

The Kids' Bulletin THE LOST SHEEP

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 11th, 2022

Luke 15:1-7

God Wants Everyone to  
Come Back to Him



In today's Gospel we hear three parables. In the first Jesus tells about the shepherd who lost one of his hundred sheep. But even though he had so many, he still cared about the one that was lost and went out to find it. God is like that too: even though He has so many people to look after He still cares about you in particular.

The next parable is similar, with the woman searching all over her house when she loses one of her special coins. She rejoices when she finds it, just like the angels rejoice in Heaven when a sinner turns back to God.

The last parable that Jesus tells is the story of the prodigal son. We are like the son in that story when we run away from God by sinning. But like the father, God is waiting and watching for us to be sorry and come back to Him. All we have to do is tell Him we are sorry for our sins in Confession and He will be so happy to have us back!



**The Challenge**

The shepherd has lost a sheep, and like the Good Shepherd, he will search high and low for it. In the blanks, write the letters you find on the sheep. Read the hints for help. It's a word that tells what God feels for us.

(Hints: The first letter is a curve. The sixth and seventh letters are the same consonant. The fourth letter has a straight line and a curve in it. The last letter is a consonant made of three straight lines.)

**The Super Challenge**

The shepherd is looking for one specific sheep. It looks just like the one in his picture. Can you find it? When you do, circle it.

**Y R E H C U A B E D**  
**L R S R E D L E E E**  
**L S G D I E F R T N**  
**E R I N G A E E S I**  
**B K P C A D A H D A**  
**U S A M N E U T E L**  
**H L I A L S N O S P**  
**F N U N K I S R S M**  
**E Q T S A E F B I O**  
**S R E H T A F E K C**

**COMPLAINED** **SONS**  
**FATHER** **LIFE**  
**DEAD** **DEBAUCHERY**  
**PIGS**  
**BELLY**  
**HUSKS**  
**KISSED**  
**CALF**  
**FEAST**  
**ELDER**  
**ANGRY**  
**BROTHER**

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<b>Parish Priest:</b>	Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran	<b>Parish School:</b>	OLOL 8869 6800
<b>Parish Office Team:</b>	Mrs Erika Hien, Alison Lette, Kim Dang, Sarah Lenthall.	<b>Principal:</b>	Ms Keiran Byrnes
<b>Sacrament Co-Ordinator:</b>	Mrs Artelle Lenthall	<b>Reconciliation:</b>	Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
<b>Office Hours: Monday-Friday:</b>	9am - 3.00pm	<b>Baptismal Preparation:</b>	21st September 2022
<b>WEEKDAY MASS:</b>	Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am Thursday 9.00am	<b>Baptism:</b>	9th October 2022
<b>WEEKEND MASS:</b>	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9:30am	<b>Parish Website:</b>	www.olol7hills.com.au
		<b>Pastoral Care of the Sick:</b>	Bathista Emmanuel 0405833655
		<b>Facebook</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/">https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/</a>

TWENTY Fourth SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
11 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, Parakrania Dias, Danilo Dolot, Elizabeth Ehsman, Anush Fernando, Joseph Franco, Anthony Janicska, Spencer Leon, Cynthia Lopez, Carmenu M, Marie Marchand, Wiranjan Peiris, Adrian Pereira, Salome Pillay, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Sandra Roseworn, Susantha Seranayake, 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, Candida Irugal-bandara, Antonio Pellicano, Helen Rose, Edwin Tabone, Susila Wijeratne.

**Anniversaries:** Victor Azzopardi, Horace Baptist, Cini & Mangion Family, Josephine Cortis, Joan Falzon, Emmanuel Falzon, Melvyn Fernandes, Charlie Galea, Zenaida Garcia, Apolinario & Felina Maglaya, Pauline Meilak, Lourda Motha, Theckla Percoumal, John Ratnam, Victor Sing, Juana Yu Sing, Philip Yu Sing, Caroline Susainathan, Tony Vassallo, Bibiano Villanueva.

