



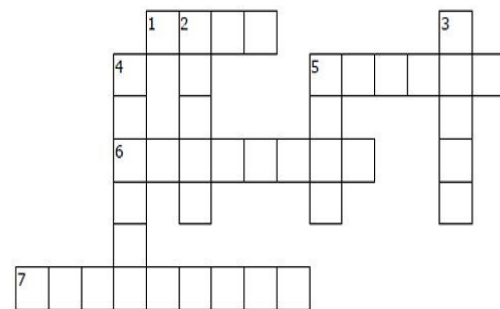
The Nativity of The Lord Christmas Day 25 December 2020



The Birth of Jesus

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7 (KJV)

Puzzle is based on Luke 2:1-20



ACROSS

1. An infant or very young child
5. The place where Mary laid the baby Jesus
6. A person who takes care of sheep
7. The city where Jesus was born

DOWN

2. Heavenly being that told the shepherds about Jesus' birth
3. The savior of the world
4. The earthly father of Jesus
5. The mother of Jesus

JOSEPH	ANGEL	BETHLEHEM	BABY
MARY	SHEPHERD	JESUS	MANGER



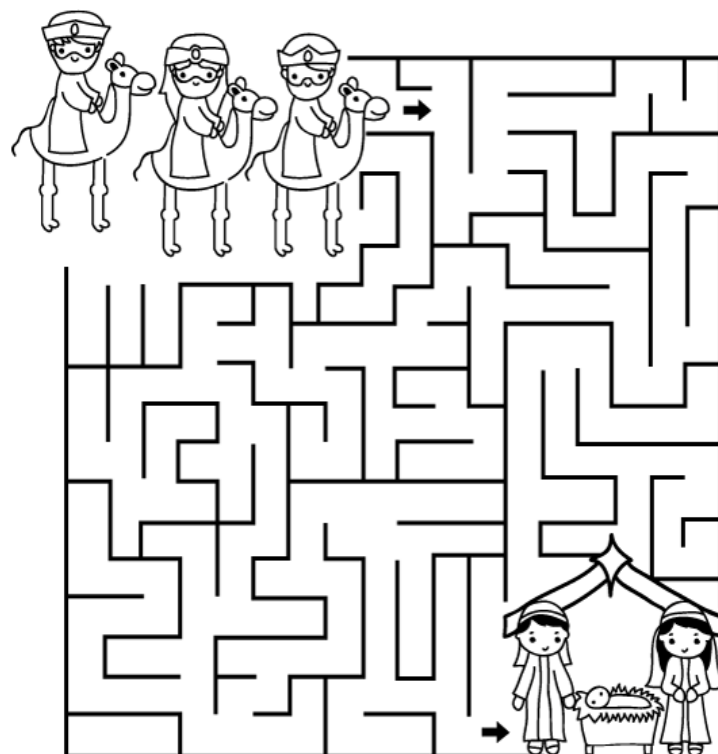
Nativity Word Scramble

1. STRA -----
2. MAGREN -----
3. MYAR -----
4. SEPHE -----
5. DOEYKN -----
6. AEGLN -----
7. JPHOES -----
8. JSSEU -----
9. KIGSN -----
10. STBALE -----

All these words come from the Christmas story. Can you unscramble them?



Help the Three Wise Men find the manger.



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@olol7hills.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

WEEKDAY MASS:

Tuesday—Friday 8.00am

WEEKEND MASS:

Saturday Vigil 6pm
Sunday 8am & 9:30am

Parish School:

OLOL 8869 6800

Principal:

Ms Keiran Byrnes

Reconciliation:

Saturday 4:30-5:30pm

Baptismal Preparation:

16th February 2022

Baptism:

30th January 2022

Parish Website:

www.olol7hills.com.au

Pastoral Care of the Sick:

Bathista Emmanuel
0405833655



Christmas Year C 24th & 25th December, 2021

Christmas Eve 6.00pm, 9.00pm

READINGS

1st Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

2nd Reading: Apostles 13:16-17, 22-25

Gospel: Matt 1:18-25

The Lord takes delight in you.

Paul spoke of Christ, the son of David

A genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David.

RESPONSE TO PSALM: *For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia! Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed: the Saviour of the world will be our king. Alleluia!

Christmas Midnight Mass

READINGS

1st Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

A son is given to us

God's grace has been revealed to all people

Today a saviour has been born for you

RESPONSE TO PSALM: *Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia! Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

Christmas Day 8am, 9:30am and 6pm

READINGS

1st Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

2nd Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

Gospel: John 1:1-18

All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of our God.

