

Hail Mary

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

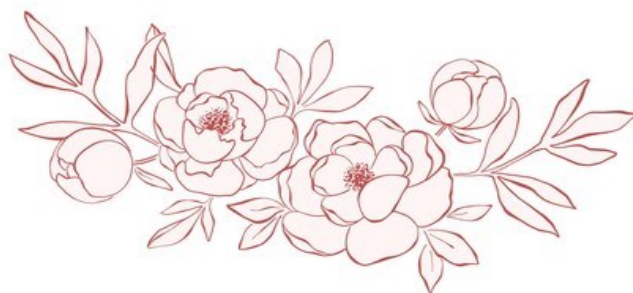
Rosary	Lady	Our	Amen
death	hour	Jesus	womb
fruit	Lord	grace	full
sinner	pray	Holy	women
blessed	God	Mother	Mary
Hail			

USE THE WORD BANK BELOW
TO FILL IN THE PRAYER

Hail Mary,
full of _____, the _____ is
with thee. _____ art thou
amongst _____, and
blessed is the _____ of thy
_____, Jesus. Holy _____,
Mother of _____, _____ for
us _____, now
and at the _____
of our _____.
Amen.

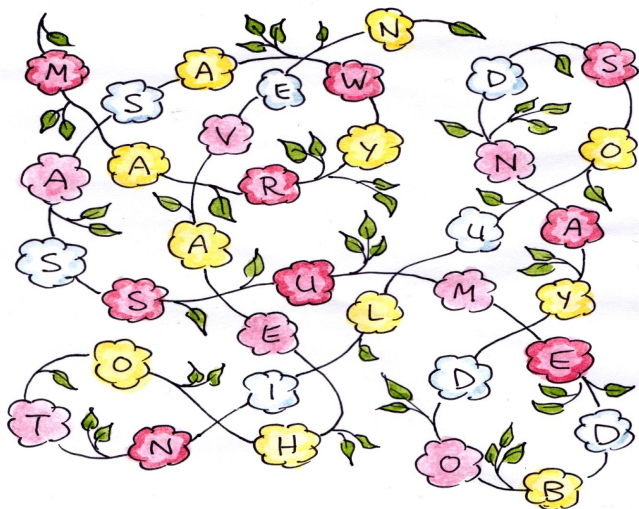
Word Bank

sinner	grace	Lord	fruit
Lord	womb	Blessed	hour
pray	death	women	God

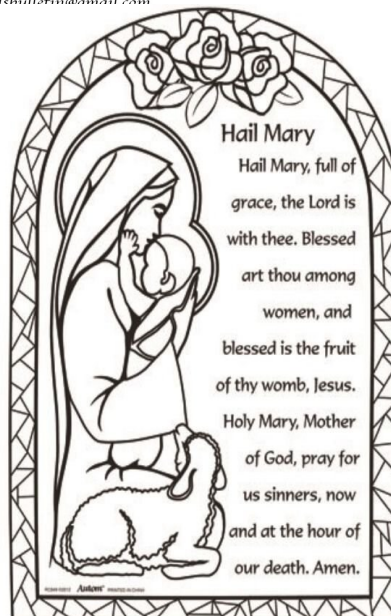


Flowers for Our Lady

Follow the line of flowers, starting at the M, and use the letters in the flowers to fill in the blanks at the bottom of the page to find out what today's feast is about!



The Assumption
of Mary
is the celebration
of Mother Mary's
body and soul being
taken into heaven



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

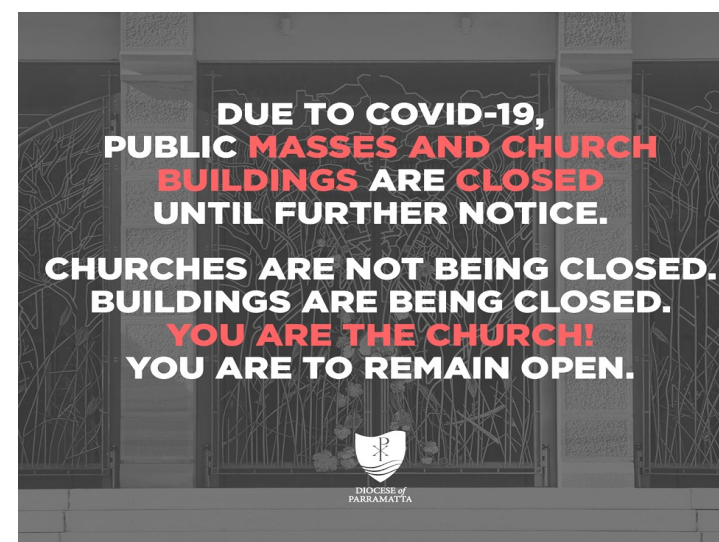
Baptism: 2nd & 4th Sunday 11am -TBA

Parish Website: www.lol7hills.com.au



THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY •Year B—15 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/LOL7Hills/>



