



Company Is Coming

A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Luke 3:4b (NIV)

Based on Luke 3:1-6



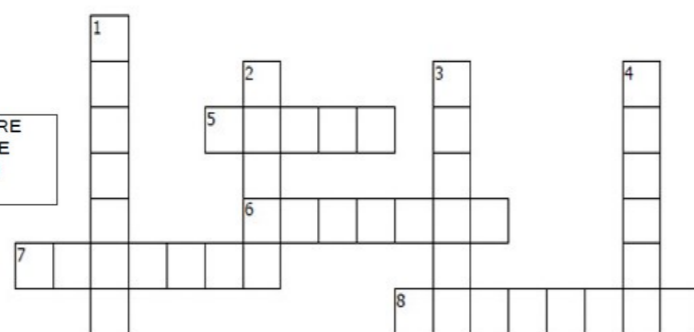
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- 3-19-11-11-13-20-2
- 8-11-10-3-20
- 19-11-15-9-7
- 18-5-11-11-14-7
- 25-19-20-25-21-19-20
- 16-21-25-14-10-18-5
- 18-14-19-21-10-9-7-14
- 2-20-18-20-19-14

STRAIGHT BAPTISM	PREPARE CROOKED	SMOOTH VOICE	ROUGH DESERT
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K C P T R V O I C E C V W S A
H R A R F U F P A Y A S Q P R
X O F M D O I E G A L I L E E
S O W J M L R B T N L Y A U P
O K M P I P T G V Y I X A R E
V E N H V R U J I Q N O A E N
P D P M E H U S Z V G S T T T
S R P S T E R M Q N E A Y S A
T B E V C R O O J A L N J I N
R D A P H O U O C I N S E N C
A J Y P A D G T P S C W A S E
I G U T T R H H E P J D Q I S
G C U D R I E R P B R O B N G
H X B M E Z S Z J O I M H S J
T P S J Y A K M J S B X Q N C

JOHN BAPTISM	PHILIP ROUGH	CROOKED JUDEA	PILATE REPENTANCE	PREPARE GALILEE
SMOOTH	FORGIVENESS	JORDAN	SINS	HEROD
STRAIGHT	CALLING	CAESAR	DESERT	VOICE



ACROSS

- Having an irregular, course, or shaggy surface
- Having bends, curves, or angles.
- To grant a pardon for sin.
- Having no bends or curves.

DOWN

- To make things ready for oneself.
- What we use to speak.
- To turn away from one's sins.
- Having a surface free from roughness

REPENT CROOKED	PREPARE VOICE	FORGIVE ROUGH	STRAIGHT SMOOTH
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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
WEEKDAY MASS: Tuesday—Friday 8.00am
WEEKEND MASS: Saturday Vigil 6pm
Sunday 8am & 9:30am

Parish School: LOL 8869 6800
Principal: Ms Keiran Byrnes
Reconciliation: Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
Baptismal Preparation: 16th February 2022
Baptism: 30th January 2022
Parish Website: www.lol7hills.com.au
Pastoral Care of the Sick: Bathista Emmanuel 0405833655

Second Sunday of Advent 5 December • Year C •

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/>



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, 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: Zenaida Garcia, Rose Figura, Felicup Carmen, Cruz Fernandez, Shanil Jayatileke, Most Rev Bill Wright, Clarissa Flores, Edna Bacud, Vicki Oddo, Eric Balagtas,

Des Adams, Denis Brophy, David Quan Hien Dang, Peter Diab, Cruz Fernandez, Marie Hossen, Shanil Jayatilake, Paul Mowbray, Hanh My Thi Nguyen, Fr. Renato Mario Paras, Deacon Owen Rogers, Thai Tran Van, Maria Ly Thi Tran. Leo Vinci,

Anniversaries: Mary Camenzuli, Ngan Siu Eng Florencio Flores, Michael and Alice de Robillard, Yheodore Garcia, Charlie Gauci, Felicidad Maglaya, Ngoc Khuong Mai, Edouard Mahomudally, Pauline Meilak, Joe Moutia, Lourda Motha, Paul Mula, Connie and Vincent Muscat, Joseph Thang Xuan Nguyen, Aurora Nonato, Romeo M Palmos, Lee Pisch, Rosaline Ratnam, Nunelon de los Santos, Natalie Spiteri, Jim and Alison Vella.

