

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

Acolytes	7/8 December Vigil 8am 9.30am	Abel Do Rosario Gerard Marcello Eugene Miu	Acolytes	14/15 December Vigil 8am 9.30am	Derick Soares Eugene Miu Ian Epondulan
Ministers	Vigil	David Christian, Mariane Descombes, Edith Gartner, Ernie Gartner, Jemma Sarmiento, Marinela Simic	Ministers	Vigil	Louise La Guidara, Rosie Soares
	8.00am	Fennie Baltbat, Lawrence Falzon, Priya Joachim, Winnie Marcello, Andrew Millar, Benno Motha		8.00am	Anne McNally, Bob McNally
	9.30am	Ramzee Michael, Adrian Walker		9.30am	Mercy Aquino, Anna Bellissimo, Laura Bellissimo, Ryan Epondulan, Kamela Huihui
Readers	Vigil	Noreen Rosario, Perpetual Fernandes	Readers	Vigil	Alison Punch, Crystal Menezes
	8.00am	Pepito Ferriols, Bob McNally		8.00am	Karen Eleazar, Erika Hien
	9.30am	Jeanine Nonato, Megan Michael		9.30am	Anna Lopeti, Helen Katopau
Altar Servers	Vigil	Juan Burgess, Caron Cyril, Jesseline Franco, Cassandra Laus, Lucas Laus	Altar Servers	Vigil	Alexa Bagatella, Makayla Dalmati, Alex La Guidara, Jayden Rambukwella, Arynna Roy
	8.00am	Chrisha Gonzales, Karuniya Maruthanayagam		8.00am	Jayden Cortis, Ethan Neish, Jayda-Leigh Neish
	9.30am	Connor Ballment, Ethan Ballment, Riley Ballment, Rynan Michael, Matthew Shawcross		9.30am	Celestina Katopau, Chiara Katapau, Oliana Katapau, Larissa Leary, Crystal Miretta
Musicians	Vigil 8am 9.30am	Magnificat Lolesio Choir Tongan Group	Musicians	Vigil 8am 9.30am	Deanne Couples for Christ Folk Group
Children's Rosary	Liturgy	2nd & 3rd Sunday of the month Only	Children's Rosary	Liturgy	2nd & 3rd Sunday of the month Only
	8 December	Stambouliah Family 16 Oakwood Rd, Toongabbie		15 December	Maka Family 69 Seven Hills Road, Seven Hills
Flowers	8 December	Lucinda & Orlindo	Flowers	15 December	Lucinda & Orlindo
Bookshop	Vigil 8am 9.30am	Marinela Edith Fenty Saputra	Bookshop	Vigil 8am 9.30am	Marianne Christian Shelia VOLUNTEER
Morning Tea	9.30am	Young Adults Group	Morning Tea	9.30am	Young Adults Group
Church Cleaning	12 December	Elodia Colussi, Elizabeth Mead	Church Cleaning	21 December	Andrew Fedrigo, Ramzee Michael
Welcomers	Vigil 8am 9.30am	VOLUNTEERS VOLUNTEERS Lena	Welcomers	Vigil 8am 9.30am	Judith Deloso, VOLUNTEERS Olivia Cortis, Rita Paolini, Annette Peatman Kathy Chamberlain, VOLUNTEERS



OUR LADY OF LOURDES

PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS

"Still a wonderful place to pray & stay."

Parish Priest: Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran
Pastoral Care of the Sick: Bathista Emmanuel 0405833655
Parish Office Team: Mrs Erika Hien, Alison Issanchon, Kim Dang, Sarah Lenthall
Parish Office Email: secretary@olol7hills.org.au
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall
Catechist Coordinator: Mr Bob McNally 96241015

Office Hours: Monday-Friday: 9am - 3.00pm
Telephone: 9622 2920
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.org.au
Parish School: Our Lady of Lourdes
Principal: Ms Keiran Byrnes
Parish Church: 7 Grantham Rd, Seven Hills 2147
Postal address: PO Box 944, Seven Hills 1730

