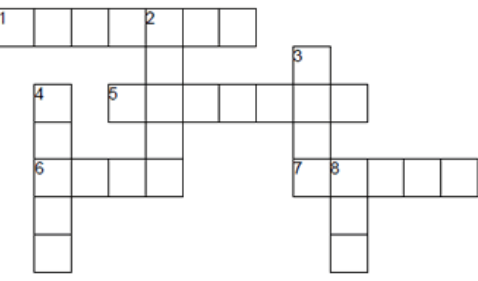


Clean or Unclean?

So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with 'unclean' hands?" Mark 7:5 (NIV)

Based on Mark 7:1-7, 14-15, 21-23 (NIV)



- ACROSS
1. To express love and adoration toward God
5. Something that is dirty or soiled
6. The two edges of flesh around the mouth
7. The center of your emotion, I love you with all my _____.
- DOWN
2. The body part at the end of the arms that includes the fingers
3. To make something clean using soap and water
4. The accepted way that things should be done
8. To take food into the mouth, chew it, and swallow

LIPS	EAT	WASH	UNCLEAN
HEART	WORSHIP	HANDS	RULES



LAW	WORSHIP	UNCLEAN	FOOD	TEACHERS
HANDS	HEARTS	PHARISEES	HYPOCRITES	DISCIPLES
RULES	EATING	LIPS	HONOR	WASH

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

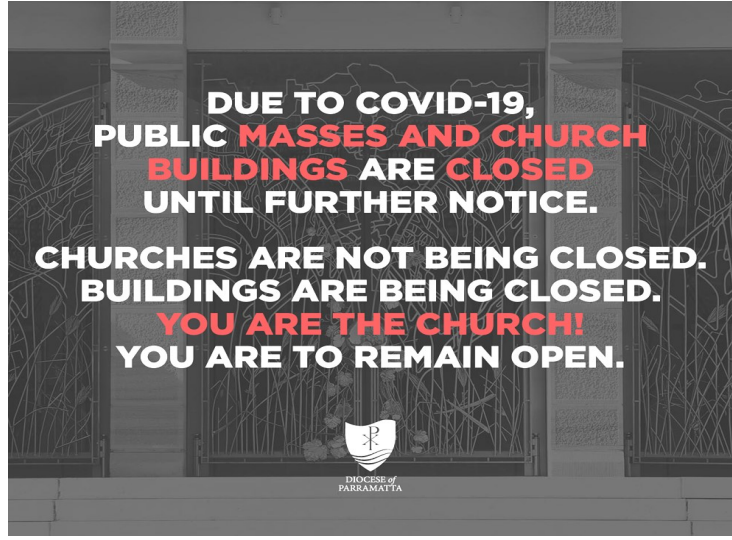
7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills. NSW. 2147
Ph. 9622 2920
Email: secretary@lol7hills.com.au

Parish Priest: Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran
Parish Office Team: Mrs Erika Hien, Alison Lette, Kim Dang, Sarah Lenthall.
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall
Office Hours: Monday-Friday: 9am - 3.00pm
WEEKEND MASS: Saturday Vigil 6pm LIVE -STREAM
Sunday 8am & 9:30am LIVE -STREAM

Parish School: Our Lady of Lourdes 8869 6800
Principal: Ms Keiran Byrnes
Reconciliation: Saturday 4:30-5:30pm -TBA
Baptismal Preparation: 17th November 2021 7:30pm
Baptism: 2nd & 4th Sunday 11am -TBA
Parish Website: www.lol7hills.com.au
Pastoral Care of the Sick: Bathista Emmanuel 0405833655

Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
•Year B—29 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>



Let us Pray for the Sick

Leonila Ahillon, George Alagiah, David Barrow, David Benjamin, Myrna G Cruz, Melvin Fernandes, Zenaida Garcia, Wendy & Klaus, Anselm 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 sr, Nancy Mulholland, Bonifacio Ngalongalay, Hanh My Thi Nguyen, Virgilio Naringahon, Adelaida Nonato, 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 Mahomodally, 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 Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-8

Moses said to the people: ‘Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, “No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation.” And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?’ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain? He who walks without fault; he who acts with justice and speaks the truth from his heart. (R.)	He who keeps his pledge, come what may; who takes no interest on a loan and accepts no bribes against the innocent. Such a man will stand firm for ever. (R.)
He who does no wrong to his brother, who casts no slur on his neighbour, who holds the godless in disdain, but honours those who fear the Lord. (R.)	

