

Third Sunday of Lent

"God gives us another chance"

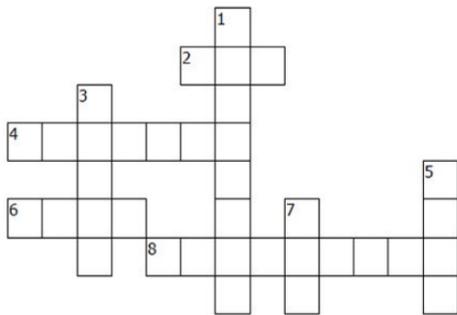


Luke 13:1-9

What's wrong with this fig tree?
See what the two men want to do with it by reading what they say in a mirror.

Living a Fruitful Life

"Sir," the man replied, "leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down." Luke 13:8-9 (NIV)
Based on Luke 13:1-9



ACROSS

- The sweet, pear-shaped, fruit of a plant found in Bible lands.
- A simple story teaching a moral or religious lesson.
- The top layer of the earth's surface favorable to plant growth.
- To spread a something on land or plants to help plants grow.

DOWN

- An area of ground planted with vines and fruit trees.
- The usually sweet-tasting part of a tree which can be eaten.
- A large plant with a trunk, limbs, branches, and leaves.
- To break up and move dirt using a shovel.

DIG	VINEYARD	TREE	PARABLE
FIG	FERTILIZE	SOIL	FRUIT

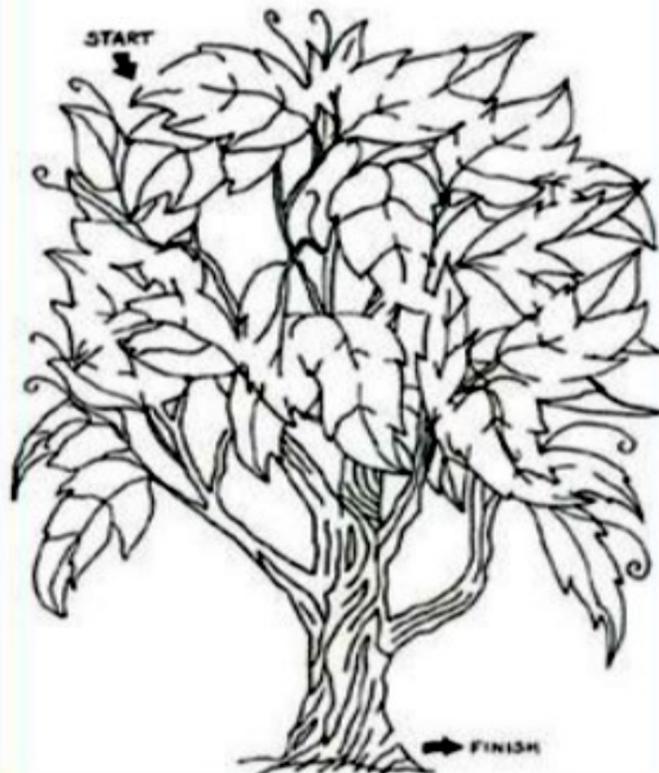
The Parable of the Fig Tree

"Sir," the man replied, "leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down." Luke 13:8-9

The puzzle is based on Luke 13:6-9

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

YEARS	THREE	LOOK	LEAVE	FRUIT
DOWN	FIND	VINEYARD	MAN	TOLD
PLANTED	USE	SOIL	ALONE	FIG
FERTILIZE	DIG	PARABLE	TREE	CUT



OUR LADY OF LOURDES

PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS

"Still a wonderful place to pray & stay"

7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills, NSW. 2147 Ph. 9622 2920 Email: secretary@olol7hills.com.au

Parish Priest: Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran
Parish Office Team: Mrs Erika Hien, Alison Lette, Kim Dang, Sarah Lenthall.
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall
Office Hours: Monday-Friday: 9am - 3.00pm
WEEKDAY MASS: Tuesday—Friday 8.00am
WEEKEND MASS: Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9:30am

Parish School: OLOL 8869 6800
Principal: Ms Keiran Byrnes
Reconciliation: Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
Baptismal Preparation: 18th May 2022
Baptism: 8th May 2022
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.com.au
Pastoral Care of the Sick: Bathista Emmanuel 0405833655

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 20 March • Year C • 2022



Let us Pray for the Sick

Leonila Ahillon, George Alagiah, David Benjamin, Rosella Booth, Barrie Chamberlain, Elizabeth Ehsman, Anush Fernando, Melvyn Fernandes, Joseph Franco, Jose Garcia, Anthony Janicska, 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, Jane Zammit.

