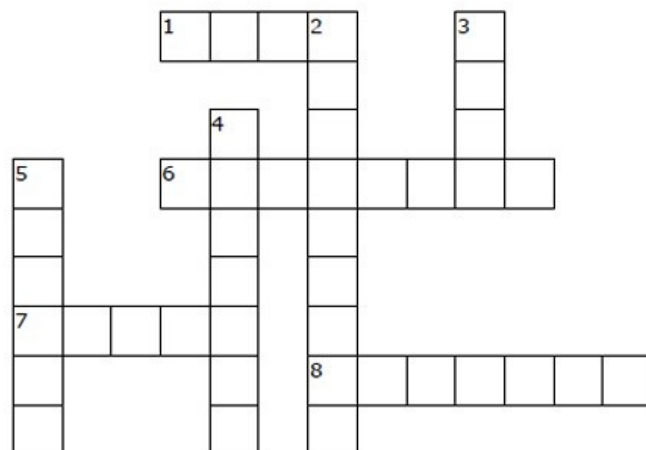
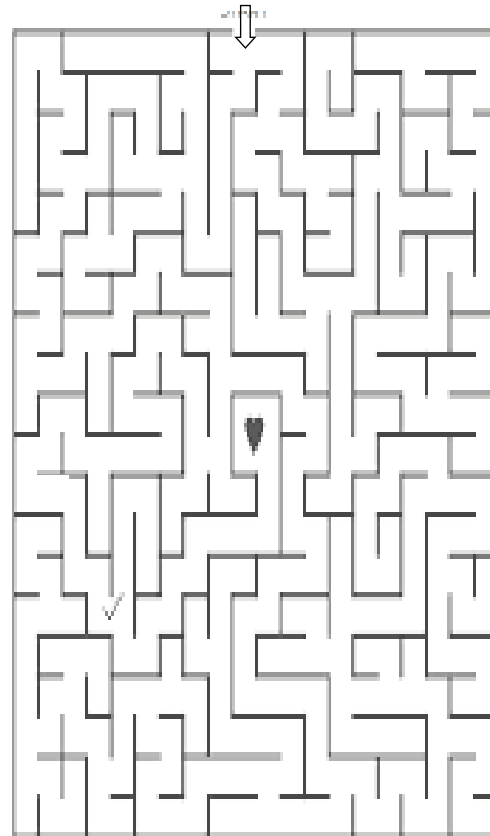


## To Whom Shall We Go?

"You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. John 6:67-68 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on John 6:60-69



### ACROSS

1. Difficult to understand, accomplish, or finish
6. Sharing knowledge with others
7. To go away from; depart; abandon or forsake
8. Continuing forever

### DOWN

2. The original followers of Jesus
3. To reverse directions
4. To accept as true or real
5. To come after; to go behind someone

BELIEVE	HARD	DISCIPLES	TEACHING
ETERNAL	TURN	LEAVE	FOLLOW

M Y T D I C T T A V G G K L O  
N F R K C N N U E W Y O S E I  
O A G J E S U S R A K T K A A  
H V B A C K F M J N C N D V H  
N U B E N M G E D X N H O E X  
J U E T A E V E A Y B E I W S  
T Y T E C D M B W S F G K N N  
V K R R R S K O S I J R C Y G  
K O A N C H L E L P O U T T A  
Z P Y A E L V I T L G M H G T  
C U X L O I W U Q U A B G E W  
X J R F G D G M F A Z L Y V M  
E A R Q U W O R D S D I U I A  
B B E L I E V E U L P N R Z V  
S X U D U U E H S W N G W K V

GIVES	GRUMBLING	BETRAY	LIFE	WORDS
ETERNAL	TURN	BACK	BELIEVE	JESUS
LEAVE	KNOW	TEACHING	FOLLOW	HARD



OUR LADY OF LOURDES  
PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS  
"Still a wonderful place to pray & stay."

7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills. NSW. 2147

Ph. 9622 2920

Email: secretary@lol7hills.com.au

Parish Priest: Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran

Parish Office Team: Mrs Erika Hien, Alison Issanchon, Kim Dang, Sarah Lenthall.

Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall

Office Hours: Monday-Friday: 9am - 3.00pm

WEEKEND MASS: Saturday Vigil 6pm LIVE-STREAM

Pastoral Care of the Sick: Bathista Emmanuel 0405833655

Parish School: Our Lady of Lourdes 8869 6800

Principal: Ms Keiran Byrnes

Reconciliation: Saturday 4:30-5:30pm -TBA

Baptismal Preparation: 15th September 2021 7:30pm

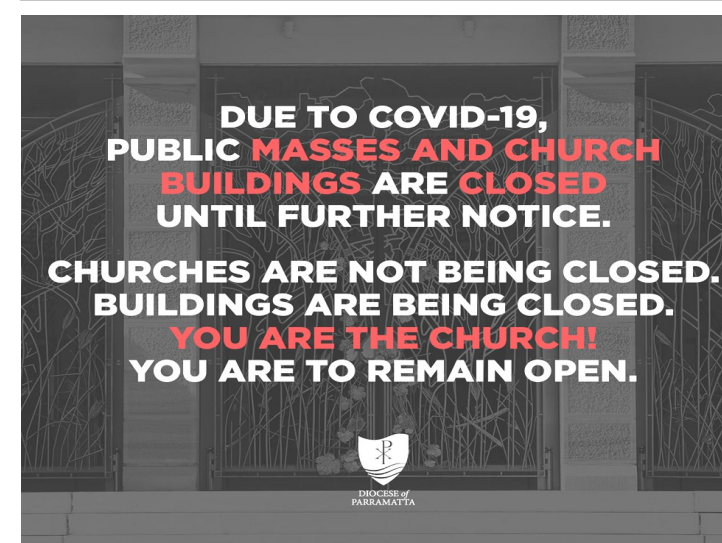
Baptism: 2nd & 4th Sunday 11am -TBA

Parish Website: www.lol7hills.com.au

## Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

•Year B—22 August 2021•

All are welcome to join us for **Our Lady of Lourdes, Seven Hills, Sydney, NSW, Australia Facebook LIVE-STREAM WEEKEND MASSES** celebrated by Fr. Henry Huu Duc Tran on **Saturdays 6PM (Vigil), Sundays: 8AM, 9:30AM**  
<https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>



## 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. 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>



It's everyone's responsibility

Don't forget to wear your mask when you go to Mass.



### Let us Pray for the Sick

Leonila Ahillon, George Alagiah, David Barrow, David Benjamin, Myrna G Cruz, Melvin Fernandes, Wendy & Klaus, Anslan Lawrence, Spencer Leon, Cynthia Lopez, Carmenu M, Gerard Marcello, Marie Marchand, Salome Pillay, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Sandra Roseworn, Susantha Seranayake, Bernie Sivapatham, Joan Spillane, Pummalin Sumcad, Sue Tipodi, 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:** Lina Cabaero, David Quan Hien Dang, Cruz Fernandez, Marie Arlette Yolan Sheik Amode Hossen, 'Raj' Selvam Irudayaraj, Ajay Kallukalam, Noly Diaz Limbawan, Elenoa Ahomana Matavesi, Sylroy Menezes, Mary Mifsud, Rogelio Moscaya sn, Nancy Mulholland, Bonifacio Ngalongalay, Hanh My Thi Nguyen, Virgilio Naringahon, Neil Nuevaespana, Custodio Palmos Jr, Mary Said, Domingo Villarta.

**Anniversaries:** Ana Batorek, Cecil Beed, Nazarene (Ronnie) Borg, Jacqueline & Edmond Clarisse, Philomena Corera, Marie Therese Descombes, Rita De Silva, Monica, Domnic & Conception D'Souza, Christiansen Dias, Rose Fernandes, Leandro Garcia Sr, Nguyen Vinh Hien, Salvatore, Antonio, Alberto, Edouard Mahomudally, Lourda Motha, Paul Mula, Ignacio Nonato Sr., Eamon O'Sullivan, Custodio Palmos Sr., Nieves Palmos, Lakshman Perera, Peter Sandaman, Oliver Soares, Pauline Soares.

**Remembrance:** France Angseesing, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Fortunata & Frank Baiada, Hippol Fernandes, Michael Gachia, Apolinario & Felina Maglaya, Joe and Anne Menezes, Lourda Motha, Stephen & Louis Mula, Muscat family, Nieves Palmos, Romeo M. Palmos.