Second Sunday of Advent 8th December, 2019 Year A



WEEKEND MASS	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9.30am	HEALING MASS & ANOINTING OF SICK 1st Thursday of the month at 8am. 2nd January 2020
WEEKDAY MASS	Tues - Friday 8am	BAPTISMAL PREPARATION 15th January 2020 at 7:30pm
PRAYER AND WORSHIP SERVICE	Monday & Saturday 8am	YOUTH MASS 1st Sunday of the month at 9.30am.
RECONCILIATION	Saturday 4.30pm-5.30pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes Every Friday after 8am Mass until 9am
Church Open Monday-Friday	8.30am-3pm (for prayer and reflection)	Exposition, Divine Mercy & Mass Friday 3 January 2020 7.00 pm

A Blessing for Children is available at all Masses

READINGS This Sunday	1st Reading : Isaiah 11:1-10 2nd Reading : Romans 15:4-9 Gospel : Matthew 3:1-12	He judges the poor with justice. Christ, the hope of all people. Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.
READINGS 15/12/2019	1st Reading : Isaiah 35:1-6, 10 2nd Reading : James 5:7-10 Gospel : Matthew 11:2-11	God himself will come and save us. You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon. Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

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. 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. Amen.*

RESPONSE TO PSALM: *Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.*

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.*



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 Mass times, bulletins, hall hire information and much more - a great way to stay up to date with what's on in our parish! Visit www.olol7hills.org.au

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PRIMARY SCHOOL is currently accepting enrolments. information pack available to download from the school website or contact Beth in the school office on 8869 6800 between 8.30am-3.30pm Mon to Fri.

DECEMBER		
9	St Vincent De Paul Meeting	7pm
11	Tai Chi—last class for 2019	10.30am
12	Yr 6 Graduation & End of year Mass	9.15am
12	Christ Community Prayer Group	9am
12	Legion of Mary	1.30pm
12	Finance Committee Meeting	8pm
13	Advent Prayer Group	9am
8	Four2Eight Jr Youth Group— Christmas Party	10.45am

ARE YOU NEW TO OUR PARISH? WELCOME!
If you would like to register with our parish or receive a visit from Fr Henry or a parishioner, please give your name and contact number to Fr Henry after Mass or contact the parish office on 9622 2920 or email secretary@olol7hills.org.au. We look forward to hearing from you!



Let us Pray for the Sick

Leonila Ahillon, Frank Azzopardi, David Barrow, John Bourke, Barrie Chamberlain, Gabriel Chung, Myrna G Cruz, Maureen Daley, Paul Daniel, Andrew Fedrigo, Anthony Janicska, Wendy & Klaus, Lawrence Family, Rosalinda Marcelo, Maria V, Laurel Morris, Patricia Oreo, Lekisha Grace & Rommel Panlilio, Debra Price, Rose & Tony Stambouliah, Josette Sultana, Denis Symon, Sue Tipaldo.

If you would like to add to our Sick List or know of any Parishioner that is unwell please contact Father Henry or the Parish Office on 9622 2920. We can also arrange for Holy Communion or a visit if required.

Let us Pray for the Deceased

Recently Deceased: Maureen Thelma Carter, John D'Silva, Errol Fernando, Mary & Frank Gatt, Reno Gatt, Ted Haines, Hilda Mead, Lucille Alexandrine Wilson.

Anniversaries: Fortunata & Frank Baida, Alexander Constantine Balatbat, Carolina Borg, Lionel Bosen, Mary Camenzuli, Samuel Cavallaro, John Falzon, Maria & Emanuel Farrugia, Shanti Fernando, MA Fernando, Anton Motha, Paul Mula, Aurora Nonato, Elizabeth Pinter, Veronica Pombart, Makalita Kiliaitina Pongi, Roseline Ratnam, Ivan Elisher, RJ Rosares

Remembrance: Elvina & Giovanni Barnaba, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Sr Maree Aimee & Clarence Corera, VA Francis, Teodoro Garcia, Sharon & John Lawrence, Pauline Meilak, Lourda Motha, Louis & Stephen Mula, Felix & Andriana Muscat, Josephine, Charles, Mary & Muscat Family, Lakshman Perera, Natalia & Felicisimo, Amalia & Dominga Usman.