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: Nancy 'Audrey' Chelliah, Tom Morrissey Snr, Lorraine Clariage,

Fjner Lauridsen, Charlie Chircop, Randy Farparan, Emily Galea, Dolly Huertas, Garie Monteclaro, Hyacinth Perera, John Thomas, Mimi Wong.

Anniversaries: France Angseesing, Carmen Attard, Sam Batista, Sylvia Batista, Fe Licup Carmen, Saviour Caruana, Dominic, Conception & Monica D'Souza, Tran Thi Mai Dung, Paul Falzon, Fernandes Family, Joseph and Caremena Formosa, Christine Gomez, Ivica Komar, Apolinario Maglaya, Ruth Marsden, Harold, Debbie Mifsud, Fr Joseph Tran Minh, Irene Moroney, Tom Morrissey Snr, Felix & Andranna Muscat, Rosary Silva, Victorio Sing, Bernard & Pauline Soares, Joshep Trinh.

Remembrance: Carmen Attard, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Silvia and Sam Debathista, Ngan Siu Eng, Sammy Formosa, Felina Maglaya, Pauline Meilak, Mary Mifsud, Doris Mifsud, Anton & Lourda Motha, Stephen & Louis Mula, Mary Muscat, Muscat Family, Ngan Pin, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jim & Alison Vella, Mary Zammit,



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.

COVID- 19 UPDATE

- MASKS:** are no longer mandatory but still *strongly encouraged*
- CHECK- IN & RECORD KEEPING :** no longer required
- SINGING:** Both choir and congregation are able to sing at our Churches

As previously communicated, density limits are no longer applicable for our Churches and other buildings within the Parish since December 2021. **HOWEVER OUR SAFETY PLAN STILL RECOMMENDS SOCIAL DISTANCING WHERE POSSIBLE. PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING ANY FLU LIKE SYMPTOMS.**
Please Help Us Keep Our Community 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.

ON-LINE BANK DONATIONS

Account Name: Seven Hills Catholic Church.
BSB: 067 950
ACC: 000552
Reference: (Your Planned Giving envelope number or please write 'DONATION')

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

Seven Hills Catholic Church
BSB: 062 315
Acc Id # - 00901486
AGENT # - 660

FIRST COLLECTION or Matt's Point is for the support of Priests throughout the Diocese.

ON-LINE BANK DONATIONS

Account name: Parramatta Diocesan Clergy
BSB: 067 950
ACC: 00 00 4265
Reference: Seven Hills - 6035



Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

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/OLOL7Hills/>

FIRST READING *A reading from the book of Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15*

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God. And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and abroad, a land where milk and honey flow.' Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.' The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. (R.)

The Lord does deeds of justice,
gives judgment for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses
and his deeds to Israel's sons. (R.)

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion.. (R.)

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him. (R)

SECOND READING *A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12*

I want to remind you, brothers, how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert. These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer. All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall. The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Repent, says the Lord;
The kingdom of heaven is at hand.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 13:1-9

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.' He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down." ' 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 GENERAL AUDIENCE: ELDERLY CAN GUIDE AND SAVE FUTURE GENERATIONS *By Vatican News*

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!
The bible narrative – with the symbolic language of the time in which it was written – tells us something shocking. God was so embittered by the widespread wickedness of humans, which had become a normal style of life, that he thought he had made a mistake in creating them and decided to eliminate them. A radical solution. It might even have a paradoxical twist of mercy. No more humans, no more history, no more judgment, no more condemnation. And many predestined victims of corruption, violence, injustice would be spared forever.

