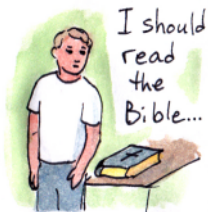


The Kids' Bulletin

Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 22nd, 2022

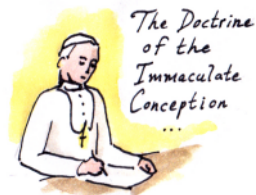
Jesus Promises to Send the Holy Spirit

In today's Gospel reading Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to the disciples after He was gone. The Holy Spirit would teach them all they needed to know.



After Jesus left, the disciples would be confused about what Jesus had wanted them to do and how to go about building the Church He had started. But Jesus promised that they would not be alone. God the Holy Spirit would come to them and show them what they needed to do.

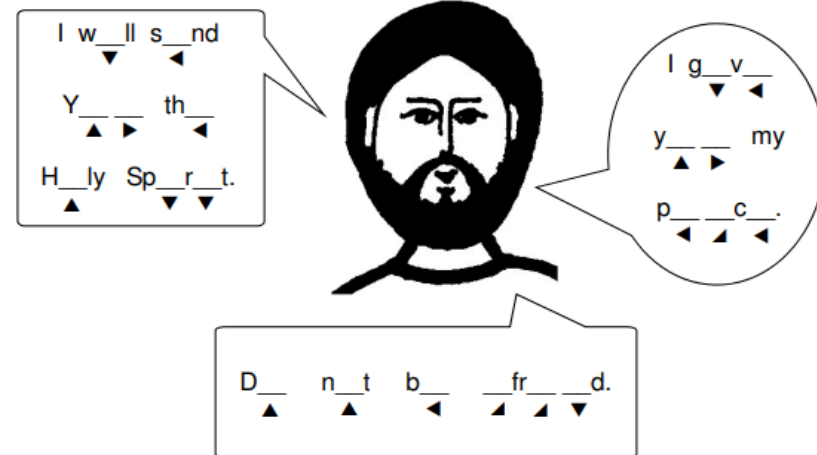
Where is the Holy Spirit now? He is still working in the Church. He inspires people to do what is right and to learn the truth. He also shows the leaders of the Church what God wants of them and keeps the Church's teachings free of error. Can you think of times when the Holy Spirit helped you?



JESUS WAS SOON TO GO ...

Find out what He said to his friends using the code:

A	E	I	O	U
▲	◀	▼	▲	▶



How do you think the apostles felt when Jesus said he was going:

--	--	--

He'll Be Back

"You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. John 14:28-29 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 14:23-29



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

AWAY	GREATER	AFRAID	BELIEVE	HOME
HEART	TEACH	FATHER	OBEY	BACK
PEACE	GLAD	COMING	GOING	LOVE



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:

LOL 8869 6800

Principal:

Ms Keiran Byrnes

Reconciliation:

Saturday 4:30-5:30pm

Baptismal Preparation:

20th July 2022

Baptism:

12th June 2022

Parish Website:

www.olol7hills.com.au

Pastoral Care of the Sick:

Bathista Emmanuel
0405833655

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 22 May • 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, Anthony Janicska, Spencer Leon, Cynthia Lopez, Carmenu M, 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: Sr Jean Cain RSJ, Myrna Cruz, Mercy Christobel Chary, Edmundo Deloso, Gregorio Gatón, Maureen Greenfield, Lagrimas Jalandoni, Gerard Marcello, Lorna Miranda, Jason Muscat, Ananda Nayana, Marie Nigli, Douglas Octavio, Rev Fr. Hyacinth Perera, Jocelyn Van Sneek, Jane Zammit.