COVID-19
VACCINATION
Safe. Effective. Free.



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, 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: Pamela Ambrose, Romualdo Austria Snr, Emma Bellissimo, Aloysion Corera, David Quan Hien Dang, Cruz Fernandez, Jeffrey Hunter, 'Raj' Selvam Irudayaraj, Shanil Jayatilake, Apolinar Jorge, Ajay Kallukalam, Noly Diaz Limbawan, Sylroy Menezes, Mary Mifsud, Rene Montecarlo, Rogelio Moscaya sn, Nancy Mulholland, Bernardo Naringahon, Bonifacio Ngalongalay, Hanh My Thi Nguyen, Peter Van Giao Nguyen, Francisco Nievaes, Virgilio Naringahon, Neil Nuevaespana, Custodio Palmos Jr, Rena Rose Pinto, Mary Said, Mary Silva, Melchor Miranda Usman, Domingo Villarta.

Anniversaries: Emma Aramini, Ana Batorek, Cecil Beed, Nazarene (Ronnie) Borg, Jacqueline & Edmond Clarisse, Rita De Silva, Monica, Dominic & Conception D'Souza, Christiansen Dias, Philomena Corera, Nguyen Vinh Hien, Salvatore, Antonio, Alberto, Beryl McKertich, Edouard Mahomudally, Lourda Motha, Paul Mula, Ignacio Nonato Sr., Eamon O'Sullivan, Custodio Palmos Sr., Nieves Palmos, Lakshman Perera, Mary Silva, Oliver Soares, Pauline Soares.

Remembrance: France Angseesing, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Fortunata & Frank Baiada, Peter & Helen Bonnici, Sam Borg, Rose Fernandes, Michael Gachia, Sharon Apolinario & Felina Maglaya, Pauline Meilak, Joe and Anne Menezes, Lourda Motha, Stephen & Louis Mula, Muscat family, Nieves Palmos, Romeo M. Palmos, Roseline Ratnam.

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 the Apocalypse. 11:19;12:1-6,10

The sanctuary of God in heaven opened, and the ark of the covenant could be seen inside it. Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown. She was pregnant, and in labour, crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth. Then a second sign appeared in the sky, a huge red dragon which had seven heads and ten horns, and each of the seven heads crowned with a coronet. Its tail dragged a third of the stars from the sky and dropped them to the earth, and the dragon stopped in front of the woman as she was having the child, so that he could eat it as soon as it was born from its mother. The woman brought a male child into the world, the son who was to rule all the nations with an iron sceptre, and the child was taken straight up to God and to his throne, while the woman escaped into the desert, where God had made a place of safety ready. Then I heard a voice shout from heaven, “Victory and power and empire for ever have been won by our God, and all authority for his Christ.” The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM



(R.) The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

The daughters of kings are among your loved ones. On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir. Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words: forget your own people and your father’s house. (R.)

So will the king desire your beauty: He is your lord, pay homage to him. They are escorted amid gladness and joy; they pass within the palace of the king. (R.)

SECOND READING A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 15:20-26

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order; Christ, as the first-fruits, and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet. The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Mary is taken up to heaven, and the angels of God shout for joy.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 1:39-56

Mary set out at that time and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah’s house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, ‘Of all women you are the most blessed and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made to her by the Lord would be fulfilled.’ And Mary said: ‘My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my Saviour because he has looked upon His lowly handmaid. Yes from this day forward all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me, holy is his name and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him. He has shown the power of his arm, he has routed the proud of heart. He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away. He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy according to the promise he made to our ancestors of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’ Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home. 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 AT AUDIENCE: MOSAIC LAW FULFILLED THE RADICAL NEWNESS OF CHIRST

By Devin Watkins

“Why the law?” Pope Francis chose to focus his catechesis at the weekly General Audience on that question from St. Paul’s Letter to the Galatians (3:19.21-22). The Pope said the aim of his reflections would be to “recognize the newness of the Christian life enlivened by the Holy Spirit.” Writing to the Galatians, St. Paul was seeking to refute his detractors’ argument that Gentile (non-Jewish) Christians had to follow all the precepts of the Mosaic Law, something the Apostles had already decided against at the “first council” of Jerusalem (Acts 15:28-29).