Does it not happen to us as times as well – overwhelmed by the sense of powerlessness against evil or demoralized by the “prophets of doom” – that we think it would be better if we had not been born? Should we give credit to some recent theories, which denounce the human race as an evolutionary detriment to life on our planet? All negative? No.

Indeed, we are under pressure, exposed to opposing stresses that confuse us. On the one hand, we have the optimism of an eternal youth, kindled by the extraordinary progress of technology, that depicts a future full of machines that are more efficient and more intelligent than us, that will cure our ills and devise for us the best solutions so as not to die: the world of robots. On the other hand, our imagination appears increasingly concentrated on the representation of a final catastrophe that will extinguish us. What happens with an eventual nuclear war. The “day after” this – if there will still be days and human beings – will have to start again from scratch. Destroying everything to start again from scratch. I do not want to trivialize the idea of progress, naturally. But it seems that the symbol of the flood is gaining ground in our subconscious. Besides, the current pandemic puts a heavy weight on our carefree representation of the things that matter, for life and its destiny.

In the bible story, when it comes to saving life on earth from corruption and from the flood, God entrusts the task to the fidelity of the eldest of all, the “righteous” Noah. Will old age save the world, I wonder? In what sense? And how will old age save the world? And what is the prospect? Life after death or just survival until the flood?

A word of Jesus, that evokes “the days of Noah”, will help us to explore more deeply the meaning of the bible passage we have heard. Jesus, speaking about the end times, says, “As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be in the days of the Son of Man. They ate, they drank, they married, they were given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all” (Lk 17:26-27). Indeed, eating and drinking, taking a husband or wife, are very normal things and do not seem to be examples of corruption. Where is the corruption? Where is the corruption there? In reality, Jesus stresses the fact that human beings, when they limit themselves to enjoying life, lose even the perception of corruption, which mortifies their dignity and poisons meaning. When the perception of corruption is lost, and corruption becomes something normal: everything has its price, everything! Opinions, acts of justice, are bought and sold. This is common in the world of business, in the world of many professions. And corruption is even experienced in a carefree way, as if it were part of the normality of human wellbeing. When you go to do something, and it is slow, that process of doing things is a bit slow, how often do you hear: “Yes, but if you give me a tip, I will speed it up”. Very often. “Give me something and I will take it further”. We are well aware of this, all of us. The world of corruption seems to be part of the normality of the human being, and this is bad. This morning I spoke with a woman who told me about this problem in her homeland. The goods of life are consumed and enjoyed without concern for the spiritual quality of life, without care for the habitat of the common home. Everything is exploited, without concerning themselves with the mortification and disheartenment of which many suffer, nor with the evil that poisons the community. As long as normal life can be filled with “wellbeing”, we do not want to think about what makes it empty of justice and love. “But I am fine! Why should I think about problems, about wars, about human suffering, all that poverty, all that evil? No, I am fine. I don’t care about others”. This is the subconscious thought that leads us towards living in a state of corruption. Can corruption become normal, I wonder? Brothers and sisters, unfortunately, yes. We can breathe the air of corruption just as we breathe oxygen. “But it is normal; if you want me to do this faster, what will you give me?” It is normal! It is normal, but it is a bad thing, it is not good! What paves the way for this? One thing: the carefreeness that turns only to self-care: this is the gateway to the corruption that sinks the lives of all of us. Corruption benefits greatly from this ungodly carefreeness. When everything is going well for someone, and others do not matter to him or her: this thoughtlessness it weakens our defenses, it dulls our consciences and it turns us – even involuntarily – into accomplices. Because corruption is not solitary: a person always has accomplices. And corruption always spreads, it spreads.

