

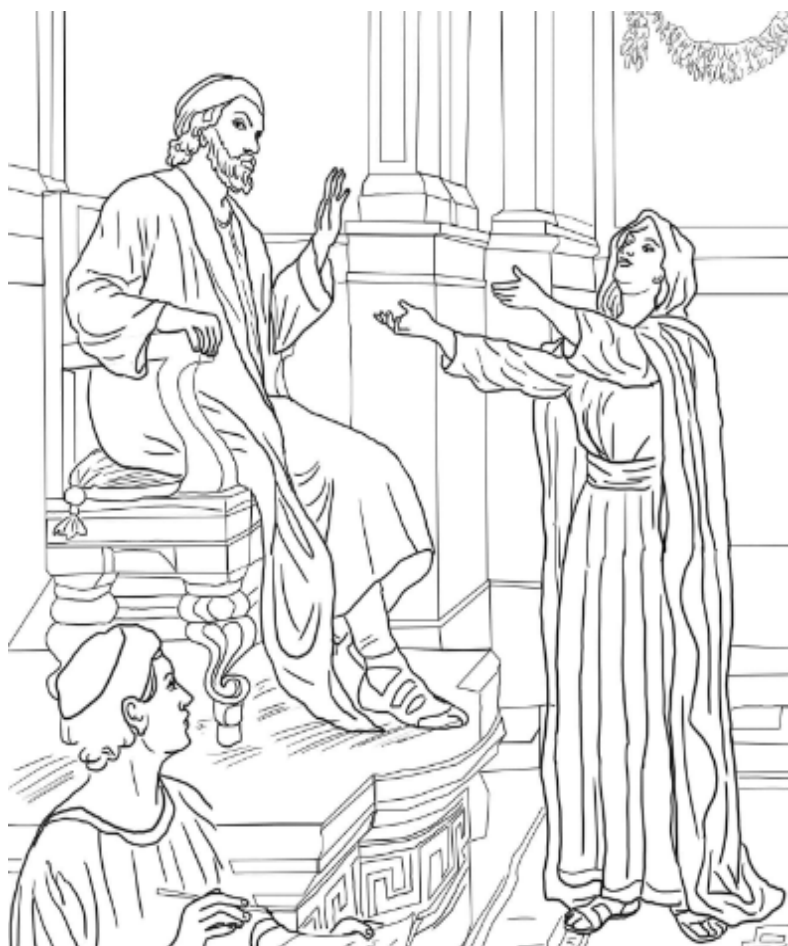
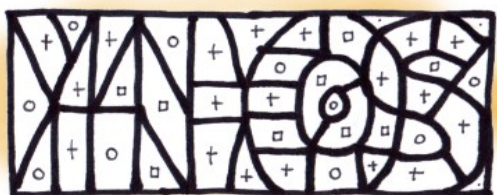
The Kids' Bulletin

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 16th, 2022

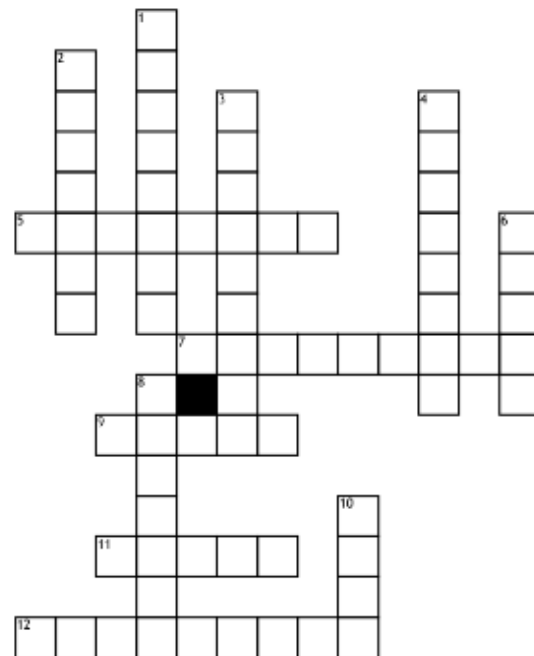


Luke 18:1-8

Did the unjust judge in today's parable finally help the widow?
Only fill in the spaces with + 's to find out!



