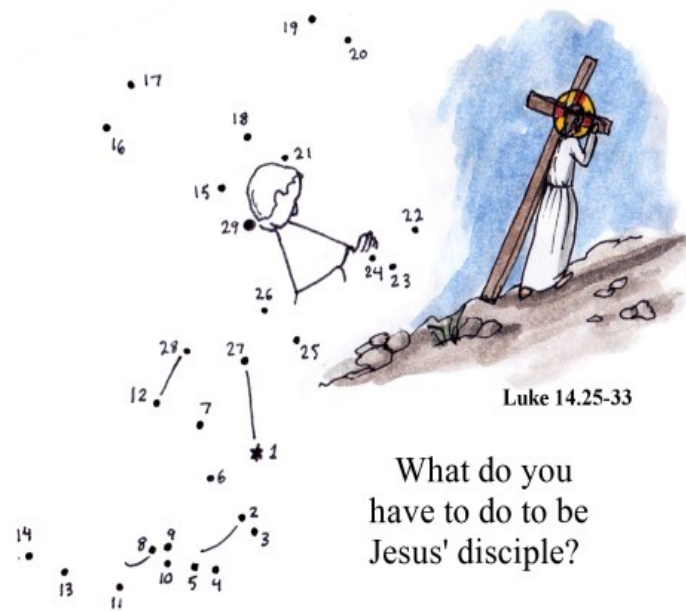


# The Kids' Bulletin

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 4th, 2022



What do you  
have to do to be  
Jesus' disciple?

Connect the dots to find out,  
starting at the star beside the number 1.  
Then you can colour the picture in.

*This Thursday is Our Lady's Birthday!  
What can your family do to  
celebrate Mary's Birthday?*

## Jesus Maze



## Family and Friends or God?

YES, I AM A CHRISTIAN.



In today's Gospel  
reading Jesus says,  
"If any one comes  
to me and does not  
hate his own father  
and mother and  
wife and children  
and brothers and  
sisters, yes, and even  
his own life, he cannot be my disciple."

You probably thought that God doesn't want us to  
hate anyone, right? Well He doesn't! What Jesus  
was saying was that we should love God more than  
we love the people closest to us. He means that we  
should be ready to do what God wants even if that  
means losing our family or best friends.

Normally God wants us to  
stay close to the people we  
love, but what if you had to  
choose between doing the  
right thing or keeping your  
friends? Are you ready to  
give up anything or anyone  
that would stop you from  
loving God?

We ask God for His mercy.  
Answer to Word-Find:



## Psalm 90 Word-Find

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

See if you can find all  
the words from today's  
Psalm that are written  
in CAPITALS.  
The leftover letters tell  
what we are doing when  
we pray this Psalm.



A THOUSAND YEARS in thy sight  
are but as YESTERDAY when it is past,  
or as a WATCH in the NIGHT.

Thou dost SWEEP men AWAY; they are like a DREAM,  
like GRASS which is RENEWED in the morning:  
in the MORNING it flourishes and is renewed;  
in the EVENING it FADES and withers.

So teach us to number our DAYS  
that we may get a HEART of WISDOM.  
Return, O LORD! How long?  
Have PITY on thy SERVANTS!

SATISFY us in the morning with thy steadfast LOVE,  
that we may REJOICE and be GLAD all our days.



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:

Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am  
Thursday 9.00am

WEEKEND MASS:

Saturday Vigil 6pm  
Sunday 8am & 9:30am

Parish School:

OLOL 8869 6800

Principal:

Ms Keiran Byrnes

Reconciliation:

Saturday 4:30-5:30pm

Baptismal Preparation:

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/>

## TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 4 September 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,  
Parakranta Dias, Danilo Dolot, Elizabeth Ehsman, Anush Fernan-  
do, Joseph Franco, Anthony Janicska, Spencer Leon, Cynthia  
Lopez, Carmenu M, Marie Marchand, Wiranjan Peiris, Adrian Pereira, Salo-  
me Pillay, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Sandra Roseworn, Susantha Ser-  
anayake, Bernie Sivapatham, Joan Spillane, Pummalin Sumcad, Sue Tipal-  
do, 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 [secreary@olol7hills.com.au](mailto:secreary@olol7hills.com.au)  
We can also arrange for Holy Communion or a visit if required.

Let us Pray for the Deceased

Recently Deceased: Maureen D'Crus, Jesus 'Jet' Fernando, Jose Garcia  
Snr, Helen Rose, Edwin Tabone.

