

The Epiphany of the Lord
2 January 2022

The puzzle is based on Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV).

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

PRIESTS	MYRRH	BETHLEHEM	KING	CHRIST
GOD	CHILD	HOUSE	INCENSE	MARY
STAR	MAGI	TEACHERS	WORSHIP	MOTHER
WORSHIPED	EAST	SEARCH	BORN	HEROD

Wise men at night Spot-the-difference 01

Can you spot the 10 differences between these 2 pictures of the wise men travelling at night, on their way to Bethlehem to see Jesus?



ColoringPageKids.net

Letter puzzle grid with crown icons and a king on a camel.

and

BONUS: Use the same decoder to figure out what gifts the kings brought.



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: Principal: OLOL 8869 6800
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

The Epiphany of the Lord
2 January 2022 • 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/>

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

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

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

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, security system and solar panels on Church.

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.

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 Senanayake, 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: Fr. Jim Elser SM, Daniel Doolub, Aloysean Corera, Merlene Blackford, John Falzon, Fred MacCarton, Alan Kidd, Danielle Blanch, Eric Byrnes, Cruz Fernandez, Zenaida Garcia, Rose Figura, Floyd Fitzgerald, Daniel Gullifer, Peter Lawman, Felina Cabral Mayuyo, Dr Joe Periera.

Anniversaries: Lionel Bosen, Cini Family, Dennis Clarke, Philomena Corera, Rita de Silva, Ivan Elisher, MA Fernando, Theodore Garcia, Frank Galea, Charlie Gauci, Stephen Gravina, Salvam Irudayaraj, Mangion Family, Irene Moroney, Thelma Morrissey, Anton & Xavier Jnr Motha, Paul Mula, Louis & Stephen Mula, Aurora Nonato, Gil Opina, Jose Reyes, Laureano Reyes, Tony Vassollo.

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

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.

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 60:1-6*

Arise, shine out Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.
The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. (R.)	The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. (R.)
In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. (R.)	For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

SECOND READING *A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6*

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery.
This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus through the gospel. The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means the least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'
Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child', he said 'and when you have found him, let me know so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and returned to their own country by a different way.
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 ANGELUS ON THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY 2021