Anniversaries: Helen & Peter Bonnici, Aloysean Corera, Carmela Carbone, Nilesh Evans, Georgina & Mark Falzon, Rufina Fernandes, Lala Fernandes, Fernandes Family, Cruz Fernandez, Juliet Francis, Maxy Gomez, Ginny Heke, Cameron Jones, Oliver Jordan, Sheena Langdagon, James McNally, Salvatore & Carmen Muscat, Andreana & Felix Muscat, John O'Sullivan, Custodio Pamos Jr., Lakshman Perera, Alison & Jim Vella, Priscila Villanueva, Domingo Villarta Jr.

Remembrance: Gregorio Almodovar, France Angseesing, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Fe Licup Carmen, Narcisa Carvajal, Conchita Deloso, Ngan Siu Eng, Joan Falzon, Nguyen Vinh Hien, Jeffrey Hunter, Felina and Apolinario Maglaya, Pauline Meilak, Mary Mifsud, Anton & Lourda Motha, Stephen & Louis

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.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 for a one off donation, 'DONATION')

IN-PERSON BANK DEPOSIT (at a Bank Inst / 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/OLOL7Hills/>

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 15:1-2, 22-29

Some men came down from Judaea and taught the brothers, ‘Unless you have yourselves circumcised in the tradition of Mo- ses you cannot be saved.’ This led to disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas had had a long argument with these men it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas and others of the church should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the apostles and elders. Then the apostles and elders decided to choose delegates to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; the whole church concurred with this. They chose Judas known as Barsabbas and Silas, both leading men in the brotherhood, and gave them this letter to take with them: ‘The apostles and elders, your brothers, send greetings to the brothers of pagan birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that some of our members have disturbed you with their demands and have unset- tled your minds. They acted without any authority from us, and so we have decided unanimously to elect delegates and to send them to you with Barnabas and Paul, men we highly respect who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Je- sus Christ. Accordingly we are sending you Judas and Silas, who will confirm by word of mouth what we have written in this letter. It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials: you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from fornication. Avoid these, and you will do what is right. Farewell.’ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. (R.)

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth . (R.)

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse 21:10-14,22-23

In the spirit, the angel took me to the top of an enormous high mountain and showed me Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from God out of heaven. It had all the radiant glory of God and glittered like some precious jewel of crystal clear diamond. The walls of it were of a great height, and had twelve gates; at each of the twelve gates there was an angel, and over the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel; on the east there were three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. The city walls stood on twelve foundation stones, each one of which bore the name of one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. I saw that there was no temple in the city since the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were themselves the temple and the city did not need the sun or the moon for light, since it was lit by the radiant glory of God and the Lamb was a lighted torch for it. The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words,
And my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the first holy gospel according to John 14:23-29

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own; it is the word of the one who sent me. I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you. Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me say: I am going away, and shall return. If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you this now before it happens, so that when it does happen you may believe.’
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



Cont....POPE FRANCIS AT AUDIENCE Catechesis on Old Age

We have all known people like this. We have been impressed by their cry, but we have also stood in admiration at the firmness of their faith and love in their silence. I am thinking of parents of children with serious disabilities, have you thought of the parents of children with serious disabili- ties? Their entire life.... I am thinking also of those who live with a permanent illness, or those who assist a member of their family.... These situations are often aggravated by the scarcity of economic resources. At certain junctures in history, the accumulation of burdens gives the impression that they were given a group appointment. This is what has happened in these years with the Covid-19 pandemic, and is happening now with the war in Ukraine.