Anniversaries: Victor Azzopardi, Lina Cabaero, Cini & Mangion Family,  
Simone & Paul Commarmond, Joan Falzon, Melvyn Fernandes, Leandro  
Garcia Snr, Zenaida Garcia, Edouard Pauline Meilak, Lourda Motha, Igna-  
cio Nonato Snr, Peppi Portelli, Caroline Susainathan, Tony Vassallo.

Remembrance: F. Angseesing, R. M. & D. Barney, Myrna Cruz, Fer-  
nandes Family, G. Marcello, M. Mifsud, A. & L. Motha, S. & L. Mula, J. Mus-  
cat, M. Muscat, Muscat Family, J. & C. Muscat, J. & R. Ratnam, J. & A Vella

### 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.**

### REGULAR COLLECTIONS - First and Second

\* **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

#### \* SECOND COLLECTION or Planned Giving Program

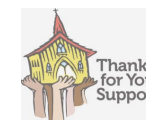
On behalf of the Parish Community, I would like to thank you very much  
for your ongoing support, which has been absolutely vital in keeping our  
Parish going strong. Projects completed include the Hall Kitchen renova-  
tion, Parish Meeting Room painting, Parish Office and Meeting Room  
Roof painted, Church roof cleaned and ceiling repaired and painted.

#### 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



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 Wisdom 9:13-18

What man can know the intentions of God? Who can divine the will of the Lord? The reasonings of mortals are unsure and our intentions unstable; for a perishable body presses down the soul, and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind. It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth, laborious to know what lies within our reach; who, then, can discover what is in the heavens? As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you not granted Wisdom and sent your holy spirit from above? Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened and men been taught what pleases you, and saved, by Wisdom.

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 Philemon 9-10, 12-17

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Let your face shine on your servant, and teach me your laws.  
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 14:25-33

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

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

**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK** <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>



**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](mailto: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  
For more information contact Ian Epondulan: [youtholol7h@gmail.com](mailto:youtholol7h@gmail.com)



**KEEP UP TO DATE** By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more - a great way to stay up to date with what's on in our Parish  
Visit [www.olol7hills.org.au](http://www.olol7hills.org.au)

**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

**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>

**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

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

3/4 September 2022

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am Sandy Manaperi
Ministers	Vigil: C. Gonzales, H. Gonzales 8am: A. McNally VOLUNTEER 9.30am: A. Bellissimo, M. Michael
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, VOLUNTEER 8am: P. Ferriols, K. Walker 9.30am L. Bellissimo, VOLUNTEER
Altar Servers	Vigil: Alexa Bagatella, VOLUNTEERS 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am C. Attard, L. Culili, M. Pieris
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Tongan Choir
Flowers	Fenty, Gaby, Flo & Liz
Church cleaning	7 Sept L.Spiteri, S. Manaperi, J. Peralta
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Ugre 8am: Joyce Hillbrick 9.30am: VOLUNTEER

10/11 September 2022

Acolytes	Vigil: John Jordan 8am: Ryan Epondulan 9.30am Kilifi Huihui
Ministers	Vigil: C. Jansz, M Mifsud 8am: E. Gartner, Benno Motha 9.30am: B. Chandler, S. Lenthall
Readers	Vigil: C. Menezes, M. Simic 8am: J. Cabasa, E. Hien 9.30am M. Aquino, K.Huihui
Altar Servers	Vigil: VOLUNTEERS 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am K. Maruthanayagam, F. Wanandy
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Young Adults Group
Flowers	Claudette & Judith
Church cleaning	15 Sept C. Hutchings, A. Peatman, J. Peralta
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Rita Paolini 9.30am: Lena Falzon

OLOL PARISH CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

3/4	Father's Day Appeal	
7	FHC Practice Group 1	6:30-7:30pm
8	Lourdes Over 50's	10.30am
8	Christ Community Prayer Group	9.30am
8	Legion of Mary	1.30pm
11	FHC Mass Group 1	11:30am
12	Saint Vincent De Paul	7:00pm



