

Who Is the Greatest?

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all." Mark 9:35 (NIV)

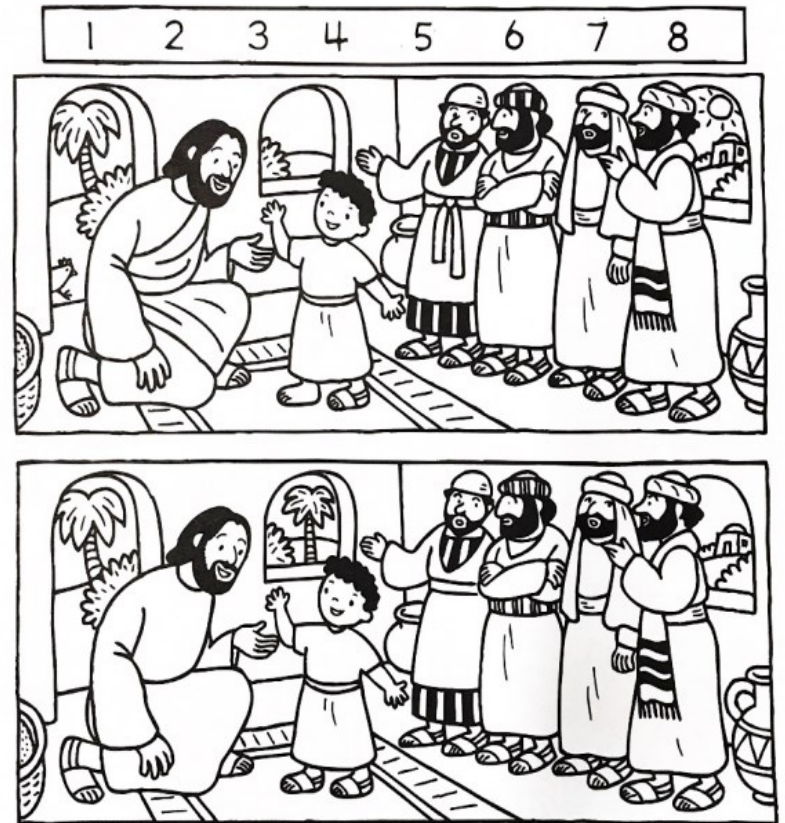
Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

W	Y	Q	M	B	D	Z	R	U	V	K	H	C	A	L	J	N	I	S	E	P	F	G	O	T	X
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 22-18-8-19-25 _____
- 15-14-19-25 _____
- 8-24-14-6 _____
- 15-18-25-25-15-20 _____
- 13-12-18-15-6 _____
- 12-24-9-19-20 _____
- 23-8-20-14-25 _____
- 19-20-8-10-14-17-25 _____
- 14-8-4-19 _____
- 17-14-4-20 _____

NAME	SERVANT	ROAD	GREAT	HOUSE
LAST	LITTLE	FIRST	ARMS	CHILD

Find 8 things that are different between these 2 pictures.
Each time you find something different, draw an ✕ on a number.



Jesus tells us to be kind and serve others.
Our Bible says, "Serve one another in love" (Galatians 5:13)

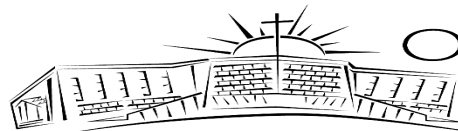
Word Search Puzzle

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

WELCOMES	SERVANT	FIRST	GREATEST	JESUS
LITTLE	ARMS	CHILD	ARGUING	LAST
WHOEVER	ROAD	TWELVE	QUIET	HOUSE



Jesus wants us to help.



