

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

| | 14/15 December | | 21/22 December |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|--|
| Acolytes | Vigil 8am 9.30am Derick Soares Eugene Miu Ian Epondulan | Acolytes | Vigil 8am 9.30am Abel Do Rosario Terry Jordan Eugene Miu |
| Ministers | Vigil 8.00am 9.30am Louise La Guidara, Rosie Soares Anne McNally, Bob McNally Mercy Aquino, Anna Bellissimo, Laura Bellissimo, Ryan Epondulan, Kamela Huihui | Ministers | Vigil 8.00am 9.30am Edith Gartner, Ernie Gartner Lorraine Fernandes, Louis Fernandes Barbara Chandler, Nancy Shami |
| Readers | Vigil 8.00am 9.30am Alison Punch, Crystal Menezes Karen Eleazar, Erika Hien Anna Lopeti, Helen Katopau | Readers | Vigil 8.00am 9.30am Noreen Rosario, Alison Punch Kathy Walker, Andrew Millar Marice; Santos, Rob Simpson |
| Altar Servers | Vigil 8.00am 9.30am Alexa Bagatella, Makayla Dalmati, Alex La Guidara, Jayden Rambukwella, Aryan Roy Jayden Cortis, Ethan Neish, Jayda-Leigh Neish Celestina Katopau, Chiara Katapau, Oliana Katapau, Larissa Leary, Crystal Miretta | Altar Servers | Vigil 8.00am 9.30am Yxaak Dino, Genevieve Estil, Madisen Estil, Thomas Osbourne, Zachary Osbourne Amelia Herczeg, Joshua Herczeg, SUB REQUEST Crystal Miretta, Alexandra Simpson, Mikayla Simpson, Florencia Wanandy, Gabrielle Wanandy |
| Musicians | Vigil 8am 9.30am Deanne Couples for Christ Folk Group | Musicians | Vigil 8am 9.30am Perry's Angels Perry's Angels Maria Balatbat |
| Children's Rosary | Liturgy 15 December 2nd & 3rd Sunday of the month Only Maka Family 69 Seven Hills Road, Seven Hills | Children's Rosary | Liturgy 22 December 2nd & 3rd Sunday of the month Only Jordan Family 21a Abigail Road, Seven Hills |
| Flowers | 15 December Fennie & Angela | Flowers | 22 December Priya, Mary B & Annette |
| Bookshop | Vigil 8am 9.30am Marianne Christian Shelia VOLUNTEER | Bookshop | Vigil 8am 9.30am Greg Edith Carole |
| Morning Tea | 9.30am Kamela Huihui & Anna Lopeti | Morning Tea | 9.30am Couples for Christ |
| Church Cleaning | 21 December Andrew Fedrigo, Ramzee Michael | Church Cleaning | 27 December VOLUNTEERS |
| Welcomers | Vigil 8am 9.30am Judith Deloso, VOLUNTEERS Olivia Cortis, Rita Paolini, Annette Peatman Kathy Chamberlain, VOLUNTEERS | Welcomers | Vigil 8am 9.30am Ram Ugre, VOLUNTEERS VOLUNTEERS Lena Falzon, VOLUNTEERS |



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 | | |
|----------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 16 | St Vincent De Paul Meeting | 7pm |
| 17 | Advent Confessions-2nd Rite | 7.30pm |
| 18 | Last Day of School Term | |
| 18 | Advent Confessions-1st Rite | 8.30-9.30am |
| 18 | Christ Community Prayer Group | 9am |
| 19 | Advent Confessions-1st Rite | 8.30-9.30am |
| 20 | Advent Confessions-1st Rite | 8.30-9.30am |
| 20 | Advent Prayer Group | 9am |
| 21 | Advent Confessions-1st Rite | 4.30-5.30pm |

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!



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

Third Sunday of Advent 15th 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 |
| <i>A Blessing for Children is available at all Masses</i> | | |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| READINGS This Sunday | 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? |
| READINGS 22/12/2019 | 1st Reading : Isaiah 7:10-14 2nd Reading : Romans 1:1-7 Gospel : Matthew 1:18-24 | The virgin will conceive. Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David. |

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.*

OPENING PRAYER: O God, who see how your people faithfully await the Feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. 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: *Lord, come and save us.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring the Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: *Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come and he will save us.*



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: France Angseesing, Ivan Elisher, Fortunata & Frank Baida, Alexander Constantine Balatbat, Carolina Borg, Lionel Bosen, Mary Camenzuli, Samuel Cavallaro, Marcel & Max Diab, Tony, Debe & Bede Diab, John Falzon, Maria & Emanuel Farrugia, Shanti Fernando, MA Fernando, Jose Font, Irene Moroney, Thelma Morrissey, Anton Motha, Paul Mula, Aurora Nonato, Elizabeth Pinter, Veronica Pombart, Makalita Kiliaitina Pongji, Roseline Ratnam, RJ Rosares.