Old age is in a good position to grasp the deception of this normalization of a life obsessed with enjoyment and empty of interiority: life without thought, without sacrifice, without beauty, without truth, without justice, without love: this is all corruption. The special sensibility of us old people, of old age for the attention, thoughts and affections that make us human, should once again become the vocation of many. And it will be a choice of the love of the elderly towards the new generations. We will be the ones to sound the alarm, the alert: “Be aware, this is corruption, it will bring you nothing”. There is a great need today for the wisdom of the elderly to counteract corruption. The new generations expect of us, the elderly, a word that is prophecy, that opens the doors to new perspectives outside that carefree world of corruption, of the habit of corrupt things. God’s blessing chooses old age, for this charism that is so human and humanizing. What is the meaning of my old age? Each one of us elderly people can ask ourselves this. The meaning is this: being a prophet of corruption and saying to others: “Stop, I have taken this road and it does not lead you anywhere! Now I will tell you about my experience”. We, the elderly, should be prophets against corruption, just as Noah was the prophet against the corruption of his time, because he was the only one in whom God trusted. I ask you all – and I also ask myself: is my heart open to being a prophet against corruption today? It is a bad thing, when seniors do not mature, and become old people with the same corrupt habits of the young. Think of the bible story of the judges of Susanna: they are the example of a corrupt old age. And we, with this type of old age, would not be capable of being prophets for the young generations.

And Noah is the example of this generative old age: it is not corrupt, it is generative. Noah does not preach, he does not complain, he does not recriminate, but rather he takes care of the future of the generation that is in danger. We seniors must take care of the young, of children who are in danger. He builds the ark of acceptance and lets people and animals enter it. In his care for life, in all its forms, Noah obeys God’s commandment, repeating the tender and generous gesture of creation, which in reality is the very thought that inspires the command of God: a new blessing, a new creation (cf. Gen 8: 15-9,17). Noah’s vocation remains ever relevant. The holy patriarch must once again intercede for us. And we, women and men of a certain age – so as not to say elderly, as some will be offended – let us not forget that we have the possibility of wisdom, of saying to others: “Look, this path of corruption leads nowhere”. We must be like the good wine that, once aged, can give a good message, not a bad one.

I appeal today to all those people who are of a certain age, so as not to say elderly. Be careful: you have the responsibility to denounce the human corruption in which we live and in which this way of living of relativism goes on, totally relative, as if everything were legitimate. Let us move forward. The world needs strong young people, who move forward, and wise elders. Let us ask the Lord for the grace of wisdom.

THE POPE'S VOICE, CRYING OUT IN THE DESERT

By Andrea Torielli

At the Angelus on Sunday, 13 March, the ninth anniversary of his election as Bishop of Rome, Francis unequivocally spoke about the "barbarity of the killing of children, of innocents" that is taking place, urging a halt to the "massacre" and an end to what he called the "unacceptable armed aggression" against Ukraine. The Pope also noted that those who support violence by justifying it with religious motives, "profane the name" of God who is "only the God of peace."

Even before the invasion by the Russian army began, Francis had said at the Angelus on Sunday, 20 February, "how sad it is when people and peoples who are proud to be Christians see others as enemies and think of waging war against each other! It is very sad." He also asked that Ash Wednesday, when the Lenten journey began, be dedicated to fasting and prayer for peace. More so, the day after the outbreak of the conflict, after the first bombings of Ukraine, the Pope personally went to the Embassy of the Russian Federation to the Holy See to present all his concerns about the war to the representative of the Kremlin, urging for the pursuit of the path of negotiation and for civilians to be spared. At the Angelus on Sunday, 6 March, Pope Francis also highlighted the reality of the hypocrisy of the Russian government, which insists on calling the ongoing war a "special military operation" masking its true and raw reality, behind word games: that of a war of aggression.

To make concrete his personal closeness to the victims and to the millions of displaced persons fleeing the war, the Bishop of Rome has sent two cardinals to bring help and support to the refugees and to those who generously welcome them.

Meanwhile, on several occasions, Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, has expressed the Holy See's willingness to assist in any way possible in any form of mediation, and has asked Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to cease attacks and to guarantee genuine humanitarian corridors. Vatican diplomacy keeps repeating that it's never too late to initiate real negotiations, and it's never too late for a ceasefire in a war of incalculable and unrelenting consequences that risks leading to a terrifying escalation of war.