SECOND READING A reading from the letter of St James 1:17-18, 21-22,27

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he created. Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves. Pure unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world. The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Father gave us birth by his message of truth,
that we might be as the first fruits of his creation.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, ‘Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?’ He answered, ‘It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture: This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations. You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.’ He called the people to him again and said, ‘Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men’s hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.’ 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: ‘LITURGY NEEDS TO RETURN TO CENTRE OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

By Devin Watkins

As part of the 71st National Liturgical Week, Italian clergy and laypeople are gathered in the northern city of Cremona for a conference organized by the Center for Liturgical Action.

Pope Francis kicked off the 4-day event with a message signed by Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin. In his message, the Pope thanked God that the conference could be held this year in-person, “following last year’s disheartening moment” caused by the pandemic. “The painful decision to postpone the event,” said the Pope, “has however confirmed in a new light the chosen theme which seeks to deepen reflection on various aspects of ‘celebrating’, which was put to the test by the spread of Covid-19 and the necessary restrictions to contain it.”

Liturgy and Christian identity

The conference’s theme to which the Pope was referring is “Where two or three are gathered in my name”: Community, liturgies, and territories. He noted that Christians have always come together weekly in Jesus’ name, an act which is closely tied to the Church’s identity. However, he lamented, weekly Masses were “harshly limited during the most acute phase of the pandemic.” “Yet, love for the Lord and pastoral creativity pushed pastors and lay faithful to experiment with new ways to nourish the communion of faith and love with the Lord and our brothers and sisters, in the expectation of returning to the fullness of the Eucharistic celebration in safety and tranquillity.”

Lockdowns worsened existing trend

Pope Francis said last year’s “liturgical fast” was painful, but also illuminated by the mystery of the Cross of Christ and was made fruitful by many “works of charity, fraternal love, and service to those who suffered the most.” Privation from the Mass, he added, has led the Church to reflect on the importance of the liturgy in the lives of Christians, since “we must also pray with the body.” The shutdown of churches also highlighted a trend already underway on the Italian peninsula which has seen declining Mass attendance among certain age groups. “We observe that people’s perception of time and Sunday itself has changed, with consequences on ways of living and feeling part of a community, people, and family,” he said. “The Sunday assembly is therefore misbalanced in terms of generational and cultural presence”.

Mass at centre of faith

The Pope then expressed his hope that the liturgical conference might enkindle new ideas and pastoral guidelines to offer to parishes throughout Italy. “May Sunday, the Eucharistic assembly, the ministries, and the rite emerge from the marginalization toward which they seem to tend inexorably, while rediscovering the centrality of faith and spirituality of the faithful,” he prayed. Pope Francis concluded his message assuring his prayers for the Church in Italy as it seeks to keep Christ at the centre of its liturgical life.

AUSTRALIAN BISHOPS URGE EXPANSION OF AFGHAN REFUGEE INTAKE

By Vatican News staff reporter

As concern mounts for the people of Afghanistan in the wake of the Taliban takeover following the country’s government collapse and the withdrawal of US forces, Bishops of Australia have called on their government to expand its intake of Afghans who are fleeing Taliban rule. In a letter to Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Archbishop Mark Coleridge, president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) urged the Australian government to provide “at least 20,000 humanitarian places” for Afghans fleeing the conflict in their country. The Australian government had announced plans to take in 3000 Afghan refugees with the possibility of taking in even more. Morrison on Thursday said that the figure was “a floor, not a ceiling” for Australian humanitarian migration intake. Archbishop Coleridge said that the 3000 places offered above, and beyond 8000 places over the past decade “is a substantial commitment, but more is needed”. He proposed that at least another 17,000 places be made available based on estimates from key humanitarian organizations and pledges from other countries.

A moral duty

“It would seem our moral duty to stand with those who supported Australian military forces as interpreters or in other capacities, who it seems likely will suffer reprisals and even death for their work,” Archbishop Coleridge said. He pointed out that many Afghans would find themselves vulnerable under Taliban rule, particularly religious minorities and women, and those who supported Australian defense forces in Afghanistan – some of whom lost their lives. More so, Archbishop Coleridge underlined the particular risk to women, stressing that “Australia’s humanitarian response should recognize and support their dignity and human rights.” “We should also offer refuge to other Afghans who are likely to suffer persecution or risk being killed because of their opposition to the Taliban, or because of their beliefs, values and way of life, including members of the Christian community,” he said. Urging generosity from Australian authorities, Archbishop Coleridge recalled that the country had “stepped up before in response to significant humanitarian crises,” and pointed out the readiness of Catholic agencies to assist the government with resettlement of refugees “as an expression of our great concern for the people of Afghanistan.” Australia has currently set a figure of 13,750 humanitarian visas this year. The previous annual number was 18,750 but it was cut by 5,000 with the government citing the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The UK has offered 20,000 additional humanitarian places to Afghan nationals over five years. Canada has also offered 20,000 resettlement places, including women leaders, government workers and others facing threats from the Taliban.