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*
Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth. God chose a humble and simple family through which to come into our midst. Let us contemplate in amazement the beauty of this mystery, emphasizing two concrete aspects for our families. The first: *the family is the story from which we originate*. Each one of us has our own story. None of us was born magically, with a magic wand. We all have our own story and the family is the story from which we originate. The Gospel of today's liturgy reminds us that even Jesus is the son of a family story. We see him traveling to Jerusalem with Mary and Joseph for the Passover; then he makes his mommy and daddy worried when they do not find him; found again, he returns home with them (cf. *Lk* 2:41-51). It is beautiful to see Jesus inserted into the warp of familial affections which were born and grew in the caresses and concerns of his parents. This is important for us as well: we come from a story composed of bonds of love, and the person we are today was born not so much out of the material goods that we make use of, but from the love that we have received, from the love in the heart of the family. We may not have been born into an exceptional family, one without problems, but this is our story – everyone must think: this is my story – these are our roots: if we cut them off, life dries up! God did not make us to be lone rangers, but to walk together. Let us thank him and pray to him for our families. God thinks about us and wants us to be together: grateful, united, capable of preserving our roots. We need to think about this, about our own story. The second aspect: *we need to learn each day how to be a family*. In the Gospel, we see that even in the Holy Family things did not all go well: there were unexpected problems, anxiety, suffering. The Holy Family on holy cards does not exist. Mary and Joseph lose Jesus and search for him anxiously, only to find him three days later. And when, seated among the teachers in the Temple, he responds that he had to be about his Father's business, they do not understand. They need time to learn to know their son. So it is with us too: each day, a family needs to learn how to listen to each other to understand each other, to walk together, to face conflicts and difficulties. It is a daily challenge and it is overcome with the right attitude, through simple actions, caring for the details of our relationships. And this too helps us a lot in order to talk within the family, talk at table, dialogue between parents and children, dialogue among siblings. It helps us experience our family roots that come from our grandparents. Dialogue with the grandparents!
And how is this done? Let us look to Mary, who in today's Gospel says to Jesus: "Your father and I have been searching for you" (v. 48). *Your* father and *I*; it does not say, *I* and *your* father. Before the "I", comes "you"! Let us learn this: before the "I" comes "you". In my language there is an adjective for the people who put the "I" before the "you": "Me, myself and I, for myself and my own good". People who are like this – first "I" and then "you". No, in the Holy Family, first "you" and then "I". To protect harmony in the family, *the dictatorship of the "I"* needs to be fought – when the "I" inflates. It is dangerous when, instead of listening to each other, we blame each other for mistakes; when, rather than showing care for each other, we are fixated on our own needs; when instead of dialoguing, we isolate ourselves with our mobile phones – it is sad at dinner in a family when everyone is on their own cell phones without speaking to each other, everyone speaking on their own phones; when we mutually accuse each other, always repeating the same phrases, restaging an old scene in which each person wants to be right and that always ends in cold silence, that silence you can cut with a knife, cold, after a family discussion. This is horrible, really horrible! I repeat a piece of advice: in the evening, when everything is over, always make peace. Never go to bed without making peace, otherwise there will be a "cold war" the next day! And this is dangerous because it initiates a series of scolding, a series of resentments. How many times, unfortunately, conflicts originate and grow within the domestic walls due to prolonged periods of silence and from unchecked selfishness! Sometimes it even ends up in physical and moral violence. This lacerates harmony and kills the family. Let us convert ourselves from "I" to "you". What must be more important in a family is "you". And please, each day, let us pray a little bit together – if you can make the effort – to ask God for the gift of peace. And let us all commit ourselves – parents, children, Church, society – to sustain, defend and safeguard the family which is our treasure! May the Virgin Mary, the spouse of Joseph, the mamma of Jesus, protect our families.

POPE FRANCIS: ‘URBI ET ORBI’ MESSAGE 2021

Dear brothers and sisters, Happy Christmas!

The Word of God, who created the world and who gives meaning to history and to humanity’s journey, became flesh and came to dwell among us. He came like a whisper, like the murmur of a gentle breeze, to fill with wonder the heart of every man and woman who is open to this mystery.

The Word became flesh in order to dialogue with us. God does not desire to carry on a monologue, but a dialogue. For God himself, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, *is* dialogue, an eternal and infinite communion of love and life.

By the coming of Jesus, the Person of the Word made flesh, into our world, God showed us the way of encounter and dialogue. Indeed, he made that way incarnate in himself, so that we might know it and follow it, in trust and hope.

Sisters and brothers, “what would our world be like without the patient dialogue of the many generous persons who keep families and communities together?” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 198). In this time of pandemic, we have come to realize this more and more. Our capacity for social relationships is sorely tried; there is a growing tendency to withdraw, to do it all by ourselves, to stop making an effort to encounter others and do things together. On the international level too, there is the risk of avoiding dialogue, the risk that this complex crisis will lead to taking shortcuts rather than setting out on the longer paths of dialogue. Yet only those paths can lead to the resolution of conflicts and to lasting benefits for all.

Indeed, even as the message of the birth of the Saviour, the source of true peace, resounds in our hearts and in the whole world, we continue to witness a great number of conflicts, crises and disagreements. These never seem to end; by now we hardly even notice them. We have become so used to them that immense tragedies are now being passed over in silence; we risk not hearing the cry of pain and distress of so many of our brothers and sisters.

Let us think of the people of Syria, who for more than a decade have experienced a war that has resulted in many victims and an untold number of displaced persons. Let us look to Iraq, which still struggles to recover from a lengthy conflict. Let us listen to the cry of children arising from Yemen, where an enormous tragedy, overlooked by everyone, has silently gone on for years, causing deaths every day.