Remembrance: France Angseesing, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Mary Mifsud, Stephen & Louis Mula, Mary Muscat, Muscat family.

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

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

This Christmas, will you help homeless women and children?

Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal

We have a COVID -19 Safety Plan and are committed to keeping you safe.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

It is a condition of entry that you;

- Check in/ out using the QR CODE
- Wear a face mask
- Maintain physical distancing

IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING ANY FLU LIKE SYMPTOMS PLEASE STAY HOME AS THE MASS IS STILL AVAILABLE ON LIVE-STREAM THROUGH OUR LOL FACEBOOK PAGE.

PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS TO THE CHURCH SAFE.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Baruch 5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'. Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort. The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. (R.)

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels
the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. (R.)

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. (R.)

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves. (R.)

SECOND READING A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God. The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: A voice cries in the wilderness; Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God. The Gospel of the Lord.



PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the
Most Blessed Sacrament of the altar.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.

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



POPE FRANCIS: LACK OF RESPECT SHOWN AT OUR BORDERS MAKES US ALL LESS HUMAN

By Vatican News staff writer

Pope Francis describes the treatment of thousands of migrants around the world today as "deplorable". In his video message on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the Pope says migrants across the world are treated as "merchandise", "pawns on the chessboard", and as being "victims of political rivalries".

IOM

The IOM, which is based in Geneva, is the main intergovernmental organisation in the field of migration. The Holy See has been a member of the organisation for ten years. In his message to the IOM, which was read by Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin, the Pope asks, "How can suffering and despair be exploited to advance or defend political agendas? How can political considerations prevail when the dignity of the human person is at stake?"

"The fundamental lack of human respect across national borders diminishes us all in our 'humanity'", says the Pope. The Pope's message comes just one day after his remarks at the Sunday Angelus, in which he denounced the treatment of migrants around the globe, expressing sorrow for those who recently died crossing the English Channel, those stranded on the border with Belarus, and those lost in the waters of the Mediterranean. It also comes shortly before his trip to the Greek island of Lesbos.

A change of perspective

In his message, Pope Francis urges a change of perspective of the migration phenomenon, noting that "it is not only a story of migrants but of inequalities, despair, environmental degradation, climate change; but also of dreams, courage, study abroad, family reunification, new opportunities, security, and hard but dignified work". "The debate on migration is not really about migrants," the Pope explains. "It is rather about all of us, about the past, the present, and the future of our societies. We should not be surprised by the number of migrants, but meet them all as persons, seeing their faces and listening to their stories, trying to respond as best we can to their unique personal and family situations. This response requires a lot of human sensitivity, justice, and fraternity". The "common temptation" of today is to "dismiss all that is troublesome", says the Pope. This should be avoided, it is a symptom of the "throwaway culture", he adds. "Surely", he says, "these universally recognised values should guide our treatment of migrants in the local community and nationally".

Benefits of migration

Pope Francis goes on to urge us to not only look at what states do to welcome migrants, but also at "what benefits migrants bring to their host communities and how they enrich them". On the one hand, in the markets of upper-middle-income countries, migrant labour is in great demand and welcomed as a way to compensate for labour shortages. On the other hand, migrants are often rejected and resented by many of their host communities. Unfortunately, the Pope notes that "this double standard stems from the predominance of economic interests over the needs and dignity of the human person". This is a tendency that was exacerbated during the "closures" for Covid-19, "when many of the 'essential' workers were migrants, but did not get the benefits of Covid's financial assistance programmes or access to basic health care or Covid vaccinations".

A dignified way out

In light of these daily dramas, there is an "urgent need to find dignified ways out of irregular situations". Desperation and hope always prevail over restrictive policies. The more legal routes there are, the less likely it is that migrants will be drawn into the criminal networks of people traffickers or exploited and abused during their migration, says the Pope. Migrants, the Pope goes on to remark, "make visible the bond that unites the entire human family, the richness of cultures and the resource for developing the exchanges and trade networks that make up the diaspora communities".