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

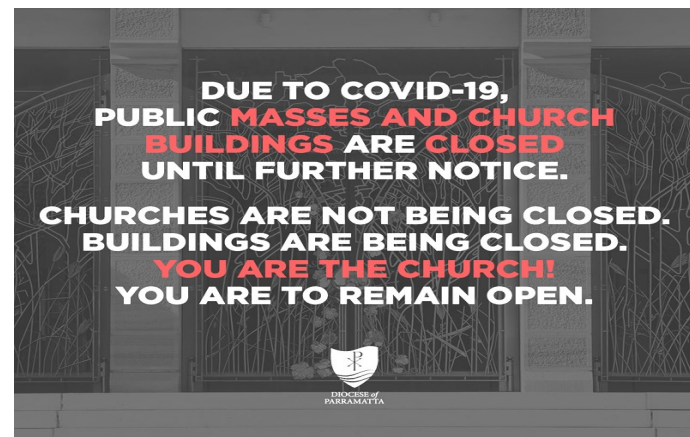
Parish Website: www.lol7hills.com.au

Pastoral Care of the Sick: Bathista Emmanuel 0405833655

Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

•Year B—19 September 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/>



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>

SECOND COLLECTION or Planned Giving Program

On behalf of the Parish Community, I would like to thank you so much for your ongoing support, which has been very vital to keep our Parish going strong. 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')

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

Seven Hills Catholic Church

BSB: 062 315

Acc Id # - 00901486

AGENT # - 660

FIRST COLLECTION—ON-LINE BANK DONATIONS

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.



Let us Pray for the Sick

Leonila Ahillon, George Alagiah, David Barrow, David Benjamin, Myrna G Cruz, Elizabeth Ehsman, 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 Tipaldo, Natalie Woodward.

If you would like to add to our Sick List or know of any Parishioner that is unwell please contact Father Henry or the Parish Office on 9622 2920. We can also arrange for Holy Communion or a visit if required.

Let us Pray for the Deceased

Recently Deceased: Victor Azzopardi, Thai Tran Van, Maria Ly Thi Tran, Zenaida Garcia, Pat Slavik, Jose T.Maestrecampo, Tony Duque Ngan, Elizabeth Rios Losa,

Lina Cabaero, David Quan Hien Dang, Cruz Fernandez, Marie Arlette Yolan Sheik Amode Hossen, Noly Diaz Limbawan, Elenoa Ahomana Matavesi, Sylroy Menezes, Nancy Mulholland, Hanh My Thi Nguyen, Adelaida Nonato.

Anniversaries: Maria Tagle Almodovar, Ana Batorek, Nazarene (Ronnie) Borg, Marie Therese Descombes, Monica, Christiansen Dias, Rose Fernandes, Leandro Garcia Sr, Ajay Kallukalam, Salvatore, Antonio, Alberto, Edouard Mahomudally, Lourda Motha, Paul Mula, Caroline Susai Nathan, Peter Sandaman, Bibiano Villanueva.

Remembrance: France Angseesing, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Fortunata & Frank Baiada, Josefa S Flores, Apolinario & Felina Maglaya, Lourda Motha, Stephen & Louis Mula, Muscat family, Romeo M. Palmos, Mile Perak.



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.

FIRST READING
A reading from the book of Wisdom 2:12,17-20

The godless say to themselves, ‘Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us and opposes our way of life, re-proaches us for our breaches of the law and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing. Let us see if what he says is true, let us observe what kind of end he himself will have. If the virtuous man is God’s son, God will take his part and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies. Let us test him with cruelty and with torture, and thus explore this gentleness of his and put his endurance to the proof. Let us condemn him to a shameful death since he will be looked after – we have his word for it.’ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) The Lord upholds my life.

O God, save me by your name
by your power, uphold my cause.
O God, hear my prayer;
listen to the words of my mouth. **(R.)**

For proud men have risen against me,
ruthless men seek my life.
They have no regard for God. **(R.)**

But I have God for my help.
The Lord upholds my life.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart
and praise your name for it is good. **(R.)**

SECOND READING A reading from the letter of St James 3:16-43

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness. Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn’t it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven’t got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don’t have what you want is because you don’t pray for it; when you do pray and don’t get it, it is because you have not prayed properly, you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires. The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
God has called us with the gospel
to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ
Alleluia!

GOSPEL
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 9:30-37

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, ‘The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.’ But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him. They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, ‘What were you arguing about on the road?’ They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, ‘If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.’ He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, ‘Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.’
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



For registration: joseph.lam@parracatholic.org or secretary@stfinbars.org.au

Upon registration, you will receive the link to ZOOM classroom

Presenter: Fr Joe Lam, PP of Glenbrook.



Fr Joe has been a Professor of Theology in Rome (Pontifical Patristic Institute, Lateran University) and a Senior Lecturer at the Australian Catholic University. He has published seven books and over 60 peer review articles in German, English, Italian and Spanish and Dutch.

Introduction to Theology for Parishioners



Are you an accountant, an employee, a medical doctor or a tradie or perhaps a student?