..... (cont) The Christian knows that his or her life is not a career after the manner of the world, but a career after the manner of Christ who said of himself that he had come to serve and not to be served (cf. *Mk* 10:45). Unless we understand that the revolution of the Gospel is contained in this type of freedom, we will continue to witness war, violence and injustice, which are nothing other than the external symptoms of a lack of interior freedom. Where there is no interior freedom, selfishness, individualism, personal interest, and oppression, and all these miseries, find their way in. And misery takes control. Brothers and sisters, may L'Aquila truly be the capital of forgiveness, the capital of peace and of reconciliation! May L'Aquila know how to offer everyone that transformation that Mary sings about in the *Magnificat*: "He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate" (*Lk* 1:52), the transformation that Jesus reminded us of in today's Gospel, "Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (*Lk* 14:11). And precisely to Mary, whom you venerate under the title of *Salvation of the People of L'Aquila*, we wish to entrust the resolution to live according to the Gospel. May her maternal intercession obtain pardon and peace for the entire world. The awareness of one's own misery and the beauty of mercy.

**POPE FRANCIS AT AUDIENCE: ‘OLD AGE IS WHERE WISDOM IS WOVEN.’** *By Devin Watkins*  
Pope Francis concluded his General Audience catechesis series on the value of old age with a reflection on the Assumption into heaven of Jesus’ mother, Mary. He took his cue from the Letter to the Romans (Rm 8:22-24), in which St. Paul compares the pain of childbirth to the “redemption of our bodies”. The Pope said the Blessed Virgin Mary’s Assumption also illuminates our own destination, though depicted differently in the Latin and Oriental traditions. “In the West, we contemplate her lifted up, enveloped in glorious light,” he said. “In the East, she is depicted reclining, dormant, surrounded by the Apostles in prayer, while the Risen Lord holds her in His hands like a child.”  
**Death: a ‘second birth’**  
Pope Francis linked Mary’s passing into heaven with the mystery of Christ’s Resurrection. *“In the divine act of the reuniting of Mary with the Risen Christ, the normal bodily corruption of human death is not simply transcended, the bodily assumption of the life of God is anticipated.”* Death, said the Pope, is a little like a “second birth”, since when we emerge from our mother’s womb, we are the same person we were before, just as we are born into heaven in death yet remain ourselves. “It is analogous to what happened to Jesus,” noted the Pope. “The Risen One is still Jesus: He does not lose His humanity, His experience, or even His corporeity, because without it He would no longer be Him.” This truth, he added, is revealed when the Risen Jesus appears to His disciples after Easter and shows them His wounds and remains in relationship with them.  
**Jesus’ festive images of heaven**  
The Pope went on to point out that Jesus often described heaven in terms of a wedding feast or a celebration with friends. He said these images help us to look forward in hope to our next life and “God’s creative love”. *“In our old age, the importance of the many ‘details’ of which life is made—a caress, a smile, a gesture, an appreciated effort, an unexpected surprise, a hospitable cheerfulness, a faithful bond—becomes more acute.”*

**Pangs and promise of our risen body**  
Old age, said Pope Francis, is where wisdom is woven, which in turn illuminates the lives of younger generations and the entire community. “Our whole life appears like a seed that will have to be buried so that its flower and its fruit can be born,” he said. “It will be born, along with everything else in the world.” However, noted the Pope, death and rebirth in heaven is “not without labour pangs, not without pain”. Yet, he concluded, “the life of the risen body will be a hundred and a thousand times more alive than we have tasted it on this earth.”

**POPE FRANCIS TO FAMILIES: ‘NEVER FORGET PRAYER, WHICH KEEPS OUR FAITH ALIVE’** *By Deborah Castellano Lubov*  
"Let us not forget prayer, because prayer helps us to keep faith alive; the balm of faith is preserved by often turning our thoughts to the Lord: it can help us so much to look at the image of the crucifix, to stop our gaze there.. It is a beautiful way to pray." Pope Francis gave this reminder when meeting with the Family of Pedro Maria Guimaraes de Mello in the Vatican on Friday. The Mello family is a Christian family of entrepreneurs and as such has over 100 years of history, dedicated to social responsibility, with very strong bonds with the Portuguese Catholic University. The family of 12 siblings employs over a thousand people, as they work to develop their businesses and their collaborators for a better world. In his remarks, the Pope thanked them for their witness of their love for the Church and for their "pilgrimage to the tomb of St Peter." "It is faith in Jesus that brought you here and brought you together. It is good to see a family united, and a family strengthened by the gift of faith."  
**Harmony in families**  
He expressed his joy to see the family and thinking of families like theirs. "Seeing your family and thinking of families like yours," the Pope reflected, "I am reminded of Psalm 133: 'How good and how pleasant it is, when brothers dwell together as one! Like fine oil on the head, running down...'" The oil, he noted, is a beautiful image of union, and of the happiness of being in communion. "But the oil," he added, "is also an image of the faith that strengthens our bonds and, through the Holy Spirit, makes harmony in families possible - this is important - harmony also in the Church, in the world."  
**Never run out of 'oil of faith'**  
"I encourage you," the Pope continued, "never to let the oil of faith run out in your lamps." In this way, he said, they collaborate with the grace of God that we experience in our encounter with Him. "We experience the Lord's presence in many circumstances, but especially in the sacraments and meditation on His Word," he said.  
**Prayer keeps faith alive**  
Never forget prayer, the Pope insisted. "Not only does it keep faith alive," he said, "the very act of turning our thoughts to the Lord" can do the faithful so much good. Keeping our gaze fixed on the Crucifix, the Pope said, "is a beautiful way to pray."  
**Trust in Lord's goodness**  
"As a family and as individuals," he said, "I invite you to go forward on your journey of faith, trusting in the goodness of the Lord and in the protection of the Blessed Virgin, whom you venerate with so much love at Fatima. " Pope Francis concluded by inviting them to join him in praying three Hail Marys and asking them to pray for him.