To the international community

Hence the call on the international community to "urgently address the conditions that give rise to irregular migration, thus making migration a conscious choice rather than a desperate necessity". Most people who can live decently in their countries of origin would not feel compelled to migrate irregularly, said the Pope. Urgent efforts are needed to create better economic and social conditions so that migration is not the only option for those seeking peace, justice, security, and full respect for human dignity. "Let us not forget", the Pope concludes, "that these are not statistics, but real people whose lives are at stake". With this awareness, "the Catholic Church and its institutions will continue its mission of welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating people on the move".

POPE FRANCIS AT ANGELUS: BE VIGILANT AND PRAY ALWAYS

By Vatican News staff writer

Reflecting on the Gospel reading for this First Sunday of Advent, which speaks to us about the Lord's coming at the end of time, Pope Francis says we are invited to be hopeful as the Lord comes to save us and "we await Him with joy", even in the midst of life's trials and tribulations. The Lord invites us to "stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand".

Be vigilant at all times and pray

At the same time, the Pope recognized the challenge of remaining focused on our redemption when day-to-day challenges and suffering can overwhelm us. He recalled the words of Jesus that we must not fall asleep and "be vigilant at all times and pray". This vigilance is a key aspect of Christian life, he noted, and it requires that we remain alert and avoid distraction from what is really important in life. Vigilance means keeping our hearts on guard from becoming lazy or "sleepy Christians" lacking spiritual dynamism and intensity in prayer. We can fall into apathy, he warned, and become indifferent to all except what is comfortable for us.

"With all vigilance guard your heart"

Vigilance means not letting our daily life become just a routine, or becoming preoccupied only with worldly concerns, the Pope went on to say, encouraging us to reflect on what weighs on our own spirit causing us to fall into the "lazy chair", mediocrity and succumb to vices. He also suggested we look at the burdens that weigh on the shoulders of those around us and ask ourselves if we are aware of them and doing something about it. This all will help us avoid falling into apathy, something he described as a negative spirit that "traps the soul" and takes away its joy. As the Book of Proverbs says, "With all vigilance guard your heart, for in it are the sources of life".

Come, Lord Jesus

"The secret to being vigilant is prayer," the Pope stressed, saying that prayer always keeps the lamp of our heart lit, bringing us back to God, reawakening the soul from slumber and focusing it "on what matters, on the purpose of existence". We must never neglect prayer, he underscored, and to avoid that we can consider prayer of the heart, repeating brief invocations. The Pope suggested that during Advent we make a habit of saying "Come, Lord Jesus" through the day. He invited everyone in St. Peter's Square to repeat this invocation three times. In conclusion, he prayed that the Blessed Mother, who "awaited the Lord with a vigilant heart", may accompany us in a special way throughout Advent.

POPE FRANCIS DECEMBER PRAYER INTENTION: FOR CATECHISTS

By Christopher Wells

"Catechists have an invaluable mission for the transmission and growth of the faith," says Pope Francis in The Pope Video for December.

Each month, the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network prepares The Pope Video, in which the Holy Father reveals his special prayer intentions for that month.

For December 2021, the Pope is praying "for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit, with joy and much peace."

A vocation and a mission

In his video message, Pope Francis says, "The lay ministry of catechist is a vocation; it's a mission... It's an entire way of being." He said the Church needs "good catechists who are both companions and teachers."

Earlier this year, Pope Francis formally restored the lay ministry of catechists with the Apostolic Letter *Antiquum ministerium*, issued "motu proprio," or on his own initiative. In this month's video, the Pope explains that even today, "in many dioceses, on many continents, evangelization is fundamentally in the hands of a catechist."

Proclaiming the Gospel with their lives

So, he said, the Church needs "creative people who proclaim the Gospel, but who proclaim it neither with a mute nor with a loudspeaker, but rather with their life, with gentleness, with a new language, and opening new ways."

An example of this "new language" for catechesis is seen in The Pope Video for December, which shows catechists and young people working together on a mural representing the washing of feet.

An elegant gesture

In his message, Pope Francis invites the faithful to "thank catechists for the interior enthusiasm with which they live this mission at the service of the Church."

Fr Frédéric Fornos, S.J., International Director of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, commented on this month's intention: "Francis dedicating this last message to catechists in the same year in which he instituted their lay ministry and in which the synodal journey began 'as the pilgrim and missionary People of God' is an eloquent gesture."



