

# THE PROMISE OF CHRISTMAS

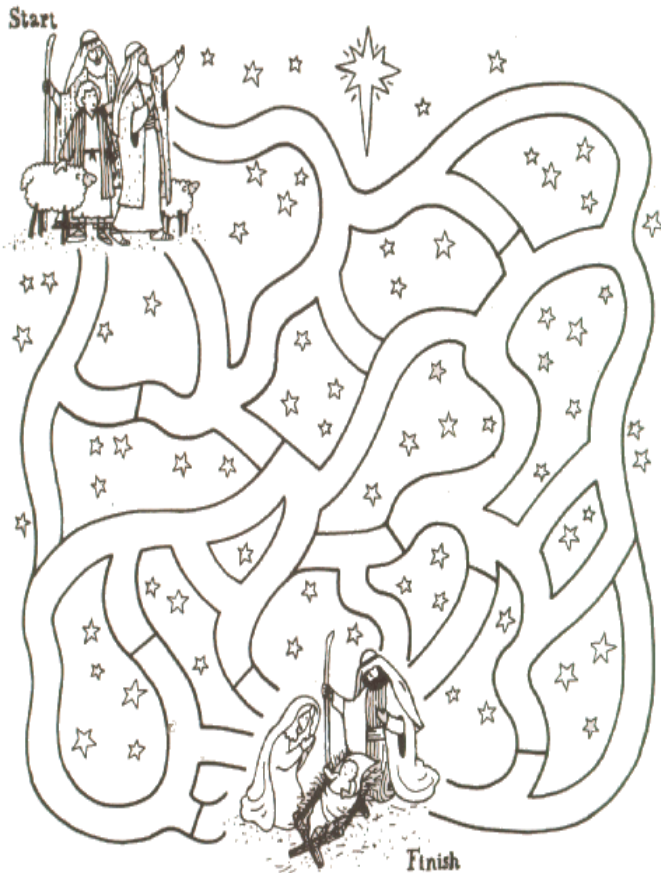
Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.



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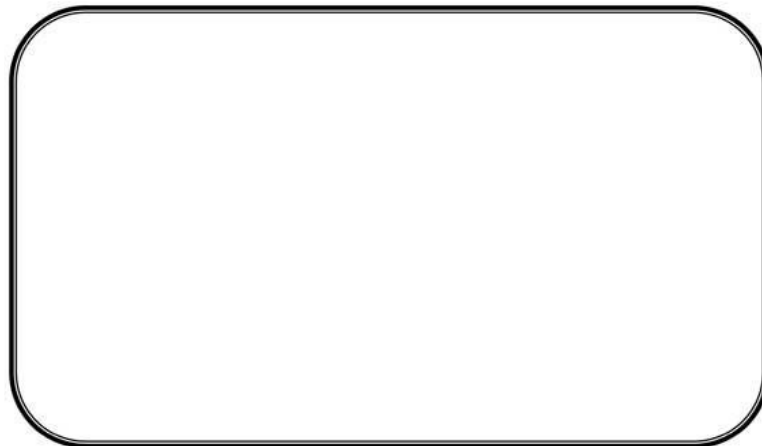


Help the shepherds find the path to Jesus.



Draw a picture of your family.

## My Family



Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,  
help our family to be  
more and more like your  
Holy Family.



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7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills, NSW. 2147 Ph. 9622 2920 Email: secretary@lol7hills.com.au

<b>Parish Priest:</b>	Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran	<b>Parish School:</b>	LOLO 8869 6800
<b>Parish Office Team:</b>	Mrs Erika Hien, Alison Lette, Kim Dang, Sarah Lenthall.	<b>Principal:</b>	Ms Keiran Byrnes
<b>Sacrament Co-Ordinator:</b>	Mrs Artelle Lenthall	<b>Reconciliation:</b>	Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
<b>Office Hours: Monday-Friday:</b>	9am - 3.00pm	<b>Baptismal Preparation:</b>	16th February 2022
<b>WEEKDAY MASS:</b>	Tuesday—Friday 8.00am	<b>Baptism:</b>	30th January 2022
<b>WEEKEND MASS:</b>	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9:30am	<b>Parish Website:</b>	www.lol7hills.com.au
		<b>Pastoral Care of the Sick:</b>	Bathista Emmanuel 0405833655




## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph 26 December • Year C • 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/>

**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 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:** Merlene Blackford, John Falzon, Salvam Irudayaraj, Fred MaCarton, Dr Joe Pereira, 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 Enfesta, 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,



### 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 first book of Samuel 1:20-22,24-28*

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.' When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I shall bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever'. When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.' There she left him, for the Lord. The word of the Lord