### Planned Giving Program or SECOND COLLECTION

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. Projects completed include 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

Account Name: Seven Hills Catholic Church.

BSB: 067 950

ACC: 000552

Reference: (Your Planned Giving envelope number or please write 'DONATION')

#### FIRST COLLECTION DURING LOCKDOWN

The first collection is for the support of priests here and throughout the diocese. Parishioners can donate/contribute to the First Collection using the bank details below:

Account Name: Parramatta Diocesan Clergy

BSB: 067 950

ACC: 00004265

Reference: 6035 Seven Hills

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



FIRST READING  
*A reading from the first book of Joshua 24:1-2,15-18*

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechen; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: ‘If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.’ The people answered, ‘We have no intention of deserting the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.’ The word of the Lord.

<b>RESPONSORIAL PSALM</b> <b>(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.</b>	They call and the Lord hears and rescues them in all their distress. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save. <b>(R.)</b>
I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. <b>(R.)</b>	Many are the trials of the just man but from them all the Lord will rescue him. He will keep guard over all his bones, not one of his bones shall be broken. <b>(R.)</b>
The Lord turns his face against the wicked to destroy their remembrance from the earth. The Lord turns his eyes to the just and his ears to their appeal. <b>(R.)</b>	Evil brings death to the wicked; those who hate the good are doomed. The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants. Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. <b>(R.)</b>

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 5:21-32*

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is the head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church. The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Your words, Lord, are spirit and life: you have the words of everlasting life.  
Alleluia!

GOSPEL  
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 6:60-69*

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, ‘This is intolerable language. How can anyone accept it?’ Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, ‘Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before? ‘It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. ‘But there are some of you who do not believe.’ For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, ‘This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.’ After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him. Then Jesus said to the Twelve, ‘What about you, do you want to go away too?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.’ The Gospel of the Lord.



**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 spiritually into my heart.**  
**I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.**  
**Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen**

POPE FRANCIS URGES PEOPLE TO GET VACCINATED AGAINST COVID-19 *By Devin Watkins*

The Pope has joined his voice to those of Bishops across North and South America to urge people to get jabbed against Covid-19. In a video message produced in conjunction with the Ad Council, Pope Francis praised the work of researchers and scientists in producing safe and effective Covid-19 vaccines. “Thanks to God’s grace and to the work of many, we now have vaccines to protect us from Covid-19,” he said in the video released on Wednesday. He added that vaccines “bring hope to end the pandemic, but only if they are available to all and if we collaborate with one another.”

**Vaccination is an act of love**  
Pope Francis went on to say that getting a Covid jab that is “authorized by the respective authorities” is an “act of love.” Helping other do the same, he said, is also an act of love. “Love for oneself, love for our families and friends, and love for all peoples. Love is also social and political.” The Pope noted that social and political love is built up through “small, individual gestures capable of transforming and improving societies.” “Getting vaccinated is a simple yet profound way to care for one another, especially the most vulnerable,” he said. Pope Francis then prayed to God that “each one of us can make his or her own small gesture of love.” “No matter how small, love is always grand,” he said. “Small gestures for a better future.” **‘Strength of faith’**

The Pope was joined in the video by several Cardinals and Archbishops from across the Americas. Archbishop Jose Gomez, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Archbishop of Los Angeles, lamented the suffering and death the pandemic has wrought across the globe. He prayed that God might “grant us the grace to face it with the strength of faith, ensuring that vaccines are available for all, so that we can all get immunized.” Mexican Cardinal Carlos Aguiar Retes linked Covid-19 jabs to a better future for all. “From North to South America, we support vaccinations for all,” said the Cardinal

**Safe, effective vaccines**  
Honduran Cardinal Rodriguez Maradiaga said the world has much to learn from the coronavirus. “But one thing is certain: the authorized vaccines are effective, and are here to save lives,” he said. “They are the key to a path of personal and universal healing.” Brazilian Cardinal Claudio Hummes praised the “heroic efforts” of health professionals in developing “safe and effective” jabs. He also repeated the Pope’s affirmation that “getting vaccinated is an act of love”. Salvadorian Cardinal Gregorio Rosa Chavez said vaccination helps protect the most vulnerable. “Our choice to get vaccinated affects others,” he said, adding that it is a moral responsibility.

