

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

21/22 December

Acolytes Vigil 8am Abel Do Rosario
9.30am Terry Jordan
Eugene Miu

Ministers Vigil Edith Gartner, Ernie Gartner
8.00am Lorraine Fernandes, Louis Fernandes
9.30am Barbara Chandler, Nancy Shami

Readers Vigil Noreen Rosario, Alison Punch
8.00am Kathy Walker, Andrew Millar
9.30am Marice; Santos, Rob Simpson

Altar Servers Vigil Yxaak Dino, Genevieve Estil, Madisen Estil, Thomas Osbourne, Zachary Osbourne
8.00am Amelia Herczeg, Joshua Herczeg, SUB REQUEST
9.30am Crystal Miretta, Alexandra Simpson, Mikayla Simpson, Florencia Wanandy, Gabrielle Wanandy

Musicians Vigil 8am Perry's Angels
9.30am Maria Balatbat

Children's Rosary Liturgy 2nd & 3rd Sunday of the month Only
22 December Jordan Family
21a Abigail Road, Seven Hills

Flowers 22 December Priya, Mary B & Annette

Bookshop Vigil 8am Greg
9.30am Edith
Carole

Morning Tea 9.30am Couples for Christ

Church Cleaning 27 December VOLUNTEERS

Welcomers Vigil 8am Ram Ugre, VOLUNTEERS
9.30am Lena Falzon, VOLUNTEERS

28/29 December

Acolytes Vigil 8am David Christian
9.30am Gerard Marcello
Ramzee Michael

Ministers Vigil Cathy Hutchings, Marinela Simic
8.00am Lorraine Fernandes, Winnie Marcello
9.30am Paul Gow, Dawn Manamperi

Readers Vigil Perpetual Fernandes
Mariane Descombes
8.00am Pepito Ferriols, Erika Hien
9.30am Megan Michael, Maricel Santos

Altar Servers Vigil Alexander Bateman-Paul, Benjamin Clark, Noah Ebb, Christian Milicevic, Caitlyn Rambukwella
8.00am Saoirse Costello, Sebastian Ciostello, Karuniya Maruthanayagam
9.30am Eric Da, Victor Da, Mary-Rose Mejalli, Rynan Michael, Umesh Samara-Sekera

Musicians Vigil 8am Perry's Angels
9.30am Fr Henry
Maria Balatbat

Children's Rosary Liturgy 2nd & 3rd Sunday of the month Only
29 December Morris Family
45 James Street, Seven Hills

Flowers 29 December Lucinda

Bookshop Vigil 8am Mariane Christian
9.30am Shelia
VOLUNTEER

Morning Tea 9.30am Imelda

Church Cleaning

Welcomers Vigil 8am Mary Bonnici, VOLUNTEERS
9.30am Maria Michael, VOLUNTEERS

DECEMBER		
23	St Vincent De Paul Meeting	7pm
24	Chidrens Christmas Mass	6pm
24	Vigil Mass	9pm
25	Midnight Mass	12am
25	Christmas Mass	8am & 9.30am

LOURDES OVER 50S
Next meeting Thursday 13th February 2020

CHRIST COMMUNITY PRAYER GROUP will recommence
9am Thursday January 23rd. 2020



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

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

22nd December, 2019

Year A



WEEKEND MASS Saturday Vigil 6pm
Sunday 8am & 9.30am

WEEKDAY MASS Tues - Friday 8am

PRAYER AND WORSHIP SERVICE Monday & Saturday 8am

RECONCILIATION Saturday 4.30pm-5.30pm

Church Open Monday-Friday 8.30am-3pm (for prayer and reflection)

HEALING MASS & ANOINTING OF SICK 1st Thursday of the month at 8am. 2nd January 2020
BAPTISMAL PREPARATION 15th January 2020 at 7:30pm

YOUTH MASS 1st Sunday of the month at 9.30am.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes Every Friday after 8am Mass until 9am

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 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

READINGS 29/12/2019 1st Reading : Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
2nd Reading : Colossians 3:15, 16
Gospel : Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.
Concerning the Christian life in the world.
Take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt.

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. Amen

RESPONSE TO PSALM: *Let the Lord enter; he is King of glory.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! The Virgin will give birth to a son; his name will will be Emmanuel: God-is-with-us. Alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: *Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.*



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, Blago Milicevic, 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, Neville J Byrnes.

Anniversaries: France Angseesing, John Azzopardi, Fortunata & Frank Baida, Alexander Constantine Balatbat, Carolina Borg, Lionel Bosen, Mary Camenzuli, Samuel Cavallaro, Marcel & Max Diab, Tony, Debe & Bede Diab, Ivan Elisher, John Falzon, Maria & Emanuel Farrugia, Shanti Fernando, MA Fernando, Jose Font, Irene Moroney, Thelma Morrissey, Anton Motha, Paul Mula, Aurora Nonato, Elizabeth Pinter, Veronica Pombar, Makalita Kilaitina Pongi, Roseline Ratnam, Jose & Laureano Reyes, RJ Rosares, Santan & Pauline Soares, Sylvia (Abbott) Walker., Fr. Bill O'Connor.

Remembrance: Elvina & Giovanni Barnaba, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Sr Maree Aimee & Clarence Corera, Shanti Fernando, VA Francis, Teodoro Garcia, Roderick Garcia, Sharon & John Lawrence, Pauline Meilak, William & Emilia Mifsud, Lourda Motha, Louis & Stephen Mula, Felix & Andriana Muscat, Josephine, Charles, Mary & Muscat Family, Lakshman Perera,

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.