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**(R.) How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.**

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, God of hosts.  
My soul is longing and yearning,  
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.  
My heart and my soul ring out their  
joy to God, the living God. **(R.)**

O Lord, God of hosts,  
hear my prayer, give ear,  
O God of Jacob.  
Turn your eyes, O God, our shield,  
look on the face of your anointed. **(R.)**

They are happy, who dwell in your house,  
for ever singing your praise.  
They are happy, whose strength is in you;  
they walk with ever growing strength. **(R.)**

**SECOND READING** *A reading from the first letter of St John 3:1-2,21-24*

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed, all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us. The word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Open our heart, O Lord,  
to listen to the words of your Son.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 2:41-52*

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere. Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant. He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men. 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: THE BIRTH OF JESUS**

The Magi are also around the newborn Jesus (cf. *Mt* 2:1-12). The Gospels do not tell us who the kings might have been, nor how many there were, nor what their names were. The only thing we know for certain is that they came from a distant country in the East (perhaps from Babylonia, or Arabia, or Persia of that time), they set out on a journey seeking the King of the Jews, whom they identified with God in their hearts because they said they wanted to adore him. The Magi represent the pagan peoples, in particular all those who have sought God down through the ages, and who set out on a journey to find Him. They also represent the rich and powerful, but only those who are not slaves to possessions, who are not "possessed" by the things they believe they possess.

The message of the Gospels is clear: the birth of Jesus is a universal event that concerns all of humanity.

Dear brothers and sisters, *humility is the only way* that leads us to God. At the same time, specifically because it leads us to Him, humility leads us also to the essentials of life, to its truest meaning, to the most trustworthy reason for why life is truly worth living.

Humility alone opens us up to the experience of truth, of authentic joy, of knowing what matters. Without humility we are "cut off", we are cut off from understanding God and from understanding ourselves. Humility is needed to understand ourselves, all the more so to understand God. The Magi may have even been great according to the world's logic, but they made themselves lowly, humble, and precisely because of this they succeeded in finding Jesus and recognising Him. They accepted the humility of seeking, of setting out on a journey, of asking, of taking a risk, of making a mistake.

Every person, in the depths of his or her heart, is called to seek God: we all have that restlessness. Our work is not to snuff out that restlessness, but to allow it to grow because it is that restlessness that seeks God; and, with His own grace, can find Him.

We can make this prayer of Saint Anselm (1033-1109) our own: "*Lord, teach me to seek you, and reveal yourself to me as I seek, because I can neither seek you if you do not teach me how, nor find you unless you reveal yourself. Let me seek you in desiring you; let me desire you in seeking you; let me find you in loving you; let me love you in finding you.*" (*Proslogion*, 1).

Dear brothers and sisters, I would like to invite every man and woman to the stable of Bethlehem to adore the Son of God made man. May each one of us draw near to the creche in our own homes or in the church or in another place, and try to make an act of adoration, inside: "*I believe you are God, that this baby is God. Please, grant me the grace of humility to be able to understand*".

In approaching and praying by the crib, I would like to put the *poor* in the front row, those whom – as Saint Paul VI used to exhort – "*we must love because in a certain way they are the sacrament of Christ; in them – in the hungry, the thirsty, the exiles, the naked, the ill, prisoners – He wanted to be mystically identified. We must help them, suffer with them, and also follow them because poverty is the surest path to possess the Kingdom of God in its fullness*" (*Homily*, 1 May 1969). For this reason, we must ask for the grace of humility: "*Lord, that I might not be proud, that I might not be self-sufficient, that I might not believe that I am the centre of the universe. Make me humble. Grant me the grace of humility. And with this humility, may I find You*". It is the only way; without humility we will never find God: we will find ourselves. The reason is that the person who is not humble has no horizon in front of him or her. They only have a mirror in which to look at themselves. Let us ask the Lord to break this mirror so we can look beyond, to the horizon, where He is. But He needs to do this: grant us the grace and the joy of humility to take this path.

Then, brothers and sisters, just like the star did with the Magi, I would like to accompany to Bethlehem all those who have no religious restlessness, who do not pose the question of God, or who may even fight against religion, all those who are improperly identified as *atheists*. I would like to repeat to them the message of the Second Vatican Council: "The Church holds that the recognition of God is in no way hostile to man's dignity, since this dignity is rooted and perfected in God. [...] Above all the Church knows that her message is in harmony with the most secret desires of the human heart" (*Gaudium et Spes*, 21).

Let's return home with the angel's song: "Peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!" Let us always remember: "In this is love, not that we loved God that he loved us [...] he first loved us" (1Jn 4:10, 19), he has sought us. Let's not forget this.