**Unity across the Americas**  
Peruvian Archbishop Miguel Cabrejos rounded out the testimonies contained in the video with an appeal to unity. “We are united—North, Central, and South America and the Caribbean—to promote and support vaccination for all,” he said, encouraging everyone to “act responsibly, as members of the great human family, seeking and protecting our integral health and universal vaccination.”

SOUTH EAST ASIA BATTLES WORLD'S HIGHEST COVID-19 DEATHS *By Vatican News staff reporter*

Southeast Asia is battling the world’s highest Covid-19 death toll driven by the Delta variant and unequal global distribution of vaccines. Hospitals remain overwhelmed by record surges across Southeast Asia, from Vietnam to Malaysia and Myanmar as fears mount of greater suffering and loss of life with Covid-19 spreading from cities to rural and regional areas, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) said on Wednesday.

**Record deaths in SE Asia**  
In the last two weeks, Southeast Asia has recorded 38,522 deaths from Covid-19, nearly twice as many as North America, according to the John Hopkins University Covid-19 data dashboard “This Covid-19 surge driven by the Delta variant is claiming a tragic toll on families across Southeast Asia and it’s far from over,” said IFRC Asia Pacific Director, Alexander Matheou. “We fear that as the virus spreads from cities to regional and rural areas that many more lives will be lost among the unvaccinated,” he warned.

**Unfair vaccine access**  
Matheou lamented the unfair access to vaccinations, pointing out that while they are at record rates in richer countries, many South-east Asian nations have low portions of the population fully vaccinated and are languishing far behind. The United Kingdom has fully vaccinated 60 per cent of its population, while Canada and Spain stand at around 64 per cent and the United States at 50 per cent, according to Oxford University’s Our World in Data updated until August 16. By contrast, Indonesia and the Philippines, the most populous countries in Southeast Asia, have only fully vaccinated around 10-11 per cent of their people, while Vietnam sits at below 2 per cent. Malaysia has fully vaccinated 34 per cent of its population. Seven of the top 10 countries where Covid -19 deaths have doubled the fastest are in Asia and the Pacific, with Vietnam, Fiji and Myanmar all in the top five, according to Our World in Data. Indonesia is the worst-case Covid-19 scenario in Southeast Asia, where a little over 10 per cent of the people have been fully inoculated. Currently, the country has one of the highest daily death tolls in the world, with 1,466 deaths reported on average over the past seven days.

**Sharing**  
Matheou stressed on the need for richer countries to “urgently share their millions of excess vaccine doses with countries in Southeast Asia” in the short term. Vaccine manufacturers and governments, he said, also need to share their technology and scale up production. According to Matheou, “These coming weeks are critical for scaling up treatment, testing and vaccinations, in every corner of all countries in Southeast Asia.” He said, “We must aim for mass vaccination rates of 70-80 per cent if we want to win the race against the variants and overcome this global pandemic.” Until vaccination levels reach a critical mass, in the short-term it is also crucial to reinforce health protection measures, such as wearing a mask, physical distance and meeting outdoors or in well-ventilated spaces. The IFRC is seeking vital funding for its global emergency Covid-19 appeal, with around 60 per cent of the appeal covered so far. The funds are crucial to support the lifesaving actions of the IFRC and its member societies around the world. Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, the IFRC is an international humanitarian aid organization that reaches 160 million people each year through its 192-member national societies. (Source: IFRC)

## POPE FRANCIS: MARY REMINDS US OF GOD'S CALL TO GLORY THROUGH HUMILITY

By Vatican News staff writer

Addressing the faithful gathered in Saint Peter's Square for the Sunday Angelus on the August 15th Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven, Pope Francis offered his opening reflections on the importance of this Feast, saying "Mary's secret is humility." God looks at the heart, he said, and Mary's humility drew God's gaze to her. He observed that often times the human eye is instead overtaken with appearances and grandeur, while overlooking the essential importance of humility.

By looking to Mary assumed into heaven, the Pope said we see how "humility is the way that brings her to Heaven". To rise up to Heaven, we need to be humble he said, noting the origin of the word humble comes from the Latin word humus meaning "earth". Our gifts or wealth are not what allow us to be exalted by God, but instead it is our humility, our loving and serving God in total giving that matters, the Pope underscored.