Remembrance: Elvina & Giovanni Barnaba, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Sr Maree Aimee & Clarence Corera, Shanti Fernando, VA Francis, Teodoro Garcia, Sharon & John Lawrence, Pauline Meilak, William & Emilia Mifsud, 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 \$ 2265.00
Loose \$ 581.00
TOTAL \$ 2856.00
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)

But opposed to these hopes and dreams that generate decisions, there is always the temptation to complain or give up. "We can leave that to those who worship the 'goddess of lament'... She is a false goddess: she makes you take the wrong road. When everything seems to be standing still and stagnant, when our personal issues trouble us, and social problems do not meet with the right responses, it does no good to give up. Jesus is the way: welcome him into your 'boat' and put out into the deep! He is the Lord! He changes the way we see life. Faith in Jesus leads to greater hope, to a certainty based not on our qualities and skills, but on the word of God, on the invitation that comes from him. Without making too many human calculations, and without worrying about things that challenge your security, put out into the deep. Go out of yourselves".

Keep following your hopes and dreams. But be careful about one temptation that can hold us back. It is anxiety. Anxiety can work against us by making us give up whenever we do not see instant results. Our best dreams are only attained through hope, patience and commitment, and not in haste. At the same time, we should not be hesitant, afraid to take chances or make mistakes. Avoid the paralysis of the living dead, who have no life because they are afraid to take risks, to make mistakes or to persevere in their commitments. Even if you make mistakes, you can always get up and start over, for no one has the right to rob you of hope.

Dear young people, make the most of these years of your youth. Don't observe life from a balcony. Don't confuse happiness with an armchair, or live your life behind a screen. Whatever you do, do not become the sorry sight of an abandoned vehicle! Don't be parked cars, but dream freely and make good decisions. Take risks, even if it means making mistakes. Don't go through life anaesthetized or approach the world like tourists. Make a ruckus! Cast out the fears that paralyze you, so that you don't become young mummies. Live! Give yourselves over to the best of life! Open the door of the cage, go out and fly! Please, don't take early retirement.

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



FROM FR. HENRY DUC

Young people living in rural areas in Vietnam love to go hunting not just because they love this sport, but also because hunting does help them to get extra food for their family tables, and I used to be one of those in my younger days. Recently I read a horrible story about two friends going out for a hunting trip in the forest in the highlands of the northern Vietnam, and one of them made a deadly mistake by shooting at his mate hiding behind the bush, for he mistook his poor friend with a wild animal, and the result was one of them came home as a dead man, a victim of his friend's imprudence. Traditionally, prudence is considered as a highly regarded virtue for us Christians, for it inspires us to know what to do in various concrete situations which we have to face with, such as where to stop as we start to have a drink. According to St Thomas Aquinas, 'the prudent man considers things afar off, in so far as they tend to be a help or a hindrance to that, which has to be done at the present time.'

In the Gospel this Sunday, the one of joy, John the Baptist shows us a perfect example of what it means to be prudent. Despite his familiarity with Jesus due to the kinship between Mary and Elisabeth and his imprisonment, he was determined to send his disciples to approach Jesus and ask him to clarify the question whether he was the true Messiah, whom the world was waiting for, and Jesus elegantly verified his messianic identity through a brief of his ministry. Jesus then went on to praise his cousin John as the greatest person of all the children born of women, who, at the same, had been yet so humble to the point, that 'the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'



Let us be inspired by John's wonderful example of a prudent man, and let us pray for the gift of prudence, so that we may be able to discern what we need to do more or cut back in the ways we spiritually prepare ourselves for the commemoration of Christmas this year.

Have a prudence-filled week.

Fr. Henry

PARISH NEWS...



ADVENT WREATH It is usually constructed around a circular based 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 third candle known as the Shepherd's candle symbolises joy. To the shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble people like them, too.

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



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.

PARISH THANK YOU DINNER

Thank you so much to our volunteers and office staff for their hard works to set up the hall and clean up, and prepare the food for the occasion, which went so well. Once again, thank you all our parish ministers and volunteers for your great supports, which obviously take our loved faith community a long way.



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

CHRISTMAS ROSTER

It has been available at the rear of the church, and our ministers are invited to put their name down to serve.

CHURCH VACUUMING FOR 2020: Thank you to all the new and current people who have volunteered to do the vacuuming of the church for next year. The rosters are available to be collected from the table near the back sacristy.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

please have your Hampers in today. Thank you for your generosity.



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@lol7hills.com.au

DIOCESAN NEWS

Catholic Outlook is back!

At the request of Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Catholic Outlook is back. Catholic Outlook which will be published quarterly as an A4 magazine with a focus on Catholic faith formation, spirituality and a look at what is happening across the agencies and ministries of the Diocese of Parramatta. Look out for copies coming soon.

Bishop's Christmas Appeal

Help vulnerable people in crisis turn their lives around, recover and thrive. Your compassionate gifts and prayers will help CatholicCare 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 via yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

CatholicCare Blacktown Neighbourhood Aid Volunteers Needed

Blacktown Neighbour Aid, a program with CatholicCare, is looking for volunteers to support our senior clients in the Blacktown area to remain living independently in their own home. If you feel you would like to make a positive difference to other's lives in this way, please contact the Manager, Deb Woolacott on 0418 114 055 or email deb.woolacott@ccss.org.au.

Divine Retreat Centre One Day Worship Pilgrimage: 29 December The Divine Retreat Centre in Somersby, NSW is holding a one-day worship pilgrimage on Sunday 29 December from 9am to 4pm. Ministry will be available for kids, children and teenagers. For more information, please contact 0468 486 782, email drccsydney@gmail.com or visit www.divineretreatcentre.org.au