In recent weeks, Pope Francis has been the subject of some criticism from those who hoped that in his public statements he would explicitly mention the name of Vladimir Putin and Russia, as if the words of the pastor of the universal Church were supposed to reflect the dictates of a television news set list. Since this did not happen, the voice of the Pope was not given much attention, as his appeals did not correspond to the desired cliché of the Pontiff "chaplain" of the West, ready to enlist God and bless war in his name.

There are those who have accused the Pope of "silence" for not having explicitly named Putin, forgetting that when the war began, the pontiffs never called the aggressor by name and surname, not out of cowardice or an excess of diplomatic prudence, but in order not to close the door, in order to always leave a crack open to the possibility of stopping evil and saving human lives. Even St. John Paul II, born in a martyred nation like Poland, victim of Nazism and Communism, during the war in Kosovo in 1999, never named the perpetrators of ethnic cleansing, always keeping a channel of contact open with Serbia. The Holy See believed that efforts should be made to put an end to the massacres against the Albanian population, even if it deplored the grief and wounds caused by the massive recourse to NATO bombing. Pope St. John Paul II did not even name the Western Heads of State who, in 2003, wanted to wage war against Iraq on the basis of false information about weapons of mass destruction. He tried, in some cases, to stop the attacks, the ethnic cleansing and the wars, he tried to encourage the opening of humanitarian corridors and to ensure that no stone was left unturned to avoid the use of arms. This does not mean and has never meant putting the aggressors and the attacked on the same level.

It is paradoxical, then, that we forget these pages of our recent history, wanting to explain to the Bishop of Rome what "right" words to use, after years of disregarding the words that he actually uttered countless times, warning against the race for nuclear rearmament, against arms trafficking, against war and terrorism, against an economy that discards and kills, against the destruction of Creation.

The Pope's is a voice crying out in the desert. In the nine years of his pontificate, Pope Francis has spoken many times about the Third World War that is already underway, even if "in fragments". So many times he spoke strongly against arms dealers, against the arms race and against war. Recently, journalist Michele Serra remarked that "fifty atomic bombs are enough to destroy humanity. But in the world atomic bombs are not fifty. They are fifteen thousand". War "destroys," Pope Francis had said in September 2014 at the military shrine of Redipuglia on the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, "It also ruins the most beautiful work of his hands: human beings. War ruins everything, even the bonds between brothers. War is irrational; its only plan is to bring destruction: it seeks to grow by destroying." In this prophecy, often unheard by the great, but welcomed by many people around the world, Pope Francis follows in the footsteps of his predecessors of the last century, who like him had to deal with world wars, with wars in different areas of the planet, with violence and terrorism.

So, what can the Pope do, now that people are being shot and killed? "Perhaps nothing more than praying to the Lord," the journalist Gianni Valente recently wrote, "begging for the miracle of shortening the pain of the poor, of ending the slaughter. But if he will be able to do something on the political diplomatic level, it will only be possible because the Russian leaders know that he is not a biased mediator, a camouflaged agent of the West, with which they have entered into an apocalyptic collision course".

The Successor of Peter does not have the problem of making known "which side he is on", because the Vicar of Christ, like his Lord, is always with the innocent who suffer as Jesus suffered on the cross. Every word he says, every attempt he makes, is aimed at saving human lives, at not yielding to the logic of evil, at fighting evil with good. In the heart of Europe, in this dirty war that we feel is so close to us, as well as in the peripheries of the world, where in these years forgotten wars have been fought and are being fought, with their daily grim count of dead, wounded, displaced people similar to what is now being recorded in Ukraine.



FROM FR. HENRY DUC

Dear Friends,

I just wonder how many of you in the parish have a mango tree in your yards? As for me, I have inherited two lovely mango trees from one of my predecessors in the presbytery's backyard, and I don't know exactly who planted them there. No matter who it was, I have to say I have been so grateful to the person.

In the past so many years since I have been with the parish, they always provided good fruits without fail, except this year, though I did the right thing like I did at the end of every season, that was to give them a good trimming and fertilization.

