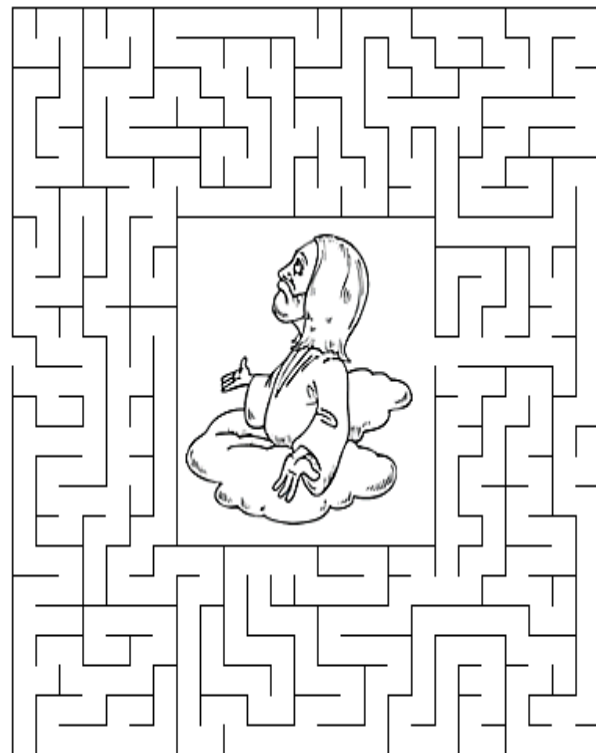


Start Here



B T Q O M D Q S U F F E R U F  
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RISE	REPENT	PROPHETS	TAKEN
SUFFER	PSALMS	OPENED	FORGIVE
HEAVEN	SCRIPTURE	FULFILLED	MOSES
WORSHIPED	BLESSING	UNDERSTAND	MINDS

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- 10-15-7-8-16-26-14-7-13
- 7-8-10-13
- 7-13-16-13-18-26
- 9-20-13-10-10-8-18-21
- 26-12-17-13-18
- 19-13-12-3-13-18
- 2-11-7-10-19-8-16-13-4

SCRIPTURE	RISE	REPENT	HEAVEN	BLESSING
MINDS	TAKEN	OPENED	WORSHIPED	FULFILLED



# 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@lol7hills.com.au  
**Sacrament Co-Ordinator:** Mrs Artelle Lenthall

**Office Hours: Monday-Friday:** 9am - 3.00pm  
**Telephone:** 9622 2920  
**Parish Website:** www.lol7hills.com.au  
**Parish School:** Our Lady of Lourdes 8869 6800  
**Principal:** Ms Keiran Byrnes  
**Parish Church:** 7 Grantham Rd, Seven Hills 2147

**WEEKDAY MASS** Tuesday-Friday 8.00am  
**WEEKEND MASS** Saturday Vigil 6pm  
Sunday 8am & 9.30am

**RECONCILIATION** Saturday 4.30-5.30pm  
**BAPTISMAL PREPARATION** 19th May 2021 7.30pm  
**BAPTISMS** 2nd & 4th Sunday 11am

## The Ascension of the Lord—Year B 16 May 2021

All are welcome to join us for **Our Lady of Lourdes, Seven Hills, Sydney, NSW, Australia Facebook LIVE-STREAM WEEK-END MASSES** celebrated by **Fr. Henry Huu Duc Tran** on **Saturdays 6PM (Vigil), Sundays: 8AM, 9:30AM and 5PM (Vietnamese) AEDT (UTC +11):** <https://www.facebook.com/LOL7Hills/>

## REMINDER

KEEP COVID SAFE

We must continue to:



**MASKS**

Masks are  
MANDATORY



**SANITISE**

Use hand sanitizer  
upon entry and exit.



**DISTANCE**

Please maintain  
social distancing at  
all times. Including  
when lining up for  
Holy Communion.



**SIGN IN**

By Law, EVERYONE must  
SIGN IN. If the church  
has reached the MAX.  
capacity of **150** people,  
please proceed to Hall.