Whichever profession you are practicing, you know that you need certain grade of competency if you want to advance your professional career.

Being a Catholic is not an occupation and having faith may not advance your career, even Though it contributes to your spiritual and mental well-being.

No matter what your profession is, as a believer reflect and think “informally” about God. Also, There is a formal way to do think and reflect. It is called theology which is a more formal task, a task performed by people who make a concerted and well-informed effort in a particular discipline of faith.

Theology is not just a task for professional or academic theologians. Rather, every baptized Christian is called to be a theologian, if the goal of theology is the understanding of God’s word in its profundity.

The course over six weeks aims to introduce you to the basic theological thoughts and concepts crucial for the understanding of the Bible, Catholic faith and doctrines and liturgy.

This course will help you to achieve:

1. An understanding of the major areas in the discipline of Theology-biblical studies, historical or comparative studies, systematic theology, ethics, and spirituality.
2. Familiarity with the variety of religious experiences and traditions
3. An understanding of how religious morality and justice are integrated with faith
4. The ability to apply difficult theological concepts and ideas within their writing, research, or in field experiences.
5. The ability to reflect on their own experiences in light of theological perspectives.

When: 1st October, 2021 at 7pm via Zoom (thereafter fortnightly)

Requirement: Nothing, except your faith and enthusiasm

Cost: Free (except contribution to cover costs of materials)



FROM FR. HENRY DUC

FROM FR. HENRY

Dear Friends,

I have been reading an excerpt from Paul Doumer’s L’Indochine française (1857-1932) sharing his time as Governor-General of French Indochina including Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos between 1892 -1902. Compared to his peer, Doumer has been given some respect amongst Vietnamese due to his valuable contributions to the land he was appointed to govern by the French government then seen through bridges and public buildings he helped to build during his term. Unfortunately he was brutally assassinated in 1932 not long after being elected as the French president.

The session of his book about Indochina was translated by a late Vietnamese scholar focusing on Doumer’s encounters with Thanh Thai, the Vietnamese king, and Norodom, the Cambodian king. It was fascinating to go through what he himself witnessed in the courts both in Vietnam and Cambodian and meticulously put it in writing about the ways the kings and court officials dressed up in traditional costumes, and how some ancient rites were conducted. Doumer was rather impressed with Thanh Thai’s manner and style, something he considered as lacking in the Cambodian king.

According to Doumer, Norodom was rather rich thanks to his annual tax income and could afford to buy lot of European decorative items to display in the interior of his royal residence, though his taste was rather poor and on top of that European tradesmen often took him for a ride by offering him second rate objects.

Like most of other Asian countries, polygamy was a practice in both Cambodia and Vietnam, and as a result, King Norodom had lot of children both from his official wife and concubines.

His favorite children had received lot of favors from the king and enjoyed a good life. They set up their residence inside the royal compound and was given generous access to the king, though the order of the favorites had kept changing regularly depending on Norodom’s moods. Consequently they were always competing viciously with each other to maintain their privileged positions and access by trying to impress the king as much as they could and to put others down as hard as they were allowed to go.

On the other hand, the less favorite children had been left almost abandoned outside the court battling with poverty due to a little allowance from their father, lack of working skills and a limited access to jobs as members of the royal family.

Though King Norodom did passed away a long time ago, the fierce and merciless competition amongst his children to catch his attention still haunts us and has continued to exist in our human relationships all over the world. This is the kind of relationship Jesus aimed to abolish and replace with the new one that he proposed in the Gospel this Sunday.

The relationship Jesus, in fact, meant to replace was the old-fashioned one between master and servant in which servant was required to serve the master wholeheartedly. The model Jesus was keen to bring forth was the opposite, meaning the master has to serve his servants, or in Jesus’ own words, it operates on the ‘if anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all’ principle. In today’s language it is known to us as servant leadership, the one the Fathers of the Vatican II Council had re-discovered in the light of the Gospels and were determined to ask the Church to be faithful to it. This current papacy has been an inspiring example of such a revolutionary model.

Let us pray today for all Christian Catholic leaders both in the Church as the clergy big and small or at home as mums and dads, may be inspired by the servant leadership model Jesus offers in the Gospel today to replace the servant-master model of old, and that they may make Jesus proud for their willingness to serve with servant humility those entrusted to their care.

