

# JESUS is ALIVE

A week after Easter the disciples were still scared.



Jesus came to them. He was alive again.



Use the code to find out what Jesus said to the disciples.

A	B	C	E	H	I	O	P	T	U	W	Y
▶	△	◡	◀	↑	↓	⬇	▲	◀	▶	▼	◀

Use the same code to complete the following sentences about what happened that week.

- When J \_ s \_ s was gone \_ h \_ m \_ s came.
- He did not b \_ l \_ ev \_ that Jesus was \_ l \_ v \_ .
- A w \_ \_ k l \_ \_ \_ r J \_ s \_ s came \_ g \_ \_ n.
- \_ h \_ m \_ s saw him and \_ \_ l \_ \_ v \_ d.

## Second Sunday of Easter

"Peace be with you" – "Sunday of Divine Mercy"



"Have you come to believe because you have seen me?  
Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."  
John 20:19-31

# Jesus Loves You



## Divine Mercy



In today's Gospel we hear about the first time that Jesus came to the Apostles after He rose from the dead. He breathed on them and told them that they had the power to forgive sins. Jesus had just given us the Sacrament of Confession- now a priest could take God's place to hear our sins and tell us that we are forgiven.

Today, the second Sunday of Easter, is also the feast of Divine Mercy. Mercy means being treated well even though we don't deserve it. God is so merciful that He wants to forgive ALL our sins, no matter how bad. All we have to do is be sorry and go to Confession.

God's Divine Mercy is so great that even the worst sinner in the world can be saved from Hell if he asks for it. But even our little sins hurt Jesus, so we need to ask God for mercy too. Don't ever imagine that God can't forgive you when you are sorry- remember, Jesus died on the cross so that you would be able to go to Heaven!

*Jesus, I Trust in You!*



# 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:**

LOLO 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

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER 24 April • Year C • 2022



Let us Pray for the Sick

Leonila Ahillon, George Alagiah, Mary Attard, David Benjamin, Rosella Booth, Ruby Chary, Barrie Chamberlain, Elizabeth Ehsman, Anush Fernando, Melvyn Fernandes, Joseph Franco, Jose Garcia, Maureen Greenfield, Anthony Janicska, Spencer Leon, Cynthia Lopez, Carmenu M, Gerard Marcello, Marie Marchand, 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:** Myrna Cruz, Charlie Chircop, Mercy Christobel Chary, Nancy 'Audrey' Chelliah, Lorella Chersovani, Lorraine Claridge, Jacques Ferre, Maureen Greenfield, Fjner Lauridsen, Tom Morrissey Snr, Jason Muscat, Ananda Nayana, Hyacinth Perera, Karen Reyes, Danilo Carayag Salangvit, Pastora Villarte, Jane Zammit.

**Anniversaries:** Elvina Barnaba, Aloysean Corera, James Daly, Samuel Doraisamy, Andre Fernandes, Rufina Fernandes, Fernandes Family, Mr & Mrs Francis, Zoltan Gartner, Leonie Jordan, Ivica Komar, James McNally, Albert Moroney, Salvatore & Carmen Muscat, Connie & Vincent Muscat, John O'sullivan, Lakshman Perera, Estelita Riveral, Jose Sanchez, Klaus Schader, John Putre.

**Remembrance:** France Angseesing, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Toufic, Debe and Bede Diab, Marcel & Mohsen Diab, Pauline Meilak, Mary Mifsud, Anton & Lourda Motha, Stephen & Louis Mula, Mary Muscat, Muscat Family, Edward & John O'Sullivan, Elizabeth Pinter, John & Roseline Ratnam, Myra Raymond.



### 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 *encouraged*
- **CHECK- IN & RECORD KEEPING :** no longer required
- **SINGING:** Both choir and congregation are able to sing

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.*

### More information about Isolation & Exposure

[https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2022/01/covid-19-test-isolate-national-protocols\\_1.pdf](https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2022/01/covid-19-test-isolate-national-protocols_1.pdf)  
[https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-02/Factsheet-Information\\_for\\_people\\_exposed\\_to\\_COVID-19-18\\_February\\_2022.pdf](https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-02/Factsheet-Information_for_people_exposed_to_COVID-19-18_February_2022.pdf)

### 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 'DONATION' for a one off 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.