**MARKED  
SEATING**

Please sit behind the  
WHITE TAPE or in  
family designated  
areas.

**IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING ANY FLU LIKE SYMPTOMS PLEASE STAY HOME AS THE MASS IS STILL AVAILABLE ON LIVE-STREAM THROUGH OUR OLOL FACEBOOK PAGE.**

PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS TO THE CHURCH SAFE.

### Let us Pray for the Sick



Chula Abey, Leonila Ahillon, George Alagiah, David Barrow, David Benjamin, John Bourke, Lina Cabaero, Barrie Chamberlain, Gabriel Chung, Myrna G Cruz, Paul Daniel, Melvin Fernandes, Ronald Gomez, Milroy Gunewardena, Anthony Janicska, Wendy & Klaus, Anslan Lawrence, Angelina Lee, Spencer Leon, Cynthia Lopez, Carmenu M, Gerard Marcello, Marie Marchand, Maria V, Mark McGilligan, Blago & Dragica Milicevic, Laurel Morris, Anna Mun, Ananda Nayana, Patricia Oreo, Lekisha Grace Panlilio, Roger & Kimberley Payoe, Wiranjan Peiris, Salome Pillay, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Susantha Seranayake, Bernie Sivapatham, Rose Stambouliah, Pummalin Sumcad, Denis Symon, Lourdes Tibig, Sue Tipaldo, Natalie Woodward.

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:** Pamela Cythina Ambrose, Rachel Ampo, Celilia Apwra, Miriam Bussetill, Aloyseon Corera, Charles Do, Nileshe Evans, Elias Fortaleza, Shanil Jayatilake, Noly Diaz Limbawan, Mary Mifsud, Rosa & Nelson Ngan, Ramon Nismal, Josefina Roque, Alberto Vasquez.

**Anniversaries:** Gregorio & Maria Almodovar, Cecil Beed, Nicola Caniglia, Simeon & Valentina Carlos, Stella Cini, James & Betty Daly, Hassib Diab, Georgina & Mark Falzon, Teresa Francesco, Zoltan Gartner, Heeni Heke (Jinny), Trita Hili, Richard Hope, Giovanni La Rosa, Richard Lin, Nicanor & Tomasa Maepayo, Rosa Mancina, Mangion Family, James McNally, Anton Motha, Paul Mula, Lakshman Perera, S Susainathan, Tony Vassallo, Lucy Vasquez, Elena Zoratto.

**Remembrance:** France Angseesing, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Sharon & John Lawrence, Pauline Meilak, Lourda Motha, Stephen & Louis Mula, Mary & Muscat family, Roseline Ratnam, Jose Sanchez, Jim & Alison Vella, Natalie Vella.

### Planned Giving Program

On behalf of the Parish Community, I would like to thank you so much for your ongoing support, which has been very vital to keep our Parish going strong. Current projects being including the Hall Kitchen renovation, Parish Meeting Room painting, Parish Office and Meeting Room Roof painted, Church roof cleaned and ceiling repaired and painted.

### ON-LINE BANK DONATIONS

**BSB: 067 950;**  
**Account Number 000552;**  
**Account Name: Seven Hills Catholic Church.**  
(please include your NAME and ENVELOPE NUMBER in the reference description, or write DONATION if you haven't joined the Planned Giving Prog.

### IN-PERSON BANK DEPOSIT (at a Bank Institute/Branch)

**Seven Hills Catholic Church**  
**BSB: 062 315**  
**Acc Id # - 00901486**  
**AGENT # - 660**

*Your generosity is greatly appreciated.*



FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy; a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. (R.)

All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. (R.)

God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 4:1-13

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, over all, through all and within all. Each one of us, however, has been given his own share of grace, given as Christ allotted it. It was said that he would: When he ascended to the height, he captured prisoners, he gave gifts to men. When it says, 'he ascended', what can it mean if not that he descended right down to the lower regions of the earth? The one who rose higher than all the heavens to fill all things is none other than the one who descended. And to some, his gift was that they should be apostles; to some, prophets; to some, evangelists; to some, pastors and teachers; so that the saints together make a unity in the work of service, building up the body of Christ. In this way we are all to come to unity in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God, until we become the perfect Man, fully mature with the fullness of Christ himself.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 16:15-20

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised is saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.' And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.



PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the altar.  
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

women who collaborate in the service of catechesis, going out to “encounter all those who are waiting to discover the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Christian faith.” Pope Francis emphasises that it is “the task of pastors to support them in this process and to enrich the life of the Christian community through the recognition of lay ministries capable of contributing to the transformation of society through the ‘penetration of Christian values into the social, political and economic sectors’.” Avoiding clericalization Every catechist, says Pope Francis, “must be a witness to the faith, a teacher and mystagogue, a companion and pedagogue, who teaches for the Church.” Catechists, he continues, “are called first to be expert in the pastoral service of transmitting the faith,” from the first proclamation of the *kerygma* to preparation for the sacraments of Christian initiation, and throughout the process of ongoing formation. All this is possible, he says, “only through prayer, study, and direct participation in the life of the community,” so that catechists can grow in their identity and in “the integrity and responsibility” that identity entails. Receiving the lay ministry of catechist, in fact, “will emphasize even more the missionary commitment proper to every baptized person,” writes Pope Francis, “a commitment that must, however, be carried out in a fully “secular” manner, avoiding any form of clericalization.”

POPE FRANCIS AT GENERL AUDIENCE: ‘Jesus is with us at all times although we do not know it’ By Linda Bordoni “Christian prayer, like all Christian life, is not a *walk in the park*,” Pope Francis told the faithful following the Wednesday General Audience through the media and in the Vatican’s Courtyard of St. Damasus. He pointed out that so many of the “great praying people we meet in the Bible and the history of the Church did not have a *comfortable* prayer,” but encouraged us to never forget that Jesus is always with us. Continuing a cycle of reflections dedicated to Christian prayer, the Pope focused on the theme of “spiritual struggle” and on how the great masters of Christian history recognize that prayer is not always easy, for our human nature.

Prayer is not easy Prayer, the Pope said, certainly gives great peace, but praying is not something easy: “Every time we want to pray, we are immediately reminded of many other activities, which at that moment seem more important and more urgent. Almost always, after putting off prayer, we realise that those things were not essential at all and that we may have wasted time.” “This, he said, is how the Enemy deceives us.” The Holy Father reflected on how even some saints have lamented the fatigue and discomfort of prayer and yet continued to persevere in prayer for years, “without savouring it, without perceiving its usefulness.” “Silence, prayer and concentration are difficult exercises, and sometimes human nature rebels,” he said, “We would rather be anywhere else in the world, but not there, on that church pew, praying.” Faith is not easy, he added, “and sometimes it proceeds in almost total darkness, without points of reference.” The enemies of prayer The Pope went on to explain that the *Catechism* lists a long series of enemies of prayer (see nos. 2726-2728), but it teaches us that prayer, although a free and unmerited gift of God’s grace, can be affected by our human experiences of discouragement, sadness or disappointment: “Some doubt that prayer can truly reach the Almighty: why does God remain silent? Faced with the elusiveness of the divine, others suspect that prayer is a merely psychological operation; something that may be useful, but is neither true nor necessary: one could even be a practitioner without being a believer.” The worst enemies of prayer, he said, are to be found within us.

Words of wisdom Asking ourselves “what should we do in the time of temptation, when everything seems to waver?” the Pope upheld the examples and lessons to be learnt from the history of spirituality and from the “masters of the soul” who offer contribution and words of wisdom for dealing with difficult times. For example, he continued, “the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola are a short book full of great wisdom, which teaches how to put one’s life in order: It makes us understand that the Christian vocation is militancy, it is the decision to stand beneath the banner of Jesus Christ and not under that of the devil, trying to do good even when it becomes difficult.” Jesus is always with us But in times of trial, Pope Francis reminded the faithful, it is good to remember that we are not alone, that someone is watching over us and protecting us. He recalled the trials faced by the hermit, Saint Anthony the Abbot when prayer became a difficult struggle: His biographer, the Pope recounted, tells us that Anthony was disturbed by his ordeal, but resisted: "When he finally became serene again, he turned to his Lord with a tone almost of reproach: 'Where were you? Why did you not come immediately to put an end to my suffering?' And Jesus answered: 'Anthony, I was there. But I was waiting to see you fight'".