FROM FR. HENRY DUC

Dear Friends,

Some of us might have watched the British TV series called World's Most Dangerous Roads featuring celebrities tackling some of worlds' most notorious roads and I am a fan of it.

I love watching the show from time to time, for it captures some of the world's most breath-taking landscapes, and also reminds me so much of the days, when I used to sit on top of travelling buses or hang behind them to get from home to the seminary and back, and the road condition was not much different from what I see on the screen. I never thought of those trips as risky and dangerous, just innocently took them as facts of life, and

was blessed to survive.

I can't help thinking of such TV series and the bumpy roads I had to travel again and again so many times many years ago, when I read the account of Luke's Gospel for this Second Sunday of Advent.

Here in the story, the writer of the Gospel gives us a glimpse into the political world in Jesus' time and John the Baptist's family background, and then quotes a passage from the prophet Isaiah (cf. Is 40.3) to highlight John's ministry as Jesus' herald. It's worth noting Isaiah's words John the Baptist picked up to sum up what he was going to do as the one voicing his lonely call in a deserted place asking people in the community to prepare themselves for Jesus' public appearance.

Through the highly symbolic images of the roads curling their ways through valleys, hills and mountains rather familiar with his listeners of old, John perhaps aimed to invite them to reflect upon their state of life and mind, since the winding ways and valleys would stand for human deceit, malice, selfishness, and wicked thoughts, and hills and mountains very much for our pride, conceit, vanity and arrogance.

These spiritual landscapes, in fact, need to be fixed accordingly, so that people would be worthy and ready to welcome Jesus, the source of God's salvation, the Savior of the world to come into their lives.

John's life-changing message is very much trans-generational, since it is not just his contemporary needed to heed his voice, but we, the people of today do as well. We have to take his words to heart for a good and thoughtful reflection, so we know which areas of our lives need to be filled up, flattened or straightened up to turn ourselves into Jesus-friendly souls.

Let us pray this week for the wisdom to see the areas we need to improve, and the strength to go ahead in doing something about them, consequently we may be able to be well prepared to celebrate the feast of the Lord's Nativity, and to welcome Him whenever He comes to knock on our door at the end time.

Have a wonderful week filled with God's wisdom and strength.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Congratulations to the *second* group of our children making their First Holy Communion this Sunday. Please keep them in your prayer, so that the grace of Communion will keep nourishing their lives and help them to live their lives worthy of

Jesus' gift in the Eucharist.

First Holy Communion in 2022 enrollment Mass will be held Sunday **6th February**.

Please contact Artelle 9622 2920 / artellel@olol7hills.com.au for your enrollment form and timetable before February.

CONFIRMATION

After an unexpected hiccup, year 6 children are going to be confirmed this week, before they enter into the next stage of their education. Pray that they will have a Spirit-filled celebration on Tuesday, 7th December, be confirmed in the ways of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord, and get ready to let them shine in their lives.



ADVENT WREATH It is usually constructed around a circular based as you can see ours. This circular base is traditionally taken to symbolize the ever-renewing cycle of the seasons, and the four candles, of course, represents the four Sundays of Advent.

The **second candle** known as the Bethlehem's candle symbolises faith. Remember that the prophet Micah did foretell that the Messiah shall be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

If you would like to brighten someone's Christmas you could take a tag from the Christmas tree and prepare a hamper **BEFORE 12th DECEMBER**. Thank you for your generosity.

LOURDES YOUNG ADULTS GROUP NIGHT & VINNIES CHRISTMAS HAMPER DRIVE: SATURDAY 11 DECEMBER 2021 7-9:30PM (AFTER THE 6PM VIGIL MASS)

All are welcome to join in the Parish Hall with our Lourdes Young Adults Group for our last gathering for the year and our annual Christmas Hamper Drive together with our friends from the Ismaili Muslim Youth as a gesture of solidarity between the two neighbouring faith communities during this season of Advent.

Theme: "He sent us to bring Good News!"

