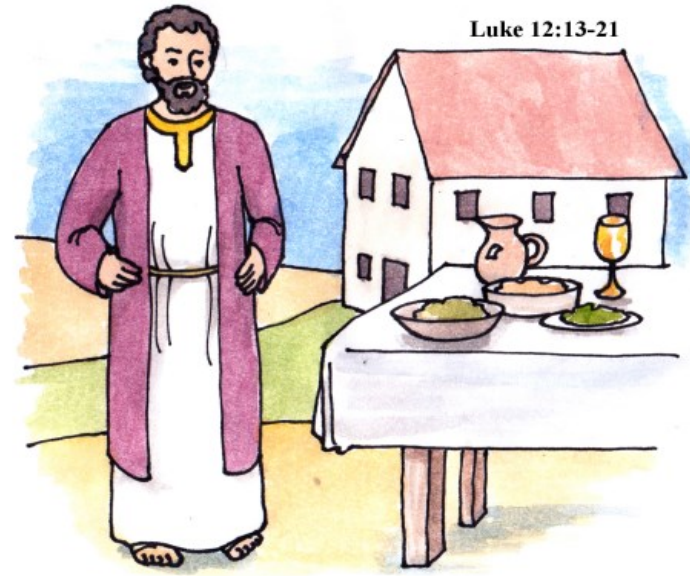


The Kids' Bulletin

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 31st, 2022

Use the code at the bottom to find out
what the rich farmer in today's Gospel wasn't thinking about.



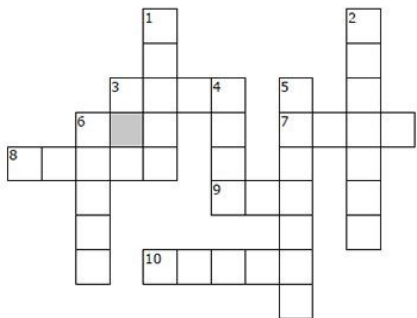
Luke 12:13-21

1 6 3 - - 3 2 0 + 3 X 4 3
9 8 8 + 5 7 - 9 5 + 5 X
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 + - X
A B D E H I L N O P R S T

The Parable of the Rich Fool

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." Luke 12:15 (NIV)

This puzzle is based on Luke 12:13-21 (NIV)



ACROSS

- 3. One who acts unwisely
- 7. Having great material wealth
- 8. Large farm buildings used for storing farm products and sheltering livestock
- 9. To take food into the body through the mouth
- 10. An official who decides cases brought before a court of law

DOWN

- 1. Agricultural products, such as grain, vegetables, or fruit
- 2. A person who educates or gives instruction
- 4. The period of time between birth and death
- 5. A male having the same parent or parents as another
- 6. To take liquid into the mouth and swallow

rich life judge eat crops fool brother teacher barns drink

Jesus teaches us not to be greedy



In today's Gospel reading, a man tells Jesus that his brother is being unfair to him. But Jesus knows that the man is just being greedy, so He tells him the parable of the rich farmer. One year he had such a good harvest that he couldn't fit it all into his barns. He tore down his old barns and built new ones, so that he could store his food for many years. But just when he thought he would be able to rest and enjoy his food, God told him that he would die.

This parable is a warning against being greedy. Jesus is not saying that we should not save some food or that we shouldn't save our money. He is just telling us to remember that we are going to die one day, and then everything we saved is going to be useless for us. He wants us to use the things we have wisely, but not be too attached to them.



Think of something that is really special to you. How would you feel if you lost it or it was taken away? Do your feelings show that you care too much about things? Try to think of your belongings in such a way that if you lost them you wouldn't be too upset. After all, none of your stuff is going to matter to you when you die!



I can follow Jesus by sharing.



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
Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am
Thursday 9.00am

WEEKDAY 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:

21st September 2022

Baptism:

9th October 2022

Parish Website:

www.olol7hills.com.au

Pastoral Care of the Sick:

Bathista Emmanuel

0405833655

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
31 July 2022 • Year C



Let us Pray for the Sick

Leonila Ahillon, George Alagiah, Mary Attard, David Benjamin,
Rosella Booth, Barrie Chamberlain, John Chandler, Ruby Chary,
Darakrama Dias, Elizabeth Ehsman, Anush Fernando, 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 email the Parish office secretary@olol7hills.com.au We can also arrange for Holy Communion or a visit if required.