This means we should examine ourselves and how we are doing with humility in our own lives, the Pope said. We need to ask ourselves if we are often seeking affirmation and praise only for ourselves, or if we could put more emphasis on serving. Do we listen, like Mary, or desire to be the one always talking in order to have the attention and praise. Do we try to lower tensions between people and find unity, or do we try to always dominate the situation? These are important questions to ask ourselves, the Pope said, and especially when looking to the Madonna, saying "in her littleness, Mary wins heaven first", because she recognized her "lowliness" since with God, "only those who recognise themselves as nothing can receive the all". The Pope said Mary is the "full of grace" due to her humility

We too should look to humility as the starting point in our faith journey, the Pope went on to say, noting that we need to be poor in spirit, which means "in need of God", so that through us the Lord can "accomplish great things".

Recalling the poet Dante who referred to the Virgin Mary as "humbler and loftier than any creature", the Pope said this beautiful reality should bring us to reflect on Mary, "the first to win heaven with her entire being, in soul and body" who lived out her life within the family in the ordinary day-to-day of life, often "in silence...externally, nothing extraordinary". At the same time, he added, "God's gaze was always upon her, admiring her humility, her availability, the beauty of her heart never stained by sin." "It is a huge message of hope for us", the Pope concluded, noting even in our own ordinary and often difficult lives we can follow the same example. "Mary reminds you today that God calls you too to this glorious destiny.", he stressed, and these are not just nice words, but "pure reality" he said, "as live and true as the Madonna assumed into Heaven".

In conclusion, he asked everyone to pray that Mary may "accompany us on our journey that leads from Earth to Heaven", striving to live with humility, the secret to our journey.

After leading the recitation of the Angelus on Sunday's Solemnity of the Assumption, Pope Francis expressed his concern over the situation in Afghanistan. He asked everyone to unite in praying to "the God of peace so that the clamour of weapons might cease and solutions can be found at the table of dialogue." He said only this way can the "battered population of that country – men, women, elderly and children" be able to "return to their own homes, and live in peace and security, in total mutual respect".

The Pope also recalled the strong earthquake that shook Haiti overnight, causing numerous deaths, wounding many, and causing extensive damage. He expressed his "closeness to the dear people hard hit by the earthquake", offering his prayers to the Lord for the victims. He offered his encouragement to the survivors and hopes that the help of the international community might reach them. "May the solidarity of all alleviate the consequences of the tragedy!" he emphasized, inviting everyone in the Square to pray a Hail Mary for Haiti.

## POPE FRANCIS AT THE AUDIENCE: ARE WE UNDER THE LAW OR ARE WE CHILDREN OF GOD?

By Christopher Wells

Pope Francis continued his explanation of St Paul's Letter to the Galatians at Wednesday's General Audience, focusing on St Paul's understanding of the role of the Law for Christians.

St Paul, he said, "has taught us that the 'children of the promise,' - that is, all of us, justified by Jesus Christ - are no longer bound by the Law, but are called to the demanding life-style of the freedom of the Gospel."

### A turning point

He explained that for St Paul, the acceptance of faith is the turning point both for salvation history as a whole and in our own personal stories. At the heart of faith is the death and resurrection of Jesus, "which Paul preached in order to inspire faith in the Son of God, the source of salvation."

So, he said, for Christians, there is a period "before becoming believers" and "after receiving the faith"; and there is, therefore, "a 'before' and 'after' with regard to the Law itself."

In the period before receiving the faith, being "under the Law" has a negative sense, "as if one is watched and locked up, a kind of preventative custody." This period, he said, "is perpetuated as long as one lives in sin."

### The law as teacher and guardian

The Law, said Pope Francis, makes us aware of what it means to transgress the law and also makes people aware of their own sin. In a certain sense, it ends up "stimulating the transgression."

But he went on to explain, using St Paul's image of the Law as a pedagogue, that while the Law had a "restrictive" function, it also served to protect and support the people of Israel, "it had educated them, disciplined them, and supported them in their weakness." So, the Pope said, the Law also had a positive function, that was nonetheless limited in time: when children become adults, they no longer need a guardian. Likewise, "once one has come to faith, the Law exhausts its propaedeutic value and must give way to another authority."

### Considering the role of the law

However, he said, the law still exists and is still important. Pope Francis said the role of the law "deserves to be considered carefully so we do not give way to misunderstandings and take false steps."