Can we justify these “excesses” to the higher intelligence of nature and history? Can we religiously bless them as justified responses to the sins of the victims, as if they deserve it? No, we cannot. There is kind of right that victims have to protest vis-à-vis the mystery of iniquity, a right that God grants to everyone, that indeed, He himself, inspires, after all. Sometimes I meet people who approach me and say: “But, Father, I protest- ed against God because I have this and that problem....” But, you know, friend, that protesting is a way to pray when it is done like that. When children, when young people object against their parents, it is a way of attracting their attention and of asking that they take care of them. If you have some wound in your heart, some pain, and you want to object, object even to God. God will listen to you. God is a Father. God is not afraid of our prayer of protest, no! God understands. But be free, be free in your prayer. Don’t imprison your prayer within preconceived para- digms! No! Prayer should be like this: spontaneous, like that of a child with his father, who say everything that comes out of his mouth because he knows his father understands him. In the first moment of the drama, God’s “silence” signifies this. God does not shy away from the confron- tation, but, from the beginning, allows Job to give vent to his protest, and God listens. At times, perhaps we need to learn this respect and ten- derness from God. And God does not like that encyclopedia – let’s call it this – of explanations, of reflections that Job’s friends do. These are things that come off the tip of their tongues which are not right – that type of religiosity that explains everything, but the heart remains cold. God does not like this. He likes Job’s protest and silence more.

Job’s profession of faith – which emerges precisely from his incessant appeal to God, to a supreme justice – concludes in the end with an al- most mystical experience that makes him say, “I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you” (42:5). How many peo- ple, how many of us after an experience that is a bit ugly, a bit dark, take a step and know God better than before! And we can say like Job: “I knew you because I had heard about you, but now I have seen you because I have encountered you”. This testimony is *particularly believable if it is picked up in old age*, in its progressive frailty and loss. Those who are old have witnessed so many of these experiences in life! And they have also seen the inconsistency of human promises. Lawyers, scientists, even men of religion, who confuse the persecutor with the victim, insinuating that they are fully responsible for their own suffering. They are mistaken!

The elderly who find the path of this testimony, who *turn their resentment for their loss into a tenacity for awaiting God’s promises* – there is a change from resentment because of the loss toward the tenacity of seeking God’s promises – these older people are an irreplaceable garrison for the community regarding the excesses of evil. The believer whose gaze is turned toward the Crucifix learns just that. May we learn this as well, from the many grandfathers and grandmothers, who like Mary, unite their sometimes heartbreaking prayers, to that of the Son of God who abandons himself to the Father on the cross. Let us look at old people, let us watch elderly men and women, the elderly. Let us watch them with love. Let us see their personal experiences. They have suffered so much in life, they have learned so much in life, they have gone through so much, but in the end they have this peace, a peace, I would say, that is almost mystical, that is, the peace from an encounter with God to the point they can say, "I knew you because I had heard about you, but now I have seen you with my own eyes." These elderly people resemble the peace of the Son of God on the cross who is abandoned to the Father.

POPE FRANCIS: TACKLE POVERTY TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM CHILD LABOUR

By Benedict Mayaki, SJ

The 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour is taking place in Durban, South Africa from 15 – 20 May. For the occasion, Pope Francis has sent a message extending his warm greetings and prayers to the participants in a letter addressed to Mr. Guy Rider, the Director-General of the International Labour Organization. The six-day event aims to raise awareness about child labour and to accelerate efforts towards its elimination at a time when about 160 million children - almost one in ten worldwide - are being forced to work, according to the UN.

Covid-19 and child labour

Pope Francis notes that in spite of the significant progress that has been made in eliminating child labour from society, the tragedy has been worsened by the impact of the global health crisis and the spread of extreme poverty in many parts of the world “where the lack of decent work opportunities for adults and adolescents, migration, and humanitarian emergencies condemn millions of young girls and boys to a life of eco- nomic and cultural impoverishment.”

More so, “too many small hands are busy plowing fields, working in mines, traveling great distances to draw water and doing work that prevents them from attending school,” the Pope lamented, thinking also of the victims of child prostitution which has “robbed millions of children of the joy of their youth and their God-given dignity.”

Tackling poverty

Pointing at poverty as the chief factor that exposes children to labour exploitation, Pope Francis encouraged the participants to deliberate on the “structural causes of global poverty and the scandalous inequality that continues to exist among the members of the human family.” He also expressed confidence that the conference will lead to increased awareness on the part of social actors and relevant bodies – both national and international – to work towards finding “appropriate and effective ways of protecting the dignity and rights of children, especially through the promotion of social protection systems and access to education on the part of all.”