ADVENT PRAYER

O God, You willed that, at the message of an angel, your Word should take flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary; grant to your suppliant people, that we, who believe her to be truly the Mother of God, may be helped by her intercession with you, through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.

MONEY MATTERS

Envelopes \$ 2667.00
Loose \$ 717.00
TOTAL \$ 3384.00
WEEKLY TARGET: \$ 3500.00



Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

PARISH PROJECTS

As part of our efforts to raise funds to meet the costs of Parish maintenance and improvements, all members of our parish are invited to join a Direct Debit program by donating the cost of a cup of coffee or a glass of beer either weekly, fortnightly or monthly for this good cause. Keep in mind that though we have some limited funds, we have to meet a long list of costs, including the carpark, the Olive St. pathway, our buildings and properties.

Please add a reference of "Donation". Banking details are below:

DIRECT DEPOSIT:

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

FROM POPE FRANCIS CHAPTER FIVE

A time of dreams and decisions (continued)

The love of God and our relationship with the living Christ do not hold us back from dreaming; they do not require us to narrow our horizons. On the contrary, that love elevates us, encourages us and inspires us to a better and more beautiful life. Much of the longing present in the hearts of young people can be summed up in the word "restlessness". As Saint Paul VI said, "In the very discontent that you often feel... a ray of light is present". Restless discontent, combined with exhilaration before the opening up of new horizons, generates a boldness that leads you to stand up and take responsibility for a mission. This healthy restlessness typical of youth continues to dwell in every heart that remains young, open and generous. True inner peace coexists with that profound discontent. As Saint Augustine said: "You have created us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you".

Sometime ago, a friend asked me what I see in a young person. My response was that "I see someone who is searching for his or her own path, who wants to fly on their two feet, who faces the world and looks at the horizon with eyes full of the future, full of hope as well as illusions. A young person stands on two feet as adults do, but unlike adults, whose feet are parallel, he always has one foot forward, ready to set out, to spring ahead. Always racing onward. To talk about young people is to talk about promise and to talk about joy. Young people have so much strength; they are able to look ahead with hope. A young person is a promise of life that implies a certain degree of tenacity. He is foolish enough to delude himself, and resilient enough to recover from that delusion".

Some young people might hate this stage of life, because they want to continue being children or indefinitely prolong their adolescence and put off having to make decisions. "Fear of the definitive thus generates a kind of paralysis of decision-making. Yet youth cannot remain on hold. It is the age of choices and herein lies its fascination and its greatest responsibility. Young people make decisions in professional, social and political fields, and in other more radical ways that determine the shape of their lives". They also make decisions about love, choosing a spouse and starting a family. We will look at these issues more closely in the final chapters, when dealing with individual vocations and their discernment.

{Pope Francis, apostolic exhortation, CHRISTUS VIVIT —to the young people and the entire people of God}



FROM FR. HENRY DUC

Following a failed attempt to leave Vietnam by boat 36 years ago, my other two friends and I were so hungry after days of living on food portions, so the three of us decided to call into a restaurant for a meal before heading back to the seminary. Unfortunately we were stopped by a policeman checking our IDs as we walked out of the place, and I was so frightened for I knew for sure that what we have done was completely illegal and could take us to jail, and even worse, I carried no ID with me.

However, one of my companions, who left the country a few years after me and was ordained as priest for a diocese in Canada, was rather calm and street-wise, so he kept talking to the man in uniform and offering some good cigarettes. He even dared to tell the man that he was related to some senior officers in the police force, and when asked to provide the name of the officer, he had no hesitation to give him that. As a result, the police man began to change his attitude toward us, became friendlier and then let us go with no further questions asked. I could not believe that we could get away with that simple trick. What a divine intervention!