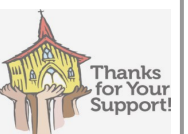
### ON-LINE BANK DONATIONS

**Account name: Parramatta Diocesan Clergy**

**BSB: 067 950**

**ACC: 00 00 4265**

**Reference: Seven Hills - 6035**



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/LOLO7Hills/>



FIRST READING *A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 5:12-16*

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured. The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; His love is everlasting.**

Let the sons of Israel say,  
“His love has no end.”  
Let the sons of Aaron say,  
“His love has no end.”  
Let those who fear the Lord say,  
“His love has no end.” **(R.)**

O Lord, grant us salvation;  
O Lord, grant success.  
Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes.  
We bless you from the house of the Lord;  
The true God is our light. **(R.)**

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord,  
A marvel in our eyes.  
This day was made by the Lord;  
we rejoice and are glad. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the book of the Apocalypse 1:9-13, 17-19*

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God’s word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord’s day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, ‘Write down all that you see in a book.’ I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle. When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, ‘Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One, I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.’ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!  
You believe in my, Thomas, because you have seen me;  
happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!  
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the first holy gospel according to John 20:19-31*

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, ‘Peace be with you,’ and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.’ After saying this he breathed on them and said: ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.’ Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, ‘We have seen the Lord,’ he answered, ‘Unless I can see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.’ Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. ‘Peace be with you,’ he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.’ Thomas replied, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him: ‘You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.’ There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name. 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 REFLECTS ON AMAZEMENT OF ENCOUNTERING JESUS** *By Vatican News staff reporter*

“Love is continuous contact. It is continuous talking and listening. That is why I insist that we have direct contact with the Gospels... If you do not have contact with the living Christ, the one of the Gospel,” Pope Francis says, you will have contact with ideas, doctrines and ideologies about the Gospel, that may or may not have come from Jesus.  
“Redemption was not done by doctrines, but by a Person.” Even if you know all the dogmas, but do not have contact with the Gospel, you will only be Catholic in your head and not in your heart. Being a Catholic, being a Christian, insists Pope Francis, requires contact with Jesus. This is how the Pope began a programme entitled *Volti dei Vangeli* (‘Faces of the Gospels’), which was curated by the Dicastery for Communication in collaboration with the Vatican Apostolic Library, the Vatican Museums, and Italian television’s *Rai Cultura*, and aired Easter Sunday evening on Italy’s state-run TV channel *RAI1* throughout Italy. Renato Cerisola directed and was responsible for photography, while Michelangelo Palmacci was responsible for the original music.  
**The vocation of Matthew**  
The start of the programme was preceded by a special talk by Italian actor, Roberto Benigni, who spoke about the joyful face of Jesus, and described the face of Mary as portrayed in Raphael’s painting entitled “*The Sistine Madonna*,” preserved in Dresden, Germany. Then Pope Francis’ conversation began. After introducing the topic, talking about the need for continuous contact with the Gospel, the Pope presented one of the Gospel scenes that touches him most, that of the call of Matthew, the tax collector to whom Jesus turns His gaze. This very Gospel was read on 21 September 1953, the day Jorge Mario Bergoglio realised he was going to become a priest. The Pope’s words were illustrated by director Cerisola’s filming, which took the spectator “inside” the Caravaggio painting depicting the scene. “What happened there?” the Pope wondered to himself. That is the strength of Jesus’ gaze. Surely, the Pope said, he looked at Matthew with such love, with such mercy; that look of the merciful Jesus: ‘Follow me, come.’ Matthew was resistant. Not only did he want money, the Pope reflected, he was a “slave to money,” Yet, he got up and followed Jesus, the Pope said.

**Importance of 'seeing' in the Gospel**

Pope Francis then spoke about the Good Thief. "It is true," he said. "He was a thief and had been stealing all his life. But in the end, repenting for what he had done, looking at Jesus so good and merciful, he managed to 'steal' heaven: this is a good thief!" The third figure presented during the programme was Judas Iscariot. Then the Pope, in another passage of the wide-ranging interview granted to the programme's authors, Andrea Tornielli and Lucio Brunelli, continued: "One of the things that will help us so much to do in the Gospels is to think of the encounter with Jesus: to look at Him in order to encounter Him. In reading the Gospel look and see, with eyes full of contemplation. And seeing also means listening. In the spiritual exercises, when we meditate on the life of Jesus, we must see them, listen to them. It is true that faith comes from hearing and listening, but the encounter comes from seeing. Zacchaeus was interested in seeing Jesus. Intrigued by Jesus, he climbed the tree, 'I want to see Him.' Even God, frequently in the Old Testament, presents Himself as the one who saves His people by performing miracles, and from there, says: 'Remember what I have done with you: remember what you have seen!' Seeing goes a long way towards memory, and the way of growth in the Christian life is memory: the memory of those things we have seen, and heard," but especially seeing, stressed the Pope.