A miracle witnessed The Pope then delved into some of his own personal memories from when he worked in an Argentinean diocese. He told of how the father of a critically ill child, a worker who did not attend Mass every Sunday, travelled 70 kilometres to pray at the Basilica of Our Lady of Lujan, the Patron Saint of Argentina. When he got there, the Pope said, it was 10 pm and the Basilica was closed. But he spent the night praying at its gates, and when the church doors opened the following morning he entered, greeted Our Lady, and went home to find that his daughter would be saved. “Struggling to make himself heard through prayer, that man was graced by Our Lady. Our Lady listened. It is something I have witnessed: prayer accomplishes miracles because prayer goes straight to the tenderness of God who sees us as a father does,” the Pope said. It happens, he added, that we ask for a grace that we are in need of, “but we do so without fighting for it... prayer is a fight and the Lord is always with us.” ‘I thought I was alone but I was not’ Jesus, the Pope concluded, is always with us: "If in a moment of blindness, we cannot see His presence, we will in the future,” and he reminded believers that “At the end of our lives, looking back, we too will be able to say: “I thought I was alone, but no, I was not: Jesus was with me”.

POPE FRANCIS AT REGINA COELI: LOVE MEANS SERVING OTHERS NOT CONTROLLING THEM

By Devin Watkins

Taking his cue from the day’s Gospel (Jn 15:9-17), Pope Francis explored the fruit that can be seen when a Christian abides in Jesus’ love.

Jesus, said the Pope, “invites us to abide in His love so that His joy may be in us and our joy may be full.”

Knowing the Father’s love

He said this love has its origin in God the Father, who is love, and flows like a river through Jesus, His Son, to us.

“The love Jesus gives us is the same with which the Father loves Him: pure, unconditional, freely given love,” said the Pope.

“By giving it to us, Jesus treats us like friends, making us know the Father, and He involves us in His same mission for the life of the world.”

We remain in Jesus’ love, he added, by keeping His commandments.

Loving one another

In the same passage, Jesus summarized His commandments with the words: “that you love one another as I have loved you.”

Pope Francis said loving like Christ means going beyond our own selves and opening up to those in greater need.

“To love as Christ means to put yourself at the service of your brothers and sisters, as He did in washing the feet of the disciples,” said the Pope. “It means making ourselves available, as we are and with what we have. This means to love not in word but in deed.”

MOTHER’S DAY: POPE APPLAUDS ALL MOMS, MUMS AND MAMAS

By Devin Watkins

As children young and old around the world celebrate Mother’s Day, Pope Francis sent a special greeting to all mothers.

“We greet all the mothers of the world, even those who have passed away,” said the Pope. “A round of applause for mothers!”

Terror attack in Kabul

In a separate appeal at the Sunday Regina Coeli address, the Pope also prayed for the victims of a terrorist attack in Afghanistan.

More than 50 people were killed on Saturday in Kabul, most of whom were students leaving a girls’ secondary school.

Pope Francis called it an “inhumane action”, and he urged everyone to pray for the victims and their families.

“And may God grant peace to Afghanistan,” he prayed.

Colombia protests

The Pope went on to express his concern for the violent clashes and social tension gripping Colombia.

Dozens of people have died and hundreds have been injured after protests broke out in the Latin American nation on 28 April.

The protests were sparked by a government-proposed tax reform, which have since been withdrawn. The movement now includes calls for better healthcare, education, and pensions.

Pope Francis lamented the deaths, and asked everyone to pray for Colombia.

Fibromyalgia sufferers

Finally, the Pope greeted all those who suffer from fibromyalgia, a disorder that causes extreme pain and loss of sleep and memory, as well as mood issues.