I just simply scratched my head this year to work out why they two failed to bear even a single fruit, though they showed a very promising sign from the start of the season with lot of flowers. Their infecundity, I guess, could be the result of such a cool summer we had this year, for it remained cool for so long, plus the unusually wet weather, and these factors probably killed off the growing process of those poor trees.

This tree story, I hope, would help us relate better to the Gospel narrative we have this Sunday, concerning the fig tree in a vineyard bearing no fruit as expected. The boss was so disappointed and lost his patience with its failure to bear fruit for three years. He really wanted to get rid of it, but his gardener pleaded with him to spare it for another year, so he could care for it a bit more in the hope that 'it may bear fruit' for the owner in the next season, and the hard decision could be done, if it fails again.

This is a highly symbolic Gospel story and very appropriate for us to reflect upon during this Lenten time, the time of prayer, charity works and penance. The fig tree tends to be the symbol of each one of us in God's vineyard, and we are all expected to grow spiritually and bear spiritual fruits for the Lord our God, the fruits of love, care, compassion, kindness, generosity, forgiveness, patience and gentleness, the Christian fruits if you like to call. We need to cultivate our spiritual side each day with prayers and regular participations in the Eucharist and Penance, and involvements in good works. The better we care for our spiritual tree, the more it will bear fruits for God, otherwise we have to face the harsh reality of spiritual fruitlessness, and remember that the owner of the heavenly vineyard, no doubt, will be very unimpressed with such a state of ours.

Let us pray for the grace to empower us in our effort to grow and bear spiritual fruits for the Lord throughout this Lent, and get ourselves better prepared for the coming commemoration of the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection this year.

Have a spiritually productive week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

FUNERAL FOR NANCY (AUDREY) CHELLIAH

Funeral Mass for Nancy Chelliah known to us as Audrey will take place on Thursday 24th March at 10.30am. Please keep her and the family in your prayer.

FIRST RECONCILIATION LITURGY 23 & 30th MARCH

We ask your prayers for the 34 children from our Parish who will be continuing on their faith journey by celebrating their First Reconciliation over the next two weeks.



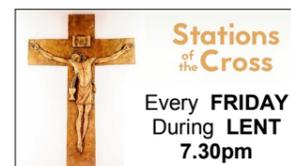
CONFIRMATION 2022 INFORMATION NIGHT

Parents are invited to attend an information and Enrolment meeting on Tuesday 29th March in the Parish Meeting Room at 6:30pm

PARISH WORKING BEE THANK YOU Thank you all for sparing your time to come along and help out with our Lenten Working Bee. Your great effort to make our church surrounding areas look tidier and better is much appreciated. Thank you to our volunteers who helped to prepare lunch for the team.

LOURDES YOUNG ADULTS GROUP AT CYP SPORTS DAY! March 27 8:30am-4pm

We invite anyone 16-40yo to join our Lourdes Young Adults Group to compete in sports: Basketball, Volleyball, Soccer and Touch Football against 16 parishes of the Diocese of Parramatta on Sunday, 27 March 8:30am-4pm at Parramatta Marist High School, Westmead. Please wear YELLOW, bring lunch & \$10 cash for registration. Please contact Ian Epondulan for more info: 0401161264 or youtholoi7h@gmail.com



KEEP UP TO DATE By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more - a great way to stay up to date with what's on in our Parish Visit www.oloi7hills.org.au

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

At our last meeting, members of the Council planned to have three special celebrations for our parish this year, namely Welcome Back Multicultural Day in July, Fr Henry's Jubilee in October and Parish' Diamond Jubilee in December and the actual dates are to be decided. Council members also spent some time on the article called Refugee by Rhonda Miska taken from A Pope Francis Lexicon edited by Joshua J. McElwee and Cindy Wooden, which deals with one of Pope Francis' most endearing subjects. It was an appropriate time to read such an article, for it helps participants to be in touch both (1) with what the pope has encouraged the Church to do for migrants and refugees, such as a sense of solidarity with them, and a new evangelization for the Church, and (2) with the plight of nearly two millions of refugees from Ukraine.