This is the reason for our joy: we are loved, we are sought for, the Lord seeks us to find us, to love us more. This is the reason for joy: knowing that we are loved without any merit, we are always loved first by God, with a love so concrete that He took on flesh and came to live in our midst., in that Baby that we see in the crib. This love has a name and a face: Jesus is the name and the face of love – this is the foundation of our joy.

Brothers and sisters, I wish you a Merry Christmas, a happy and holy Christmas. And I would like that – yes, there are well wishes, family reunions, this is always very beautiful – but may there also be the awareness that God comes "for me". Let's everyone say this: God comes for me. The awareness that to seek God, to find God, to accept God, humility is needed: to seek with humility the grace of breaking the mirror of vanity, of pride, of looking at ourselves. To look at Jesus, to look toward the horizon, to look at God who comes to us and who touches our hearts with that restlessness that brings us hope. Happy and holy Christmas!



## POPE FRANCIS AT ANGELUS ON THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!*

The Gospel of the Liturgy of today, fourth Sunday of Advent, tells of Mary's visit to Elizabeth (cf. *Lk* 1: 39-45). After receiving the annunciation of the angel, the Virgin does not stay at home, thinking over what has happened and considering the problems and pitfalls, which were certainly not lacking: because, poor girl, she did not know what to do with this news, with the culture of that age... She did not understand... On the contrary, she first thinks of someone in need; instead of being absorbed in her own problems, she thinks about someone in need, she thinks about Elizabeth, her relative, who was of advanced years and with child, something strange and miraculous. Mary sets out on with generosity, without letting herself be put off by the discomforts of the journey, responding to an inner impulse that called her to be close and to help. A long road, kilometre after kilometre, and there was no bus to go there: she went on foot. She went out to help. How? By sharing her joy. Mary gives Elizabeth the joy of Jesus, the joy she carried in her heart and in her womb. She goes to her and proclaims her feelings, and this proclamation of feelings then became a prayer, the *Magnificat*, which we all know. And the text says that Our Lady "arose and went with haste" (v. 39).

She *arose and went*. In the last stretch of the journey of Advent, let us be guided by these two verbs. To *arise* and to *go in haste*: these are the two movements that Mary made and that she invites us also to make as Christmas approaches. First of all, *arise*. After the angel's announcement, a difficult period loomed ahead for the Virgin: her unexpected pregnancy exposed her to misunderstandings and even severe punishment, even stoning, in the culture of that time. Imagine how many concerns and worries she had! Nevertheless, she did not become discouraged, she was not disheartened: she arose. She did not look down at her problems, but up to God. And she did not think about whom to ask for help, but to whom to bring help. She always thinks about others: that is Mary, always thinking of the needs of others. She will do the same later, at the wedding in Cana, when she realizes that there is no more wine. It is a problem for other people, but she thinks about this and looks for a solution. Mary always thinks about others. She also thinks of us.

Let us learn from Our Lady this way of reacting: to get up, especially when difficulties threaten to crush us. To arise, so as not to get bogged down in problems, sinking into self-pity or falling into a sadness that paralyzes us. But why get up? Because God is great and is ready to lift us up if we reach out to Him. So let us cast away the negative thoughts, the fears that block every impulse and that prevent us from moving forward. And then let's do as Mary did: let's look around and look for someone to whom we can be of help! Is there an elderly person I know to whom I can give a little help, company? Everyone, think about it. Or to offer a service to someone, a kindness, a phone call? But who can I help? I get up and I help. By helping others, we help ourselves to rise up from difficulties.

The second movement is to *go in haste*. This does not mean to proceed with agitation, in a hurried manner, no, it does not mean this. Instead, it means conducting our days with a joyful step, looking ahead with confidence, without dragging our feet, as slaves to complaints – these complaints ruin so many lives, because one starts complaining and complaining, and life drains away. Complaining leads you always to look for someone to blame. On her way to Elizabeth's house, Mary proceeds with the quick step of one whose heart and life are full of God, full of his joy. So, let us ask ourselves, for our benefit: how is my "step"? Am I proactive or do I linger in melancholy, in sadness? Do I move forward with hope or do I stop and feel sorry for myself? If we proceed with the tired step of grumbling and talking, we will not bring God to anyone, we will only bring bitterness and dark things. Instead, it does great good to cultivate a healthy sense of humour, as did, for example, Saint Thomas More or Saint Philip Neri. We can also ask for this grace, this grace of a healthy sense of humour: it does so much good. Let us not forget that the first act of charity we can do for our neighbour is to offer him a serene and smiling face. It is to bring them the joy of Jesus, as Mary did with Elizabeth.