“I express my closeness,” said Pope Francis, “and I hope that more attention gets paid to this disease which is often overlooked.”

Wednesday, 12 May, will be marked as the International Fibromyalgia Awareness Day.

POPE ESTABLISHES MINISTRY OF CATECHIST

By Isabella Piro

“Fidelity to the past and responsibility for the present are necessary conditions for the Church to carry out her mission in the world,” writes Pope Francis in the Apostolic Letter *Antiquum ministerium*, with which the Holy Father institutes the lay ministry of catechist.

In the context of evangelisation in the contemporary world and in the face of “the rise of a globalised culture,” it is necessary to recognise “those lay men and women who feel called by virtue of their baptism to cooperate in the work of catechesis.” At the same time, Pope Francis emphasises the importance of “genuine interaction with young people,” as well as “the need for creative methodologies and resources capable of adapting the proclamation of the Gospel to the missionary transformation that the Church has undertaken.”

A new ministry with ancient origins

The new ministry has ancient origins, going back to the New Testament: it is mentioned, for example, in the Gospel of Luke and in St Paul’s Letters to the Corinthians and Galatians, albeit in a seminal form. But “the history of evangelization over the past two millennia,” writes Pope Francis, “clearly shows the effectiveness of the mission of catechists,” who have “devoted their lives to catechetical instruction so that the faith might be an effective support for the life of every human being,” — even to the point of sacrificing their own lives.

Since the Second Vatican Council, there has been a growing awareness of the fact that “the role of catechists is of the highest importance” (*Ad gentes*, 17) for “the development of the Christian community.”

“In our own day too,” writes Pope Francis, “many competent and dedicated catechists... carry out a mission invaluable for the transmission and growth of the faith,” while a “long line of blessed, saints and martyrs who were catechists has significantly advanced the Church’s mission.” This “represents a rich resource not only for catechesis but also for the entire history of Christian spirituality.” Transforming society through Christian values

Without in any way detracting from the “the Bishop’s mission as the primary catechist in his Diocese,” nor from the “particular responsibility of parents for the Christian formation of their children,” the Pope recognises the importance of lay men and



FROM FR. HENRY DUC

‘He ascended into heaven.’ This is part of the Creed we profess every week at our Sunday Mass, and we dedicate this Sunday to celebrate this part of our Catholic beliefs with the celebration of the feast of the Lord’s Ascension.

In the past, this feast took place on the Thursday before the seventh Sunday of Easter, based on the account from the Acts of the Apostles as we heard in the first reading today that Jesus was taken up into heaven 40 days after his Resurrection. For practical reason, it, however, has been moved to Sunday as we know now to make it easier for more people to observe such an important obligation.

The point about Jesus taken up into heaven and sitting at the right hand of God as the Gospel of Mark told us today keeps us in touch with the ancient belief in Jesus’ time, that God lived in ‘the heavens’ and seat-

ed on a throne. Here Jesus did not simply fulfill such an ancient belief, he has also gone back to where he originally came from in a powerful position.

In the eyes of the writers of the Gospels, including Mark’s, Jesus continued to teach the disciples even to the moment right before his Ascension by literally encouraging them to spread his teachings all over the world and baptize those who believe in Him, and also entrusted to them various gifts as powerful tools to empower them in their various ministries.

After his Ascension, though Jesus was no longer present among his followers like he once was among his disciples in the past in a physical sense, he has still been present with us in a spiritual and metaphysical sense to accompany, support and work with us as the Gospel said, and will come again at the end time to judge the living and dead as we repeated recite every week in the Creed.

While looking forward to his Return in glory, we need to stay away from the passive outlook of standing and looking into the sky like the disciples in the first reading, but focus on taking some actions in preaching about Jesus and his teaching according to the gifts given to us, and bearing witness to him by means of what we do in our everyday lives.

Let us ask the ascended Jesus to empower each of us with his grace, and help us fulfill the task we are called to carry out for him in our everyday lives.