Have a service-focused 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.

LIVE-STREAMING we will continue to Live stream all week-end Masses. **Saturdays 6PM (Vigil), Sundays: 8AM, 9:30AM** Follow the link <https://www.facebook.com/LOL7Hills/>

Fr. JOSEPH LAM’S NEW BOOK

Fr Joseph has been a familiar face in our parish and we were privileged to get him for retreats and talks a few times. Recently he has released a new book entitled I Will Cause My Spirit to Enter You and You Shall Live: Biblical Theological Essays on the Pandemic dealing with the topic obviously so real and close to all of us. It costs \$AUD9.99 plus postage and can be purchased directly from him via his email joseph.lam@parracatholic.org Please give him your best support.

CONGRATULATIONS ARTELLE LENTHALL

A congratulations to one of our staff members Artelle Lenthall on the launch of her book “STAR” *Star* is the story of The Nativity told from the rather unusual perspective of The Christmas Star. Like all Nativity based stories it’s a story of Love, Wonder and Sacrifice. There are also themes of friendship, self-doubt and finding one’s place in the world/ finding and sharing one’s gifts and talents.



ON-LINE BANK DONATIONS DESCRIPTION

REQUIREMENT, for those using the online bank details to Donate to Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, please use the description panel and write DONATION.

If you are part of the Planned Giving Program it is important that you write PG (for Planned Giving) and your envelope number PG#432

(if you are not sure of your number, please email or call Alison in the office, who will let you know - Alisoni@lol7hills.com.au) This will also help if you require a receipt at the end of the Financial Year. *Thank you.*



POPE FRANCIS INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.



The season starts 1 September, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations.



In first-ever joint appeal, Pope Francis, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop of Canterbury urge care for future of the planet

For the first time, the leaders of the Roman Catholic Church, Eastern Orthodox Church and Anglican Communion have jointly warned of the urgency of environmental sustainability, its impact on poverty, and the importance of global cooperation.

In the appeal, Pope Francis, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Justin Welby urge everyone to play their part in choosing life for the future of the planet.

The Christian leaders call on people to pray, in the Christian Season of Creation, for world leaders ahead of the United Nations climate talks (COP26) in November.

The statement reads: “We call on everyone, whatever their belief or worldview, to endeavour to listen to the cry of the earth and of people who are poor, examining their behaviour and pledging meaningful sacrifices for the sake of the earth which God has given us.”

The joint declaration strikes a clear warning: “Today, we are paying the price... Tomorrow could be worse,” and concludes that: “This is a critical moment. Our children’s future and the future of our common home depend on it.”

The three Christian leaders speak against injustice and inequality, saying: “We stand before a harsh justice: biodiversity loss, environmental degradation and climate change are the inevitable consequences of our actions, since we have greedily consumed more of the earth’s resources than the planet can endure. But we also face a profound injustice: the people bearing the most catastrophic consequences of these abuses are the poorest on the planet and have been the least responsible for causing them.”

The statement calls on people to pray for world leaders ahead of COP26, make meaningful sacrifices for the sake of the planet, work together to take responsibility for how we use our resources, choose people-centred profits, and lead the transition to just and sustainable economies.

[Read the joint statement](https://www.oikoumene.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/Joint%20Statement.pdf) <https://www.oikoumene.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/Joint%20Statement.pdf>



Season of Creation 2021 Prayer



Creator of All,

We are grateful that from your communion of love you created our planet to be a home for all. By your Holy Wisdom you made the Earth to bring forth a diversity of living beings that filled the soil, water and air. Each part of creation praises you in their being, and cares for one another from our place in the web of life.

With the Psalmist, we sing your praise that in your house “even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young.” We remember that you call human beings to keep your garden in ways that honor the dignity of each creature and conserve their place in the abundance of life on Earth.

But we know that our will to power pushes the planet beyond her limits. Our consumption is out of harmony and rhythm with Earth’s capacity to heal herself. Habitats are left barren or lost. Species are lost and systems fail. Where reefs and burrows, mountaintops and ocean deeps once teemed with life and relationships, wet and dry deserts lie empty, as if uncreated. Human families are displaced by insecurity and conflict, migrating in search of peace. Animals flee fires, deforestation and famine, wandering in search of a new place to find a home to lay their young and live.