IS GOD CALLING YOU?

BECOME A CATECHIST AN SRE VOLUNTEER!

SRE's are parish volunteers who:

- Teach and share their faith with children of their parish who attend government schools.
- Have a passion for sharing the gift of faith with young people.
- Have an hour per week to prepare and share their time and talents with young people.
- Are people who respond to the central mission of the Church to make Jesus known and loved.

In this parish Special Religious Educators, SRE's (previously known as Catechists) go into Seven Hills North, Bert Oldfield, Vardys Road State primary schools and The Hills Sports High School.

New volunteers SRE's will be given support, training, teaching materials and will start as a classroom helper.

To register your interest please call Bob McNally 0439604203 email: mcnallyanne@yahoo.com.au or contact the parish office. 96222920

19/20 March 2022	
Acolytes	Vigil: John Jordan 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am Faylene Kennedy
Ministers	Vigil: Anna Bellissimo, Jemma Sarmiento 8am: Anne McNally, Maricel Santos 9.30am: Paul Gow, VOLUNTEER
Readers	Vigil: Laura Bellissimo, Alison Punch 8am: Pepito Ferriols, Erika Hien 9.30am Mercy Aquino, Helen Katopau
Altar Servers	Vigil: VOLUNTEERS 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am Leo Cullili, Celestina Katopau, Oliana Katopau
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Rammel Lagare & Mercy Aquino
Flowers	Fennie & Angela
Church cleaning	23 March Sue Abela, Anne McNally, Jerome Peralta
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: VOLUNTEER

26/27 March 2022	
Acolytes	Vigil: James Dinning 8am: Ernie Gartner 9.30am Kilifi Huihui
Ministers	Vigil: Stefanie Menezes, Louise La Guidara 8am: Maricel Santos, Fennie Balatbat 9.30am: Mercy Aquino, Benno Motha
Readers	Vigil: Catherine Rodrigues, Marinela Simic 8am: Nina Arambulo, Pepito Ferriols 9.30am Christina Diaz, Kamela Huihui
Altar Servers	Vigil: SUB REQ 8am: SUB REQ 9.30am Sofia Culili
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ
Flowers	Annette and Mary B
Church cleaning	2 April Judith Deloso, Michelle Touma, Adrian Walker
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Ugre 8am: Rita Paolini 9.30am: Lena Falzon

 **OUR LADY OF LOURDES**
Seven Hills

2023 ENROLMENTS ARE OPEN.
Please contact the school Office for an enrolment pack. e: OLOLSHills@parra.catholic.edu.au
p: 02 8869 6800

PRAYER FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE IN UKRAINE

God of peace and justice, who change the hardened heart and break the power of violence, we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.

Protect them in this time of peril; let them know not death but life, not slavery but freedom.

You are Father of all; we are brothers and sisters.

Give us the strength to live that truth in love, choosing peace not war.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

 Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

 PROJECT COMPASSION FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

 Caritas AUSTRALIA

Janice 44, is a proud Wagilak woman, a traditional dancer, living in a remote community in the Northern Territory. As elders grow older and pass away, she knows she must share her knowledge with the younger generation. However, the community faces multiple challenges, including a lack of jobs, limited educational opportunities, and socio-economic which can lead to young people becoming disconnected from culture.

With your help, Caritas Australia supports Djilpin Arts Aboriginal Corporation, which operates a centre for traditional and contemporary Aboriginal arts and culture, providing employment and generating income for local communities.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help provide employment and training for First Australians, allowing them to remain on country and keep their culture alive.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.** You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes available from your Parish, by visiting lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413.



DIOCESAN NEWS

AUSTRALIAN BISHOP'S RESPONSE TO THE UKRAINE CRISIS The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has prepared a statement (see attached) on the unfolding violence in Ukraine, quoting Conference president Archbishop Mark Coleridge and Bishop Mykola Bychok, the leader of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia. A Prayer for Peace and Justice in Ukraine has also been created and is attached. The media release and prayer card can also be accessed here: <https://mediablog.catholic.org.au/bishops-call-for-peace-in-ukraine-generous-australian-response/>

PASTORAL FORMATION OFFERING LEADERSHIP AND FORMATION COURSES IN 2022

In 2022, we can still deepen our community connections and growth in faith! To encourage this, Pastoral Formation – Diocese of Parramatta has two programs FOR YOU – all offered in a COVID-safe manner.