**Joseph's goodness**

Pope Francis, who dedicated an entire jubilee year to St. Joseph, spoke movingly of Joseph, Mary's spouse, the father who cherished Jesus' life by agreeing to welcome and help raise a son who was not his own. Speaking of Joseph's dismay after discovering the pregnancy of his betrothed Mary, the Pope reflected on “Joseph's pain.”  
“In this pain, doubt, and suffering,” the Holy Father highlighted, “Joseph does not want to send Mary away, and decides to leave her in silence. He does not accuse her publicly, because he knew. In the midst of his doubt and pain, the Lord intervened, and did so in a dream. And in that dream, Joseph was told what happened, and Joseph obeyed. He believed and obeyed. He didn't go to his friends to comfort himself, he didn't go to the psychiatrist to interpret the dream ... no: he believed. He went forward.” The story of St. Joseph was accompanied by unpublished images of miniatures preserved in the Apostolic Library.

**Jesus' eyes on Peter**

Then it was Peter's turn, and the Pope described Jesus' three gazes on the Galilean fisherman who would deny Him but then, after repenting, would hear the Nazarene invite him to lead the flock. The Pope also recalled the death of the prince of the apostles: "After all his life serving the Lord, he ended up like the Lord: on the cross. But he does not boast: 'I end up like my Lord!' No, he asked: 'Please put me on the cross with my head down, so that at least it may be seen that I am not the Lord. I am the servant.'" The figure of Pontius Pilate was then described, illustrated by marble sculptures preserved in the Vatican Museums.

**Importance of women**

The Pope went on to explain the importance of women in the Gospel: "The Gospel starts with a woman!" Speaking of the Gospel according to St. Luke, the Pope says “a woman, very young, in Nazareth, who has a vision of an angel. Think of God made man. It is a woman, Mary, who opens the door and says 'yes, I accept.' And the Resurrection? It is a woman, who had been a sinner, who is elected to tell the news: 'He is risen.' It is she. It is interesting: the Apostles do not believe women. They may have said, “yes, yes,” but they think to themselves, we will go to the tomb to see for ourselves. Those in Emmaus similarly were sceptical toward women, saying "some woman said there is no longer the body, that He was risen and there were angels."  
The Pope lamented "the phobia" towards women that is so common, "as if they were second-rate, second-class human beings. But the Lord revealed Himself to women, and through women, as we see throughout the Bible,” he said.

**Mary Magdalene and the Adulteress**

This was followed by accounts of Jesus' encounters with two women, Mary Magdalene and the Adulteress. Speaking of Mary Magdalene, Pope Francis said: "We meet the one who, according to the Gospels, was the first to see the risen Jesus: Mary Magdalene. And Jesus calls her: 'Mary!' Try to think too, at this moment, with the baggage of disappointments and defeats that each of us carries in our hearts, that there is a God close to us Who calls us by name and says: 'Get up, stop crying, because I have come to set you free!' This is beautiful." The Pope spoke next about the adulteress, describing in detail the scene and trap inherent in the Scribes' question to Jesus concluded. "In the end,” the Pope said, “only Jesus and the woman remain there in the middle. 'Misery and mercy remain,' says St Augustine,” the Pope quoted. “Jesus,” Pope Francis said, “dismisses the woman with these wonderful words: 'Go and from now on, sin no more.'”

**Wonder of every encounter**

Pope Francis then explained that “the purpose of the Word of God is the encounter.”  
"There is a word that explains a feeling, when there is an encounter or there is not an encounter: when I encounter the Lord in His Word, there is this feeling of amazement. Astonishment comes when you encounter the Lord. If you read the Gospel intellectually as something historical, you will never feel wonder. Astonishment is precisely the scent that God is passing by: He leaves you with this. Many times, we read a passage of the Gospel and another time, we fall on the same one... but it doesn't matter, because one day - knock on wood! - you are touched by amazement and we understand what is behind it. This is the presence of Jesus. Jesus is present in the Gospels: He is present. That's why you can't read it like a novel or a collection of fairy tales: no, no! 'But how do you feel the amazement? Do I have to take some pills?' someone may say to me. No: just take the Gospel with simplicity and love, and it will be God Who will give you amazement."