In this Season of Creation, we pray that the breath of your creative Word would move our hearts, as in the waters of our birth and baptism. Give us faith to follow Christ to our just place in the beloved community. Enlighten us with the grace to respond to your covenant and call to care for our common home. In our tilling and keeping, gladden our hearts to know that we participate with your Holy Spirit to renew the face of your Earth, and safeguard a home for all.

In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

POPE FRANCIS RECENT INTERVIEW

By Carlos Herrera

What was the Pope’s confinement like? The time we have been confined at home. What has the Pope done during the confinement?

First, I have to put up with myself, which is not easy. It is a science that I still have to master. It’s hard to put up with oneself.

You have been in the practice for many years...

Yes, but it is difficult. Sometimes a person is capricious with himself and wants things to come out automatically. Then I started to take things back little by little and, today, I am leading a normal life. This morning, the whole morning of hearings; today is the second hearing in the afternoon (I started at 3.30 p.m.) and I am still going on.

Although the goal of your next trip is to Slovakia, many will be looking forward to your meeting with the Prime Minister of Hungary, Victor Orban, with whom you do not share some points of his government program, especially regarding the closing of borders. What would you like to say to him if you had the opportunity to meet him alone?

I don’t know if I am going to meet him. I know that authorities will come to greet me. I am not going to the center of Budapest, but to the place of the [Eucharistic] Congress, and there is a hall where I will meet with the bishops, and there I will receive the authorities who will come. I don’t know who will come. The president I know because he was at the Mass in Transylvania, that part of Romania where they speak Hungarian, a beautiful Mass in Hungarian, and he came with a minister. I think it wasn’t Orban... because at the end of the Mass we formally greet... I don’t know who will come...

And one of my ways is not to go around with a script: When I am in front of a person, I look him in the eyes and let things come out. It doesn’t even occur to me to think about what I’m going to say if I’m with him, those potential future situations that don’t help me. I like the concrete; thinking about potential future situations makes you tangled, it is not good for you.

Your Holiness is closely following the new political map Afghanistan is facing. The country has been left to its own devices after many years of military occupation. Can the Vatican pull diplomatic strings to try to prevent reprisals against the population or for so many other things?

Certainly. And, in fact, I am sure that the Secretariat of State is doing so because the diplomatic level of the Secretary of State and his team is very high, also that of Relations with the Nations. Cardinal Parolin is really the best diplomat I have ever met. A diplomat who adds; not one of those who detract. He is someone who always seeks, a man of agreement. I am sure he is helping or at least offering to help. It is a difficult situation. I believe that as a pastor I must call Christians to a special prayer at this time. It is true that we live in a world of wars, (think of Yemen, for example). But this is something very special, it has another meaning. And I am going to try to ask for what the Church always asks for in times of great difficulty and crisis: more prayer and fasting. Prayer, penance, and fasting, which is what is asked for in moments of crisis. And regarding the fact of 20 years of occupation and then leaving, I remembered other historical facts, but I was touched by something that Chancellor Merkel, who is one of the great figures of world politics, said in Moscow, last 20th [of August]. And she said, I hope the translation is correct: “It is necessary to put an end to the irresponsible policy of intervening from outside and building democracy in other countries, ignoring the traditions of the peoples.” Concise and conclusive. I think this says a lot; and everyone can interpret it as they wish. But there I felt a wisdom in hearing this woman say this.

The fact that the West is withdrawing, essentially the coalition headed by the US and the EU itself? Does it discourage the Holy Father, or do you think it is the right way to go? Should we leave them to their fate?

They are three different things. The fact of withdrawing is legitimate. The echo it has in me is something else. And the third thing, you said “leave them to their fate”; I would say the way to withdraw, the way to negotiate a way out, isn’t it? As far as I can see, not all eventualities were taken into account here... or it seems, I don’t want to judge. I don’t know whether there will be a review or not, but certainly there was a lot of deception perhaps on the part of the new authorities. I say deceit or a lot of naïveté, I don’t understand. But I would see the way here. And that from Mrs. Merkel I think emphasizes that.

I guess the Pope can allow himself disappointments like any Christian. As Holy Father, what has been the biggest disappointment you have had, Your Holiness?