Protecting children, protecting the human family

Pope Francis went on to highlight the Church’s particular concern on the issue of child labour, noting that the social teachings stress that ensuring the present and future of children also ensures the present and future of the entire human family. Indeed, “the way we relate to children, the extent to which we respect their innate human dignity and fundamental rights, expresses what kind of adults we are and want to be, and what kind of society we want to build.” He then restated the Holy See’s commitment to working towards ensuring that the international community perseveres in its efforts to combat child labour exploitation resolutely, jointly and decisively, “so that children will be able to enjoy the beauty of this stage of life, while also cultivat- ing dreams for a bright future.”

Concluding, Pope Francis thanked the organizers and promoters of the conference and prayed that their deliberations may be “a pledge of lasting growth and a prosperous future for children throughout the whole world.”

POPE FRANCIS AT CANONIZATION: LIKE NEW SAINTS, LET’S LIVE GOD’S DREAM JOYFULLY

By Deborah Castellano Lubov
Canonization of 10 New Saints

At the beginning of the liturgical celebration, the Pope proclaimed ten new saints: Titus Brandsma; Lazzarus Devasahayam; César de Bus; Luigi Maria Palazzolo; Giustino Maria Russolillo; Charles de Foucauld; Maria Rivier; Maria Francesca of Jesus Rubatto; Maria of Jesus Santo-canale; Maria Domenica Mantovani.

The Holy Father began recalling how in today's Gospel according to St. John, Jesus told His disciples, “Even as I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

This, the Pope said, is the legacy that Christ bequeathed to us, "the ultimate criterion for discerning whether or not we are truly His disciples, the commandment of love."

The Pope considered two elements of this Commandment: Jesus’ love for us, and the love He asks us to show to others.

Love, defines our being Christian

Jesus loved us so much, the Pope reminded, that He gave the total gift of Himself.

Our Christian lives, the Pope said, "do not begin with doctrine and good works, but with the amazement born of realizing that we are loved, prior to any response on our part."

The Pope warned that the world frequently tries to convince us that we are valued only for what we can produce, but yet the Gospel reminds us that we are loved. Being loved, he highlighted, is an integral part of our Christian identity and our strength.

Rethinking the meaning of holiness

Acknowledging this truth requires a conversion in the way we often think of holiness.

"At times, by over-emphasizing our efforts to do good works," the Pope observed, "we have created an ideal of holiness excessively based on ourselves, our personal heroics, our capacity for renunciation, our readiness for self-sacrifice in achieving a reward. In this way, we have turned holiness into an unattainable goal. We have separated it from everyday life, instead of looking for it and embracing it in our daily routines."

The love that we receive from the Lord, the Pope said, is the force that transforms our lives, and opens our hearts and enables us to love.

"In practice, what does it mean to live this love? " the Pope asked. "To love means this: to serve and to give one's life. To serve, that is, not to put our own interests first: to clear our systems of the poison of greed and competitiveness; to fight the cancer of indifference and the worm of self-referentiality; to share the charisms and gifts that God has given us."

Specifically, we should ask ourselves, "What do I do for others?"

Small acts of daily love

Giving one's life, the Pope said, is about more than simply offering something of ours to others, "it is about giving them our very selves." It requires, he underscored, "surmounting our selfishness in order to make our lives a gift, by looking after the needs of those at our side, by making an effort to help others, or just by listening patiently, spending time with them, making a phone call."

Holiness, does not consist of a few heroic gestures, but of many small acts of daily love. Our calling, the Pope said, is to serve others and offer our lives without expecting anything in return.

God's dream for your life

The Holy Father called on faithful to follow their example, in pursuing our own call to holiness, a form of holiness all our own, "not a photocopy of someone else's holiness." Pope Francis concluded by reminding the faithful that "God has a dream for your life. Welcome that dream, and pursue it with joy."