**Remembrance:** France Angseesing, Ivi Aza, Roy Mary & Des Barney, Myrna Cruz, Fernandes Family, Josefa Flores, Apolinario & Felina Maglaya, Gerard Marcello, Mary Mifsud, Anton & Lourda Motha, Stephen & Louis Mula, Josephine & Charles Muscat, Andreana & Felix Muscat, Mary Muscat, Muscat Family, Roseline Ratnam, Jim & Alison 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 renovation, 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





FIRST READING *A reading from the book of Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14*

The Lord spoke to Moses, ‘Go down now, because your people whom you brought out of Egypt have apostatised. They have been quick to leave the way I marked out for them; they have made themselves a calf of molten metal and have worshipped it and offered it sacrifice. “Here is your God, Israel,” they have cried, “who brought you up from the land of Egypt!” I can see how headstrong these people are! Leave me, now, my wrath shall blaze out against them and devour them; of you, however, I will make a great nation.’ But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God. ‘Lord,’ he said, ‘why should your wrath blaze out against this people of yours whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with arm outstretched and mighty hand? Remember Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, your servants to whom by your own self you swore and made this promise: I will make your offspring as many as the stars of heaven, and all this land which I promised I will give to your descendants, and it shall be their heritage for ever.’ So the Lord relented and did not bring on the people the disaster he had threatened. The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) I will rise and go to my father.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)

A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)

O Lord, open my lips  
and my mouth shall declare your praise.  
My sacrifice is a contrite spirit;  
a humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn. (R.)

SECOND READING *A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy 1:12-17*

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, and who judged me faithful enough to call into his service even though I used to be a blasphemer and did all I could to injure and discredit the faith. Mercy, however, was shown me, because until I became a believer I had been acting in ignorance; and the grace of our Lord filled me with faith and with the love that is in Christ Jesus. Here is a saying that you can rely on and nobody should doubt: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I myself am the greatest of them; and if mercy has been shown to me, it is because Jesus Christ meant to make me the greatest evidence of his inexhaustible patience for all the other people who would later have to trust in him to come to eternal life. To the eternal King, the undying, invisible and only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!  
God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;  
and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.  
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 15:1-32*

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. ‘This man’ they said ‘welcomes sinners and eats with them.’ So he spoke this parable to them: ‘What man among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till he found it? And when he found it, would he not joyfully take it on his shoulders and then, when he got home, call together his friends and neighbours? “Rejoice with me,” he would say “I have found my sheep that was lost.” In the same way, I tell you, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine virtuous men who have no need of repentance. ‘Or again, what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the house and search thoroughly till she found it? And then, when she had found it, call together her friends and neighbours? “Rejoice with me,” she would say “I have found the drachma I lost.” In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing among the angels of God over one repentant sinner.’ He also said, ‘A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, “Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me.” So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery. ‘When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, “How many of my father’s paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants.” So he left the place and went back to his father. ‘While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.” But the father said to his servants, “Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.” And they began to celebrate. ‘Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. “Your brother has come” replied the servant, “and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound.” He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, “Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening.” ‘The father said, “My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.” 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



LOLO MINISTRY ROSTER

10/11 September 2022

Acolytes	Vigil: John Jordan 8am: Ryan Epondulan 9.30am Kilifi Huihui
Ministers	Vigil: M Mifsud, <b>SUB REQ</b> 8am: E. Gartner, B 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: A Laus, L Laus 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am S Culili, 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

17/18 September 2022

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am Eugene Miu
Ministers	Vigil: C. Gonzales, L. La Guidara 8am: L. Fernandes, M. Santos 9.30am: M. Aquino, S Manamperi
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, J Sarmiento 8am: P. Ferriols, A. Joseph 9.30am H. Katopau, F. Kennedy
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. La Guidara, C. La Guidara, S. Thoms 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am O. Katopau, C, Katopau,
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council
Flowers	Fennie & Angela
Church cleaning	24 Sept H. Gonzales, D Gonzales,N. Paylaga, A. Pinto, M. Santos
Welcomers	Vigil: H Gonzales 8am: S Nemorin 9.30am: K Chamberlain

LOLO PARISH CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

11	1st Holy Communion Mass Grp 1	11.30am
12	St Vincent De Paul Meeting	7.00pm
14	First Holy Communion Group 2 PRACTICE	6.30pm
14	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	7.30pm
15	Christ Community Prayer Group	9:00am
15	Legion of Mary	1:30pm
18	First Holy Communion Mass	11.30am
21	Baptism Preparation meeting	7:30pm



POPE FRANCIS AT AUDIENCE: DISCERNMENT HELPS US RECOGNISE GOD IN UNEXPECTED EVENT

By Benedict Mayaki, SJ

Pope Francis continued his cycle of reflections on the theme of discernment during his catechesis at the General Audience on Wednesday.