**POPE FRANCIS: EASTER MESSAGE** *By Robin Gomes*

Dear brothers and sisters, Happy Easter!

Jesus, the Crucified One, is risen! He stands in the midst of those who mourned him, locked behind closed doors and full of fear and anguish. He comes to them and says: "Peace be with you!" (Jn 20:19). He shows the wounds in his hands and feet, and the wound in his side. He is no ghost; it is truly Jesus, the same Jesus who died on the cross and was laid in the tomb. Before the incredulous eyes of the disciples, he repeats: "Peace be with you!" (v. 21).

Our eyes, too, are incredulous on this Easter of war. We have seen all too much blood, all too much violence. Our hearts, too, have been filled with fear and anguish, as so many of our brothers and sisters have had to lock themselves away in order to be safe from bombing. We struggle to believe that Jesus is truly risen, that he has truly triumphed over death. Could it be an illusion? A figment of our imagination?

No, it is not an illusion! Today, more than ever, we hear echoing the Easter proclamation so dear to the Christian East: "Christ is risen! He is truly risen!" Today, more than ever, we need him, at the end of a Lent that has seemed endless. We emerged from two years of pandemic, which took a heavy toll. It was time to come out of the tunnel together, hand in hand, pooling our strengths and resources... Instead, we are showing that we do not yet have within us the spirit of Jesus but the spirit of Cain, who saw Abel not as a brother, but as a rival, and thought about how to eliminate him. We need the crucified and risen Lord so that we can believe in the victory of love, and hope for reconciliation. Today, more than ever, we need him to stand in our midst and repeat to us: "Peace be with you!"

Only he can do it. Today, he alone has the right to speak to us of peace. Jesus alone, for he bears wounds... our wounds. His wounds are indeed ours, for two reasons. They are ours because we inflicted them upon him by our sins, by our hardness of heart, by our fratricidal hatred. They are also ours because he bore them for our sake; he did not cancel them from his glorified body; he chose to keep them forever. They are the indelible seal of his love for us, a perennial act of intercession, so that the heavenly Father, in seeing them, will have mercy upon us and upon the whole world. The wounds on the body of the risen Jesus are the sign of the battle he fought and won for us, won with the weapons of love, so that we might have peace and remain in peace.

As we contemplate those glorious wounds, our incredulous eyes open wide; our hardened hearts break open and we welcome the Easter message: "Peace be with you!"

Brothers and sisters, let us allow the peace of Christ to enter our lives, our homes, our countries!

May there be peace for war-torn Ukraine, so sorely tried by the violence and destruction of the cruel and senseless war into which it was dragged. In this terrible night of suffering and death, may a new dawn of hope soon appear! Let there be a decision for peace. May there be an end to the flexing of muscles while people are suffering. Please, please, let us not get used to war! Let us all commit ourselves to imploring peace, from our balconies and in our streets! Peace! May the leaders of nations hear people's plea for peace. May they listen to that troubling question posed by scientists almost seventy years ago: "Shall we put an end to the human race, or shall mankind renounce war?" (*Russell-Einstein Manifesto*, 9 July 1955).

I hold in my heart all the many Ukrainian victims, the millions of refugees and internally displaced persons, the divided families, the elderly left to themselves, the lives broken and the cities razed to the ground. I see the faces of the orphaned children fleeing from the war. As we look at them, we cannot help but hear their cry of pain, along with that of all those other children who suffer throughout our world: those dying of hunger or lack of medical care, those who are victims of abuse and violence, and those denied the right to be born.

Amid the pain of the war, there are also encouraging signs, such as the open doors of all those families and communities that are welcoming migrants and refugees throughout Europe. May these numerous acts of charity become a blessing for our societies, at times debased by selfishness and individualism, and help to make them welcoming to all.

May the conflict in Europe also make us more concerned about other situations of conflict, suffering and sorrow, situations that affect all too many areas of our world, situations that we cannot overlook and do not want to forget.