POPE FRANCIS AT AUDIENCE Catechesis on Old Age

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

The biblical passage we have just heard concludes the Book of Job, a universal literary classic. On our catechetical itinerary, we meet Job when he was an old man. We encounter him as a witness of a faith that does not accept a “caricature” of God, but protests loudly in the face of evil until God responds and reveals his face. And in the end, God responds, as always, in a surprising way – He shows Job His glory without crushing him, or better still, with sovereign tenderness, tenderly, just like God always does. The pages of this book need to be read well, without prejudices, without stereotypes, to understand the power of Job’s cry. It would be good for us to put ourselves in his school to overcome the temptation of moralism due to the exasperation and bitterness of the pain of having lost everything.

In this concluding passage of the book – we remember the story, don’t we? Job loses everything in his life, he loses his wealth, he loses his family, he loses his son and he even loses his health, and that’s where he is, plagued, in dialogue with three friends, then a fourth, who come to greet him: this is the story – and in this passage today, the concluding passage of the book, when God finally takes the floor (and this dialogue between Job and his friends is like the path leading to the moment in which God speaks his word), Job is praised because he understood *the mystery of God’s tenderness hidden behind his silence*. God rebukes Job’s friends who presumed they knew everything, to know about God and about suffering, and, having come to comfort Job, ended up judging him with their preconceived paradigms. God preserve us from this hypocritical and presumptuous religiosity! God preserve us from this moralistic religiosity and that religiosity of precepts that gives us a certain presumption and leads you to phariseeism and hypocrisy.

This is how the Lord expresses himself in their regard. Thus says the Lord: “My wrath is kindled against you [...] for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has”, this is what the Lord says to Job’s friends. “My servant Job shall pray for you, for I will accept his prayer not to deal with you according to your folly; for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has” (42:7-8). God’s declaration surprises us because we have read pages on fire with Job’s protest which have left us dismayed. And yet, the Lord says Job spoke well, even when he was angry, and even angry at God, but he spoke well because he refused to accept that God was a “Persecutor”. God is something else. And what is that? Job was seeking that. And as a reward, God gives back to Job double of all his possessions, after asking him to pray for those bad friends of his.

The turning point in the *conversation of faith* comes right at the height of Job’s venting, where he says, “I know that my Redeemer lives, and at last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then from my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another” (19:25-27). This passage is really beautiful. It makes me think of the end of that brilliant oratorio of Handel, the Messiah, after the celebrative Hallelujah, the soprano slowly sings this passage: “I know that my Redeemer lives”, peacefully. And so, after this painful and joyful experience of Job, the voice of the Lord is something else. “I know that my Redeemer lives” – it is truly a beautiful thing. We could interpret it like this: “My God, I know You are not a Persecutor. My God will come and do me justice”. It is the simple faith in the resurrection of God, the simple faith in Jesus Christ, the simple faith that the Lord is always waiting for us and will come.

The parable of the Book of Job dramatically represents in an exemplary way what truly happens in life – that really heavy trials fall on a person, on a family, on a people, disproportionate trials in comparison to human lowliness and frailty. It often happens in life that “when it rains it pours”, as the saying goes. And some people are overcome by an accumulation of evil that truly seems excessive and unjust. It is like this with many people.



FROM FR. HENRY DUC

Dear Friends,

As we know, there has been this tradition in the Church for Popes to gather all bishops of the Church together for consultation and decision making regarding to ecclesial matters in an assembly technically known as ecumenical council, and so far we have twenty one of them all together starting from the first Council of Nicaea in 325, and the recent one, of course was the Vatican II Council taking place almost 60 years ago to shape the Church as we know today.