May the Mother of God take us by the hand, and may she help us to *arise* and to *go in haste* towards Christmas!

## POPE FRANCIS: THE BIRTH OF JESUS

*Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!*

Today, just a few days before Christmas, I would like to recall with you the event history cannot dispense with: the birth of Jesus.

To comply with the Emperor Cesar Augustus' decree that ordered them to go to their place of origin to be registered, Joseph and Mary went from Nazareth down to Bethlehem. As soon as they arrived, they immediately sought lodging since the moment for Mary to give birth was imminent. Unfortunately, they did not find anything. So, Mary was forced to give birth in a stable (cf. *Lk* 2:1-7).

Let's think: the Creator of the universe... He was not given a place to be born! Perhaps this was an anticipation of what the evangelist John would say: "He came to his own home, and his own people received him not" (1:11); and what Jesus Himself would say: "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head" (*Lk* 9:58). It was an angel who announced the birth of Jesus, and he did so to some lowly shepherds. And it was a star that showed the Magi the way to Bethlehem (cf. *Mt* 2:1, 9.10). An angel is a messenger from God. The star reminds us that God created the light (*Gn* 1:3) and that the Baby would be "the light of the world", as He would define himself (cf. *Jn* 8:12, 46), the "true light that enlightens every man" (*Jn* 1:9), that "shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (v. 5).

The shepherds personify the poor of Israel, lowly people who interiorly live with the awareness of their own want. Precisely for this reason, they trust more than others in God. They were the first to see the Son of God made man, and this encounter changed them deeply. The Gospel notes that they returned "glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen" (*Lk* 2:20).



## FROM FR. HENRY DUC

Dear Friends,

Covid-19 has posed an unprecedented threat worldwide and we all know how deadly it is to everyone, starting with the adults and now it has turned to children with the latest variant.

It was bad enough for us in Sydney to go through such a long lockdown, and praise the Lord who helped us to see the end of it just in time to start the Church New Year with minimal impact in term of casualties compared to other places around the world.

From what I know through the media in Vietnam both official and unofficial, thousands of people had their lives cut short as the last wave of the pandemic swept through Saigon, and among them were lots of young parents whose sudden departures have turned thousands of boys and girls into orphans overnight.

I can't help to think of these unfortunate girls and boys, as I go through the Gospel account for the feast of the Holy Family this year, telling us the story about the Holy Family, exactly about how Mary and Joseph took the twelve-year-old Jesus for the annual trip to Jerusalem for the celebration of the Passover, something they had faithfully carried out every year.

The exciting part of the story is of the loss of Jesus when the festive time was over and all pilgrims had to return home, and most interestingly his disappearance had gone unnoticed for three days long.

No one knows why that happened, since Luke failed to include an explanation here. Anyway, biblical scholars tend to agree that the reason Mary and Joseph had kept assuming that Jesus had mixed and mingled with other children in the caravan of pilgrims from the same town, something he might have done before, but deliberately skipped the trip home that year to stay behind in the temple for a chat with the doctors, until Mary and Joseph came back to Jerusalem and found him sitting among the best minds of the community.

Despite three days of worry for the disappearance of Jesus, Mary and Joseph had kept their cool and patience when they found him, and continued to do so, though they had no idea about the Father's affairs that he stated as the reason for his extra stay in the temple.

The last part of the Gospel truly highlights the wonderful virtues the Holy Family has left for all families to ponder upon and put into practice based on the mutual respect each member of the Holy Family has shown each other: Mary had quietly kept all she could not understand then within herself perhaps for further reflection and investigations, and Jesus the Son of God was happy to put himself under the authority of Mary and Joseph just like other children, and managed to grow steadily in wisdom, in stature and in favor with God and all around him.

Let us ask the Lord to bless all parents and children in our parish, and help them remain in such a mutual love and respect that members of the Holy Family have shown the way in the Gospel today, so that all will always be worthy of their call to be extended members of the Holy Family in the world.

Have a joyful week and a happy 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 Christmas 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.

**CHURCH CLEANING:** extra help needed especially for the 1st Wednesday in the month for one hour after the 8 am weekday morning Mass. Extra help would also be appreciated for the other weeks. Please phone Mary on 0447 676 371 if you can help.

### PARISH DIAMOND JUBILEE – 60TH ANNIVERSARY

2022 is going to be a special time for our Parish community, since it marks our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

We shall begin our one-year long celebration with a thanksgiving Mass on our feast day followed by some outdoor activities on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 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](mailto:secretary@olol7hills.com.au)



*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.