God’s Covenant and Law

Pope Francis explained that the Mosaic Law was related to the Covenant that God had established with His People. Contained in the *Torah*—the first five books of the Old Testament—the Law was the means by which the Jewish people maintained their bond with God and respected the Covenant. “Several times, especially in the prophetic books,” said the Pope, “it is noted that not observing the precepts of the Law constituted a real betrayal of the Covenant, provoking God’s wrath as a consequence.” This close connection meant the Covenant and the Law were often understood as two inseparable realities.

Covenant based on faith in the promise

However, St. Paul consistently argued that this was not the case for the disciples of Christ. “The Apostle explains to the Galatians that, in reality, the Covenant and the Law are not linked indissolubly,” said Pope Francis. He based his argument on the fact that God’s Covenant with Abraham came “430 years before” God gave the Law to Moses. St. Paul noted that the Covenant is grounded “on faith in the fulfilment of the promise.”

Law fulfilled in Christ

Pope Francis said St. Paul was not opposed to the Mosaic Law, often defending its divine origin and “well-defined role in the history of salvation” in several of his letters. “The Law, however, does not give life. It does not offer the fulfilment of the promise because it is not capable of being able to fulfil it,” he said. “Those who seek life need to look to the promise and to its fulfilment in Christ.”

Radical newness of Christian life

In conclusion, the Pope urged those present at the General Audience to welcome the “radical newness of the Christian life.” “All those who have faith in Jesus Christ are called to live in the Holy Spirit,” he said, “who liberates from the Law and, at the same time, brings it to fulfilment according to the commandment of love.” Pope Francis added that the commandments and the Law direct us toward Christ. “May the Lord help us journey along the path of the commandments, while looking to the love of Christ and knowing that the encounter with Jesus is more important than all the commandments.”

AUSTRALIA: NEW SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS THE PLIGHT OF ASYLUM SEEKERS AMID PANDEMIC

By Vatican News staff writer

A recent survey carried out by Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Australia and Western Sydney University’s Translational Health Research Institute (THRI) has drawn attention to the difficult situation of people seeking asylum amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Many of them, face “considerable financial hardship and high levels of homelessness during the first twelve months of the pandemic,” said a statement from JRS. Of the over one hundred respondents seeking asylum and living in predominantly West and Southwest Sydney, 55% of respondents had experienced some form of homelessness since arriving in Australia, 9% of respondents had slept rough, in a car, or in another improvised dwelling, and 14% had stayed in emergency accommodation.”

Asylum seekers are hard-hit

In 2020, the Australian government declared a moratorium on evictions, however, 29% of the respondents said they had been evicted or moved from their accommodations because of their inability to pay rent. This was largely because many asylum seekers are employed in cash-in-hand jobs and thus, find it different for them to demonstrate loss of employment to landlords. Dr. Elizabeth Conroy, Senior Research Fellow at Western Sydney University and co-author, said that these findings “highlight how much more prevalent experiences of homelessness are for people seeking asylum relative to the mainstream population” and provide “potential new insights into the hidden homelessness and destitution” which deserves further consideration in public policy. The data from the survey also provides insights into how the Covid-19 pandemic has affected the financial circumstances and housing stability of people seeking asylum: 36% of them reported having difficulty in paying rent and 34% in paying electricity and gas bills in the preceding 12 months. More so, 45% said they had run out of food in the previous three months.

Need for ongoing income support

Nishadh Rego, Policy and Advocacy Manager at JRS Australia, said, “these findings show that significant numbers of people seeking asylum in Western Sydney were living in situations of poverty and homelessness even before this latest lockdown began. Our experience shows that struggles to put food on the table, pay rent, and buy medication have intensified in the last month.” “Lockdown or not,” he continued, “there is an urgent need for the Federal Government to provide all people seeking safety in Australia with access to ongoing income support if they are unable to find safe and sustainable employment.”