Let us recall, too, the continuing tensions between Israelis and Palestinians that drag on without a resolution, with ever more serious social and political consequences. Nor should we forget Bethlehem, the place of Jesus’ birth, which is experiencing hardship also from the economic repercussions of the pandemic, preventing pilgrims from visiting the Holy Land and adversely affecting the life of the people. Let us think of Lebanon, which is undergoing an unprecedented crisis, accompanied by very troubling economic and social conditions.

Yet, in the heart of the night, look! The sign of hope! Today, “the Love that moves the sun and the other stars” (*Paradiso*, XXXIII, 145), as Dante says, became flesh. He came in human form, he shared in our plight and he broke down the wall of our indifference. In the cold of the night, he stretches out his tiny arms towards us: he is in need of everything, yet he comes to give us everything. Let us ask him for the strength *to be open to dialogue*. On this festive day, let us implore him to stir up in the hearts of everyone a yearning for reconciliation and fraternity. Let us now turn to him in prayer.

Baby Jesus, grant peace and concord to the Middle East and the whole world. Sustain all those who provide humanitarian aid to peoples forced to flee from their homelands; comfort the Afghan people, who for more than forty years have been sorely tested by conflicts that have driven many to leave the country.

King of all peoples, help political authorities bring peace to societies roiled by tension and conflict. Sustain the people of Myanmar, where intolerance and violence not infrequently target the Christian community and its places of worship, clouding the peaceful countenance of that people.

Be a source of light and support for all those who believe in and strive, despite all obstacles, to advance encounter and dialogue. In Ukraine, prevent fresh outbreaks of a long-festering conflict.

Prince of Peace, help Ethiopia to find once again the path of reconciliation and peace through a forthright encounter that places the needs of the people above all else. Listen to the plea of those living in the Sahel region, who experience the violence of international terrorism. Turn your gaze to the peoples of the countries of North Africa, tormented by divisions, unemployment and economic inequality. Alleviate the pain of our many brothers and sisters who suffer from internal conflicts in Sudan and South Sudan.

Grant that, through dialogue, mutual respect and recognition of the rights and cultural values of every human being, the values of solidarity, reconciliation and peaceful coexistence may prevail in the hearts of the peoples of the Americas.

Son of God, comfort the victims of violence against women, which has increased in this time of pandemic. Offer hope to young children and adolescents suffering from bullying and abuse. Show consolation and warmth to the elderly, especially those who feel most alone. Give serenity and unity to families, the first educators of their children and the basis of the fabric of society.

God-with-us, grant health to the infirm and inspire all men and women of good will to seek the best ways possible to overcome the current health crisis and its effects. Open hearts to ensure that necessary medical care – and vaccines in particular – are provided to those peoples who need them most. Repay those who generously devote themselves to caring for family members, the sick and the most vulnerable in our midst.

Child of Bethlehem, grant that the many military and civilian prisoners of war and recent conflicts, and all those imprisoned for political reasons, may soon return home. Do not leave us indifferent before the tragic situation of migrants, displaced persons and refugees. Their eyes beg us not to look the other way, ignoring our common humanity, but instead to make their stories our own and to be mindful of their plight.

Eternal Word become flesh, make us attentive to our common home, which is suffering from the carelessness with which we so often treat it. Inspire political leaders to reach effective agreements, so that future generations can live in an environment respectful of life.

Dear brothers and sisters, amid all the many problems of our time, hope prevails, “for to us a child is born” (*Is* 9:6). He is the word of God, who became an infant, capable only of crying, and in need of help for everything. He wished to learn how to speak, like every other child, so that we might learn to listen to God, our Father, to listen to one another and to dialogue as brothers and sisters.

O Christ, born for our sake, teach us to walk beside you on the paths of peace.

Happy Christmas to all!