And so, he said, "it is good for us to ask ourselves if we still live in the period in which we need the Law, or if, instead, we are fully aware of having received the grace of becoming children of God so as to live in love."

It is a good question, he said, and added a second: "Do I despise the Commandments?" He also gave an answer: "No. I observe them, but not as absolutes, because I know that it is Jesus Christ who justifies me."



### FROM FR. HENRY DUC

Dear Friends,

I am sure many of you had the chance to watch the footage last Sunday unfolding the final minutes of Kabul before it fell into the hands of the Taliban, the word known to me recently as 'students', who proved to be no students at all.

I don't know what you had in mind when you saw the American helicopter hovering over the sky of Kabul as many thousands of people had desperately tried to squeeze in to the last flight, and some people fell off the plane or crushed to death beneath the plane, but to me that was truly a horrific scene to swallow, and the fall of Kabul reminds me so much of the fall of Saigon more than forty six years ago, following which were days of horror pushing waves of boat people leaving the country, including me. Let us pray today that the people of Afghanistan won't suffer the same fate with their 'students.'

Talking about the fall of the South of Vietnam, I remember that straight after the communists took over the government and life began to go back to the new normal. A student from my village, who enrolled at a teachers' college, hurried to see me after church one day, and whispered into my ear, 'my lecturer has condemned us Catholics as cannibalists.' He looked rather confused and horrified at the same time for such a horrible claim and not knowing how to respond to it. I asked him not to worry too much about such a misinformed charge, and tried to brief him about the Sacrament of the Eucharist, something which is dear to Catholics, but completely weird to outsiders, since we Catholics have been given the gift of faith to help us believe in the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and the outsiders on the other hand have no such a gift. My advice to him then was to keep calm, take a gentle approach to his lecturer, and try the best to be a good witness to the Lord in such a hostile environment.

I couldn't help but think of the student I met many years ago when I read the Gospel this Sunday, especially the way some people responded to Jesus' teaching on the Eucharist. They openly challenged the Lord that his language was both intolerable and unacceptable.

The point they referred to as intolerable and unacceptable here, actually was what Jesus said earlier to the crowds in his effort to connect his miraculous sign to multiply the five barley loaves and two fish feeding thousands of hungry people with the Eucharist he was going to establish at the Last Supper prior to his Passion, Death and Resurrection, that '*I am the living bread ... from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever,*' and that '*my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him.*' This is the heart of the theology of the Eucharist and we are so grateful to God for granting us the precious gift of faith, which helps us to understand and treasure the sacramental dimension of the Body and Blood of Christ given to us as food in the Eucharist, and come to share Peter's position professing Jesus as having the message of eternal life and being the Holy One of God.

Unfortunately many of Jesus' followers then and lot of others around us today on the contrary have failed to have such a privilege. Consequently it is quite comprehensible to see why they consider what Jesus taught about the Eucharist as intolerable and unacceptable.

As we celebrate once again our Sunday Eucharist this week, let us give praise and thanks to the Lord our God for the marvelous gift of our faith to help us see and appreciate its beauty as a body and soul nourishing sacrament, and pray that our Holy Communion today whether physically or spiritually will continue to give us strength to walk our journey on earth, especially to get on top of this testing time.

Have a Eucharist-filled week.

Fr Henry

## PARISH NEWS...

### OUR PARISH OFFICE

Due to this current lockdown, our Parish Office will remain closed for any physical contact. However, either Fr Henry or one of the staff will be available to receive phone calls and check our parish emails everyday. Please do not hesitate to ring or send us an email.



### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2021 HAS BEGUN

Due to this current lockdown, our First Holy Communion meetings are being held via Zoom. Please contact Artelle ASAP if you missed the first meeting last week.

For more information about the scheduled meetings, please check our website, the links below or email Artelle [artellel@olol7hills.com.au](mailto:artellel@olol7hills.com.au)

[Sacramental Program Update - Letter from Artelle;](#)  
[AUGUST First Holy Communion Dates](#)

The next Sacramental Program Zoom Meeting will be held Wednesday 25th August at 6.30pm and a repeat on Saturday 28th at 4.30pm  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86223406587?pwd=cVpvbmRVeVIRZkF1ak5YYlscWdpQT09>  
Meeting ID: 862 2340 6587  
Passcode: 844222

**PARISH MINISTERS ROSTER** with the Government announcing a further extension to stay-at-home orders for the whole Greater Sydney area, which remains in effect until 11:59pm Friday 27 August. Our Church remains closed and all ministers are not required until further notice.