In the Gospel today, John the Baptist really had a hard go at the Pharisees and Sadducees as they came to him seeking for baptism. John was very much aware of the fact that these men were extremely proud of themselves as descendants of Abraham, and wrongly thought that such a relationship was enough for them to claim a membership in God's family, so he



wanted to neutralize it by giving them the warning that God the Almighty is capable of turning the stones into children of Abraham. He then went on to challenge them to repent and make their lives religiously fruitful through good works, otherwise they shall be harshly dealt with. John the Baptist' message to the Pharisees and Sadducees today very much echoes Jesus' words later on concerning what is required for the membership of the Kingdom of heaven that people have to put into practice the will of his heavenly Father, not just say to him 'Lord, Lord' (cf. Mt 7.21). Let us pray today that we may be able to take to our hearts John the Baptist's message to prepare the way for Jesus both through our praise and worship, and especially through our works of charity.

Have a faith-filled week.
Fr. Henry

PARISH NEWS...



ADVENT WREATH It is usually constructed around a circular base as you can see ours. This circular base is traditionally taken to symbolize the ever-renewing cycle of the seasons, and the four candles, of course, represents the four Sundays of Advent. The second candle known as the Bethlehem's candle symbolises faith. Remember that the prophet Micah did foretell that the Messiah shall be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David.

ADVENT CONFESSIONS

Parish Second Rite:
Tuesday 17 December at 7.30pm.
First Rite:
18, 19, 20 December from 8.30am-9.30am,
& 21 December from 4.30pm-5.30pm

BREAK OUT INTO SONG

What a wonderful JOY it is to offer PRAISE TO GOD in SONG. Singers needed to join 9.30am group on the third Sunday of the month. Please offer yourselves to this wonderful ministry by phoning Chris Woodward on 0411 882 295



ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

If you would like to brighten someone's Christmas you could take a tag from the Christmas tree and prepare a hamper BEFORE 15th DECEMBER. Or else you might donate to the Vinnies Christmas envelopes. Thank you for your generosity.





Four2Eight

■ Junior Youth Group for kids from year 4 – year 8 ■
Come along with friends from the parish for our
CHRISTMAS PARTY!!
8th December
After the 9:30am Youth Mass.10:45-12pm)
In the Parish Meeting room

PIETY SHOP: ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS



Nativity sets and Christmas cards to spread the Spirit of Christmas are now available from the piety shop at the back of the church.



POSITIONS VACANT

More **VOLUNTEERS** are also needed for the Piety Shop. Please contact the Parish Office if you are able assist. Thank you to all those currently helping on the roster.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD takes place within the 9:30am Sunday Mass (2nd and 3rd Sunday of the month) All children of primary school age are invited to attend. We ask that pre-school children remain in the church with their parents. The Children's Liturgy is not a catechetical class nor Sunday school. It is a celebration of the Word of God at a level appropriate for young children. They listen to the Gospel reading of the Sunday and share prayers and reflections. The children leave the church after the Opening Prayer and return at the Preparation of the Gifts. The Children's Liturgy is held in the Parish Meeting Room. The Children's Liturgy would not be possible without the help of the adult leaders. We

thank the leaders and helpers. If anyone would like to become involved as a leader or helper, please contact Alison in the parish office on 96222920 or email alisoni@olol7hills.com.au



ADVENT PRAYER GROUP

John Jordan is happy to host a home-based Advent Prayer group, please contact John on 98963711 for further information. **For the parish-based Advent Prayer group**, Fr Henry is going to lead the group on every Friday after Mass and Benediction from 9.00am-10.00am, and all are warmly welcome to join it for a friendly discussion throughout Advent.



MINISTERS - NEW ROSTER All updates need to be received by now. You can either complete the form and leave it in the box at the back of the church or, if you received an email from the MSP rostering program, you can either send a reply email with your availability or use the online portal of the program to update your information so the roster can be completed and published by 18th December.

TAI CHI & QIGONG for health and well being

Wednesday 10:30-11.30am in the Parish Meeting Room. Cost:\$10. -Last class for 2019

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL— Help vulnerable people in crisis turn their lives around, recover and thrive. Your compassionate gifts and prayers will help Catholic Care to connect people with support and services to build strong foundations for self-sufficiency, fulfilling family relationships and brighter futures. Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