FROM FR. HENRY DUC

Dear Friends,

During the recent meeting for clergy and religious people, I happened to sit at lunch time next to a clergy whom I have known for many years, but didn’t know that astronomy has been his hobby. He was so excited to enlighten me with the latest news in astronomy, especially the launch of the largest telescope called James Webb, the man leading NASA in the decade before the moon landing. It is said this James Webb is 100 times more powerful than the Hubble and promised to provide humanity a better understanding of the universe.

Anyway, when asked about the practical application of the latest scientific knowledge into theology, he told me with no hesitation, ‘it clearly points the finger to the One we call God behind all the stars and galaxies out there, and there is no doubt about it.’ And I think so, too.

My priest friend, I guess, is luckier than the Wise Men in the Gospel story for the feast of the Epiphany today, since he obviously knows better about the stars in the sky thanks to the ongoing developments in Astrophysics and astronomy, something unavailable to the Wise Men in the past, who had to rely on their eyes to spot the special star in the sky telling them about the birth of the infant king of the Jews and guiding them through the challenging journey to meet him. This, in fact, is a feast filled with symbolism, not just with its Gospel reading, but with its name as well.

It is interesting to remember that the word ‘epiphany’ comes from the Greek word meaning ‘manifestation’ or ‘appearance’. In Greek mythology, the word describes a time when a god appeared among human beings, and in our Christian context, it means to indicate the manifestation of Jesus to the whole world, represented by the Wise Men.

The Wise Men are also known to us as the Magi, the word coming from the Greek word ‘magoi’, which originally referred to the educated priestly class in Persia, then later applied to any knowledgeable individual.

The star today reminds us of the ancient belief that a new star appeared in the sky each time a child was born. So when they saw the shining star they concluded that someone very important had been born, and began the search for such a VIP. Their journey to look for Jesus obviously was uneasy since they had to conquer unknown territories and deal with cunning people such as Herod, who was so deceptive and interested in nothing but power.

The packages of gold, frankincense, and myrrh which they brought along as gifts to offer Jesus seemed to reflect their profound respect given to him, since they were kind of the best and most expensive objects of the time. Theologically they have been understood as the symbols of Jesus’ divinity, death, and resurrection.

Today, let us focus on the challenging trip the Wise Men were committed to take on in their search for Jesus, it seems to remind each of us of our faith journey we have been called to embark. This journey of ours is leading us to the encounter with the Son of God, an encounter worth our best efforts, but sometimes might have been filled with testing times.

Let us give praise and thanks for the star of faith inspiring and guiding us in our journey to follow Jesus, and pray for the grace to comfort and strengthen us to overcome the hurdles in times of difficulties and uncertainties.

Have a faith-filled week and a blessed New Year

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office will be closed during January, to allow our staff to take a well-deserved break, and as a result there will be no weekly bulletin during this period of time. Sorry for any inconvenience.

We wish you a wonderful New Year and many blessings and a warm welcome for 2022. 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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. May the love of God continue to fill and warm your heart today and all the days ahead in the coming year 2022, and be with you on your mission to share it with the wider world.



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.

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 DIAMOND JUBILEE – 60TH ANNIVERSARY

2022 is going to be a special time for our Parish community, since it marks our 60th anniversary. We shall begin our one-year long celebration with a thanksgiving Mass on our feast day followed by some outdoor activities on Sunday 13th February, and complete it with another celebration on the feast of the Immaculate Conception on Sunday 11 December. Please put these important dates in your diaries. More information shall be made available soon.