In our own time, God speaks to us through his Son.

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory.

RESPONSE TO PSALM: *All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia! A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia!



WE WISH OUR PARISH COMMUNITY AND THEIR FAMILIES A VERY HOLY
CHRISTMAS AND OUR PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS REMAIN WITH YOU OVER
THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS





Let us Pray for the Sick

Leonila Ahillon, George Alagiah, David Barrow, David Benjamin, Barrie Chamberlain, Myrna G Cruz, Elizabeth Ehsman, Melvyn Fernandes, Jose Garcia, Wendy & Klaus, Anslan Lawrence, Spencer Leon, Cynthia Lopez, Carmenu M, Gerard Marcello, Marie Marchand, Ananda Nayana, Wiranjan Peiris, 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: Mervin Bradfield, John Falzon, Fred MacCarton, Dr Joe Periera, Peter Lawman, Alan Kidd, Floyd Fitzgerald, Danielle Blanch, Eric Byrnes, Cruz Fernandez, Zenaida Garcia, Rose Figura, Felina Cabral Mayuyo, Shanil Jayatileke, Daniel Gullifer.

Anniversaries: Carmen Attard, Lionel Bosen, Cini Family, Dennis Clarke, Sam and Sylvia De Bathista, Philomena Corera, Rita de Silva, Ivan Elisher, MA Fernando, Theodore Garcia, Frank Galea, Stephen Gravina, Salvam Irudayaraj, Mangion Family, Irene Moroney, Thelma Morrissey, Anton & Xavier Motha, Paul Mula, Aurora Nonato, Gil Opina, Jose Reyes, Laureano Reyes, Tony Vassollo, Jim and Alison Vella.

Remembrance: France Angseesing, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Toufic, Debe, Bede Diab, Marcel & Monsen Diab, Linda Elumba, Bonosa En-festa, Luiga Farugia, Fernando & Hilda Medina, Medino-Ipor Family, Pauline Meilak, Morales-Martinez family, Lourda Motha, Stephen & Louis Mula, Muscat Family, Roseline Ratnam, Sem Serna, Sofia Vispo, Vispo-Bica Family.



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR GREETINGS

What a year for us to remember. Anyway, let us praise and thank God for giving us the opportunity to celebrate Christmas, knowing that a lot of people all over the world won't have the opportunity. May the child Jesus keep you and your families safe under his protection and confident in his love..

Have a blessed Christmas and a grace-filled New Year.
Fr Henry.

CHRISTMAS THANK YOU

Many thanks to all our ministers, helpers, volunteers and Parish staff for the hard works they have done to make our Christmas liturgies truly special and our church fit for the occasion.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office will be closed between Christmas and New Year. We wish you a wonderful Christmas and many blessings and a warm welcome for 2021. During January, the office hours will be reduced due to the holiday period. If you require assistance, please call 9622 2920 and leave a voicemail message. These messages are checked daily and we will endeavour to assist you as soon as possible. Thank You.

CORONAVIRUS ALERT

On Wednesday we received from the NSW Government a COVID-19 case alert. A person who is a confirmed case of COVID-19 attended Our Ladies of Lourdes Catholic Church on 19-12-2021 while potentially infectious. On Friday we received another COVID-19 case alert of a person who attended Mass on 21-12-2021. The advice from NSW Government is to alert those who attended these days and advise them to monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and get tested if unwell. OLOL Church conducted a deep clean 24-12-2021

The Origins of Christmas

The earliest known celebration of Christ's birth dates from the third century in Egypt. In the city of Rome, a feast of Christmas was celebrated on December 25 from at least the year 336. No one knows with certainty why the feast was celebrated when it was, but two main theories have been advanced. The first theory is that Christians place a celebration of Christmas in the same day as the pagan winter solstice celebration of "the unconquered sun". By asserting the Christian symbolism of Christ as the light of the world, the feast successfully competed with and eventually replaced its pagan predecessor. Another theory was built around a presumed convergence of redemption with the order of creation. The solstices and equinoxes of the solar year provided the bases for reconstruction the date of Jesus' birth. In this view, John the Baptist was conceived at the autumn equinox and born at the summer solstice. Because Luke 1:26 indicated that the conception of Jesus took place six months after that of John, Jesus must have been conceived at the spring equinox (March 25) and born on December 25. Neither of these theories settles the historical questions. We don't know the day on which Jesus was born. We don't know for certain why Christians in the west began to celebrate his birth on December 25 (Christians in the East celebrated it on January 6). In the sixth century, Dionysius Exiguus, a learned scholar, was engaged by Pope John I to determine the year of Jesus' birth. Using the best data at hand, Dionysius computed that Jesus was born 753 years after the founding of Rome. For various reasons, scholars today believe he fixed the data four to six years too late. The most devastating argument against Dionysius' reckoning concerns Herod the Great. The two stories of the birth of Jesus (from Matthew and Luke) do not agree on many details. Whenever the two do agree, the detail gains importance. One of those points of agreement is that Jesus was born during the reign of Herod the Great. Modern dating of Herod, though, places his death around 4 BC. That is why it is generally thought that Jesus was born, paradoxically in the period of time we call "before Christ". These efforts teach us the limits of our knowledge, but they also teach us that the celebration of Christmas is more about who Jesus is and what he means for us, than it is about the date when he was born. The effect of his birth on human history is undeniable. It is good to celebrate the beginning of the amazing story of his life on earth, no matter when that moment occurred. However, it would be good to us at all, were it not for our faith in his presence today, in our midst.