Let us Pray for the Deceased

Recently Deceased: Fr. Francis Ca Van Ly, Jose Garcia, Danilo Gunabe,
Michael Sant, Anne Marie St Flour, Maria Menezes, Candida Irugaldanba-
ra, Denise Bates, Sushila Wijeratne, Mirella Zulic.

Anniversaries: Frank & Fortunata Baiada, Nazarene (Ronnie) Borg, Conchita Deloso, Nguyen Vinh Hien, Edouard Mahomudally, Antonio & Peppino Mancina, Pietro Marra, Lourda Motha, Hanh Nguyen, Custodio & Nieves Palmos, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondaro.

Remembrance: France Angseesing, Lisette & Joe Aristobil, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Melvyn Fernandes, Gerard Marcello, Linda Maya, Pauline Meilak, Mary Mifsud, Stephen & Louis Mula, Mary Muscat, Muscat Family, Tina Thi Thu Thuy Nguyen, Basil Paiva, Marion Pyne, John & Roseline Ratnam.

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



FACE MASKS
ENCOURAGED

• MASKS: are no longer mandatory but still encouraged

As previously communicated, density limits are no longer applicable for our Churches and other buildings within the Parish since Dec'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.

PARISH CONTRIBUTION PROGRAM

SECOND COLLECTION or Planned Giving Program

On behalf of the Parish Community, I would like to thank you very much for your ongoing support, which has been absolutely vital in keeping 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)

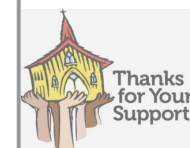
Account Name: Seven Hills Catholic Church

BSB: 062 315

ACC ID #: 00901486

AGENT #: 660

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



FIRST COLLECTION and 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 MASS celebrated by Fr. Henry Huu Duc Tran on Saturdays 6PM (Vigil), <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23

Vanity of vanities, the Preacher says. Vanity of vanities. All is vanity!

For so it is that a man who has laboured wisely, skilfully and successfully must leave what is his own to someone who has not toiled for it at all. This, too, is vanity and great injustice; for what does he gain for all the toil and strain that he has undergone under the sun? What of all his laborious days, his cares of office, his restless nights? This, too, is vanity.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

You turn men back into dust
and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night. **(R.)**

You sweep men away like a dream,
like grass which springs up in the morning.
In the morning it springs up and flowers:
by evening it withers and fades. **(R.)**

Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants. **(R.)**

In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

That is why you must kill everything in you that belongs only to earthly life: fornication, impurity, guilty passion, evil desires and especially greed, which is the same thing as worshipping a false god; and never tell each other lies. You have stripped off your old behaviour with your old self, and you have put on a new self which will progress towards true knowledge the more it is renewed in the image of its creator; and in that image there is no room for distinction between Greek and Jew, between the circumcised or the uncircumcised, or between barbarian and Scythian, slave and free man. There is only Christ: he is everything and he is in everything. The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!
Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of God is theirs!
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 12:13-21

A man in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Master, tell my brother to give me a share of our inheritance.' 'My friend,' he replied, 'who appointed me your judge, or the arbitrator of your claims?' Then he said to them, 'Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for a man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs.'

Then he told them a parable: 'There was once a rich man who, having had a good harvest from his land, thought to himself, "What am I to do? I have not enough room to store my crops." Then he said, "This is what I will do; I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods in them, and I will say to my soul: My soul, you have plenty of good things laid by for many years to come; take things easy, eat, drink, have a good time." But God said to him, "Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?" So it is when a man stores up treasure for himself in place of making himself rich in the sight of God.'

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

GENERAL NOTICES...

NEW TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES? HOW CAN WE SERVE YOU?

Welcome. Wherever you are in your faith journey, it is great to have you. Please visit our website or call the parish office. We're here to serve you.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK <https://www.facebook.com/LOLO7Hills/>



LOURDES OVER 50's GROUP

Come and make new friends and enjoy social activities. Meetings are at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall from 10.30am to 1pm once a month. Tea and coffee supplied. Contact Mary for more information; jordanjm@bigpond.net.au

SICK AND/OR HOMEBOUND?

Would you like to receive Communion? Or seriously ill or in danger of death? We have dedicated ministers who can visit and bring you communion. Feel free to approach or call Fr Henry for the Holy Anointing of the Sick. Please call the parish office 96222920

FUNERALS

When a Funeral is to be celebrated, please contact Fr. Henry before contacting the Funeral Home. Funerals are not permitted on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation.

BAPTISM

Parents desiring Baptism for their children are encouraged to contact the parish office to arrange for the required preparation class for parents.

SCAM ALERT!!