Have a grace-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

FAREWELL TO MRS. CIVIDIN

After 18 years helping to educate many generations of children in our Parish school, Mrs. Cividin decided to call it a day.

On behalf of the parish, I would like to thank her for her hard works and professional dedication to enrich the lives of lot of children in our community. I would like to wish her an enjoyable time with her family.

May the Lord reward her greatly for her educational labor, and grant her unceasing blessings.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM 2021

The parish runs meetings and provides diocesan-based resources to support you in assisting your child prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation.

Further information on how the process will run as well as all dates and enrolment information will be provided at a **Parent Information Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd August at 6:30pm** in the **Parish Meeting Room, Our Lady of Lourdes, 7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills.** **The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation is on**

**Sunday 17th October at 9.30am.** For further information, please contact the parish office on 9622 2920 or email [artellelolol7hills.com.au](mailto:artellelolol7hills.com.au)



NEW ALTAR SERVERS INDUCTION FOR 2021

All children in year 4 and higher are warmly invited to join our Altar Servers ministry training sessions on 6 June after the 9.30 Mass for all children from both Our Lady of Lourdes’ and others’.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

As usual, our last PPC meeting began with a spiritual reading entitled ‘Church’ by Elizabeth Stoker Bruenig, an assistant editor at the Washington Post, in which she explored the various aspects of the Church as a Mother to us, such as tender, caring, comforting, bearing, nourishing, raising, teaching, steadfast, protecting. These qualities fundamentally reflect the example of the Blessed Virgin and the view of the Patristic Fathers, and Pope Francis has encouraged the whole Church to focus on them.

The meeting then continued with reports from the school and Parish groups.

In the discussion following the report from the Finance Committee, members of the Council spent some time to talk about the First Collection meant to support all clergy in the diocese of Parramatta through the Clergy Remuneration and Retirement Plan, including their month stipend, food and drinks, housekeeping, health insurance, and so on. Unfortunately this fund has always been rather thin. As a token of our solidarity, we decided to dedicate all donations from our Matt’s Points to the First Collection and shall re-adjust our position in this regard later on, if needed.

NATIONAL COUNT OF MASS ATTENDANCE

Throughout all the weekends of May, our parish is invited to take part in the National Mass Count project starting from this first weekend of May, 2021. This week, we will be asked to indicate the gender. Please tick your appropriate column. Every person is to sign the register.

For the very last weekend of the Mass Count, you will be asked to share with the Committee your age group  
*Thank you everyone for your patience and co-operation.*







## FROM POPE FRANCIS

### CHAPTER FOUR: The Inculturation of the Liturgy

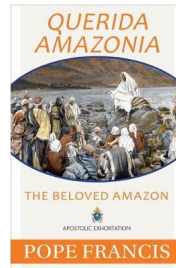
81. The inculturation of Christian spirituality in the cultures of the original peoples can benefit in a particular way from the sacraments, since they unite the divine and the cosmic, grace and creation. In the Amazon region, the sacraments should not be viewed in discontinuity with creation. They “are a privileged way in which nature is taken up by God to become a means of mediating supernatural life”. [114] They are the fulfillment of creation, in which nature is elevated to become a locus and instrument of grace, enabling us “to embrace the world on a different plane”.

82. In the Eucharist, God, “in the culmination of the mystery of the Incarnation, chose to reach our intimate depths through a fragment of matter”. The Eucharist “joins heaven and earth; it embraces and penetrates all creation” For this reason, it can be a “motivation for our concerns for the environment, directing us to be stewards of all creation”. In this sense, “encountering God does not mean fleeing from this world or turning our back on nature”. It means that we can take up into the liturgy many elements proper to the experience of indigenous peoples in their contact with nature, and respect native forms of expression in song, dance, rituals, gestures and symbols. The Second Vatican Council called for this effort to inculturate the liturgy among indigenous peoples; over fifty years have passed and we still have far to go along these lines.