The Persistent Widow

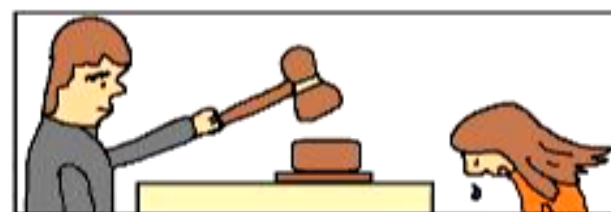
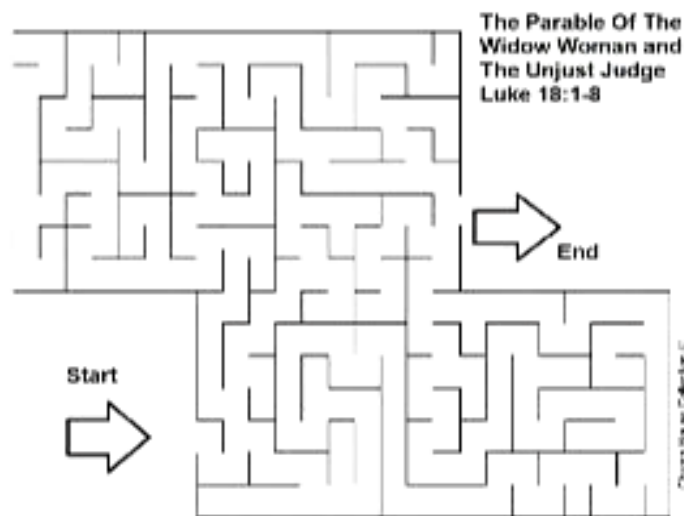


Across

5. A judgement
7. Not being truthful
9. An Official who makes decisions in a court
11. A woman whose husband is dead
12. An enemy or opponent

Down

1. Quickly
2. Have regard for someone
3. Reluctant
4. Stories Jesus told
6. A sincere belief
8. Applying the law to maintain what is just
10. Talk to God



JUSTICE



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:

16th November 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-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 16 October 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, Alfredo Fernandez, Anush Fernando, Joseph Franco, Anthony Janicska, Spencer Leon, Cynthia Lopez, Carmenu M, Marie Marchand, Blago Milicevic, N. Muscat Family, Wiranjan Peiris, Adrian Pereira, 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: Elaine Bosen, Elias Niadas, Maricel Nonato, Adrian Pereira, Eunice Sage, Helen Salem, Edwin Tabone.

Anniversaries: Joseph Bartok, Denis Brophy, Melvyn Fernandes, Hippol Fernandes, Evangeline Garcia, Martina Joseph, Tomas Maglaya, Pauline Meilak, Lourda Motha, Romeo M Palmos, Maria Laberinto Ramos, Illumina-da & Cornelio Rondario, Jose Sanchez, Perry Tugano, Loreta L Udan.

Remembrance: France Angseesing, Roy Mary & Des Barney, Frances Buttigieg, Cini Family, Fernandes Family, Candida Irugalbadara, Fr Crispin Loe, Magion Family, Tomasa Maglaya, Gerard Marcello, Mary Mifsud, Anton & Lourda Motha, Stephen & Louis Mula, Muscat Family, Josephine & Charles Muscat, Mary Muscat, John & Roseline Ratnam, Tony Vassallo, Susila Wijeratne, Mirella Zulic.

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

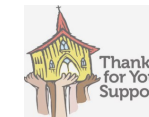
On behalf of the Parish Community, I would like to thank you very much for your ongoing support, which has been absolutely vital in keeping our Parish going strong. Projects completed include the Hall Kitchen renovation, Parish Meeting Room painting, Parish Office and Meeting Room Roof painted, Church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



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/>

A reading from the second book of Exodus 17:8 -13

The Amalekites came and attacked Israel at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, ‘Pick out men for yourself, and tomorrow morning march out to engage Amalek. I, meanwhile, will stand on the hilltop, the staff of God in my hand.’ Joshua did as Moses told him and marched out to engage Amalek, while Moses and Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill. As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage; when he let his arms fall, the advantage went to Amalek. But Moses arms grew heavy, so they took a stone and put it under him and on this he sat, Aaron and Hur supporting his arms, one on one side, one on the other; and his arms remained firm till sunset. With the edge of the sword Joshua cut down Amalek and his people.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

I lift up my eyes to the mountains:
From where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord
who made heaven and earth. **(R.)**

May he never allow you to stumble!
Let him sleep not, your guard.
No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,
Israel’s guard. **(R.)**

The Lord is your guard and your shade;
at your right side he stands.
By day the sun shall not smite you
nor the moon in the night. **(R.)**

The Lord will guard you from evil,
he will guard your soul.
The Lord will guard your going and coming
both now and for ever. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy 3:14-4:2

You must keep to what you have been taught and know to be true; remember who your teachers were, and how, ever since you were a child, you have known the holy scriptures – from these you can learn the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people’s lives and teaching them to be holy. This is how the man who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work. Before God and before Christ Jesus who is to be judge of the living and the dead, I put this duty to you, in the name of his Appearing and of his kingdom: proclaim the message and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it. Refute falsehood, correct error, call to obedience – but do all with patience and with the intention of teaching.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
The word of God is living and active;
it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 17:11-19

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. ‘There was a judge in a certain town’ he said ‘who had neither fear of God nor respect for man. In the same town there was a widow who kept on coming to him and saying, “I want justice from you against my enemy!” For a long time he refused, but at last he said to himself, “Maybe I have neither fear of God nor respect for man, but since she keeps pestering me I must give this widow her just rights, or she will persist in coming and worry me to death.”’
And the Lord said, ‘You notice what the unjust judge has to say? Now will not God see justice done to his chosen who cry to him day and night even when he delays to help them? I promise you, he will see justice done to them, and done speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?’