Christmas Traditions

There is no proof that the 25th December is the actual Christmas Day. Christians in the fourth and fifth centuries took over a Roman custom of a party around the time of the winter solstice; in fact in different areas they picked different days: December 25, January 6, January 13. The important thing is not the actual date, but the wish to celebrate the fact of Christ's birth as a human person, like us in all things but sin.

Cards - They originated only in Victorian England, late last century as a way of exchanging greetings.

The Christmas Tree Again it is not even a Christian tradition. It is an adaptation of a Germanic custom of using lights on a pine tree, virtually the only tree left green and in leaf during the northern European winter. In our usage now, we decorate the tree to remind us Christ is the light of the world-the incarnation in the unbelievable mystery whereby the human race is given another chance to live in paradise where the tree of life is planted.

Christmas Carols These were originally medieval dances, but now they are so often the haunting reminder, so evocative of family memories and places. The carols were originally religious, now less so in the commercial ones, such as "White Christmas", "Rudolph", and "Jingle Bells". At least they urge us to reflect the first Christmas was a silent night, a holy night, and all the faithful do come to adore Christ the Lord.

Christmas Presents The customs of exchanging gifts traces its origins to the story of the Three Wise Men and their gifts. It is now so dangerously over-commercialized that we need to stop and reflect on what is the Gift that God has first given us: life and life in its fullness. Gifts are given now because the memory of Christ's birth becomes the mirror of the generosity of God in his gift of life to all creation.

Decorations and Streamers Whether in the family home or the shops, in the city square, the mall, the main street; these decorations are a public tribute that this is special. Rarely does public life acknowledge any religious sentiments, so it is one more way of saying Christmas is a unique time.

The Crib What began as a personal painting on the wall by St Francis of Assisi in his monastery of Greccio in Italy has become a loving tradition. It is the visual reminder, whether in simple figures or an elaborate reconstruction of a whole village complete with animals and village characters, the well that pumps water, and so on. It is a trigger to the memory of what happened and why it is important. The simple facts of Matthew and Luke are transformed into the reflections of John—that to all who believe in him, he has given the power to become the children of God because the Word was made flesh. God became human.



Christmas Offertory

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

Luke 1:46-47

Your gift supports our parish to share Christ's message of love and salvation with all

GIVE TO YOUR PARISH

CHRISTMAS OFFERTORY

Christmas is a joyous time when we come together as a parish family to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Our Lady of Lourdes relies on the generosity of our faith community to sustain our liturgical, sacramental, pastoral and charitable ministries and we are ever grateful for your support.

Please consider giving a Christmas Offertory gift in the envelopes provided.



BISHOPS VINCENT'S 2021 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Bishop Vincent's 2021 Christmas message can be viewed online

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FIXRo4-gB3M>,
<https://catholicoutlook.org/bishop-vincent-longs-christmas-message-2021/>

Individual videos

-Bishop Vincent's 2021 Christmas Message –5min (adults)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FIXRo4-gB3M>

-God's Plan for Mary – 4mins (adults) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGreLI-tBEM>

-ADVENTures with Mum and Dad – 7mins 30 seconds (children, young parents and families) -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tHLfn-Sr1sU>

-Christmas Through the Eyes of Kindergarten – 7mins 45 seconds (children and families) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mrXS7vUpl8A>

-Celebrating Parish Milestones – ~2 mins (children, families and adults) – (<https://youtu.be/5WHzoOL7DBc>)

-The 12 Weeks of Lockdown – 4mins 30 seconds (children, families and adults) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SywThXBeYJM>