St. Ignatius of Loyola

The Holy Father recalled the example of St. Ignatius of Loyola, and the decisive episode of the saint's life when he was home convalescing after his leg was injured in battle. To chase away boredom, St. Ignatius asked for something to read and unfortunately, only the lives of saints was to be found in the house.

In the course of reading, St. Ignatius began to discover another world that captivated him and seemed to compete with that of knights, and he became fascinated by the figures of Sts. Francis and Dominic, with a desire to imitate them.

Saint Ignatius sensed within himself an alternation of thoughts, and he began to notice differences. In his autobiography, the saint notes that when he thought about the things of the world, he felt much pleasure, but afterward, he felt dry and sad. Instead, when he thought of going to Jerusalem barefoot and practicing other austerities, he found pleasure not only while thinking of them, but also when he had ceased.

Time and the end point of thoughts

Pope Francis noted that two aspects are noticeable in St. Ignatius' experience. First, time, because thoughts of the world are attractive at first but they lose their lustre and leave one empty and discontented.

"Thoughts of God, on the contrary, rouse first a certain resistance, but when they are welcomed, they bring an unknown peace that lasts over time."

The other aspect is the end point of thoughts, added the Pope. There is a development of discernment, and we understand what is good for us not in an abstract, general way, but in the journey of our life.

In fact, St. Ignatius in the rules for discernment lays out an important premise: "In the persons who go from mortal sin to mortal sin, the enemy is commonly used to propose to them apparent pleasures, making them imagine sensual delights and pleasures in order to hold them more and make them grow in their vices and sins. In these persons, the good spirit uses the opposite method, pricking them and biting their consciences through the process of reason."

"There is a history that precedes one who discerns, a history that is indispensable to know, because discernment is not a sort of oracle or fatalism, like casting one's lot on two possibilities."

Indeed, the great questions arise when we have travelled a stretch of the road in life, and it is to that journey we must return to understand what we are looking for.

Fr St. Ignatius, who was not thinking of God when he found himself injured after battle, his first experience of God was by listening to his own heart which showed him a reversal – that things that were attractive at first sight left him disillusioned, whereas in others, less dazzling, he found lasting peace.

God works in unplanned events

Another aspect of discernment is the "apparent randomness in the events of life," Pope Francis said. During St. Ignatius' convalescence, there were no books of knights, only lives of saints – a mishap that held a possible turning point - and it is only after some time that Ignatius realized this, at which point he devoted his full attention to it.

"God works through unforeseen events, and also in mishaps," stressed the Pope, pointing at the passage from the Gospel of Matthew of the man plowing his field and coming across a buried treasure. The man subsequently recognizes it as the windfall of his life and acts accordingly, selling everything and buying the field.

Concluding, Pope noted that discernment is the "aid in recognizing the signals with which the Lord makes Himself known in unexpected, even unpleasant situations, as the leg injury was for St. Ignatius, and a life-changing encounter can arise from them forever."

POPE FRANCIS TO ITALIAN LITURGISTS: LITURGY MUST LOOK TO GOD WITHOUT BEING WORLDLY

By Christopher Wells

Pope Francis on Thursday addressed the Italian *Associazione dei Professori e Cultori di Liturgia* (Association of Professors and Practitioners of Liturgy) on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the organization's foundation.

The Pope noted that fifty years corresponds to "the ecclesial season of this liturgical reform": following the initial phase marked by the publication of new liturgical books, "we are now in a period of deepening acceptance of the reform." This process, he said, requires not only time but also "passionate and patient care," "spiritual and pastoral understanding," and ongoing formation.