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

[A story constantly retold](#)

69. The parable is clear and straightforward, yet it also evokes the interior struggle that each of us experiences as we gradually come to know ourselves through our relationships with our brothers and sisters. Sooner or later, we will all encounter a person who is suffering. Today there are more and more of them. The decision to include or exclude those lying wounded along the roadside can serve as a criterion for judging every economic, political, social and religious project. Each day we have to decide whether to be Good Samaritans or indifferent bystanders. And if we extend our gaze to the history of our own lives and that of the entire world, all of us are, or have been, like each of the characters in the parable. All of us have in ourselves something of the wounded man, something of the robber, something of the passers-by, and something of the Good Samaritan.

70. It is remarkable how the various characters in the story change, once confronted by the painful sight of the poor man on the roadside. The distinctions between Judean and Samaritan, priest and merchant, fade into insignificance. Now there are only two kinds of people: those who care for someone who is hurting and those who pass by; those who bend down to help and those who look the other way and hurry off. Here, all our distinctions, labels and masks fall away: it is the moment of truth. Will we bend down to touch and heal the wounds of others? Will we bend down and help another to get up? This is today's challenge, and we should not be afraid to face it. In moments of crisis, decisions become urgent. It could be said that, here and now, anyone who is neither a robber nor a passer-by is either injured himself or bearing an injured person on his shoulders.

71. The story of the Good Samaritan is constantly being repeated. We can see this clearly as social and political inertia is turning many parts of our world into a desolate byway, even as domestic and international disputes and the robbing of opportunities are leaving great numbers of the marginalized stranded on the roadside. In his parable, Jesus does not offer alternatives; he does not ask what might have happened had the injured man or the one who helped him yielded to anger or a thirst for revenge. Jesus trusts in the best of the human spirit; with this parable, he encourages us to persevere in love, to restore dignity to the suffering and to build a society worthy of the name.

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

25/26 December 2021	
Acolytes	Vigil: Kilifi Huihui 8am: Ernie Gartner 9.30am Ramzee Michael
Ministers	Vigil: <b>SUB REQ</b> Kamela Huihui 8am: <b>SUB REQ, SUB REQ</b> 9.30am: Maria Michael, Eugene Miu
Readers	Vigil: Jemma Sarmiento, Marinela Simic 8am: Maricel Santos, <b>SUB REQ</b> 9.30am Christina Diaz, Faylene Kennedy
Altar Servers	Vigil: Alex Spadaro <b>SUB REQ</b> 8am: <b>SUB REQ</b> 9.30am Rynan Michael, Gabrielle Wanandy, Florencia Wanandy
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Please bring a plate
Flowers	Annette and Mary B
Church cleaning	22 December Sue Abela, Jessie Borg, Anne McNally
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Ugre 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: Kathy Chamberlain

1/2 January 2022		
Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Ernie Gartner 9.30am Fayelene Kennedy	
Ministers	Vigil: Chrisha Gonzales, <b>SUB REQ</b> 8am: Maricel Santos, <b>SUB REQ</b> 9.30am: Sarah Lenthall, <b>SUB REQ</b>	
Readers	Vigil: Noreen Do Rosario, Benno Motha 8am: Pepito Ferriols, Anne McNally 9.30am: Stefanie Menezes, Crystal Menezes	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Lucas Laus, Amelia Laus, Dominic Sant 8am: Diana Park, Philip Park, Sean Park 9.30am <b>VOLUNTEERS</b>	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Please bring a plate	
Flowers	Team	
Church cleaning	5 January	Carole Brooks, Lourdes Spiteri, <b>VOLUNTEERS</b>
Welcomers	Vigil: Helen Gonzales 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: VOLUNTEER	

**DIOCESAN NEWS**

**SUNDAY OBLIGATION** In March 2020 Catholics from the Diocese of Parramatta were dispensed from their Sunday Mass obligation until further notice by virtue of a Decree issued by Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv. From December 15 2021 this Decree is now revoked and the Sunday obligation is now imposed once again given that public health orders no longer require adherence to density limits in our church buildings. <https://parracatholic.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/20211214-AdClerum-821.pdf>

**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>

**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](http://linktr.ee/SoundsChristmasAsiaPacific)

OLOL PARISH CALENDAR		
JANUARY 2022		
1	NEW YEARS DAY MASS	8AM
3-23	PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	
6	CHRIST COMMUNITY PRAYER GROUP	9AM
20	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

**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](http://www.epiphanypilgrimage.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](mailto: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](mailto:anniebergman@hotmail.com) or Ann Lomas on [atomas@bigpond.com](mailto:atomas@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](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/5WHzoOL7DBc>)
- 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>