Beware of any suspicious emails or text messages. Call the parish office for verification.

MASS INTENTIONS

All Mass intentions must be submitted to the Parish Office on or before Thursday

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

Meet the second Friday of every month in the Parish Hall at 7pm

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>

LEGION OF MARY

Thursday's at 1.30pm in the Parish Meeting Room. All Welcome

Christ Community Prayer Group

Thursday's at 9.30am in the Parish Meeting Room. All Welcome



EMERGENCY Ukraine Appeal

Help provide urgent humanitarian assistance to people in Ukraine.

DONATE TODAY
www.caritas.org.au/ukraine
1800 024 413 toll free



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

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

30/31 July 2022

Acolytes	Vigil: J. Jordan 8am: E. Gartner 9.30am F.Kennedy
Ministers	Vigil: M. Simic, SUB REQ 8am: E.Gartner, E. Miu 9.30am: H.Gonzales, C.Gonzales
Readers	Vigil: A. Punch, C. Menezes 8am: P. Ferriols, B. Motha 9.30am M. Aquino, N. Arambulo
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. Laus, L. Laus 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am S. Culili, F. Wanandy
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	"Welcome Back Mass" celebrations
Flowers	Team
Church cleaning	3 August L. Spiteri, S. Manamperi, J. Peralta
Welcomers	Vigil: J. Deloso 8am: R. Paolini 9.30am: L Falzon

6/7 August 2022

Acolytes	Vigil: A. Do Rosario 8am: R. Epondulan 9.30am K. Huihui
Ministers	Vigil: A. Bellissimo, H. Gonzales 8am: A. Joseph, S. Nemorin 9.30am: P. Gow, S. Lenthall
Readers	Vigil: L. Bellissimo, N. Do Rosario 8am: E. Hien, M. Santos 9.30am K. Huihui, S. Manamperi
Altar Servers	Vigil: VOLUNTEERS 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am S. Culili.
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	
Flowers	Fenty, Gaby, Flo & Liz
Church cleaning	11 Aug C. Baquial, K. Baquial
Welcomers	Vigil: C. Gonzales 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: K. Chamberlain

OLOL PARISH CALENDAR

AUGUST

1	St. Vincent De Paul Meeting	7.00pm
3	FIRST HOLY COMMUNION —1st Meeting	6.30pm
4	Christ Community Prayer Group	9.30am
4	Legion of Mary	1.30pm
6	FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - 1st Meeting RPT	4.30pm
7	FIRST HOLY COMMUNION —Eucharist talk in the church	11.00-11.30am

....POPE FRANCIS' NEWEST INTERVIEW WITH TELEVISIA UNIVISION

Third World War fought piecemeal

In the interview, broadcast in its entirety by Televisia Univision, the Pope also addressed several other current issues.

He recalled the ongoing pandemic and the poignant moment of the *Statio Orbis* on 27 March 2020. Pope Francis then offered his thoughts on the war in Ukraine, stressing that he believes it is crucial to speak of "the country that is being attacked rather than the aggressors."

He confirmed his intention to meet with Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill in September at the interfaith event to be held in Kazakhstan.

Citing the drama of countries wracked by violence—such as Yemen and Syria—he reiterated that the world is living through a "Third World War fought piecemeal", saying that nuclear weapons "are immoral", including their possession and not just their use.

Abortion and politics

Pope Francis reaffirmed his condemnation of abortion, saying it is completely unjust to eliminate a human life.

He said his stance can be affirmed "on the basis of scientific data" which are non-negotiable.

Regarding the issue in the United States, after the Supreme Court's decision to overturn the ruling in *Roe v. Wade* on the so-called 'right' to abortion, the Pope noted the polarization present in the country, reiterating that pastors must always take care of the pastoral dimension and avoid creating political problems.

The interviewer asked the Pope how a priest should act in the case of a Catholic politician who supports abortion.

"I leave it to his conscience," said Pope Francis. "He should speak with his bishop, with his pastor about this inconsistency."

Cuba

The Pope then turned to Cuba, expressing his love for the Cuban people and the country's bishops.

He confided that he had a friendly relationship with former President Raúl Castro, expressing satisfaction with the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States at the time of the Obama presidency.

Moving forward

Pope Francis also spoke about his expectations for the upcoming Apostolic Journey to Canada under the banner of forgiveness for past evils.

He dwelt on the crimes of femicide, new forms of slavery, and in particular the scourge of pedophilia in the Church. The Pope recalled the impact the scandals have had in the United States, citing in particular the Pennsylvania Report.