He encouraged members of the Association to continue to pursue their work in a spirit of dialogue.

"Theology can and must have a synodal style."

Listening key in liturgical study

In order to ensure that their efforts "are never separated from the expectations and needs of the People of God," Pope Francis said, listening to the Christian communities is "indispensable."

The Holy Father noted, too, that the academic work of liturgists cannot be separated from the pastoral and spiritual dimension of liturgy, saying that liturgical formation must reach the people of God. In this regard, he held up the model of Romano Guardini, a German priest and scholar who, among other notable accomplishments, was able to spread the "achievements of the liturgical movement" in a way that was accessible to the ordinary faithful.

"May his figure and his approach to liturgical education, as modern as it is classical, be a point of reference to you."

Progress rooted in tradition

Finally, the Pope insisted that progress in the understanding of the liturgy and the art of celebrating it "must always be rooted in tradition." At the same time, he warned of a worldly spirit of going backward (IT: "*indietrismo*", literally: backwardness). Going back to the roots, he said, does not mean going backward, but instead means allowing true tradition to lead one forward. He cautioned liturgists to carefully distinguish between tradition and "traditionalism," warning that "today the temptation is 'backwardness' disguised as tradition."

Concluding his address, Pope Francis reminded his audience that the study and promotion of liturgy "must be imbued with prayer and the living experience of the Church that celebrates, so that liturgical 'thought' might always flow, like a vital sap, from the lived liturgy."

All theology, he said, but especially liturgical study – precisely because it is directed to "the act of celebrating the beauty and greatness of the mystery of God who gives Himself to us" – must be done "with an open mind, and at the same time, 'on one's knees'," in prayer.



FROM FR. HENRY DUC

Dear Friends,  
Sometime ago a priest really impressed me at a wedding Mass with his advice to the young couple, that they need to say the Our Father at least once a day together and this simple exercise would help improve their relationship a great deal, since while saying the prayer, they are reminded to reflect upon their duty to forgive each other as God has shown them the way.  
Well, apart from love, forgiveness has been the key virtue of Christianity, and Jesus repeatedly preached about forgiveness and asked the disciples to practice it throughout his ministry. He literally mentioned the verb 'forgive' alone 21 times in the Gospels. He taught us the Lord's Prayer or the Our Father to beg for

God's forgiveness for our trespasses, and to encourage us to do the same to others around us (cf Mt 6.7-15). He also invited Peter to go way beyond what the old man offered to carry out, that was to forgive not seven times, but seventy seven times, and Peter could say no word in reply (cf. Mt 18.21-22). What a challenge then, and still a challenge now!

In the Gospel this Sunday, we enjoy a tryptic of parables highlighting the merciful side of God. Through three beautiful stories of the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin and the Prodigal Son – we'd better say the Lost Son the sake of consistency, Jesus aims to tell us how merciful and forgiving God has been to all of us, just (1) like the shepherd who is prepared to go through all the trouble to find one lost sheep, even if he has to leave ninety nine other sheep behind in the wilderness, and he is so happy to carry the lost sheep on his shoulder and proudly show it to his friends, or (2) like the lady who tries all she could, to find her lost drachma, and then goes on to joyfully tell her friends about her finding, or most significantly (3) like the good father, who is so kind and generous to grant to his younger son the inheritance he asks for, and even kinder and more generous to forgive him for the colossal mistake he made by spending all his money in a life unworthy of his father's love, and happily welcomes his lost son back.

Peter obviously well understood the message about God's boundless forgiveness conveyed through these stories, that's why he had the courage to stand up and ask the Lord for forgiveness after he denied Jesus three times during His Passion, and he of course was totally forgiven, and had kept his top spot in the Church. Judas Iscariot, on the contrary, failed to recognise it, and began to despair and decided to cut short his life in such a tragic fashion.

Let us give praise and thanks to God today for his ever merciful love to each of us, no matter who we are, and pray for the grace to inspire us to show mercy and compassion to each other as God has shown us, and also to help us trust more in God's mercy and seek it, particularly through the sacrament of Reconciliation when we are in need.