I had several. I had several disappointments in life and that’s good because disappointments are like emergency landings. They are like emergency landings in life. And the point is to get up. There is an alpine song that says a lot to me: “In the art of climbing, what matters is not not to fall, but not to stay fallen”. And you, faced with a disappointment, have two ways: either you stay there saying that this is not going to work—as the tango [song] says: “*Dale que va, que todo es igual, que allá en el horno nos vamos a encontrar*” [Lyrics, in Argentine slang, of a tango song from the 1930’s: “Keep it up, it’s all the same, there in hell we’re gonna reunite”]—or I get up and bet again. And I believe that in the face of a war, in the face of a defeat, even in the face of one’s own disappointment or one’s own failure or one’s own sin, one must get up and not remain fallen.

(to be continued)

By Robin Gomes

Mary’s faith as a journey

In his homily, the Pope reflected on Mary’s faith as a journey, a prophecy and as compassion. Firstly, the Pope said, Mary’s faith sets her on a journey. After hearing the message of the angel, she did not consider it a privilege to be chosen as the Mother of the Saviour; she did not lose the simple joy of her humility; she did not keep thinking about herself within the four walls of her house. Rather, after experiencing the gift she had received as a mission to be carried out, she went to visit and assist Elizabeth, her cousin. Completely caught up in God’s own “haste”, she felt urged to open the door and go out to reach all people with God’s saving love. “She chose the unknowns of the journey over the comfort of her daily routines, the weariness of travel over the peace and quiet of home; the risk of a faith that makes our lives a loving gift to others over a placid piety.”

The day’s Gospel presents Mary on a journey to Jerusalem with her husband Joseph for the rite of the Presentation of Baby Jesus in the temple. The Pope said the rest of her life would be a journey in the footsteps of her Son, as the first of his disciples, even to Calvary, to the foot of the cross.

Pope Francis held out the Blessed Virgin to Slovaks as a model of faith that involves journeying, a faith inspired by simple and sincere devotion, a constant pilgrimage to seek the Lord. It’s a journey that overcomes the temptation to a passive and ritual faith, and makes life a pilgrimage of love towards God and their brothers and sisters.

He urged Slovakia’s Catholics to persevere on this journey without stopping, adding, when the Church stops moving, she falls sick. When bishops stop moving, the Church falls sick and when priests stop walking, the people of God fall sick, he said.

Mary’s faith as prophetic

The Pope then focused on Mary’s faith as prophetic. Her life is a prophetic sign that points to God’s presence in human history, His merciful intervention that confounds the logic of the world lifts up the lowly and casts down the mighty. As the Immaculate Virgin, she is the icon of our own vocation, called to be holy and blameless in love.

Reflecting on the prophecy of Simeon at the Presentation, that the Child was destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel and a sign of contradiction, the Pope said that faith cannot be “reduced to a sweetener to make life more palatable.” The darkness always fights against Him and He came to bring not peace but a sword, demanding a decision from us. With Jesus, we cannot remain lukewarm, with a foot in both camps. “When I accept Him, He reveals my contradictions, my idols, my temptations. He becomes my resurrection, the one who always lifts me up when I fall, the one who takes me by the hand and lets me start anew.”

The Pope said Slovakia today needs such prophets, Christians who can demonstrate the beauty of the Gospel by the way they live. Turning to the bishops, he urged them to take up this path. Slovakia needs Christians, who are “weavers of dialogue where hostility is growing; models of fraternal life where society is experiencing tension and hostility; bringers of the sweet fragrance of hospitality and solidarity where personal and collective selfishness too often prevails, protectors and guardians of life where the culture of death reigns”.

Mother of compassion

Finally, contemplating on the Mary, the Mother of compassion, the Holy Father said, she ensured there was sufficient wine at the wedding feast of Cana, she shared in her Son’s mission of salvation, even to the foot of the Cross. While Jesus suffered in the flesh, disfigured by evil, Mary suffered in spirit, as the compassionate Mother who dries our tears, comforts us, and points to Christ’s definitive victory.

The Mother of Sorrows remains at the foot of the cross, without running away, trying to save herself, or finding ways to alleviate her grief. She stands there weeping with the faith that knows that, in her Son, God transfigures pain and suffering and triumphs over death.

Pope Francis encouraged Christians to a faith that becomes compassion, identifying themselves with the needy, those who are hurt, suffering and are forced to bear heavy crosses. It is a faith that does not remain abstract but becomes incarnate in fellowship with those in need. It is a faith that imitates God’s way of doing things, quietly relieving the suffering of our world and watering the soil of history with salvation.