"The lid has come off the pot," he acknowledged. "Today, the Church has become increasingly aware" about sexual abuse, calling it a monstrous crime.

The Church, he strongly reiterated, greatly desires "to move forward" and to no longer be "complicit" in these crimes.



FROM FR. HENRY DUC

Dear Friends,

This week let us travel back in time, actually to the time long before Christ, around 195-168 BC to be exact, since it has something to do with the beautiful first reading this Sunday, thought to be written by a highly respected Jewish scribe and teacher called Sirach, who probably travelled extensively in his life probably as a diplomatic emissary to foreign court.

Sirach aims to dedicate his book as an apologetic means to defend the religious and cultural heritage of Judaism against the challenge of Hellenism, and since puts together a synthesis of

revealed religion and empirical wisdom, which we see illustrated nicely in the first reading this Sunday through the refrain of 'vanity of vanities' throughout the text. Actually the word 'vanity' was kept repeating again and again 7 times altogether in such a short account.

Almost two centuries before Christ, Sirach realized the truth that this world is nothing but vanities, and no matter how one is wise, skillful or successful, he has to leave this world behind and depart from it empty handed, so what must one do? Jesus then shows us the secret of what we should carry out, so we all can leave this world of vanities as rich people, and the secret is to store up treasure for ourselves in the sight of God, meaning to fulfil what Jesus commands us to do by loving God and all our brothers and sisters, especially the least in God's created world.

As we know, the love of God requires us to spend time with him in prayer and participation in the sacraments of the Church especially the Eucharist where we can draw out the grace to strengthen and support us in the efforts to show our love for those around us through works and words of charity.

Let us pray today for the wisdom to see the momentary and temporary nature of this passing world, and the need to store up treasures for us in heaven as advised by Jesus, consequently we may be able to put all our resources into making ourselves rich before God by all means available to us.

Have a heaven-oriented week.

Fr. Henry

PARISH NEWS...

WELCOME BACK MASS GREETING & THANK YOU

I would like to welcome all parishioners and guests to our Welcome Back Mass as our Thanksgiving occasion to offer our praise and thanks to God for his ongoing protection, especially throughout the Pandemic, and let us pray for more of his support to help us see the end of the Coronavirus.

Thank you to the Organizing Committee and volunteers led by Evelyn Beed for offering fantastic food and enjoyable entertainment for all to enjoy.



LOURDES OVER 50'S: those going on the Courtesy Bus for the Riverboat Postman cruise on Monday 8th August please be outside the Parish Hall no later than 8.30 am.

Lourdes Over 50's next meeting will be on Thursday 11th August. Please be on time at 10.30 am as the School Concert starts at 11.15 am. Please bring your own lunch.

Tea and coffee provided. Parishioners are more than welcome to join us and see the school concert as well.

DIAMOND JUBILEE – CALLING ALL PARISH GROUP COORDINATORS To commemorate the 60th Anniversary of OLOL, we would like to publish a Parish Book, linking the theme from our previous parish book, OLOL Diamond Jubilee: Ongoing Blessings. We ask you to write a short piece, between 500 to 1000 words which **briefly** tells us about the group's origin/history, what you do now and your hopes for the group's future direction. If you could email Artelle by 31st August 2022. artellel@olol7hills.com.au

NEW ALTAR SERVERS ARE WANTED to help serve at Mass. Please join our team in helping serve at weekend Masses. To become an Altar Server your child must have completed their First Holy Communion, and must be in year 4 or higher. Forms can be collected at the entrances of the Church or by visiting the Parish Office. For more information, please email our Youth Coordinator Sarah - **s.lenthall8@gmail.com**



SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

2022 Classes begin Wednesday 3rd August & a repeat on Saturday 6th August. This program is for children in Year 3 and above who have received the Sacrament of Penance. Sacrament of First Holy Communion will be celebrated on September 11th and 18th. For information please contact our Sacramental Coordinator Artelle in the Parish office for more information.

OUR LIVE-STREAMED MASS

As things quickly return to normal, it's time for our parish to reduce our live-streamed Masses to allow our parishioners to enjoy a physical Mass attendance. So we are going to live-stream just the Vigil Mass for weekends from July 09 2022, and remain to do so till the end of 2022.

We would like to thank Michelle and Ian for their beyond-word generosity to offer their time and talents to serve our parish in the last two years, so that we always had high quality live-streamed Masses for both our local parish community and beyond to participate in. May the Lord bless you manifold for your generous works of love.