83. On Sunday, “Christian spirituality incorporates the value of relaxation and festivity. [Nowadays] we tend to demean contemplative rest as something unproductive and unnecessary, but this is to do away with the very thing which is most important about work: its meaning. We are called to include in our work a dimension of receptivity and gratuity”. Aboriginal peoples are familiar with this gratuity and this healthy contemplative leisure. Our celebrations should help them experience this in the Sunday liturgy and encounter the light of God’s word and the Eucharist, which illumines our daily existence.

84. The sacraments reveal and communicate the God who is close and who comes with mercy to heal and strengthen his children. Consequently, they should be accessible, especially for the poor, and must never be refused for financial reasons. Nor is there room, in the presence of the poor and forgotten of the Amazon region, for a discipline that excludes and turns people away, for in that way they end up being discarded by a Church that has become a toll-house. Rather, “in such difficult situations of need, the Church must be particularly concerned to offer understanding, comfort and acceptance, rather than imposing straightaway a set of rules that only lead people to feel judged and abandoned by the very Mother called to show them God’s mercy”. For the Church, mercy can become a mere sentimental catchword unless it finds concrete expression in her pastoral outreach.

**[Pope Francis, Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation QUERIDA AMAZONIA—to the people of God and to all persons of good will.]**



### Pope Francis’ Prayer to Mary during the coronavirus pandemic

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope.  
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus’ pain, keeping your faith firm.  
You, Salvation of all People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that,  
as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.  
Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus,  
who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross,  
to the joy of the resurrection. *Amen.*  
Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God.  
Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger,



### Our Lady of Lourdes

Ever immaculate Virgin, Mother of mercy,  
health of the sick, refuge of sinners,  
comfort of the afflicted, you know my needs,  
my troubles, my sufferings; cast on me a look of pity.  
By appearing in the grotto of Lourdes,  
you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary,  
from which you dispense your favours,  
and already many sufferers have obtained the cure of their  
infirmities, both spiritual and physical.  
I come, therefore, with the most unbounded confidence to  
implore your maternal intercession.  
Obtain most loving mother, my requests,  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.  
*Amen.*

	May 2021	
19	Baptismal Preparation Meeting	7.30pm
20	Christ Community Prayer Group	9.00am
20	Legion of Mary	1.30pm
23-27	Fr Henry Vacation	
27	Finance Committee Meeting	8:00pm
29/30	Bishop’s Good Shepherd Appeal	All Masses

## DIOCESAN NEWS

### Catholic Theological College Engaging Your Faith Series: 11 – 31 May

The Catholic Theological College is hosting a series of online lectures via Zoom on Engaging Your Faith from 11 to 31 May. The Engaging Your Faith offers short sessions on a variety of topics including: Spirituality, Women in the Early Church and The Eucharist. Sessions are \$20 each. Registration is essential via <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=747351&>. For further information, contact Rose Sultana, Academic Records Office on (03) 9412 3307 or [rose.sultana@ctc.edu.au](mailto:rose.sultana@ctc.edu.au)

### Introduction to Safeguarding Training

The Diocese of Parramatta is launching new online Safe-guarding training for all parish staff and volunteers. Zoom sessions to introduce the training will be held 2pm-3pm on **Wednesday 19th May**. For more information email Sonia Fingleton at the Diocese at [Sonia.fingleton@parracatholic.org](mailto:Sonia.fingleton@parracatholic.org)

### St Mary’s Towers Retreat Centre Men’s Weekend:

**21 – 23 May** St Mary’s Towers Retreat Centre in Douglas Park, NSW, is hosting a Men’s Weekend retreat from 21 to 23 May. The retreat will reflect on select scripture passages and exploring how the power of ‘Yes!’ changed circumstances in dark times. Registration is \$290 per person. For enquiries and the RSVP, email [contact@towersretreat.org.au](mailto:contact@towersretreat.org.au), call (02) 4630 0233 or visit <http://towersretreat.org.au>

### Diocese of Parramatta COVID-19 update

Parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains have COVID-Safety plans in place requiring social distancing, maximum attendance figures and other safety measures. It is currently highly recommended that masks be worn to Mass and other services. You are encouraged to check with your parish on what measures they have in place before attending. For more information, please visit the Diocesan website [www.parracatholic.org/covid19](http://www.parracatholic.org/covid19)