May there be peace for the Middle East, racked by years of conflict and division. On this glorious day, let us ask for peace upon Jerusalem and peace upon all those who love her (cf. *Ps* 121 [122]), Christians, Jews and Muslims alike. May Israelis, Palestinians and all who dwell in the Holy City, together with the pilgrims, experience the beauty of peace, dwell in fraternity and enjoy free access to the Holy Places in mutual respect for the rights of each.

May there be peace and reconciliation for the peoples of Lebanon, Syria and Iraq, and in particular for all the Christian communities of the Middle East.

May there be peace also for Libya, so that it may find stability after years of tensions, and for Yemen, which suffers from a conflict forgotten by all, with continuous victims: may the truce signed in recent days restore hope to its people.

We ask the risen Lord for the gift of reconciliation for Myanmar, where a dramatic scenario of hatred and violence persists, and for Afghanistan, where dangerous social tensions are not easing and a tragic humanitarian crisis is bringing great suffering to its people.

May there be peace for the entire African continent, so that the exploitation it suffers and the hemorrhaging caused by terrorist attacks – particularly in the Sahel region – may cease, and that it may find concrete support in the fraternity of the peoples. May the path of dialogue and reconciliation be undertaken anew in Ethiopia, affected by a serious humanitarian crisis, and may there be an end to violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo. May prayer and solidarity not be lacking for the people in the eastern part of South Africa, struck by devastating floods.

May the risen Christ accompany and assist the people of Latin America, who in some cases have seen their social conditions worsen in these difficult times of pandemic, exacerbated as well by instances of crime, violence, corruption and drug trafficking. Let us ask the risen Lord to accompany the journey of reconciliation that the Catholic Church in Canada is making with the indigenous peoples. May the Spirit of the risen Christ heal the wounds of the past and dispose hearts to seek truth and fraternity.

Dear brothers and sisters, every war brings in its wake consequences that affect the entire human family: from grief and mourning to the drama of refugees, and to the economic and food crisis, the signs of which we are already seeing. Faced with the continuing signs of war, as well as the many painful setbacks to life, Jesus Christ, the victor over sin, fear and death, exhorts us not to surrender to evil and violence. Brothers and sisters, may we be won over by the peace of Christ! Peace is possible; peace is a duty; peace is everyone's primary responsibility!



**FROM FR. HENRY DUC**

Dear Friends,

Apart from Jesus who is at the heart of the Gospel account this Sunday, the Divine Mercy Sunday, Thomas enjoys a good coverage due to his open challenge to the narrative of Jesus' Resurrection given to him by his fellow disciples.

It's worth noting that Thomas has a track record of a daring Apostle, who had no hesitation to bring up difficult subjects with Jesus.

He was the disciple who prior to Jesus' Passion had the guts to frankly tell him about the disciples' sense of ignorance and uncertainty regarding his future movement by saying to him, 'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so can we know the way?' Jesus then had to respond to him and the others that 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.' (cf. Jn 14.5-6).

Today his courage and straightforwardness are once again demonstrated through his bold stand to challenge the claim about Jesus' appearance that other disciples had seen in his absence. He solemnly declared that he won't believe a bit in Jesus' resurrection unless he sees him in person and has a chance to touch his wounds at hands and side with his own hands, consequently he's become known to us as the doubting Apostle.

Jesus seems to take up the challenge, and he chose the time when Thomas was present with his friends, which was the Monday, 8 days after he first appeared to the group. The Risen Christ then returned Thomas' challenge by challenging him in front of all present there to go ahead with the plan for a physical inspection of his master.

Thomas probably felt overwhelmed by the unexpected appearance of Jesus, and suddenly became a man of not many words, since his big words and grandiose plan quickly dissolved and all he could simply utter was 'my Lord and my God.'

Unmindful of Thomas' doubt and ignorance, Jesus gently assured him that 'you believe because you can see me. Happy (blessed) are those who have not seen and yet believe.' From his encounter with Thomas after the Resurrection, Jesus perhaps meant to reach out to all his believers for generations to come, including us today, and tell us that his blessings and his salvation are not inclusive to those who had the privilege of seeing him and being around him while he was on earth, but also with all those who believe in him in the future. This truly is a comforting message to us his believers in the world today.

