; 3rd Sunday of the month Only Milicevic 10 Grantham Rd, Seven Hills</b>
<b>Flowers</b>		<b>Lucinda</b>
<b>Bookshop</b>	Vigil 8am 9.30am	<b>Mariane Christian Shelia Volunteer</b>
<b>Morning Church Cleaning</b>	Tea 2 Jan	<b>Imelda Carole Brooks, Lourdes Spitieri,, Vinnie Zahra, Suzy Nemorin</b>
<b>Welcomers</b>	6pm 8am 9.30am	<b>Ram Ugre, Mary Bonnici, VOLUNTEER Joyce Hillbrick, VOLUNTEERS Helen Gonzales, VOLUNTEERS</b>

**PARISH DIARY**

<b>JANUARY</b>		
3	Healing Mass	8am
4	Exposition and Divine Mercy	7:30pm
16	Baptism Preparation Meeting	7:30pm



**OUR LADY OF LOURDES**

PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS

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

<b>Parish Priest:</b>	Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran	<b>Pastoral Care of the Sick and Elderly:</b>	Mrs Bathista Emmanuel
<b>Parish Secretary:</b>	Mrs Erika Hien	<b>Office Hours:</b>	
<b>Sacrament &amp; Youth Co-Ordinator:</b>	Mrs Judy Barden	<b>Monday-Friday:</b>	9am - 3.00pm
<b>Parish Church:</b>	7 Grantham Rd, Seven Hills 2147	<b>Telephone:</b>	9622 2920
<b>Postal Address:</b>	PO Box 944, Seven Hills 1730	<b>Parish Office Email:</b>	secretary@olol7hills.org.au
<b>Parish Website:</b>	www.olol7hills.org.au	<b>Youth Group Email:</b>	youtholol7h@gmail.com
<b>Parish School:</b>	Our Lady of Lourdes		
<b>Principal:</b>	Ms Keiran Byrnes	<b>Public School Catechist Co-Ordinator:</b>	Mr Bob McNally

**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
23rd December, 2018  
Year C**



<b>WEEKEND MASS</b>	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9.30am	<b>HEALING MASS &amp; ANOINTING OF SICK</b>	1st Thursday of month at 8am. <b>3 January</b>
<b>WEEKDAY MASS</b>	Tues - Friday 8am	<b>RECONCILIATION</b>	Saturday 4.30 - 5.30pm
<b>PRAYER AND WORSHIP SERVICE</b>	Monday & Saturday 8am	<b>MARRIAGES</b>	Please contact Parish Office 6 months prior to the wedding
<b>Church Open Monday-Friday</b>	Mon -Fri 8.30am-3pm (for prayer and reflection)	<b>BAPTISMAL PREPARATION</b>	16th January 2019 7.30pm Baptisms 2nd & 4th Sunday 11am
<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament &amp; Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes</b>	Friday after 8am Mass until 9am	<b>FAMILY MASS</b>	4th Sunday of the month 9.30am <b>23rd December/27th January</b>
<b>Exposition, Divine Mercy and Mass</b>	4th January 2019 7.00pm	<b>YOUTH MASS</b>	1st Sunday of the month 9.30am <b>6th January</b>
		<b>A Blessing for Children is available at all Masses</b>	

<b>READINGS FOR This Sunday</b>	1st Reading: Micah 5:1-4 2nd Reading: Heb 10:5-10 Gospel: Luke 1:39-44	Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel. I am coming to do your will. Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?
<b>READINGS FOR Next Sunday</b>	1st Reading: Sam 1:20-22, 24-28 2nd Reading: John 3:1-2, 21-24 Gospel: Luke 2:41-52	For the whole of his life, Samuel shall be lent to the Lord. He calls you his own children, and that is what you are. His parents found him in the temple, sitting among the learned men listening to them.

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** *Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just one; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.*

**OPENING PRAYER:** Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**RESPONSE TO PSALM:** *Lord make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

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

Please place on the collection plate



**Let us Pray for the Sick**

Rose Stambouliah, Tony Stambouliah, Debra Price, Maria Zentai, Sue Tipaldo, Letitia Haines, Andrew Fedrigo, Gabriel Chung,

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: Alexander Balatbat, Roseline Ratnam, Lourdes Fernandez de Venecia, Lazaro Fernandez, Victoria Almeida, Bridgette Fernandes, Alejandro Alvarado, Mary Harnett



Anniversaries: Thelma Morrissey, Fr Bill O'Connor, Sylvia (Abbott) Walker, Louis Mula, Stephen Mula, Paul Mula, M.A. Fernando, John Azzopardi, Alison Vella, Jose Reyes, Laureano Reyes, Gina and Albert Ammorao

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

**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	\$ 2019.00
Loose	\$ 876.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2895.00</b>
<b>WEEKLY TARGET:</b>	<b>\$3500.00</b>



Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

**CUPPA FOR OUR CARPARK**

Donated to date \$ 18998.62 Balance \$56001.38

**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.

**FROM POPE FRANCIS**

**Ideologies striking at the heart of the Gospel**

I regret that ideologies lead us at times to two harmful errors. On the one hand, there is the error of those Christians who separate these Gospel demands from their personal relationship with the Lord, from their interior union with him, from openness to his grace. Christianity thus becomes a sort of NGO stripped of the luminous mysticism so evident in the lives of Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Vincent de Paul, Saint Teresa of Calcutta, and many others. For these great saints, mental prayer, the love of God and the reading of the Gospel in no way detracted from their passionate and effective commitment to their neighbours; quite the opposite. The other harmful ideological error is found in those who find suspect the social engagement of others, seeing it as superficial, worldly, secular, materialist, communist or populist. Or they relativize it, as if there are other more important matters, or the only thing that counts is one particular ethical issue or cause that they themselves defend. Our defence of the innocent unborn, for example, needs to be clear, firm and passionate, for at stake is the dignity of a human life, which is always sacred and demands love for each person, regardless of his or her stage of development. Equally sacred, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned and the underprivileged, the vulnerable infirm and elderly exposed to covert euthanasia, the victims of human trafficking, new forms of slavery, and every form of rejection. We cannot uphold an ideal of holiness that would ignore injustice in a world where some revel, spend with abandon and live only for the latest consumer goods, even as others look on from afar, living their entire lives in abject poverty. We often hear it said that, with respect to relativism and the flaws of our present world, the situation of migrants, for example, is a lesser issue. Some Catholics consider it a secondary issue compared to the "grave" bioethical questions. That a politician looking for votes might say such a thing is understandable, but not a Christian, for whom the only proper attitude is to stand in the shoes of those brothers and sisters of ours who risk their lives to offer a future to their children. Can we not realize that this is exactly what Jesus demands of us, when he tells us that in welcoming the stranger we welcome him (Mt 25:35)? Saint Benedict did so readily, and though it might have "complicated" the life of his monks, he ordered that all guests who knocked at the monastery door be welcomed "like Christ", with a gesture of veneration; the poor and pilgrims were to be met with "the greatest care and solicitude". A similar approach is found in the Old Testament: "You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you yourselves were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Ex 22:21). "When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress him. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Lev 19:33-34). This is not a notion invented by some Pope, or a momentary fad. In today's world too, we are called to follow the path of spiritual wisdom proposed by the prophet Isaiah to show what is pleasing to God. "Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn" (58:7-8). **Pope Francis, apostolic exhortation, GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE**



**FROM FR. HENRY DUC**

Recently I had the chance to read the story shared by a bishop in Vietnam, who made his Advent and pre-Christmas visit to some Hmong communities living in the mountainous areas of the northern side of Vietnam bordering with China. These people seem to be forgotten by the rest of the world due to their manifold isolation, geographical, cultural and racial, consequently they, for years, have suffered all kinds of problems, such as poverty, illnesses, illiteracy and so on.



I was really touched by his concern for Hmong mothers when he had been an eye witness to the heavy weights they constantly carried on their backs from babies, animals to wooden sticks collected from the forest for cooking fuel. Such a moving image of those Hmong mothers in Vietnam, perhaps, can help us relate to the images of Mary and Elizabeth carrying Jesus and John the Baptist in their wombs. Mary brought Jesus in her womb across the hilly country of Judah to see her cousin Elizabeth, who was carrying John.

This visit of Mary was not simply visiting Elizabeth and her son, who literally 'leapt in her womb', it has become a living memory of many people on earth generation after generation, thanks to the popular Hail Mary, containing part of Elizabeth's greeting, 'blessed is the fruit of your womb.' From a historical perspective, the Hail Mary was said to appear in the East in the sixth century and introduced to the West during the eleventh century. Hail Mary was popular amongst crusaders on their way to recapture the Holy Land, and it has continued to be the prayer of choice for many Catholics throughout the world today. We have been truly blessed to hear the sweet sound of Hail Mary echoing both in our church daily after our weekly Masses and in the homes of many parishioners of ours.

**As Christmas is approaching, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Let us pray that we all may be inspired by the way Mary and Jesus brought happiness and joy to John the Baptist and his mother. Pray that our presence will help to generate a spirit of joyful friendship and stewardship to everyone we meet both at home, in the parish and other communities we belong to.**

Have a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Fr. Henry

**PARISH NEWS...**

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

**LOURDES OVER 50S** Next meeting Thursday 14th February 2019

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

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 are still a few vacancies for our Christmas Masses this week. Please add your name to the sheet at the back of the church if you would like to be involved.

*Christmas Mass Times*

**Children's Mass**  
6pm Monday 24th December

**Christmas Vigil Mass**  
9pm Monday 24th December

**Christmas Midnight Mass**  
12am (midnight) Tuesday 25th December

**Christmas Day Mass**  
8am, 9:30am Tuesday 25th December

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

**PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 PARISHIONER SURVEY**

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. Parishioners have between now and 6 March 2019 to Have Their Say to the Plenary Council. If you want to send it direct to the Plenary Council use the website [plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au). To send your reply to the Diocese as well as the Council use the [parracatholic.org/haveyoursay](http://parracatholic.org/haveyoursay) site. Both sites take anonymous replies. It is easiest to type out your reply and then attach it to the email at the nominated box on both sites. Up to 3 attachments can be entered on the one posting. Take home a Have Your Say Brochure. **Remember: Every voice matters. Make yours matter.**

**PETITION AND LETTER OF OBJECTION TO EXTRA DEVELOPMENT ALONG OLIVE STREET**

The developer of the six-storey apartment project along Olive Street, which has been approved by the Blacktown Council, is applying to add two extra storeys to their current project, and it will surely compromise our privacy, especially our children attending Our Lady of Lourdes school in one way or another. The Blacktown Council has given us until 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 to respond to the proposal. It means that we have rather a short time to act to protect our rights and welfare in this issue. Therefore, I urge everyone to sign the petition available at our church exits this weekend to object to the project, or you can choose to send personal letters to the general Manager, Blacktown City Council by using samples provided by the parish. Thank you so much for your co-operation in this urgent matter.

**DIOCESAN NEWS...**

**Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses 2019**

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