POPE FRANCIS AT ANGELUS: INCARNATION CALLS US TO RECOGNISE JESUS IN OTHERS *By Devin Watkins*

Pope Francis took his cue at the Angelus on Sunday from the day's Gospel (Jn 6:60-69), in which Jesus' disciples react to His speech following the multiplication of the loaves. Jesus had told His disciples that only those who "eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink."

Bread from Heaven

Speaking to pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square for the noon-day Angelus prayer, the Pope noted that Jesus invited His disciples to interpret the Sign of the multiplication of the loaves and to believe in Him. Jesus, he said, "is the true bread come down from heaven, the bread of life; and He revealed that the bread He will give is His body and blood." Pope Francis highlighted the reaction of Jesus' disciples, many of whom refused to believe such a hard saying, stopped following Him, and returned to their former ways of life. At that point, he noted, Jesus turned to the Twelve and ask if they also wished to leave. Peter, however, responded that Jesus alone has "the words of eternal life."

Scandal of the Incarnation

The Pope then reflected on the reaction of those who left Jesus and refused to believe. "Jesus' words enkindled great scandal," he said. "He was saying that God decided to manifest Himself and accomplish salvation in the weakness of human flesh." The Incarnation of the Son of God, he added, has throughout history put up an obstacle to faith in Jesus in many people's hearts. Jesus, said the Pope, "affirms that the true bread of salvation, which transmits eternal life, is His very flesh; that to enter into communion with God, before observing the laws or satisfying religious precepts, it is necessary to live out a real and concrete relationship with Him." This affirmation means that God cannot be followed merely in dreams or illusions of grandeur, but only through a living relationship with Him in Jesus Christ.

Eucharistic sign

Pope Francis went on to say that following Jesus means recognizing His humanity and that of His brothers and sisters whom we meet along the streets of life. Today, too, Christians can be scandalized by the revelation of God in the Jesus' humanity. The Pope said St. Paul called this the "folly" of the Gospel for those who seek miracles or worldly wisdom. "And this 'scandalousness' is well represented by the sacrament of the Eucharist: what sense can there be, in the eyes of the world, in kneeling before a piece of bread? Why on earth should someone be nourished assiduously with this bread?" asked the Pope.

Faith in crisis

Pope Francis repeated that Jesus' multiplication of the loaves incited great admiration amongst His contemporaries, but that His interpretation as a sign of His sacrifice was unacceptable to many of them. "Jesus Christ throws us into crisis," he said. "We should be worried if He does not throw us into crisis, because we might have watered down His message!" And the Pope concluded his catechesis urging Christians to pray for the grace to be converted to Jesus' "words of eternal life." "May Mary Most Holy, who bore her Son Jesus in the flesh and joined herself to His sacrifice, help us to always bear witness to our faith in our real lives."

POPE FRANCIS AT THE AUDIENCE: HYPOCRACY JEOPARDIZES THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH

By Christopher Wells

Pope Francis continued his commentary on St Paul's Letter to the Galatians at Wednesday's General Audience, highlighting the dangers of a purely formal adherence to the Law. The Holy Father began his reflection with a consideration of an episode recounted by St Paul, where the Apostle reproached St Peter for his hypocritical behaviour.

Unjust division

St Peter himself had shown that Gentile Christians were not bound to observe every aspect of the Jewish Law when he ate with Gentiles, contrary to the prescriptions of the Law. Later, however, he refused to eat with them, for fear of being criticized by those Jewish Christians who believed it was still necessary to obey all of the prescriptions of the Mosaic code. St Paul saw that this was a serious fault because St Peter's hypocrisy was causing an "unjust division" in the early Christian community.

Fear of the truth

Hypocrisy, the Pope said, "can be called the fear of the truth," a feeling that "it is better to pretend than to be yourself" that can "suffocate the courage to openly say what is true" in every circumstance. He warned that hypocrisy flourishes "in an environment where interpersonal relations are lived under the banner of formalism." The Bible, however, shows us examples of holy men and women who refuse to pretend. Pope Francis pointed to Eleazar who, during the time of the Maccabees, refused to pretend to eat meat sacrificed to idols, even at the cost of his life. In the New Testament, the Pope noted, Jesus often condemned hypocrites who appeared righteous on the outside, but inwardly were filled with vice.