- 1) Ministry Leadership Program: Perfect for current and aspiring ministry leaders. 10 or 20 sessions (\$10/session).
- 2) Themes of Faith Program: Ideal for people interested in asking life & faith questions in discussion groups. 10 sessions (\$5/session).

See our website parramatta.org.au or email met@parracatholic.org for more details

BISHOPS GOOD SAMARITAN APPEAL RAISING FUNDS FOR CATHOLIC CARES COMMUNITY DROP-IN CENTRES. 26-27TH MARCH

Catholic Care is working hard to reach our neighbours in need and to reduce social isolation and loneliness throughout our community. Will you be a Good Samaritan and help Catholic Care reach our vulnerable neighbours, so they have safe, welcoming places to connect with others and access support? Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal or scan the QR code. Thank you for your heartfelt prayers and support.



OLOL PARISH CALENDAR		
MARCH		
23	FIRST RECONCILIATION LITURGY GRP 1	7.00pm
24	Celebration of the life of Nancy Chelliah	10.30am
24	Christ Community Prayer Group	9.00am
24	Legion of Mary	1.30pm
25	Stations of the Cross	7.30pm
26 / 27	GOOD SAMARITAN BISHOPS APPEAL	All Masses
28	Saint Vincent De Paul Meeting	7.00pm
29	Confirmation Parent Info Night	6.30pm
30	FIRST RECONCILIATION LITURGY GRP 2	7.00pm

CLIMATE ACTION SOCIAL JUSTICE TABLE TALK by Voices for Power (VfP) - March 29: 7-8:30pm
Make a change in our local environment and have a say on what actions can we do in Blacktown LGA! Join us to hear stories about heat stress and practical ways we can tackle climate change in our communities on Tuesday, 29 March 7-8:30pm in the Parish Hall, Our Lady of Lourdes. For more info and registration at: events.humanitix.com/climate-table-talk or email Peter Hyder: pdhyder@gmail.com

ENERGY TRAINING WORKSHOP by Social Justice Group & VfP - April 2: 9:30am-3:30pm

Want to save on your electricity bills and tips to save energy? Join us for a workshop on reading bills and practical tips on Saturday, 2 April 9:30am-3:30pm in the Parish Hall, Our Lady of Lourdes. Please contact Ian Epondulan for more info: 0401161264 or youtholol7h@gmail.com

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES : 22 – 26 June 2022

Every three years since 1994, the Church has celebrated the World Meeting of Families in a different city of the world. In 2022 the event will be hosted by the Diocese of Rome with Pope Francis leading special celebrations. However, the Holy Father has also asked that the World Meeting of Families be celebrated concurrently in every diocese of the world in 2022. The idea is for families to gather locally in Parishes and/or Deaneries and explore and celebrate the theme of "Family love: a vocation and a path to holiness". Stay tuned for exciting opportunities to participate with the Diocese of Parramatta in 2022.

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>

A LAUDATO SI RETREAT FOR ADULTS

Quantum Spirit in Creation - Pope Francis invites believers to reflect on the truth, that their responsibility with-in creation and their duty towards Nature and the Creator are an essential part of their faith.

The Holy Spirit is the source of all unity, so, **Quantum Spirit in Creation** starts at the beginning of the New Creation Story to weave a web of connectedness and relationships between God's Creator Spirit and all living beings in an Integral Ecology.

To be held at **Wooglemai Guntawang Environmental Bushland Retreat**
45 Sheeheys Creek Rd, Oakdale NSW 2570

at a cost of \$95.00
7.00pm Friday 1st April, To 2.00pm Sunday 3rd April, 2022.

For a brochure or enquiries email to antiphon1@outlook.com
Or phone: 0429 595 231
Br Frank Richardson and Mr Adrian Walker