Have a mercy-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CONGRATULATIONS & THANK YOU

We are blessed to have 42 children in our parish to receive First Holy Communion this year: 18 this Sunday 11 September and 22 next Sunday 18 September. I would like to congratulate these young girls and boys on this very special occasion of their lives.

Please keep them in your prayer.

Besides, I would like to thank (1) their parents for providing support to their children along the Preparation process, (2) our Parish ministers and choir members and musicians for their generosity to serve the First Holy Communion Mass, and particularly (3) Artelle for taking both the parents and children through every step through the Sacramental program.

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.

CATHOLIC OUTLOOK SPRING/SEASON OF CREATION EDITION OUT NOW!

Get your free copy of the Spring edition of *Catholic Outlook* now. This month, we talk about pilgrimages, the Season of Creation, and focus in on how our parishes are working towards sustainability. There's great kids activities too. Pick up your copy from our church now!



Creation is of the order of love. God's love is the fundamental moving force in all created things *Pope Francis Laudato Si' #77*





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

**SEASON OF CREATION CAMPING TRIP: 30 September – 2 October**

Set aside your busy lifestyle for a few days to join with friends, family and other members of the Christian community to celebrate the Season of Creation. Enjoy a relaxed camping experience with optional activities to engage in fun, creative and prayerful ways with creation and our Creator.

When: Friday, September 30 – Sunday, October 2, 2022

Where: Wooglemai Catholic Bush Retreat Centre, Oakdale

Cost: Individual campers \$20; Camping couples \$40; Family camping groups \$50

For more information and to register visit: [www.seasonofcreationcamping.org](http://www.seasonofcreationcamping.org)



**PAKISTAN FLOOD CRISIS APPEAL**

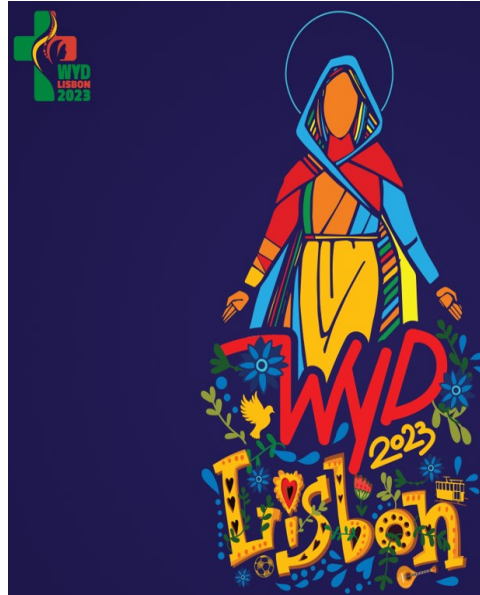
The devastating floods in Pakistan have left a trail of destruction across the country, claiming the lives of more than 1,100 people. The United Nations estimates that around 33 million Pakistanis have been affected by the flooding. More than one third of the country has been completely submerged by the heaviest recorded monsoon rains in a decade. There are fears that the death toll will continue to rise. Caritas Australia's partners are responding to support flood-affected communities who need immediate assistance. Your generous support can help provide emergency support to help families recover and rebuild from disaster. Donate now by visiting <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/pakistan-floods> or scanning the QR code below.

**GLENMORE PARK ST PADRE PIO PARISH FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS**

Everyone is invited to join Glenmore Park Parish for their parochial feast of St. Padre Pio. The parish will be holding a Triduum Novena and Mass to St Padre Pio from 22 – 24 September. On 25 September at 10am, there will be a Solemn Procession with the Relic of St Padre Pio, followed by the Solemn Feast Mass, Blessing by the Relic of St Padre Pio and other festivities. For enquiries, please call the parish office on (02) 4789 2232 or email [glenmorepark@parracatholic.org](mailto:glenmorepark@parracatholic.org).