POPE FRANCIS AT ANGELUS: MAY WE GROW IN FRIENDSHIP WITH JESUS: THE BREAD OF LIFE

By Vatican News staff writer

Addressing pilgrims gathered in Saint Peter's Square for the Sunday Angelus, Pope Francis offered his reflections drawing from the day's Gospel reading which recounts when Jesus was preaching to the people who had seen the wonder of the multiplication of the loaves. Recalling the manna with which God fed their forefathers when journeying in the desert, the Pope said Jesus revealed himself as bread, that which is essential and necessary for everyday life, saying "I am the bread of life". The Pope said in this we understand that Jesus alone "nourishes the soul", forgives us for our failings, accompanies us always and gives us strength and peace of heart, underlining "He alone gives eternal life when life here on earth ends."

The "beautiful image of Jesus" as bread of life, the Pope observed, "sums up his entire being and mission" culminating in the Last Supper. He not only gives food to the people, but of Himself totally, his life, flesh, and heart, "so that we might have life", the Pope added. He said these words stir in us our "amazement for the gift of the Eucharist". God becomes nourishment or food for us as the Bread of Life, the Pope went on to say, something which brings out a sense of amazement, strengthened through our adoration.

At the same time, the Gospel recounts that people instead of being amazed were scandalized, wondering how Jesus, whom they knew, could say he was the bread of life. The Pope said we too can sometimes have this attitude where we might wish to have a God who remains in heaven and is not involved in our day to day affairs. Instead, the Pope pointed out, "God became man to enter into the concrete reality of this world" to be an intimate part of our lives, not separate from us in another world to be called on by us only when needed. Jesus, who loves us, "wants this intimacy with us", the Pope emphasized.

In conclusion, the Pope encouraged us that when gathering with family for a meal, before breaking bread, to invite Jesus, the Bread of Life, into our home and ask for His blessing, praying simply and with confidence that "Jesus will be at the table with us and we will be fed by a greater love".

The Pope said, let us look to the Virgin Mary so that she might "help us to grow day after day in friendship with Jesus, the Bread of Life."

POPE FRANCIS' FULL ADDRESS AT THE ANGELUS LAST SUNDAY

Dear brothers and sisters, *Buongiorno!*

In the Gospel for today's Liturgy, Jesus continues preaching to the people who had seen the prodigy of the multiplication of the loaves. And he invites those people to make a qualitative leap: after having recalled the manna with which God had fed the forefathers in the long journey through the desert, he now applies the symbol of the bread to himself. He states clearly: "I am the bread of life" (Jn 6:48).

What does *bread of life* mean? We need bread to live. Those who are hungry do not ask for refined and expensive food, they ask for bread. Those who are unemployed do not ask for enormous wages, but the "bread" of employment. Jesus reveals himself as bread, that is, the essential, what is necessary for everyday life; without Him it does not work. Not *one* bread among many others, but *the* bread of life. In other words, without him, rather than living, we get by: because he alone nourishes the soul; he alone forgives us from that evil that we cannot overcome on our own; he alone makes us feel loved even if everyone else disappoints us; he alone gives us the strength to love and, he alone gives us the strength to forgive in difficulties; he alone gives that peace to the heart that it is searching for; he alone gives eternal life when life here on earth ends. He is the essential bread of life.

I am the bread of life, He says. Let us pause on this beautiful image of Jesus. He could have offered a rationale, a demonstration, but – we know – Jesus speaks in parables, and in this expression: "I am the bread of life", he truly sums up his entire being and mission. This will be seen completely at the end, at the Last Supper. Jesus knows that the Father is asking him not only to give food to people, but to give himself, to break himself, his own life, his own flesh, his own heart so that we might have life. These words of the Lord reawaken in us *our amazement for the gift of the Eucharist*. No one in this world, as much they might love another person, can make themselves become food for them. God did so, and does so, for us. Let us renew this amazement. Let us do so as we adore the Bread of Life, because adoration fills life with amazement.

In the Gospel, however, rather than being amazed, the people are scandalized, they rend their clothing. They think: "We know this Jesus, we know his family. How can he say, 'I am the bread which came down from heaven'?" (cf. vv. 41-42). Perhaps we too might be scandalized: it might make us more comfortable to have a God who stays in heaven without getting involved in our life, while we can manage matters here on earth. Instead, God became man to enter into the concrete reality of this world; to enter into our concrete reality, God became man for me, for you, for all of us, in order to enter into our life. And He is interested in every aspect of our life. We can tell him about what we are feeling, our work, our day, our heartache, our anguish, so many things. We can tell Him everything because Jesus wants this intimacy with us. What does he not want? To be relegated to being considered a side dish – he who is Bread –, to be overlooked and set aside, or called on only when we need him.