Let your 'yes' mean yes

Hypocrites, said Pope Francis, "are people who pretend, flatter, and deceive because they live with a mask over their faces and do not have the courage to face the truth." He warned, "They are not capable of truly loving." And he noted that, although we see hypocrisy in the workplace, in politics, and elsewhere, "hypocrisy in the Church is particularly detestable." He recalled the words of the Lord, who said, "Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil." Pope Francis said that to act otherwise "means jeopardising the unity of the Church, that unity for which the Lord Himself prayed."



FROM FR. HENRY DUC

Dear Friends,
A few days ago, my cousin sent me a text to keep me informed with what has happened in my village, and he was so thrilled with past stories my aunt-in-law, his grandmother has shared with him recently. I enthusiastically encouraged him to record all her narratives, since it was something I really liked to do with my uncle prior to his stroke. Unfortunately he suddenly got sick and had become less mobile and more withdrawing in later years, and finally passed away nearly three months ago.

I have really felt regret for failing to ask him questions about our family background and document him verbally when he was well and keen to talk about it. At the moment my aunty obviously is the only one, who holds the key to open the door to have a glimpse into the past of my paternal side, and hopefully I can do something before the last link becomes unavailable for good.

From my plan to connect with my ancestors through the oral tradition available in the family, I like to take you back to the oral traditions in the scripture, the ones which Moses in the first reading from the book of Deuteronomy described as 'the laws and customs' that the Lord God asked the people of Israel to carefully observe, and Jesus in the Gospel then had a go at due to such a legalistic approach of his contemporary with regard to its compliances.

It's worth to remember that some of the scribes in Jesus' time did treat the oral traditions as something equally important with God-given laws, so they boldly claimed that anyone who wanted to be holy must follow both the Sacred Scriptures and the 613 oral traditions, and those who failed to observe them, and even those who had no knowledge of them, and those who accidentally broke one, were sinners.

Some of those oral traditions specifically outlined how the Israelites were to wash their hands before meal times and instructed in detail about the direction they should point their fingers when they poured water over them, how much water they should use, and the type of vessel they should keep the water in storage – this point really reminds me of some of the over-zealous clergy who pay too much attention to the position of their fingers while saying Mass rather than on anything else, and one can imagine what Jesus would say and react to people as such based on his words and actions in the Gospel account this Sunday.

He made it very clear of where he chose to stand in response to the query from the Pharisees and scribes about why the disciples failed to show respect to the law requiring them to go through the pre-meal rite of purification. Jesus used the quote from the book of Isaiah 29.13 to warn them of their hypocritical mentality by putting aside God's commandment and clinging to human traditions.

He then asked his disciples and the crowds to remember that things that can make people unclean actually do not come from the outside, but rather from their inner intentions, thoughts and feelings. Jesus implicitly encouraged his followers to pay attention to an inner purification rather than a traditional physical one.

Jesus' criticism against the Pharisees and scribes and his position towards Jewish laws and regulations seem to challenge us to reflect upon the ways we have approached our laws and liturgies today, since there have been people trying to take the Church backward to pre-Vatican II time by pushing for a rather rigid and legalistic mentality in the Church 'a clinging to human regulations tendency' if you like, something Pope Francis has led the crusade to fight against.

Let us ask the Lord to open our hearts and minds to welcome the message Jesus taught us in the Gospel today, so that we may be able to be less concerned about trivial and external things in our Christian lives and more focused on the Gospel values, such as charity, mercy and forgiveness, the ones which keep us clean before God.

Have a Gospel-values oriented 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 any meetings.

For more information about the scheduled meetings, please check our website, the links below or email Artelle artelle@olol7hills.com.au
[Sacramental Program Update - Letter from Artelle:](#)
[AUGUST First Holy Communion Dates](#)

The next Sacramental Program Zoom Meeting will be held on 8th and 11th September

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 the end of September. 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



FROM POPE FRANCIS

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

CHAPTER ONE - [DARK CLOUDS OVER A CLOSED WORLD](#)

[Insufficiently universal human rights](#)

22. It frequently becomes clear that, in practice, human rights are not equal for all. Respect for those rights “is the preliminary condition for a country’s social and economic development. When the dignity of the human person is respected, and his or her rights recognized and guaranteed, creativity and interdependence thrive, and the creativity of the human personality is released through actions that further the common good”.^[18] Yet, “by closely observing our contemporary societies, we see numerous contradictions that lead us to wonder whether the equal dignity of all human beings, solemnly proclaimed seventy years ago, is truly recognized, respected, protected and promoted in every situation. In today’s world, many forms of injustice persist, fed by reductive anthropological visions and by a profit-based economic model that does not hesitate to exploit, discard and even kill human beings. While one part of humanity lives in opulence, another part sees its own dignity denied, scorned or trampled upon, and its fundamental rights discarded or violated”. What does this tell us about the equality of rights grounded in innate human dignity?