THURSDAY MASS TIME As part of our School mission, we have changed our Thursday Mass time from 8am to 9am from **7 July** this year. Our aim is to offer children from our Parish school a weekly opportunity to attend Mass. So far, we have received positive response from our School Staff and hope that this initiative of ours will help rejuvenate the flame of faith within both the children and parents.

PARISH BIN ROSTER - VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

We are seeking **12 volunteers** each to assist 4 times a year to place the Parish bins on the kerbside (Grantham Road) once a week on Tuesday. Please contact the Parish Office 9622 2920 if you are able to help out. *Thank you.*

DIOCESAN NEWS

ADULT CONFIRMATION : 1 September

Adult Confirmation 2022 will be held on **1 September 2022 at 7:30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral** with the Catechesis and Formation Day to be held on **Saturday 20 August at 9:30am at the Bede Heather Centre** (formerly known as the IFM). Adult Confirmation is a community celebration for those who have reached the age of 16 years and have received both the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist, but are yet to receive Confirmation. If you would like more information please contact the Office for Worship on (02) 8838 3456 or anne.stanton@parracatholic.org.

YOUNG ADULT FAITH FORMATION: 7 August

Young adults aged 18 to 35 are invited to a young adults faith formation session on Sunday 7 August at The Hustle, 4-6 Purdy St, Minchinbury, starting from 7pm. Join Fr John Rizzo for a discussion on mercy in scripture. A donation of \$5 is suggested. Come along for fun, faith and fellowship! Call Mark on 0477 004 678 for more information.

Missionaries of God's Love Claiming Hope Creative Healing Retreat: 12 – 14 August

Join the MGL Sisters at Carmel House, Varroville, for a healing retreat experience. Come to God in your woundedness, journey with Him through creativity, and allow Him to transform you into a living sign of hope. For enquiries, please contact mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com or visit <https://www.trybooking.com/BWMJN>

The Bishop's Blend Breakfast: 8 August

Looking to network with other young Catholic professionals and learn how to live your faith in the workplace? Then join Bishop Richard Umbers, Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney on **Monday 8 August at 7am at the Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Sydney** for The Bishop's Blend Breakfast for Young Professionals. Online booking is essential. For more information and to purchase tickets go to <https://sydneycatholic.eventsair.com/the-bishops-blend/tbbx> or contact us at bishopsblend@sydneycatholic.org



DIOCESAN NEWS

ENVIRONMENT (Watch this space): The State of the Environment report is always written by leading environmental scientists. This time, it also includes important First Nations perspectives to ensure Indigenous views, values and knowledge inform decision-making for better environmental outcomes.

The [new report https://soe.dcceew.gov.au/](https://soe.dcceew.gov.au/) is out and unfortunately it reveals even further declines in the health of our incredible plants, animals and ecosystems. Our animals and plants are in decline, with more threatened with extinction than ever. Our towns and cities are becoming harder to live in. And our bushland ecosystems have not recovered after the Black Summer bushfires. Pressures that have been outlined in previous reports such as climate change, habitat destruction and invasive species – are becoming worse and will continue to result in destroying nature and driving wildlife to extinction. (Summary from Australian Conservation Foundation)

The State of the Environment report <https://soe.dcceew.gov.au/> also warns of impending disaster if we do not take urgent action:

- Australia has lost more mammal species than any other **continent and continues to have one of the highest rates of species decline among countries in the OECD**. The number of new species listed or listed in a higher category of threat has grown by 8% since 2016 and will increase substantially in coming years because of the 2019–20 bushfires.

- **Australia now has more foreign plant species than native**

- **The true number of extinctions is likely to be significantly higher** because many species are poorly surveyed or poorly described, or both. The situation is even more dire than we expected. We need the government to listen to these findings, and take swift and bold action to prevent even further biodiversity loss. (Summary from Australian Conservation Foundation)

POSITION VACANT– Personal Assistant, Sisters of Mercy Parramatta

Personal Assistant, Sisters of Mercy Parramatta. Full-time, 12-month position and based at Parramatta. Please contact Anthony Spata at REACH Human Resources for further information on [0402 210 055](tel:0402210055).