For Thomas himself, he went on to spread the Good news of Jesus and bear witness to the Lord's death and Resurrection as far as Parthia and India as reported in the Acts of Thomas. He was probably martyred in India and his remains were transferred to the Syrian city of Edessa, and his mission to India has been venerated by the Thomas Christians of the Malabar coast, while his relics are preserved in the Cathedral of St Thomas at Mylapore.

Let us give praise and thanks to the Risen Lord today both for (1) the blessings he has promised us through Thomas in the Gospel today, and (2) for Thomas' bold move to help bring us a firm testimony about Jesus' Resurrection from the dead. Pray that we may be inspired by Thomas' example in the mission to proclaim the Gospel message to all people around us.

Have a joyful week.

Fr Henry

**PARISH NEWS...**

**ANZAC DAY MASS**

We are having our Anzac Day Mass at 8am on Monday 25 April. Please come along for this special celebration.

**BISHOP VINCENT'S MAY 1 MASS MARKING THE LAUNCH OF OUR DIOCESAN DOCUMENT SUBMISSIONS TO THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS AND THE PLENARY COUNCIL** All are welcome to join Bishop Vincent and representatives from other communities throughout the diocese at the 9.30am Mass on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May. Please bring a plate for a special Morning Tea if you can. For further details please see page 5.

**HOLY WEEK AND EASTER THANK YOU**

Thank you so much to all our volunteers and ministers for their generous efforts given to our parish in church decorating, altar serving, music and IT ministry, hospitality and welcoming, and other nameless jobs to make our Holy Week and Easter liturgies truly wonderful.



**PROJECT COMPASSION**

**BOXES** Thank you for supporting our Caritas Project Compassion for 2022.

It would be appreciated if you could return your Project Compassion boxes as soon as possible. Thank you.



**MINISTERS - ROSTER UPDATES**

**Forms are now available at the back of the church for ministers to renew their information for the next rostering period July - December 2022**

You can either complete the form and leave it in the box at the back of the church or update your details on the Ministry Scheduler Pro login; [www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/ololsevenhills](http://www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/ololsevenhills)

**All updates must be received by 9th May**

**LEGION OF MARY** Thursday's at 1.30pm in the Parish Meeting Room. All Welcome

**CHRIST COMMUNITY PRAYER GROUP** Thursday 9am in the Parish Meeting Room. All Welcome



EASTER 23/24 April 2022		
Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: Helen Gonzales, Stefanie Menezes 8am: Lorraine Fernandes, Benno Motha 9.30am: Carol Walker, Mercy Aquino	
Readers	Vigil: Alison Punch, Noreen Do Rosario 8am: Erika Hien, Anne McNally 9.30am Adrian Walker, Noel Emmanuel	
Altar Servers	Vigil: VOLUNTEERS 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am Leonardo, Saoires & Sebastian Costello	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Flowers	Annette and Mary B	
Church cleaning	27April	Sue Abela, Anne McNally, Jerome Peralta
Welcomers	Vigil: Chrisha Gonzales 8am: Joyce Hilbrick 9.30am: Kathy Chamberlain	

30April / 1 May 2022		
Acolytes	Vigil: John Jordan 8am: Ryan Epondulan 9.30am Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: Louise La Guidara, SUB REQ 8am: Fennie Balatbat, SUB REQ 9.30am: Paul Gow, VOLUNTEER	
Readers	Vigil: Marinela Simic, Jemma Sariento 8am: Nina Arambulo, Jo Cabasa 9.30am Fayelene Kennedy, Kamela Huihui	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Alexa Bagatella, Alexander Bateman - Paul, Alex La Guidara 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am Karuniya Maruthanayagam, Sofia Culili, Leo Culili	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Tongan Community/Young Adults	
Flowers	Fenty, Gaby & Flo	
Church cleaning	4 May	Carole Walker, Lourdes Spiteri, Sandy Manamperi, Jerome Peralta
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: Lena Falzon	

# 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.

## EMERGENCY Ukraine Appeal

Help provide urgent humanitarian  
assistance to people in Ukraine.