**FROM FR. HENRY DUC**  
Dear Friends,  
At the start of August 1970, I left home at the age of 12 to begin the Formation program at a seminary established around the time of the Vatican II Council and named after Pope John XXIII. Our representative that year was a year twelve student, who really impressed his fellow seminarians with leadership and communications skills and was one of the very few given the privilege to keep a motorbike to go around while living in such a strict institution. He was so cool, and as a young country boy I couldn't stop looking up to him as a good example to follow. However, he decided to drop out of the Seminary formation at the end of the year and I have lost track of him since. However, I, through my contacts, know that he left Vietnam many years ago and has re-settled somewhere in the Northern Territory, and managed to get his contact numbers before the trip. In the second week of my recent holidays, I decided to ring him and arranged a time to catch up with him. Though we haven't seen each other again for 52 years, he remembered me straight away, and was able to recall lot of things happen in the seminary many years ago, and even surprised me with his recollection of me as a boy, something I didn't expect him to do as a senior student. Eventually he arranged the time for me to sit down for a meal with his family on a Saturday night and the next Sunday took me to his farm, which was about 100 kms out of Darwin, big enough for around 30,000 mango trees to grow and for Matt Wright to keep a fleet of helicopters, safari camps and exploring boats. He even managed to get Matt in for lunch and a chopper to land right in the backyard after lunch to take us up for an aerial tour. What a re-union after 52 years of separation! We would never imagine one day we met each other again in the Top End of this land, though we lost in touch with each other for a long time. It was like a dream to me, and from the biblical perspective of the first reading this Sunday, it was part of 'the intentions of God' as the author of the book of Wisdom put it, which are beyond the scope of our human reasoning, consequently we'd better entrust our lives onto Him and try our best to please Him, and what actually makes him happy and pleasing the most, according to Jesus in the Gospel, is nothing but to prove that we are his true disciples by our willingness to carry the cross of our daily troubles and sufferings. Enlightened by these inspiring thoughts of the readings this Sunday, let us pray for the wisdom to appreciate God's intentions for us in this world, and the joy to honour them in our best efforts to carry the cross of our everyday lives.

Have a cross-oriented week.  
Fr. Henry

PARISH NEWS...

**MASS THANK YOU**  
Many thanks to Frs Huy Nguyen SJ, Vincy D'Costa OFMCap & Bollar Bareto OFMCap for their generosity to come here and say Mass for the parish in the last three weeks. Thank you to our ministers for stepping up to provide support when things failed to go according to the plan.

 **LOURDES OVER 50's** next meeting on Thursday 8th September from 10.30 am to 1.00 pm will be held in the Parish Hall. Please bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee supplied. Parishioners are welcome to join us.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER**  
All members of our Parish Pastoral Council are invited to join the monthly meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday 14 September in the Parish Meeting Room.

**BISHOP'S FATHERS DAY APPEAL** for Retired and Sick Priests is traditionally held on Father's Day, this year being the weekend of Sunday 4 September. This annual appeal raises much needed funds for our Diocese's Clergy Support Foundation to continue its work of supporting retired clergy and those in ill-health. We currently care for 21 retired clergy in our Diocese – 1 bishop, 18 priests and 2 deacons. This year's appeal will highlight the faithful service of our retired clergy, and in particular, Mons John Boyle, Fr Chris Dixon and Fr Bob Sheridan. With your enthusiastic support for our Bishop's Father's Day Appeal, our Clergy Support Foundation can better care for our 21 retired priests and those clergy who are unwell, giving them comfort, professional health care, and guidance. As you know, our faithful parish priests never truly retire!