Though the event presented in the first reading this week is not officially recognized as an ecumenical council by the Church, the meeting between Paul, Barnabas and representatives from their local churches

with the apostles and elders in Jerusalem to sort out the divisive issue about whether the Jewish law of circumcision should be kept or abolished in the Church, seemed to leave behind a telling example for Church bishops in coming generations to assemble together to deal with important Church business. Perhaps we might call this extraordinary occasion the unofficial ecumenical Council of Jerusalem, since the meeting of the very first fathers of the Church achieved a great result, seen through the letter the apostles and elders from Jerusalem sent to the Church in Antioch. According to it, Christians were no longer ‘to be saddled... with any burden’, meaning the rite of circumcision, though they continued ‘to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from fornication.’ Keep in mind that all items on this list, except

fornication, were exempted by the Church later on over the years. Imagine what would happen to the Church, if the apostles had no courage to say no to the irrelevant tradition of circumcision? For sure, it won’t be popular and multitude as it is today. The inspiring story in the first reading today reminds us that we always have to face with the issue of differences, disagreements, and arguments within the Church, since even the apostles had to deal with them in their days. However, we need to learn from the example of the apostles, elders and other members of the Early Church in mutual listening and respect, and their charitable bond and co-operation to find the best solution to bring the Church forward, even though it meant to cut them totally off their cultural root, meaning their Judaism.

Their lived experience speaks volumes for the authenticity of their message about Jesus, the Son of God, died and risen from the dead to save us from sin and bring us eternal life, and his teaching once again can be found in the Gospel reading, which is a reiteration of his distinctive commandment of love. With this farewell discourse given to the disciples prior to his Passion, Jesus makes three very important points: number one, the love for him must be illustrated through the observation of his commandment, number two, his Father, in return, will show his love to those who love him, and number three, he himself and his Father will honour them with their divine dwelling.

Let us pray today for the honour to become God’s living dwellings by the genuine love we have for Jesus, shown through our best efforts to fulfil what he expects us to follow, which is to love God wholeheartedly and love others as ourselves.

Have a charity-oriented week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION - CONGRATULATIONS!

Last Friday night, 22 children from our parish community celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation. Thanks to those parishioners who were available on the night to assist as liturgical ministers and also for those who helped. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide you on your journey of faith.



PARISH PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPE PROGRAM

By taking part of OLOL Planned Giving Envelope Program, you are helping the parish budget for all the costs involved in maintaining our active parish. If you would like an envelope number for regular donations, please fill in the card available at the church doors and return it to the parish office.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS COMMISSIONING MASS

The Commissioning Mass for Liturgical Ministers will be held on Thursday 26 May at 7.30pm at St. Patrick’s Cathedral Parramatta. During this Mass, Bishop Vincent will commission those who have completed their specific courses at the Liturgical Ministry Formation Course both previously and this year’s and want to be commissioned.

RECONCILIATION will be held in the church, on Saturdays 4:30pm-5:30pm.

REPORT FROM OUR RECENT PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING Apart from the reports given to members of the Council, the focus of our last meeting was on an article entitled Dialogue by Archbishop Roberto O. Gonzales Nieves, OFM exploring one of the key themes of this current papacy. The article highlights the areas the Church needs to dialogue with namely the states, the society and peoples from other faith traditions, and I guess we can add on the dialogue with members of our own families and of our Catholic Church to the list, too. The article also provides us with ingredients to make our multidimensional dialogue fruitful, which include empathy, a spirit of opening and welcoming, and the ability to accept different views.