Natalia & Felicisimo, Amalia & Dominga Usman.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Oh God, by the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary, you bestowed upon the human race the rewards of eternal salvation; grant we beg you, that we may feel the power of her intercession, through whom we have been made worthy to receive the Author of life, our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you, forever and ever. Amen.

MONEY MATTERS

Envelopes \$ 2306.00
Loose \$ 911.00



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.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

FROM POPE FRANCIS

CHAPTER FIVE

A thirst for life and experience

While drawn towards the future and its promise, young people also have a powerful desire to experience the present moment, to make the most of the opportunities life offers. Our world is filled with beauty! How can we look down upon God's many gifts?

Contrary to what many people think, the Lord does not want to stifle these desires for a fulfilling life. We do well to remember the words of an Old Testament sage: "My child, treat yourself well, according to your means, and present your offerings to the Lord; do not deprive yourself of a day's enjoyment, do not let your share of desired good pass by" (Sir 14:11-14). The true God, who loves you, wants you to be happy. For this reason, the Bible also contains this piece of advice to young people: "Rejoice, young man, while you are young, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth... banish anxiety from your mind" (Ec 11:9-10). For God "richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment" (1 Tim 6:17).

How could God take pleasure in someone incapable of enjoying his small everyday blessings, someone blind to the simple pleasures we find all around us? "No one is worse than one who is grudging to himself" (Sir 14:6). Far from obsessively seeking new pleasures, which would keep us from making the most of the present moment, we are asked to open our eyes and take a moment to experience fully and with gratitude every one of life's little gifts.

Clearly, God's word asks you to enjoy the present, not simply to prepare for the future: "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own; today's trouble is enough for today" (Mt 6:34). But this is not the same as embarking irresponsibly on a life of dissipation that can only leave us empty and perpetually dissatisfied. Rather, it is about living the present to the full, spending our energies on good things, cultivating fraternity, following Jesus and making the most of life's little joys as gifts of God's love.

Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuân, when imprisoned in a concentration camp, refused to do nothing but await the day when he would be set free. He chose "to live the present moment, filling it to the brim with love". He decided: "I will seize the occasions that present themselves every day; I will accomplish ordinary actions in an extraordinary way".[78] As you work to achieve your dreams, make the most of each day and do your best to let each moment brim with love. This youthful day may well be your last, and so it is worth the effort to live it as enthusiastically and fully as possible.

This can also be applied to times of difficulty, that have to be fully experienced if we are to learn the message they can teach us. In the words of the Swiss Bishops: "God is there where we thought he had abandoned us and there was no further hope of salvation. It is a paradox, but for many Christians, suffering and darkness have become... places of encounter with God".[79] The desire to live fully and experience new things is also felt by many young people with physical, mental and sensory disabilities. Even though they may not always be able to have the same experiences as others, they possess amazing resources and abilities that are often far above average. The Lord Jesus grants them other gifts, which the community is called to recognize and appreciate, so that they can discover his plan of love for each of them. [Pope Francis, apostolic exhortation, CHRISTUS VIVIT —to the young people and the entire people of God]

FROM FR. HENRY DUC

Recently I happened to read a lovely story written by a priest sharing his personal experience as a nurse during his pre-seminary time, starting from his involvement with the birthing of a young single mother, leading him to become the godparent of her baby, and the celebrant of her marriage later on as a priest, and then introducing her three other children to a nun, who was able to help provide them with good education and a stable life. It is such a productive birth, for it helps to connect people together and bring forth more amazing relationships.

In the Gospel this week, the evangelist tells us of the nativity of Jesus, the most amazing birth of all, for it is able to help connect our human family together, and more significantly our human family with God.



In typical Matthew language, the writer of the Gospel used his popular formula this nativity 'took place to fulfill the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet' to highlight the divine identity of Jesus, who was given to birth by the Virgin Mary. His birth was no ordinary, but a perfect fulfilment of what the prophet Isaiah foretold so many years before that, 'a virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel', (cf. Isa 7.14).

Today, let us give praise and thanks for, and reflect upon the birth of Jesus, the Emmanuel, the 'God-is-with-us', a super special one, for it bestows on us the grace to keep us, those who follow him, together as a family through the bond of faith, hope and love, and also to allow us to step into the divine world.

In the spirit of thanksgiving I would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year filled with the constant care of protection of the Emmanuel.

Have a thankful week.

Fr. Henry

PARISH NEWS...

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 Tuesday 24th December

Children are encouraged to come dressed as angels, shepherds or the magi

Christmas Vigil Mass

9pm Tuesday 24th December

Christmas Midnight Mass

12am (midnight) Wednesday 25th December

Christmas Day Mass

8am, 9:30am Wednesday 25th December

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 fourth candle, the "Candle of Love," reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth...

LEGION OF MARY: No meeting 26th December and 2nd January. Meetings will recommence Thursday 9th January 2020 1.30pm. All welcome.

"The Two Popes" - For a very human and enlightening account of Pope Benedict's historic resignation and the background and election of Jorge Bergoglio as Pope Francis, you can catch the movie "The Two Popes" currently showing at the Dendy Cinema at Circular Quay. I really enjoyed the homely scene in the papal apartment where they are watching TV together when Germany and Argentina are playing the World Cup final. Anthony Hopkins is brilliant as Pope Benedict. A delightful version of history about two remarkable men not to be missed. (Adrian Walker)

PIETY SHOP: Come and have a look what's new at the Piety Shop—Last minute gift ideas.

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

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



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. Available NOW at the entrances to church.

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 drcsydney@gmail.com or visit www.divineretreatcentre.org.au