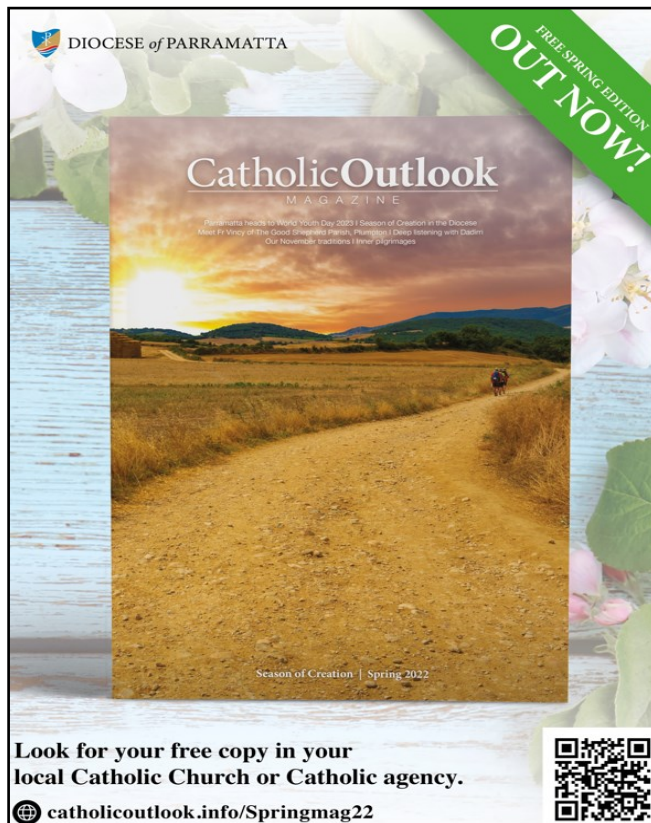
**GLENBROOK PARISH MEMORABLE MELODIES**

**CONCERT: 23 October** St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, is hosting a memorable melodies concert for voice, violin and organ on Saturday 23 October at 2pm in the parish church. The concert will feature Rebecca Daniel (violin/soprano) and Michael Taylor (organ). Entry is \$15 adults or \$10 concession. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 4742 6958 or email [glenbrook@parracatholic.org](mailto:glenbrook@parracatholic.org)



**22 DAYS JULY 21 – AUGUST 11**

Register now: [www.parrawyd.org](http://www.parrawyd.org)



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**POPE FRANCIS' HOMILY FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF POPE JOHN PAUL I** Jesus is making his way to Jerusalem, and today's Gospel tells us that "large crowds were travelling with him" (Lk 24:25). To travel with Jesus means to follow him, to become his disciples. Yet, the Lord's message to those people was not exactly appealing; in fact, it was quite demanding: whoever does not love him more than his or her own family, whoever does not carry the cross, whoever remains attached to earthly goods, cannot be his disciple (cf. vv. 26-27.33). Why does Jesus say these things to the crowds? What do these admonitions mean? Let us try to answer these questions.

First, we see a great crowd of people following Jesus. We can imagine that many were attracted by his words, astonished at the things he did, and saw him as a source of hope for the future. What would any teacher of that time or, for that matter, what would any astute leader do, seeing that his or her words and charisma attract crowds and increase his or her popularity? The same thing happens today, at times of personal or societal crisis, when we are especially prey to feelings of anger or we fear things that threaten our future. We become more susceptible and thus, on the tide of emotion, we look to those who can shrewdly take advantage of the situation, profiting from society's fears and promising to be the "saviour" who can solve all its problems, whereas in reality they are looking for wider approval and for greater power, based on the impression they make, their ability to have things in hand.

The Gospel tells us that this is not Jesus' way. God's style is different. It is important to understand God's style, how he acts. God acts according to a style, and God's style is different from that of certain people, since he does not exploit our needs or use our vulnerability for his own aggrandizement. He does not want to seduce us with deceptive promises or to distribute cheap favours; he is not interested in huge crowds. He is not obsessed with numbers; he does not seek approval; he does not idolize personal success. On the contrary, he seems to be worried when people follow him with giddy excitement and enthusiasm. As a result, instead of yielding to the allure of popularity – for popularity is alluring – he asks each person to discern carefully their reason for following him and the consequences that it will entail. For many in those crowds might have been following Jesus because they hoped he would be a leader who could set them free from their enemies, someone who, once in power, could share that power with them, or someone who by performing miracles could make hunger and disease disappear. We can follow the Lord for any number of reasons. Some of these, it must be acknowledged, are worldly. A perfect religious exterior can serve to hide the mere satisfaction of one's own needs, the quest of personal prestige, the desire for a certain social status or to keep things under control, the thirst for power and privilege, the desire for recognition and so on. This happens even nowadays among Christians. Yet that is not the style of Jesus. That cannot be the style of his disciples and of his Church. If anyone follows Jesus with this kind of self-interest, he or she has taken the wrong path.