**Listen to the Voice of creation**  
SEASON OF CREATION 2022

**SEASON OF CREATION** 1st September - 4th October "I have heard their cry...I know their sufferings... Come, now! I will send you...I will be with you" (Ex 3: 1-12). The burning bush is the Symbol for the Season of Creation 2022. Today, the prevalence of unnatural fires are a sign of the devastating effects that climate change has on the most vulnerable of our planet. Creation cries out as forests crackle, animals flee, and people are forced to migrate due to the fires of injustice. On the contrary, the fire that called to Moses as he tended the flock on Mt. Horeb did not consume or destroy the bush. This flame of the Spirit revealed God's presence. This holy fire affirmed that God heard the cries of all who suffered, and promised to be with us as we followed in faith to our deliverance from injustice. In this Season of Creation, this symbol of God's Spirit calls us to listen to the voice of creation.

**FAMILY EXPLORATION WALK on Saturday 10th September 10am-noon**, suitable for wheelchairs, walkers and scooters. Gathering at Grantham Road, Soldiers Settlement Reserve and continuing onto Duncan park. Park in Margaret street and bring a picnic lunch and stay for some community time or at Seven Hills RSL if continuing on for lunch there. **Contact OLOL7Hills Laudato Si Circle** if you would like to help on the day [antiphon1@outlook.com](mailto:antiphon1@outlook.com) or [socialjustice@olol7hills.com.au](mailto:socialjustice@olol7hills.com.au) Terry 0409373715.



Pope Francis, 2020 Season of Creation Message

© Learn more about the Season of Creation

**Listen to the Voice of creation**  
SEASON OF CREATION 2022



**Family Exploration Walk**  
**Saturday**  
**10th September**  
**10 am to Noon**



**Gather at Soldiers Settlement Reserve Grantham Rd**

**Discover reflect pray**  
As we wander our local waterway and forest.



**In the Spirit of Laudato Si**  
With OLOL7Hills Laudato Si Circle  
If you wish, bring a picnic lunch and stay for some community time or continue at RSL Club for Lunch.  
[antiphon1@outlook.com](mailto:antiphon1@outlook.com)



## PALMS AUSTRALIA – Embrace the call to Global Mission

Countries such as American Samoa, Cambodia, the Philippines, Tanzania and Timor-Leste are requesting Australian Catholics to live in and share their skills with parish community. Embrace one of the Palms Australia mission opportunities abroad via <https://palms.org.au/current-opportunities/>. Enquire online today at <https://palms.org.au/current-opportunities/assignments-abroad/> or phone 0422 742 567. You can also register for an upcoming information webinar on Saturday 24 September at 11.30am to hear from a current participant - <https://palms.org.au/event/embrace-palms-return-to-global-mission/>.

**POPE FRANCIS' HOMILY AT THE BASILICA OF ST MARY IN COLLEMAGGIO** The Saints are a fascinating explanation of the Gospel. Their lives are a privileged vantage point from which we can glimpse the good news that Jesus came to proclaim – namely, that God is our Father and each of us is loved by him. This is the heart of the Gospel, and Jesus is the proof of this Love – his incarnation, his face.

Today we are celebrating the Eucharist on a special day for this city and this Church: the Celestinian Forgiveness. Here, the relics of Pope Celestine V are preserved. This man seems to have completely accomplished what we heard in the First Reading: "The greater you are, the more you must humble yourself; so you will find favor in the sight of the Lord" (Sir 3:18). We erroneously remember Celestine V as "the who made a great refusal", according to the expression Dante used in his Divine Comedy. But Celestine V was not a man who said "no", but a man who said "yes". In fact, there exists no other way to accomplish God's will than to assume the strength of the humble, there is no other way. Precisely because they are such, the humble appear weak and as losers in the eyes of men and women, whereas in reality, they are the true conquerors because they are the ones who confide completely in the Lord and know his will. It is, in fact, "to the humble that God reveals his secrets, and by the humble he is glorified" (cf. Sir 3:19-20). In the spirit of the world that is dominated by pride, the Word of God for today invites us to become humble and meek. Humility does not consist in belittling ourselves, but rather in that healthy realism that makes us recognize our potentials as well as our misery. Beginning with our misery, humility makes us take our gaze off ourselves in order to turn it toward God, to the One who can do everything and who even obtains for us what we would not succeed in obtaining on our own. "All things can be done for the one who believes" (Mk 9:23).