2022 MINISTRY ROSTERS are now available. You can find a copy at the back of the church or on the Ministry Pro website. If you require more copies, please contact the Parish office. secretary@olol7hills.com.au

FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Our Parish-based Sacramental Program takes place every year preparing children in years 3 and over, for the Sacraments of Penance and First Holy Communion Commencing with an enrolment Mass on the **6th February 2022**. For further information please contact the parish office email - secretary@olol7hills.com.au



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

The characters of the story

72. The parable begins with the robbers. Jesus chose to start when the robbery has already taken place, lest we dwell on the crime itself or the thieves who committed it. Yet we know them well. We have seen, descending on our world, the dark shadows of neglect and violence in the service of petty interests of power, gain and division. The real question is this: will we abandon the injured man and run to take refuge from the violence, or will we pursue the thieves? Will the wounded man end up being the justification for our irreconcilable divisions, our cruel indifference, our intestine conflicts?

73. The parable then asks us to take a closer look at the passers-by. The nervous indifference that makes them pass to the other side of the road – whether innocently or not, whether the result of disdain or mere distraction – makes the priest and the Levite a sad reflection of the growing gulf between ourselves and the world around us. There are many ways to pass by at a safe distance: we can retreat inwards, ignore others, or be indifferent to their plight. Or simply look elsewhere, as in some countries, or certain sectors of them, where contempt is shown for the poor and their culture, and one looks the other way, as if a development plan imported from without could edge them out. This is how some justify their indifference: the poor, whose pleas for help might touch their hearts, simply do not exist. The poor are beyond the scope of their interest.

74. One detail about the passers-by does stand out: they were religious, devoted to the worship of God: a priest and a Levite. This detail should not be overlooked. It shows that belief in God and the worship of God are not enough to ensure that we are actually living in a way pleasing to God. A believer may be untrue to everything that his faith demands of him, and yet think he is close to God and better than others. The guarantee of an authentic openness to God, on the other hand, is a way of practising the faith that helps open our hearts to our brothers and sisters. Saint John Chrysostom expressed this pointedly when he challenged his Christian hearers: “Do you wish to honour the body of the Saviour? Do not despise it when it is naked. Do not honour it in church with silk vestments while outside it is naked and numb with cold” [58] Paradoxically, those who claim to be unbelievers can sometimes put God’s will into practice better than believers.

75. “Robbers” usually find secret allies in those who “pass by and look the other way”. There is a certain interplay between those who manipulate and cheat society, and those who, while claiming to be detached and impartial critics, live off that system and its benefits. There is a sad hypocrisy when the impunity of crime, the use of institutions for personal or corporate gain, and other evils apparently impossible to eradicate, are accompanied by a relentless criticism of everything, a constant sowing of suspicion that results in distrust and confusion. The complaint that “everything is broken” is answered by the claim that “it can’t be fixed”, or “what can I do?” This feeds into disillusionment and despair, and hardly encourages a spirit of solidarity and generosity. Plunging people into despair closes a perfectly perverse circle: such is the agenda of the invisible dictatorship of hidden interests that have gained mastery over both resources and the possibility of thinking and expressing opinions.

76. Let us turn at last to the injured man. There are times when we feel like him, badly hurt and left on side of the road. We can also feel helpless because our institutions are neglected and lack resources, or simply serve the interests of a few, without and within. Indeed, “globalized society often has an elegant way of shifting its gaze. Under the guise of being politically correct or ideologically fashionable, we look at those who suffer without touching them. We televise live pictures of them, even speaking about them with euphemisms and with apparent tolerance” [59]