**LIVE-STREAMING** we will continue to Live stream all weekend Masses. Follow the link below;  
<https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

**MEETING'S** that were due to take place in the next week are all postponed for a later date. Watch for notices in the bulletin or contact the parish office. 9622 2920  
Please note that you will be advised when Masses will again become available.  
*We look forward to welcoming you all when the Church reopens.*

**VACCINATION MESSAGE FROM BISHOP VINCENT OFM CONV**  
A pastoral letter to the faithful of the Diocese of Parramatta on COVID-19 vaccination from Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, is available to be read on the OLOL website  
Visit [www.olol7hills.org.au](http://www.olol7hills.org.au)





FROM POPE FRANCIS

## ENCYCLICAL LETTER **FRATELLI TUTTI** OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS ON FRATERNITY & SOCIAL FRIENDSHIP

### CHAPTER ONE - DARK CLOUDS OVER A CLOSED WORLD

#### A "throwaway" world

18. Some parts of our human family, it appears, can be readily sacrificed for the sake of others considered worthy of a carefree existence. Ultimately, "persons are no longer seen as a paramount value to be cared for and respected, especially when they are poor and disabled, 'not yet useful' – like the unborn, or 'no longer needed' – like the elderly. We have grown indifferent to all kinds of wastefulness, starting with the waste of food, which is deplorable in the extreme".

19. A decline in the birthrate, which leads to the aging of the population, together with the relegation of the elderly to a sad and lonely existence, is a subtle way of stating that it is all about us, that our individual concerns are the only thing that matters. In this way, "what is thrown away are not only food and dispensable objects, but often human beings themselves". We have seen what happened with the elderly in certain places in our world as a result of the coronavirus. They did not have to die that way. Yet something similar had long been occurring during heat waves and in other situations: older people found themselves cruelly abandoned. We fail to realize that, by isolating the elderly and leaving them in the care of others without the closeness and concern of family members, we disfigure and impoverish the family itself. We also end up depriving young people of a necessary connection to their roots and a wisdom that the young cannot achieve on their own.

20. This way of discarding others can take a variety of forms, such as an obsession with reducing labour costs with no concern for its grave consequences, since the unemployment that it directly generates leads to the expansion of poverty. In addition, a readiness to discard others finds expression in vicious attitudes that we thought long past, such as racism, which retreats underground only to keep reemerging. Instances of racism continue to shame us, for they show that our supposed social progress is not as real or definitive as we think.

21. Some economic rules have proved effective for growth, but not for integral human development. Wealth has increased, but together with inequality, with the result that "new forms of poverty are emerging". The claim that the modern world has reduced poverty is made by measuring poverty with criteria from the past that do not correspond to present-day realities. In other times, for example, lack of access to electric energy was not considered a sign of poverty, nor was it a source of hardship. Poverty must always be understood and gauged in the context of the actual opportunities available in each concrete historical period.

**Excerpt from Pope Francis, Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation FRATELLI TUTTI—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, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

#### **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.*

#### **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 Live-stream Mass times, bulletins, and much more - a great way to stay up to date with what's on in our parish! Visit [www.olol7hills.org.au](http://www.olol7hills.org.au)



## DIOCESAN NEWS

### **DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA COVID-19 UPDATE**

Due to stay-at-home orders from the NSW Government, all church buildings, adoration chapels and other buildings used for prayer and religious services are closed. Public Masses have ceased. Many parishes around the Diocese are celebrating Masses online. For more information, please visit the Diocesan website [www.parracatholic.org/covid19](http://www.parracatholic.org/covid19)

### **BISHOP'S FATHERS DAY APPEAL**

Due to the COVID lockdown, the Clergy Support Foundation is postponing the Bishop's Father's Day Appeal in-Parish collection to a later date, when Churches will once again be open. Parramatta Catholic Foundation is assisting us with a mail and online appeal around the beginning of September. Your thoughtful gift to the Appeal will mean so much to our retired priests who have put the care of others before themselves. For more information on the Clergy Support Foundation's work or to make a kind donation today, please visit [parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal](http://parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal). Thank you, Clergy Support Foundation Committee

### **DONATE TO CARITAS' EMERGENCY RESPONSE APPEAL FOR HAITI**

Caritas Australia's thoughts and prayers are with the people of Haiti who have been devastated by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake. Over 1,400 people have died, and thousands more left injured. There is immediate and urgent need for food, water, shelter, hygiene kits and first aid on the ground. Donate to Caritas Australia's Emergency Response Appeal by visiting [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au) or by calling 1800 024 413 toll-free.