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



LOL MINISTRY ROSTER

21 / 22 May 2022

Acolytes	Vigil: John Jordan 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am Kilifi Huihui
Ministers	Vigil: Louisa La Guidara, Rosey Soares 8am: Anne McNally, Maricel Santos 9.30am: SUB REQUESTS
Readers	Vigil: Catherine Rodrigues, Marinela Simic 8am: SUB REQUEST, Jo Cabasa 9.30am Mercy Aquino, Kamela Huihui
Altar Servers	Vigil: Alexa Bagatella, Alex La Guidara, Christina La Guidara 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am Leo Culili, Majerin Pieris
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ
Flowers	Annette & Mary B
Church cleaning	25 May Sue Abela, Jessie Borg, Anne McNally, Jerome Peralta
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: VOLUNTEER

28 / 29 May 2022

Acolytes	Vigil: James Dinning 8am: Ernie Gartner 9.30am Fayelene Kennedy
Ministers	Vigil: Anna Bellissimo, Laura Bellissimo 8am: Fennie Balatbat, SUB REQ 9.30am: Chrisha Gonzales, Helen Gonzales
Readers	Vigil: Crystal Menezes, Benno Motha 8am: Erika Hien, Maricel Santos 9.30am Christina Diaz, Noel Emmanuel
Altar Servers	Vigil: Amelia Laus, Lucas Laus, Alex Sparado 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am Leonardo Costello, Saoirse Costello, Sebastian Costello
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	VOLUNTEERS
Flowers	Team
Church cleaning	1 June Carole Walker, Lourdes Spitieri, Sandy Manamperi, Jerome Peralta
Welcomers	Vigil: Mary Bonnici 8am: Rita Paolini 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
1800 024 413 toll free



LOL PARISH CALENDAR

MAY

23	St Vincent De Paul Meeting	7pm
26	Christ Community Prayer Group	9.00am
26	Legion of Mary	1.30pm
26	Finance Meeting	8pm
28/29	BISHOP'S GOOD SHEPHERD APPEAL—All Masses	

DIOCESAN NEWS



LAUDATO SI' WEEK(16-24 May) is a celebration of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* and a call to action for Catholics around the world to care for our common home. You can participate through prayer, action and reflection with the new resources for parishes, schools, organisations and individuals created by the ACBC Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace. Go to www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au

FLAME NIGHT WITH THE MGL SISTERS

A night of prayer and fellowship for young single women. Mon 23rd May, 6pm at the Sisters house: 345 St Andrews Rd, Varroville. RSVP mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com

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, Seven Hills North, Bert Oldfield, Vardys Road State primary schools and The Hills Sports High School.

Day	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
School	Seven Hills North	Seven Hills	Vardy's Rd	Hills Sport High
Class/Time	Infants 10.30-11.00am	Kindy-Yr6 11.20-12.00pm	Primary 9.15-9.45am	TBA
Class/Time	Primary 11.30-12.00pm		Infants 10.00-10.30am	

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

Support our seminarians to become beacons of Christ's light



BISHOP'S GOOD SHEPHERD APPEAL Next weekend, our Parish is proud to support Parramatta Catholic Foundation's Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal. Funds raised through the Appeal will enable our Holy Spirit Seminary in Harris Park to provide for the education and formation of the faithful men who have answered God's call to become beacons of light for us, His people.

As our Diocese continues to grow, we need to train more visionary young men to join our 14 seminarians in becoming good shepherds of Christ's flock. We invite you to be the extended formation community for our seminarians on their journey to becoming priests.

Your prayerful support and accompaniment will enable men like Patrick and Menard, to pursue their vocation to become the future priests for our Diocese.

Please give generously via the giving envelopes and place them in the receptacle for the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal next weekend. Thank you.

Bishop Vincent PRESENTS

Sr Patricia Fox NDS

Friday 27 May at 7pm
Bishop Bede Heather Centre
1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown

Sister Patricia Fox ministered to the poor and marginalised in the Philippines for close to 30 years. In 2018, she was arrested at her convent in northwest Manila and was accused by the Filipino president of taking part in illegal political activities and of speaking out against the government. Join us for her compelling presentation, a short response from Bishop Vincent Long, Q&A and light canapes and drinks. LIMITED SEATS - Bookings essential via email at met@parracatholic.org

LIMITED SEATING RSVP by Friday 20 May to the Mission Enhancement Team met@parracatholic.org