Parishioners are invited to donate non-perishable items in the boxes at church which will be donated to Vinnies Blacktown the weekend before Christmas, Sunday 19th December 2021 from 12:30-3pm. The following items are suggested for donations: Cereal, dry pasta, rice, muesli bars, snack packs, long life milk, tinned items (with pull rings) - protein items, soup, fruit, vegetables, meals, tea/ Coffee, Hot chocolate packs, Face masks, Sanitizer, Body Wash, Lotions, Perfume, Toiletries, Coffee mugs, Books, Magazines, Candles, Knitting supplies, Toys, Blankets, Games, Colouring books, Colouring Pencils, Painting kits. For any inquiries please email Ian Epondulan: youtholol7h@gmail.com

BISHOPS CHRISTMAS APPEAL Thank you for your generous support last weekend, your gift will support CatholicCare's House to Homes. For those of you who may not have had a chance to support this important social service, please complete the giving envelope. Your kind donation today will help the lives of homeless young women. Thank you. yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal



ENCYCLICAL LETTER **FRATELLI TUTTI** OF THE HOLY FATHER **FRANCIS** ON FRATERNITY & SOCIAL FRIENDSHIP CHAPTER TWO—A STRANGER ON THE ROAD

56. The previous chapter should not be read as a cool and detached description of today's problems, for "the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the people of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted, are the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well. Nothing that is genuinely human fails to find an echo in their hearts".^[53] In the attempt to search for a ray of light in the midst of what we are experiencing, and before proposing a few lines of action, I now wish to devote a chapter to a parable told by Jesus Christ two thousand years ago. Although this Letter is addressed to all people of good will, regardless of their religious convictions, the parable is one that any of us can relate to and find challenging.

"Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.' But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'" (Lk 10:25-37).

The context

57. This parable has to do with an age-old problem. Shortly after its account of the creation of the world and of man, the Bible takes up the issue of human relationships. Cain kills his brother Abel and then hears God ask: "Where is your brother Abel?" (Gen 4:9). His answer is one that we ourselves all too often give: "Am I my brother's keeper?" (ibid.). By the very question he asks, God leaves no room for an appeal to determinism or fatalism as a justification for our own indifference. Instead, he encourages us to create a different culture, in which we resolve our conflicts and care for one another.

Excerpt from Pope Francis, Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation **FRATELLI TUTTI—to the people of God and to all persons of good will.]**

4/5 December 2021		
Acolytes	Vigil: James Dinning 8am: Ernie Gartner 9.30am Ramzee Michael	
Ministers	Vigil: Helen Gonzales, Chrisa Gonzales 8am: SUB REQ Erika Hien 9.30am: Sarah Lenthall, Crystal Menezes	
Readers	Vigil: Noreen Do Rosario, Alison Punch 8am: Anne McNally, Maricel Santos 9.30am: Stefanie Menezes, Jeanine Nonato	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Alexa Bagatella, Lucas Laus, Amelia Laus 8am: Diana Park, Philip Park, Sean Park 9.30am Rynan Michael, Floencia Wanandy, Gabrielle Wanandy	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Please bring a plate	
Flowers	Fenty, Gaby & Flo	
Church cleaning	9 December	Chuck Baquial, Karen Baquial
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Urge 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: Maria Michael	

11/12 December 2021		
Acolytes	Vigil: Derrick Soares 8am: Faylene Kennedy 9.30am Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: Rosey Soares, SUB REQ 8am: Michael Mifsud, Benno Motha 9.30am: Barbara Chandler, Paul Gow	
Readers	Vigil: Catherine Rodrigues, Alison Punch 8am: Nina Arambulo, Pepito Ferriols 9.30am Jeanine Nonato, SUB REQ	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Karuniya Maruthanayagam, Alex Spadaro, VOLUNTEER 8am: Riley Naing, Erika Naing, Jaylen Naing 9.30am Sofia Culili, Chloe Attard, Majerin Pieris	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Please bring a plate	
Flowers	Karen and Claudette	
Church cleaning	18 December	Helen Gonzales, Dennis Gonzales, Adrian Pinto, Johnson Rozario, Maricel Santos.
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Ugre 8am: Joyce Hillbrick 9.30am: Kathy Chamberlain	

DIOCESAN NEWS

DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE ADVENT RETREAT: 17 – 19 December The Divine Retreat Centre in Somersby, NSW is hosting an Advent Retreat from 6pm Friday 17 December to 4pm Sunday 19 December. All retreats are held with NSW COVID-Safe compliance. For more information and bookings, please contact 0468 486 782 or email drcretrea-trego@gmail.com to confirm attendance. Visit www.divineretreatcentre.org.au for more information.