23. Similarly, the organization of societies worldwide is still far from reflecting clearly that women possess the same dignity and identical rights as men. We say one thing with words, but our decisions and reality tell another story. Indeed, “doubly poor are those women who endure situations of exclusion, mistreatment and violence, since they are frequently less able to defend their rights”.

24. We should also recognize that “even though the international community has adopted numerous agreements aimed at ending slavery in all its forms, and has launched various strategies to combat this phenomenon, millions of people today – children, women and men of all ages – are deprived of freedom and forced to live in conditions akin to slavery... Today, as in the past, slavery is rooted in a notion of the human person that allows him or her to be treated as an object... Whether by coercion, or deception, or by physical or psychological duress, human persons created in the image and likeness of God are deprived of their freedom, sold and reduced to being the property of others. They are treated as means to an end... [Criminal networks] are skilled in using modern means of communication as a way of luring young men and women in various parts of the world”. A perversion that exceeds all limits when it subjugates women and then forces them to abort. An abomination that goes to the length of kidnapping persons for the sake of selling their organs. Trafficking in persons and other contemporary forms of enslavement are a worldwide problem that needs to be taken seriously by humanity as a whole: “since criminal organizations employ global networks to achieve their goals, efforts to eliminate this phenomenon also demand a common and, indeed, a global effort on the part of various sectors of society”.

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



DIOCESAN NEWS

CARING FOR THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF OUR RETIRED PRIESTS

The Bishop’s Father’s Day Appeal, traditionally held on Father’s Day, raises much needed funds for the Clergy Support Foundation to continue its work supporting retired clergy and those in ill health. Due to the current lockdown, the Appeal will be held via mail and online. Your thoughtful donation will mean so much to those who have put the care of others before themselves. Please give generously via the Father’s Day Appeal at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or call (02) 8838 3482.



CARITAS AUSTRALIA RESPONDS TO HUMANITARIAN CRISES IN AFGHANISTAN AND LEBANON

In Afghanistan, people have been forced from their homes, with half of the population in urgent need of food, water, shelter and protection. In Lebanon, the country is running out of power, water, fuel, medicine and food. Please donate to Caritas Australia respond to crises like these by visiting caritas.org.au/lebanon or www.caritas.org.au/afghanistan or call 1800 024 413 toll-free to provide much needed support.

AUSTRALIAN CARDIJN INSTITUTE WEBINAR— ‘Remembering Pierre Haubtmann, Redactor of *Gaudium et Spes*’: 6 September

The Australian Cardijn Institute is presenting a webinar on ‘Remembering Pierre Haubtmann, Redactor of *Gaudium et Spes*’, honouring his memory on the 50th anniversary of his death. The webinar will be held on Monday 6 September from 7pm AEST via Zoom. For more information, and to register, visit <https://australiancardijninstitute.org/remembering-pierre-haubtmann-redactor-of-gaudium-et-spes/>



VINNIES SUPPORT CENTRE ARE STILL AVAILABLE TO THOSE IN NEED

St Vincent de Paul Support Centres across Greater Sydney are still available and taking calls to arrange for food vouchers or other items to be provided to those in need. If you need assistance, call the Support Centres in Blacktown on (02) 8861 9777, Harris Park on (02) 8861 9757 and Penrith on (02) 8861 9770. To find out more about what support is available, visit <http://vinnies.org.au/covidsupportnsw>

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 or by calling 1800 024 413 toll-free.

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

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: jambeeroabbey.org.au/retreats/online-retreats

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CREATION & SEASON OF CREATION

Pope Francis has designated September 1 as the *World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation*. Join Pope Francis and Christians around the globe in praying for and taking action for our common home on 1 September and during the Season of Creation (1 Sept – 4 Oct). For more information, resources, and activities in the Diocese of Parramatta, visit parracatholic.org/seasonofcreation



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.

UPDATE: SOCIAL JUSTICE COVID-19 Food and Toiletries Drive

During lockdown, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) and House of Welcome (HoW) cannot receive physical food and toiletry donations. However, many refugee families are still relying on their foodbanks or the provision of food vouchers. In this difficult time, please support JRS and HoW with a cash donation if you can. Find more information at parracatholic.org/diocesanfooddrive or call JRS on (02) 9356 3888 or HoW on (02) 9727 9290.

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