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

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

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: youthlol7h@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**

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>

CHURCH CLEANING: extra help needed especially for the 1st Wednesday in the month for one hour after the 8 am weekday morning Mass. Extra help would also be appreciated for the other weeks. Please phone Mary on 0447 676 371 if you can help.

EMERGENCY Ukraine Appeal

Help provide urgent humanitarian assistance to people in Ukraine.

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

LOLO MINISTRY ROSTER

15/16 October 2022

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am Ramzee Michael
Ministers	Vigil: M Simic, M Mifsud 8am: F Balatbat, H Gonzales 9.30am: A Bellissimo, M Michael
Readers	Vigil: B Motha, N Do Rosario 8am: A McNally, K Walker 9.30am H Katopau, L Bellissimo
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. Laus, L Laus, S Thoms 8.00am VOLUNTEERS 9.30am C Attard, C Katopau, O Katopau Parish Pastoral Council
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela
Church cleaning	22 Oct VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED
Welcomers	Vigil: John Jordan 8am: C Gonzales 9.30am: Volunteer

22/23 October 2022

Acolytes	Vigil: Kilifi Huihui 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am Fayelene Kennedy
Ministers	Vigil: K. Huihui, L. La Guidara 8am: S. Nemorin, M Santos 9.30am: B. Chandler, S. Lenthall
Readers	Vigil: C. Menezes, Volunteer 8am: N. Arambulo, P. Ferriols 9.30am:C. Diaz, B. Motha
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. & C.La Guidara, Volunteer 8.00am: Volunteers 9.30am: L. Cullili, Volumteer, F. Wanandy Couples for Christ
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	
Flowers	Annette & Mary B
Church cleaning	26Oct Sue Abela, Jessie Borg, Anne McNally
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Urge 8am: Joyce Hillbrick 9.30am: Lena Falson

LOLO PARISH CALENDAR

OCTOBER

16	Fr. Henry's Jubilee Family Celebrations	9:30am
20	Christ Community Prayer Group	9:00am
21	Young Adult Group	5:30pm
24	Saint Vincent de Paul	7:00pm

The desire to know God's desire

Pope Francis concluded by asking what would be our answer if the Lord were to ask us, like the blind man in Jericho, "what do you want me to do for you?" He recommended that we answer by asking Him "to help us know His deepest desire, that God himself has placed in our heart. And to give us the strength to make it materialize." *"This is an immense grace, the basis of all the others: to allow the Lord, as in the Gospel, to work miracles for us. Because He too has a great desire for us: to make us share in His fullness of life."*

POPE FRANCIS' LATEST INTERVIEW

On the flight back to Rome from Kazakhstan on Thursday, Pope Francis tells reporters that "the decadent West breeds populism; in politics we must start again from values.... With China, we need the patience of dialogue."

By Vatican News

We must dialogue, always. On the flight back to Rome on Thursday, Pope Francis answers questions from journalists who accompanied him to Kazakhstan, discussing the war in Ukraine, the right of a nation to defend itself, and arms trafficking.

He also talks about the role of politics and the West in a crisis of values which risks generating populism.

Responding to a question about the situation in Germany, Pope Francis explains that the Church needs pastors, not pastoral plans.

At the beginning of the press conference, the Pope wished a happy birthday to Avvenire journalist Stefania Falasca and then had a cake served to celebrate her.

Here is an unofficial translation of the press conference:

Zhanat Akhmetova, TV AGENCY KHABAR

"Good day, Holy Father. Thank you very much for your visit to Kazakhstan. What is the result of your visit, to the origins of our people, what inspired you?"

For me it was also a surprise, because of Central Asia - except for Borodin's music – I truly knew nothing. It was a surprise to find representatives of these nations. And also Kazakhstan was really a surprise, because I didn't expect it to be like that. I knew that it was a country, a city, which has developed well, in an intelligent manner. Yet, thirty years since independence to find such a development, I did not expect it.