Sydney Alliance Convention: 2 August

You are invited to the Sydney Alliance Convention: 'Together in Dignity' on Tuesday 2 August from 4pm to 8.30pm at the UTS Great Hall, 15 Broadway, Ultimo. The convention brings delegates from partner organisations to listen and share in stories, struggles, and solidarity across the diversity of our community and endorse a common vision for Greater Sydney and a strategy for the Alliance in 2022-23. For more information, and to register, please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/sydney-alliance-convention>

Jesus Light of the World Communities "ReCHARGE" Gathering Every Saturday at 3pm, the Jesus Light of the World Communities in Rockdale are hosting a "ReCHARGE" gathering with praise and worship, prayer, empowerment and fellowship at St Joseph's Parish Hall, Rockdale. For enquiries, please contact Ida on 0424 267 500 or Helen on 0433 455 114 or visit www.jlowcom.org.

POPE FRANCIS' RECENT INTERVIEW

In a Spanish-language interview with Argentina's national news agency Télam, Pope Francis reflects on a wide range of issues, including "building back better," the need to live in harmony with nature, the role of young people in building a better world, and what he has achieved in the first ten years of his papacy. Télam has provided an English translation of the first part of the interview with Pope Francis, which Vatican News offers here. *By Bernarda Llorente*

When I was chosen, I set things in motion. A few months later, inquiries took place and we published the new Constitution. Meanwhile, changes were being made. I mean, these were not ideas of my own. I want that to be clear. These were ideas born from the requests of the entire College of Cardinals.

But you are leaving your mark. We can see the stamp of the Latin American church...

That is true.

How did this perspective make the changes we are seeing possible?

The Latin American Church has a long history of being close to the people. If we go over the episcopal conferences—the first one at Medellín, then Puebla, Santo Domingo, and Aparecida—they were always in dialogue with the people of God. And that really helped. It is a popular Church, in the real sense of the word. It is a Church of the People of God.

That was altered when people could not express themselves, and it ended up becoming a Church of trail bosses, with pastoral agents in command. People began to express themselves more and more about their religion and they ended up becoming protagonists of their own story.

Rodolfo Kusch, an Argentine philosopher, is the one that best understands what a people is. I highly recommend reading Kusch. He is one of the greatest Argentine brains. He wrote books on the philosophy of the people.

In a way, this is the experience of the Latin American Church, although there have been attempts of ideologization, such as the use of Marxist concepts in the analysis of reality by Liberation Theology. That was an ideological exploitation, a path of liberation, let's say, of the Latin American popular church. But there is a difference between the people and populisms....

POPE FRANCIS' NEWEST INTERVIEW WITH TELEVISIA UNIVISION

"I have no intention of resigning, not for the moment."

Pope Francis gave that assurance in a wide-ranging interview granted to Mexican journalists Maria Antonieta Collins and Valentina Alazraki with Televisa Univision's ViX streaming service.

In an excerpt of the interview posted on Univision Noticias' YouTube channel, the Pope talks about his health and rumors circulating in recent weeks that he would renounce the Petrine ministry.

"At the moment, I don't feel that the Lord is asking this of me," said Pope Francis. "If I felt He was asking this of me, then yes."

He then called it a "coincidence" that he will go to the Italian city of L'Aquila, where Pope Celestine V is buried, during the next Consistory of Cardinals in late August.

Health situation

Regarding the condition of his knee, the Pope stressed that, although he feels "limited", he also thinks it "is improving."

However, he added, the trip to the Democratic Republic of Congo "certainly" could not have been made.

"I did not have the strength," he explained. "Now, 20 days later, progress has been made."

He then reiterated the "great example given by Benedict XVI" which he said will help him "make a decision" should it be necessary to resign.

Pope Francis also spoke of his "great appreciation" for the Pope Emeritus, saying he is "a man who is sustaining the Church with his goodness and his retreat" of prayer. And he shared that he feels joy every time he visits the Pope Emeritus at the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery.

Resignation conjectures

Responding to a question about the possibility of setting out rules regarding the figure of a Pope Emeritus, Pope Francis noted that "history itself will help to regulate better."

"The first experience went very well," he said, because Benedict XVI "is a holy and discreet man."

For the future, however, he added, "it would be better to define things or explain them better."

Talking about his own possible resignation, Pope Francis replied that he would not return to Argentina.

"I am the Bishop of Rome. In that case I would be the bishop emeritus of Rome," he said, adding that he could stay at St. John Lateran.

The Pope recalled that, ahead of the Conclave, he had already prepared his retirement as Archbishop Emeritus of Buenos Aires. He said it would have been important for him to "hear confessions and visit the sick."

This would have been his "apostolate", his "work," he said.

"To be at the service of the people where you can," he said, "this is what I was thinking about in Buenos Aires." He added that he would enjoy doing the same now if he were to ever resign the papacy.