I am the bread of life. At least once a day we find ourselves eating together; perhaps in the evening with our family, after a day of work or study. It would be lovely, before breaking bread, to invite Jesus, the bread of Life, to ask him simply to bless what we have done and what we have failed to do. Let us invite him into our home; let us pray in a "homey" style. Jesus will be at the table with us and we will be fed by a greater love.

May the Virgin Mary, in whom the Word became flesh, help us to grow day after day in friendship with Jesus, the Bread of Life.



FROM FR. HENRY DUC

Dear Friends,

As you know, the month of November begins with the feast of all holy men and women of the Church, namely All Saints, and I hope you know that the first of November also has something to do with the feast we celebrate this Sunday, the feast of the Assumption.

The connection between November 1st and the feast of the Assumption began seventy one years ago, since Pope Pius XII on the 1st November 1950 officially promulgated the papal bull **Munificentissimus Deus** to declare this dogma that '*the Immaculate Mother of God, Mary ever Virgin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into the glory of heaven.*'

This dogmatic position was taken by the Church based on the support of 98 percent of the Catholic bishops and notable theologians then such as Thomas Aquinas and Bonaventure, who found themselves convinced by the thought of Christ's filial piety toward Mary as a son (he obeyed the Fourth commandment requiring children to honor their parents), and urged by the recoil at the image that the flesh that gave birth to the Son of God should become corruptible in the tomb.

Theologically speaking, the Assumption, in fact, highlights the victory of God's grace, which given in Jesus and inaugurated in his Resurrection comes to further fruition in Mary, the one embodying the eschatological (world ending) hope of all those redeemed by Christ.

The Vatican II Council then invites us to think of Mary in the Assumption as 'the image and the first flowering of the Church as she is to be perfected in the world to come.' (cf. Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, n.68).

As we listen to the readings of the feast this Sunday, the woman the writer of the book of the Apocalypse described as 'adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown', is the fitting image of the heavenly assumed Mary, Our Lady and Queen of Heaven.

The way she conquered the reward of heaven was very much the way that Jesus preached and followed throughout his life, which was the way of sanctity, humility and mercy clearly resonated in her highly spiritual response to Elisabeth, her cousin's greeting in the Gospel, in which she gave praise and thanks to the Lord for his greatness, and acknowledged his mercy and care for the lowly.

As we celebrate the feast of Mary's Assumption this year, let us ask our Lady to intercede for us before her Son, so that we can get through this challenging time, and continue our earthly journey on the way she has led us to attain the place she has enjoyed.

Have an Assumption-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 STARTING WEDNESDAY 18 AUGUST

Due to this current lockdown, our First Holy Communion meeting via Zoom, will begin on Wednesday 18th August at 6:30pm, with a repeat on Saturday 21st August.

For more information about the scheduled meetings, please check our website, the links below or email Artelle artellel@olol7hills.com.au

[Sacramental Program Update - Letter from Artelle;](#)

[AUGUST First Holy Communion Dates](#)

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

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.





FROM POPE FRANCIS

ENCYCLICAL LETTER **FRATELLI TUTTI** OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS ON FRATERNITY & SOCIAL FRIENDSHIP **CHAPTER ONE - DARK CLOUDS OVER A CLOSED WORLD**

The end of historical consciousness

13. As a result, there is a growing loss of the sense of history, which leads to even further breakup. A kind of “deconstructionism”, whereby human freedom claims to create everything starting from zero, is making headway in today’s culture. The one thing it leaves in its wake is the drive to limitless consumption and expressions of empty individualism. Concern about this led me to offer the young some advice. “If someone tells young people to ignore their history, to reject the experiences of their elders, to look down on the past and to look forward to a future that he himself holds out, doesn’t it then become easy to draw them along so that they only do what he tells them? He needs the young to be shallow, uprooted and distrustful, so that they can trust only in his promises and act according to his plans. That is how various ideologies operate: they destroy (or deconstruct) all differences so that they can reign unopposed. To do so, however, they need young people who have no use for history, who spurn the spiritual and human riches inherited from past generations, and are ignorant of everything that came before them”