### **LITURGY HELP** Personal and Family Prayer.

In this time of crisis, we are providing Catholics with access to a range of resources for personal and family prayer. To access these free resources, go to:

[liturgyhelp.com/aus/parra/pray](http://liturgyhelp.com/aus/parra/pray) (login / register as a new user)



**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
NSW  
*good works*

### **Family Assistance 1800 606 724**

Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm

Anyone who is experiencing financial hardship may benefit from the service. Emergency relief may be given in the form of food parcels, food vouchers, and assistance with utility bills, clothing, furniture and referral. The assistance given is based on the assessment conducted by our volunteer members at the time of the home visit.

Domestic Violence - Alert 1800 737732

[https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Find\\_HelpNSW/General\\_support](https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Find_HelpNSW/General_support)

### **PRAYER OF PETITION**

O Jesus, grant to me and those I love as well as to all the faithful the grace of eternal salvation through your holy name.

Bestow on us a most ardent love for you that will imprint your sacred name upon our hearts.

May it be always in our minds and frequently on our lips, that it may be our defense in temptation, our refuge in danger, and our consolation and support in the hour of our death.  
*Amen.*



### **VINNIES WESTERN SYDNEY VIRTUAL WINTER SLEEPOUT 27 AUGUST**

The Lourdes Young Adults Group Seven Hills together with Good Shepherd Youth Plumpton & Our Lady of the Rosary Young Adults Kellyville are sleeping out to shine a spotlight on homelessness and raise much

needed funds for Vinnies NSW. Join our team on Friday, 27th of August 2021 from 8:30-10pm for activities on creating awareness on solving homelessness in Western Sydney and sleeping overnight outdoors in our backyards, in our cars or couch surfing. Details to donate at: <https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/vinnies-community-sleepout-western-sydney-2021/lourdes-young-adults-group-seven-hills>

### **JAMBEROO ABBEY ONLINE RETREAT 5 September 2021. 'MEET ME IN THE MIDDLE'**

This retreat is based on Charles Peguy's Little Girl Hope from the book: "The Portal of the Mystery of Hope." Hope is both a virtue and a mystery. It is desirable yet elusive. Many dismiss it, misunderstand it, shrug it off and turn their backs on it, extolling faith and charity instead. Whilst faith and charity are absolutely critical in these times of uncertainty and fear in society, there is now a need for hope as never before since World War II. Register online at: [jamberoobbey.org.au/retreats/online-retreats](http://jamberoobbey.org.au/retreats/online-retreats)

### **PARISH ONLINE MINISTRY DURING COVID**

There are an extraordinary amount of initiatives taking place online across the Diocese in a number of parishes. These include games nights, trivia competitions, formation, scripture studies and wellbeing check-ins. If your community is willing to share these opportunities beyond your own Parish, the Mission Enhancement Team (MET Parramatta) would love to hear from you and help connect others who are struggling at this time. Email [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org)

### **MISSION: ONE HEART MANY VOICES VIRTUAL CONFERENCE: 1-3 SEPTEMBER**

The fifth biennial Mission: one heart many voices conference will be held online from 1 to 3 September, with an additional day with young people on 4 September. The conference, convened by Catholic Mission and Catholic Religious Australia, directly identify and explore the challenges of living the Gospel and Leading Mission Now in Australia and globally. To view the program and to register, visit [www.mohmv.com.au](http://www.mohmv.com.au).

### **WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT VIRTUAL WEEKEND: 10-12 SEPTEMBER**

Worldwide Marriage Enrichment is hosting a Virtual Marriage Encounter Weekend on 10 to 12 September via Zoom. Open to married couples, priests and religious, this is an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love. Book online at [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au) or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or [nswbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:nswbookings@wwme.org.au)