The Lord demands a different attitude. To follow him does not mean to become part of a court or a triumphal procession, or even to receive a lifetime insurance policy. On the contrary, it means "carrying one's cross" (Lk 14:27): shouldering, like him, one's own burdens and those of others, making one's life a gift, not a possession, spending it in imitation of his own generous and merciful love for us. These are decisions that engage the totality of our lives. For this reason, Jesus desires that his disciples prefer nothing to this love, even their deepest affections and greatest treasures.

To do this, we need to look to him more than to ourselves, to learn how to love, and to learn this from the Crucified One. In him, we see the love that bestows itself to the very end, without measure and without limits. The measure of love is to love without measure. In the words of Pope John Paul, "we are the objects of undying love on the part of God" (*Angelus*, 10 September 1978). An undying love: it never sinks beneath the horizon of our lives; it shines upon us and illumines even our darkest nights. When we gaze upon the Crucified Lord, we are called to the heights of that love, to be purified of our distorted ideas of God and of our self-absorption, and to love God and others, in Church and society, including those who do not see things as we do, to love even our enemies.

To love even at the cost of sacrifice, silence, misunderstanding, solitude, resistance and persecution. To love in this way, even at this price, because, as Blessed **John Paul I** also said, if you want to kiss Jesus crucified, "you cannot help bending over the cross and letting yourself be pricked by a few thorns of the crown on the Lord's head" (*General Audience*, 27 September 1978). A love that perseveres to the end, thorns and all: no leaving things half done, no cutting corners, no fleeing difficulties. If we fail to aim high, if we refuse to take risks, if we content ourselves with a watered-down faith, we are, as Jesus says, like those who want to build a tower but do not estimate the cost; they "lay the foundations", but then are "not able to finish the work" (v. 29). If the fear of losing ourselves makes us stop giving ourselves, we leave things undone: our relationships and work, our responsibilities and commitments, our dreams and even our faith. And then we end up living life halfway – and how many people live life halfway, and we also frequently are tempted to live life halfway – without ever taking the decisive step – this is what it means to live life halfway – without ever taking flight, without ever taking risks for the good, and without ever truly committing ourselves to helping others. Jesus asks us precisely this: live the Gospel and you will live your life, not halfway but to the full. Live the Gospel, live life, with no compromises.

Dear brothers and sisters, our new Blessed lived that way: in the joy of the Gospel, without compromises, loving to the very end. He embodied the poverty of the disciple, which is not only detachment from material goods, but also victory over the temptation to put oneself at the centre, to seek one's own glory. On the contrary, following the example of Jesus, he was a meek and humble pastor. He thought of himself as dust on which God deigned to write (cf. A. LUCIANI/JOHN PAUL I, *Opera Omnia*, Padua, 1988, vol. II, 11). That is why he could say: "The Lord recommended it so much: be humble. Even if you have done great things, say: 'We are useless servants'" (*General Audience*, 6 September 1978). With a smile, Pope John Paul managed to communicate the goodness of the Lord. How beautiful is a Church with a happy, serene and smiling face, a Church that never closes doors, never hardens hearts, never complains or harbours resentment, does not grow angry or impatient, does not look dour or suffer nostalgia for the past, falling into an attitude of going backwards. Let us pray to him, our father and our brother, and ask him to obtain for us "the smile of the soul", a transparent smile that does not deceive, the smile of the soul. Let us pray, in his own words: "Lord take me as I am, with my defects, with my shortcomings, but make me become what you want me to be" (*General Audience*, 13 September 1978). Amen