**DONATE TODAY**  
[www.caritas.org.au/ukraine](http://www.caritas.org.au/ukraine)  
1800 024 413 toll free

**Thank You for supporting the Bishop’s Good Samaritan Appeal** Bishop Vincent, Parramatta Catholic Foundation and Catholic Care thank you whole-heartedly for your generosity and support for Catholic Care’s Community Drop-in Centres. Because of your kindness, Catholic Care can provide welcoming places for everyone in our community. And thanks to your compassion, Catholic Care can reach more of our vulnerable neighbours who may be isolated and in need of support. Thank you for being a Good Samaritan and for loving your neighbours in need. For anyone who hasn’t yet had a chance to donate, please visit [yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal) or scan this QR code.

DIOCESAN NEWS

**DIOCESAN “LAUDATO SI ACTION CAMPAIGN LAUNCH: 22 APRIL** On Friday 22 April, the annual Earth Day, the Diocese of Parramatta will respond to the *cry of the earth and the cry of the poor* by launching a Diocesan “Laudato Si’ Action Campaign”. Via a video message, Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv will invite all Catholic parishes, schools, families, and organisations across the Diocese to participate. Please visit [parracatholic.org/laudatosi](http://parracatholic.org/laudatosi) from 22 April to download the launch video and for further information.

**PLENARY COUNCIL WALKING IN THE SPIRIT** The People of God are invited to make a prayerful journey towards the Second Assembly of the Plenary Council through the Walking in the Spirit prayer campaign. Walking in the Spirit begins on Easter Sunday 17 April and runs until the Second Assembly, which opens on Sunday 3 July. Resources have been created for use by individuals, families, schools, parishes and other Catholic communities. Find out more at [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/walkinginthespirit/](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/walkinginthespirit/)

**SOCIAL JUSTICE:** Checkout the Diocesan launch video at [parracatholic.org/laudatosi](http://parracatholic.org/laudatosi) . Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv will invite all Catholic parishes, schools, families, and organisations across the Diocese to participate in “Laudato Si’ Action Campaign”.

OLOL PARISH CALENDAR		
APRIL		
25	ANZAC DAY MASS	8.00AM
26	SCHOOL TERM 2 STARTS	
28	FINANCE MEETING	8.00pm
28	Christ Community Prayer Group	9.00am
28	Legion of Mary	1.30pm
MAY		
1	CELEBRATE THE DIOCESAN REPORT TO THE SYNOD OF BISHOP’S . MASS	9.30am
4	CONFIRMATION—2nd Meeting	6.30pm
5	Christ Community Prayer Group	9.00am
5	Legion of Mary	1.30pm
7	CONFIRMATION—2nd Meeting RPT	4.30pm

**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.olol7hills.org.au](http://www.olol7hills.org.au)

May 1

Our Synod response to Pope Francis is taking shape. The journey continues ...

## View Respond Celebrate

9.30am Mass

Let's celebrate a special Mass with Bishop Vincent at Seven Hills Parish

**CELEBRATE THE DIOCESAN REPORT TO THE SYNOD OF BISHOP’S : 1 MAY** All are invited to **CELEBRATE** the final document of the Diocese of Parramatta submissions to the Synod of Bishops 2023. Join Bishop Vincent at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Seven Hills for this special gathering at the 9:30am mass. For catering purposes and to RSVP email [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org). The Diocese of Parramatta is a ‘listening Church’ we invite continued dialogue. For more information visit <https://parracatholic.org/synod-of-bishops/>

**SYDNEY ALLIANCE PARRAMATTA FEDERAL CANDIDATES FORUM:** Thursday 5th May 6:30pm for 7pm-8:30pm (sharp) at Parramatta Mission hall, 119 Macquarie St Parramatta. Cost: free. This will not be a ‘debate’ format. Our guidelines are “courteous accountability” and “engaged citizenry”! Each candidate will have 4 minutes for their general pitch. Following this will be set questions and stories shared on key areas. Those key areas were prioritized at an Alliance listening process convened in late April with 55 local community leaders. Register at <https://events.humanitix.com/sydney-alliance-parramatta-federal-candidates-forum>

**ACU DATABASE OFFERS EASILY ACCESSIBLE CHURCH TEACHING ON ETHICS QUESTIONS** Explore [www.ethicsfinder.com](http://www.ethicsfinder.com). Wish you could easily find Church teaching and the best articles, books and videos on **bioethics, business ethics, cancel culture, human rights, marriage, family, subsidiarity, and 100+ other topics?** Try ACU’s free, digital tool [www.ethicsfinder.com](http://www.ethicsfinder.com).

**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 [pfparra.org.au](http://pfparra.org.au) or email [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org) for more details