DIOCESAN NEWS

THANK YOU FOR CARING FOR OUR RETIRED CLERGY

Thanks to your kind and compassionate support, the [Clergy Support Foundation](#) can continue to ensure our priests’ physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing is nurtured. And, where needed, support our ageing priests’ daily living, health care and medical expenses; along with home comforts and essentials for living well. The Clergy Foundation Committee is very grateful for your generous donations over the last few weeks, both via online portal or by mail, which have raised just on \$60,000 as of Thursday 9 September, about a third of our way to our target. Hopefully we will soon be able to hold the appeal in our parishes. Thanks again and if you haven’t yet made a donation and would like to, please visit [paracatholic.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.

DIOCESE OF PARRAMTTA LAUNCHES PLENARY COUNCIL RESOURCE WEBSITE

A new website provides resources for parishioners in the Diocese of Parramatta to stay involved in the Plenary Council, which is exploring what the future of our Church should look like. The first assembly starts in October, so visit [parracatholic.org/plenary-2021/](#) to find a range of information, a Diocesan prayer and more.

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](#)

MIGRANT & REFUGEE SUNDAY 2021: 26 September

On 26 September, the Catholic Church around the world celebrates the World Day of Migrants and Refugees (also known as Migrant and Refugee Sunday). Pope Francis invites us to work *Towards an ever wider “we”* and embrace the resilience and contribution of Migrants and Refugees to the church and society. The “Diocesan Journey... Walking with Refugees” team invites you to a **Virtual Diocesan Conversation with Refugees** on 26 September from 3pm to 4.15pm. RSVP via [www.bit.do/diocesan-refugee](#). Find more information and resources at [migrants-refugees.va](#) and [acmro.catholic.org.au](#).

YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE DIOCESE -WE ARE WITH YOU

“I am with you always” – Matthew 28:20. The Diocese has launched a new website in response to the mental health crisis impacting our young people. The website [parracatholic.org/withyou](#) contains links and information about services that can help young people whose wellbeing is suffering. Please share widely with young people and their families.

SISTERS OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH ONLINE DISCERNMENT RETREAT: 25 September

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth are inviting single women aged 18-35 to an online discernment retreat on Saturday 25 September from 4pm. The retreat will include a reflection and talk, a Q&A session and Evening Prayer. If you would like to participate in the Zoom meeting, or for more information, please contact Sr Paula on 0449 656 406 or [vocationscsfn@gmail.com](#)

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](#)



OFFICE FOR SAFEGUARDING OFFERING ONLINE TRAINING TO KEEP OUR PARISHES SAFE

The Office for Safeguarding is providing an opportunity for all of us to develop our awareness and skills in ensuring our parishes are safe and welcoming places for all. The team are currently offering accompanied online training courses throughout September and October. The upcoming Pointsbuild training sessions are as follows:

- Tuesday 21st September 2021:** Module 1 - Introduction to Safeguarding- 2.00pm to 3.00pm
- Tuesday 28th September 2021:** Module 2 - Understanding Child Abuse and Reportable Conduct—2.00pm to 3.30pm
- Tuesday 5th October 2021:** Module 3 - Safeguarding Adults at Risk - 2.00pm to 3.30pm
- Tuesday 12th October 2021:** Module 1 - Introduction to Safeguarding- 9.30am-10.30am **or** 2.00pm to 3.00pm **or** 7pm
- Tuesday 19th Oct 2021:** Module 2 - Understanding Child Abuse and Reportable Conduct:9.30-11.30am or 2pm -3.30pm
- Tuesday 26th October 2021:** Module 3 - Safeguarding Adults at Risk - 9.30-11am or 2.00pm to 3.30pm
- Tuesday 26th October :** Module 2- Understanding Child Abuse and Reportable Conduct—7:00pm
- Tuesday 9th November :** Module 3 - Safeguarding Adults at Risk - 7:00pm

*We are committed to being a community of Safeguarding
We will have zero tolerance to abuse of any form
We are committed to ensuring children and vulnerable adults under our care are safe, protected and enabled to flourish.*

If you are interested or have any questions about the Safeguarding Training, please email our Safeguarding office on [safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org](#) or [maria.kervin@parracatholic.org](#).