VINNIES SUPPORT CENTRES 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>

BLUE MOUNTAINS EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE AND FIESTA 2022: 2 – 3 January 2022

Celebrate the Christmas season with a two-day pilgrimage and fiesta! Choose from a classic pilgrimage experience or family adventure pilgrimage on Sunday, 2 January then join the family-friendly festivities at St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook including Mass, a festive meal and children's movie night. Stay overnight at St Finbar's, then continue the celebrations on Monday 3 January with a morning pilgrimage and Mass in the bush. For more information and to register visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org.

CAMPION COLLEGE AUSTRALIA SUMMER PROGRAM JANUARY 2022

Registration for the Campion College Summer Program is now open! If you know a 16-20 year old with an interest in history, literature, philosophy and theology, encourage them to sign up for one of the immersive four-day programs in January 2022. Attendance is fully funded but spaces are limited! Find out more and register on the Campion College website: www.campion.edu.au/summer-program

OLOL PARISH CALENDAR		
DECEMBER 2021		
5	FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS - GRP 2	11.30am
6	ST VINCENT DE PAUL MEETING	7.00pm
7	SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION	7.30pm
9	CHRIST COMMUNITY PARYER GROUP	9.00am
9	LEGION OF MARY	1.30pm
11	YOUNG ADULTS GROUP	7.00pm
12	ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPERS DUE BACK	

PARISH SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Our Parish will celebrate the Second Rite of Reconciliation with the help of our local clergy on **Tuesday 21st December at 7.30pm**. The First Rite of Reconciliation (one to one) will be held on Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd December from 8.30-9.30am

DIOCESAN NEWS

INTERCULTURAL CHRISTMAS ALBUM, to raise funds for House of Welcome A new CD featuring classic Christmas songs in eight languages from the Asia Pacific – Samoan, Filipino, Fijian, Tamil, Tongan, Mandarin, Indonesian and Japanese is raising money for the House of Welcome in the Diocese of Parramatta. Find how to order at linktr.ee/SoundsChristmasAsiaPacific

CENTRAL DEANERY ANNUAL YOUTH MASS AND CELEBRATION: SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER 2021 6-8:30PM AT GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH PLUMPTON

All are welcome to join our young people of the Central Deanery parishes for a special Mass to celebrate the achievements and contributions of the young people in our Diocese of Parramatta. The Mass will be celebrated at Good Shepherd Parish Plumpton, 136 Hyatts Road Plumpton, main celebrant Fr Vincy D'Costa, music by the Good Shepherd Youth Choir followed by a celebration with stalls and entertainment at the forecourt of the parish grounds to celebrate the talents of our young people in the Central Deanery. For any inquires please email Ian Epondulan: cypcentraldeanery@gmail.com



Christmas is a time for celebration, but all the excess that goes with it can also put a strain on the environment: tonnes of extra rubbish, surplus packaging and mega watts of flashing lights. It's a busy time when Australians tend to travel, eat and drink more than usual.

With a little imagination and thought, we can all reduce the impact of the holiday season on the environment and have a happy green Christmas! Here's how:

• **Lighting**

Use LED lights for house and Christmas tree lighting. LED lights use about 80-90% less energy than old light bulbs. Make the effort to turn your lights off when out of the house or before bedtime.

• **Useful Presents**

Give original gifts that will be of real value to your friends and family. Steer away from material presents – gift them a service or experience. Maybe create vouchers for babysitting, cleaning, massage or gardening. Give them a ticket to an event, concert or a fun day out with you. Is there something your friends have always wanted to learn or try out, but never got around to doing? Perhaps they'd like a guitar, cooking or painting lesson?

• **Original Wrapping**

Get creative with your wrapping – newspaper with a bright ribbon looks great or cut out colourful, patterned pages from old magazines to package up presents or use an attractive scarf and make it part of the present.

<https://cncf.com.au/top-tips-for-a-sustainable-christmas/>