15/16 May 2021		
Acolytes	Vigil: 8am: 9.30am	Ernie Gartner Ramzee Michael James Dinning
Ministers	Vigil: 8am: 9.30am	Anna Bellissimo, Laura Bellissimo Priya Joachim, Maria Michael Mercy Aquino, Eugene Miu
Readers	Vigil: 8am: 9.30am	Crystal Menezes, Alison Punch Megan Michael, Maricel Santos Ian Epondulan, Helen Katopau
Altar Servers	Vigil: 8am: 9.30am	Noah Ebb, Chrisha Gonzales, Samuel Thoms Erika Naing, Jaylen Naing, Riley Naing, Celestina Katopau, Olliana Katopau, Daniel Tenn
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church cleaning	22 May	Helen & Dennis Gonzales, Novelo Paylaga, Adrian Pinto, Johnson Rozario, Maricel Santos
Welcomers	Vigil: 8am: 9.30am	Helen Gonzales, Ram Ugre Joyce Hillbrick, Rita Paolini VOLUNTEER, Lena Falzon

## DIOCESAN NEWS

### Heart of Creation Reflection Day: 23 May

Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia are hosting a day retreat on the Ignatian understanding of Creation on Sunday 23 May from 9am to 3pm at the Winbourne Function and Retreat Centre, Mulgoa. The retreat will use imagery, story and creative ways to explore our experience of the gift of creation. Registration is \$90, with morning tea provided and BYO lunch. To book, visit <https://jisa.org.au/retreat/2957/> and for more information, contact [info@jisa.org.au](mailto:info@jisa.org.au)

### Bishop Vincent’s pastoral letter on the proposed Parental Rights Bill

Bishop Vincent has released a pastoral letter to the pastors, parents and the faithful of the Diocese of Parramatta on the proposed Parental Rights Bill. The letter can be read here: <https://parracatholic.org/pastoral-letter-to-the-people-of-parramatta-on-the-parental-rights-bill/>

### Get vaccinated for the common good

Vaccination against COVID-19 is a morally good thing, providing protection for the person vaccinated and the wider community. Some COVID-19 vaccines are associated with ethically questionable production and research practices, but Pope Francis and the Australian Bishops have advised that it is morally permissible to receive any vaccine made available. More information is available at <https://www.catholic.org.au/coronavirus>

### Helping the education of priests in Rome

Close to the Pope, and experiencing each day the universality of the Church, thousands of seminarians and priests from all over the world are being educated at Pontifical Universities. The Pontifical University of the Holy Cross Foundation in Sydney exists to sponsor candidates to study in Rome. To donate or leave a bequest to the foundation, please visit <http://www.pontifoundation.org.au/> or contact [pontiuni.au@gmail.com](mailto:pontiuni.au@gmail.com)

22/23 May 2021		
Acolytes	Vigil: 8am: 9.30am	Abel Do Rosario Terry Jordan Noel Emmanuel
Ministers	Vigil: 8am: 9.30am	Anna Bellissimo, Laura Bellissimo Anne McNally, Maricel Santos Sarah Lenthall, Dawn Manamperi
Readers	Vigil: 8am: 9.30am	Benno Motha, Alison Punch Nina Arambulo, Pepito Ferriols Christina Diaz, Adrian Walker
Altar Servers	Vigil: 8am: 9.30am	Genevieve Estil, Madisen Estil, Caitlyn Rambukwella Saoirse Costello, Lewis Savic, Sebastian Costello Sofia Culili, Diya Dsouza, Jerard Sarmiento
Flowers	Annette & Mary B	
Church cleaning	22 May	Helen & Dennis Gonzales, Novelo Paylaga, Adrian Pinto, Johnson Rozario, Maricel Santos
Welcomers	Vigil: 8am: 9.30am	Mary Bonnici, VOLUNTEER Suzy Nemorin, VOLUNTEER Kathy Chamberlain, VOLUNTEER