14. These are the new forms of cultural colonization. Let us not forget that “peoples that abandon their tradition and, either from a craze to mimic others or to foment violence, or from unpardonable negligence or apathy, allow others to rob their very soul, end up losing not only their spiritual identity but also their moral consistency and, in the end, their intellectual, economic and political independence”. One effective way to weaken historical consciousness, critical thinking, the struggle for justice and the processes of integration is to empty great words of their meaning or to manipulate them. Nowadays, what do certain words like democracy, freedom, justice or unity really mean? They have been bent and shaped to serve as tools for domination, as meaningless tags that can be used to justify any action.

LACKING A PLAN FOR EVERYONE

15. The best way to dominate and gain control over people is to spread despair and discouragement, even under the guise of defending certain values. Today, in many countries, hyperbole, extremism and polarization have become political tools. Employing a strategy of ridicule, suspicion and relentless criticism, in a variety of ways one denies the right of others to exist or to have an opinion. Their share of the truth and their values are rejected and, as a result, the life of society is impoverished and subjected to the hubris of the powerful. Political life no longer has to do with healthy debates about long-term plans to improve people’s lives and to advance the common good, but only with slick marketing techniques primarily aimed at discrediting others. In this craven exchange of charges and counter-charges, debate degenerates into a permanent state of disagreement and confrontation.

16. Amid the fray of conflicting interests, where victory consists in eliminating one’s opponents, how is it possible to raise our sights to recognize our neighbours or to help those who have fallen along the way? A plan that would set great goals for the development of our entire human family nowadays sounds like madness. We are growing ever more distant from one another, while the slow and demanding march towards an increasingly united and just world is suffering a new and dramatic setback.

17. To care for the world in which we live means to care for ourselves. Yet we need to think of ourselves more and more as a single family dwelling in a common home. Such care does not interest those economic powers that demand quick profits. Often the voices raised in defence of the environment are silenced or ridiculed, using apparently reasonable arguments that are merely a screen for special interests. In this shallow, short-sighted culture that we have created, bereft of a shared vision, “it is foreseeable that, once certain resources have been depleted, the scene will be set for new wars, albeit under the guise of noble claims”.

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

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

SISTERS OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH ONLINE DISCERNMENT WEEKEND 20-22 AUGUST

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth offer an online discernment retreat for single women aged 18 to 35 who want to discern their vocation to religious life. The retreat will start at 5pm on 20 August and finish at 12.30pm on 22 August. If you would like to participate, or for more information, please contact Sr Paula on 0449 656 406 or vocationscsfn@gmail.com.

ONLINE TABLE TALK “FUTURE DREAMING FOR BLACKTOWN LGA” 19 AUGUST

In the lead-up to this year’s local council elections, numerous faith-based and community organisations across Sydney including our Social Justice Group at Our Lady of Lourdes Seven Hills have joined forces to organise a Table Talk to give people a chance to engage with Blacktown councillors that are running for office and jointly ask them to commit to important social and environmental action in the next 5 years. It will be an opportunity to: 1. Get connected during lockdown, learn about and discuss the asks that will be put forward to councillors in November, 2. Be part of a local movement for more social justice and care for creation. Come, join and be involved. When: Thursday, 19th of August 2021 from 6:50pm – 8:15pm. Register for the Zoom details at: <https://events.humanitix.com/blacktown-local-assembly>

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 (login / register as a new user)



St Vincent de Paul Society

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_Help/NSW/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.

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

JOIN US ON ‘HOME GROUND’ OVER THE NEXT FOUR WEEKS

While in lockdown, you’re invited to ‘HOME Ground’. Online every weeknight for the next four weeks, join us for chat, music, prayer, hot topics and most of all – fun and connection. See the free line-up at parracatholic.org/homeground. The Diocese of Parramatta’s Mission Enhancement Team look forward to seeing you on HOME Ground soon.

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

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.wvme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or nsbookings@wvme.org.au

‘THE WELL’ offers spiritual nourishment during lockdown Need some inspiration and spiritual encouragement during lockdown? Why not check out The Well? The Diocese’s ‘on demand’ streaming site has a tonne of video and prayer resources for you to explore and engage with during this difficult time. Check it out on www.thewell.org.au

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.