The strength of the humble is the Lord, not strategies, human means, the logic of this world, calculations. No, it is the Lord. In that sense, Celestine V was a courageous witness of the Gospel because there was no logic or power that was able to imprison or control him. In him, we admire a Church free from worldly logic, witnessing completely to that name of God which is Mercy. This is the very heart of the Gospel, for mercy is knowing that we are loved in our misery. They go together. Mercy cannot be understood without understanding one's own misery. Being believers does not mean drawing near to a dark and frightening God. The Letter to the Hebrews reminds us of this: "For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them" (12:18-19). No. Dear brothers and sisters, we have drawn near to Jesus, the Son of God, who is the Mercy of the Father and the Love that saves. He is mercy, and it is only with his mercy that he can speak to our misery. If one of us thinks they can reach mercy another way than through their own misery, they have taken the wrong way. This is why it is important to understand one's own reality.

For centuries, L'Aquila has kept alive the gift that Pope Celestine V himself left it. That gift is the privilege of reminding everyone that with mercy, and with mercy alone, can the life of every man and every woman be lived with joy. Mercy is the experience of feeling welcomed, put back on our feet, strengthened, healed, encouraged. To be forgiven is to experience here and now that which comes closest to being resurrected. Forgiveness is the passage from death to life, from the experience of anguish and guilt to that of freedom and joy. May this church always be a place in which people can be reconciled and experience that Grace that puts us back on our feet and gives us another chance. Our God is the God of second chances – "How many times, Lord? One? Seven?" – "Seventy times seven". It is God who always you another chance. May it be a church of forgiveness, not once a year, but always, every day. For in this way peace is constructed, through forgiveness that is received and given.

Beginning with one's own misery and looking at that, trying to find out how to reach forgiveness, because even in one's own misery we will always find a light that is the way to go to the Lord. He gives us light in our misery. This morning, for example, I thought about this when, as we were arriving in L'Aquila and we could not land – thick fog, everything was dark, you couldn't land. The helicopter pilot was circling, circling, circling.... In the end, he saw a small hole and he went through there – he succeeded, a master-pilot. And I thought about this misery and how the same things happens with our own misery. How many times we look at who we are – nothing, less than nothing – and we circle, circle.... But at times, the Lord makes a small hole. Put yourself in there, they are the Lord's wounds! That is where mercy is, but it is in your misery. There is a hole in your misery that the Lord makes in order to enter into it. Mercy that comes into you, into my, into our misery.

Dear brothers and dear sisters, you have suffered much because of the earthquake. And as a population, you are trying to get back up and get back on your feet. But those who have suffered must be able to create a treasure out of their own suffering, they must understand that in the darkness they experienced they also received the gift of understanding the suffering of others. You can treasure the gift of mercy because you know what it means to lose everything, to see everything that had been constructed crumble, to leave everything that was dear to you, to feel the hole left by the absence of those whom you loved. You can treasure mercy because you have experienced mercy.

In their lives, everyone, even without living through an earthquake, can experience an "earthquake of the soul", so to speak, that puts us in contact with our own frailty, our own limitations, our own misery. In this experience, we can lose everything, but we can also learn true humility. In such a circumstance, we can allow life to make us bitter, or we can learn meekness. So, humility and meekness are the characteristics of those who have the mission of treasuring and witnessing to mercy. Yes, because mercy, when it comes to us and because we treasure it, we can also bear witness to this mercy. Mercy is a gift to me, for my misery, but this mercy must also be transmitted to others as a gift from the Lord.

There is, however, a wake-up call that tells us if we are going the wrong way. Today's Gospel reminds us of this (cf. Lk 14:1, 7-14). Jesus is invited to dinner, we heard, in the house of a Pharisee, and attentively observes how many are running to get the best seats at table. This gives him the cue to tell a parable that remains valid even for us today: "When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Please, give your place to this person and you go back there!' And then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place" (vv. 8-9). Too many times people base their worth on the place they occupy in the world. A person is not the position he or she holds. A person is the freedom that he or she is capable of that is fully manifested when he or she occupies the last place, or when a place is reserved for that person on the Cross.