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

1/2 January 2022			8/9 JANUARY 2022		
Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Ernie Gartner 9.30am SUB REQ		Acolytes	Vigil: James Dinning 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am SUB REQ	
Ministers	Vigil: Chrisha Gonzales, Charmaine Jansz 8am: Maricel Santos, SUB REQ 9.30am: Sarah Lenthall, SUB REQ		Ministers	Vigil: Kilifi Huihui, Kamela Huihui 8am: Louis Fernandes, Lorraine Fernandes 9.30am: Adrian Walker, Maria Michael	
Readers	Vigil: Noreen Do Rosario, Benno Motha 8am: Pepito Ferriols, Anne McNally 9.30am: Stefanie Menezes, Crystal Menezes		Readers	Vigil: Marinela Simic, Alison Punch 8am: Nina Arambulo, Kathy Walker 9.30am: Noel Emmanuel, Jeanine Nonato	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Dominic Sant, SUB REQ 8am: SUB REQ 9.30am SUB REQ		Altar Servers	Vigil: Noah Ebb, Alexa Bagatella 8am: SUB REQ 9.30am Majerin Pieris, Sofia Culili, Chloe Attard	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Please bring a plate		Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Please bring a plate	
Flowers	Team		Flowers	Annette and Mary B	
Church cleaning	5 January	Carole Brooks, Lourdes Spiteri, VOLUNTEERS	Church cleaning	13 January	Cathy Hutchings, Annette Peatman, Sandy Manamperi
Welcomers	Vigil: Helen Gonzales 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: VOLUNTEER		Welcomers	Vigil: John Jordan 8am: Joyce Hillbrick 9.30am: Kathy Chamberlain	

DIOCESAN NEWS

SYNOD OF BISHOPS—HAVE YOUR SAY

Catholics across Australia are invited to participate in a period of local consultation for the next international Synod of Bishops, which has the theme: “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission”. Pope Francis has invited us to embark on this journey together, with the first step being to contribute our thoughts to the conversation. You can contribute to the conversation at bit.ly/listeningchurch and find out more at <http://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>

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

FOCOLARE COMMUNITY MARIAPOLIS GATHERING 21 – 24 January 2022

The Focolare community in Sydney would like to invite you to their annual gathering called a Mariapolis at the Collaroy Centre from 21 to 24 January 2022. The word Mariapolis literally means ‘City of Mary’ and refers to the annual Focolare gathering where youth and adults can experience how life is transformed when we live the universal values of the Gospel. For more information, please ring the Focolare centre on (02) 8971 8373.

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

OLOL PARISH CALENDAR		
JANUARY 2022		
1	MARY, MOTHER OF JESUS	
3-23	PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	
6	CHRIST COMMUNITY PRAYER GROUP	9AM
27	LEGION OF MARY recommences	1:00 PM
26	AUSTRALIA DAY	
FEBRUARY		
6	SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION —ENROLMENT MASS	9.30AM
10	OVER 50’S MEETING - HALL	10.30PM

RCIA Lenten Seminar 2022: 16 and 23 February 2022

The Office For Worship will be conducting an RCIA Lenten Seminar early next year on Wednesday nights of 16 and 23 February for RCIA coordinators and teams. This seminar will focus on the understanding of Lent, and will take a closer look at the Scrutiny Readings. To register or for more information, please contact the Office for Worship on (02) 8838 3456 or anne.stanton@parracatholic.org

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK MASS 2022: 11 February

The Annual World Day of the Sick Mass will be celebrated by Vicar General Fr Peter Williams and clergy of the Diocese on 11 February 2022 at 11am at St Patrick’s Church, Blacktown. The Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes will be celebrated and will include the Rite of Anointing of the Sick and prayer of blessing for all carers. Refreshments will be available after Mass. For catering purposes, please RSVP to anne.stanton@parracatholic.org or (02) 8838 3456.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION INTRODUCTION AND RENEWAL DAY: 20 February

You are invited to a Christian Meditation Introduction and Renewal Day at St Benedict’s Monastery, 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia, on Sunday 20 February from 10.30am to 3pm, with registration from 10am. BYO picnic lunch and other refreshments. No need to register ahead of time. Donations welcome. For enquiries, please contact either Ann Bergman on anniebergman@hotmail.com or Ann Lomas on atlomas@bigpond.com or (02) 9653 2637.



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=mrXS7vUpI8A>

-Celebrating Parish Milestones – ~2 mins (children, families and adults) – (<https://youtu.be/5WHzoQL7DBc>)

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

-Return to Church – ~4 mins (adults) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4K8p53AT87s>