Also, it is such a large country, with nineteen million people – unbelievable. Very disciplined, and beautiful. With so much beauty: the architecture of the city is well-balanced, well-arranged. A modern city, a city I would perhaps say "of the future."

That's what impressed me so much: the desire to move forward not only in industry, in economic and material development, but also in cultural development. It was a surprise I did not expect. Then, the Congress was a very important event. It is in its seventh edition. This means it's a country with foresight, bringing into dialogue those who are usually discarded. Because there is a progressive perception of the world for which religious values are the first thing to be discarded. It is a country that offers the world such a proposal – already seven times now; it is wonderful! If there is time I will come back to this interfaith meeting. You can be proud of the country and the homeland you have.

Rudiger Kronthaler, ARD "Holy Father thank you for your message of peace, I am German, as you can hear from my accent. My people are responsible for millions of deaths eighty years ago. I would like to ask a question about peace, since my people are responsible for millions of deaths, we learn in school that you should never use weapons, never violence: the only exception is self-defense. In your opinion, should Ukraine be given weapons at this time?"

This is a political decision, which can be moral – morally acceptable – if it is done according to the conditions of morality, which are manifold, and then we can talk about it. But it can be immoral if it is done with the intention of provoking more war or selling weapons or discarding those weapons that are no longer needed. The motivation is what largely qualifies the morality of this act. To defend oneself is not only lawful but also an expression of love of country. Those who do not defend themselves, those who do not defend something, do not love it, instead those who defend, love.

Here you touch on something else that I said in one of my speeches, which is that one should think more about the concept of just war. Because everybody is talking about peace today: for so many years, for seventy years, the United Nations has been talking about peace; they have been making so many speeches about peace. But right now how many wars are going on? The one you mentioned, Ukraine-Russia, now Azerbaijan and Armenia which had stopped for a while because Russia acted as a guarantor: a guarantor of peace here and makes war there... Then there is Syria, ten years of war, what is going on there for which it never stops? What interests are moving these things? Then there is the Horn of Africa, then northern Mozambique, or Eritrea and a part of Ethiopia, then Myanmar with this suffering people that I love so much, the Rohingya people who go around and around and around like a gypsy and find no peace. But we are in a world war, please...I remember a personal event, as a child; I was nine years old. I remember hearing the alarm of the biggest newspaper in Buenos Aires sounding: sometimes to celebrate and other times to give bad news. They would sound that – now it doesn't sound anymore – and it could be heard all over the city. Mother said, "What's going on?" We were in the war, the year 1945. A neighbor came to the house, and said, "The alarm sounded..." and she cried, "The war is over!" And I still see mom and the neighbor crying with joy because the war was over, in a South American country, so far away! These women knew that peace is greater than all wars, and they cried with joy when peace was made. I cannot forget that.

I wonder, I don't know if our hearts are educated well enough today to cry for joy when we see peace. Everything has changed. If you don't make war, you are not useful! Then there is the arms business. This is a store of assassins. Someone who understands statistics told me that if you stopped making weapons for a year you would solve all the hunger in the world – I don't know if that's true or not. But hunger, education; it's no use, you can't because you have to make weapons.

In Genoa a few years ago, three or four years ago, a ship arrived loaded with weapons that was going to transfer them to a bigger ship that was going to Africa, near South Sudan. The dock workers didn't want to do it; it cost them, but they said, "I won't cooperate." It is an anecdote but one that makes one feel a consciousness of peace.

You spoke about your homeland. One of the things I learned from you is the ability to repent and ask forgiveness for the mistakes of war. And also, not only to ask forgiveness, but to pay for the mistakes of war – this speaks well of you. It is an example that we should imitate. War itself is a mistake; it is a mistake! And we right now are breathing this air: if there is no war it seems there is no life. A bit messy but I said all I wanted to say about just war. But the right to defense yes, that yes, but use it when necessary.

Sylvia Wysocka, PAP "Holy Father, you said: we can never justify violence. Everything that is happening in Ukraine now is pure violence, death, total destruction by Russia. We in Poland have the war so close to our doorstep, with two million refugees. I would like to ask if you think there is a red line beyond which you should not say: we are open to dialogue with Moscow. Because so many people have a hard time understanding this openness. And I would also like to ask if the next trip will be to Kyiv."

I will answer that, but I would prefer that the questions about the trip be asked first...I think it is always difficult to understand the dialogue with the states that started a war, and it seems that the first step was from there, from that side. It is difficult but we must not discard it; we must extend the opportunity for dialogue to everyone, to everyone! Because there is always the possibility that in dialogue we can change things, and also offer another point of view, another point of consideration.

I don't exclude dialogue with any power, whether it's at war, whether it's the aggressor... sometimes dialogue has to be done in this manner, but it has to be done; it "stinks", but it has to be done. Always one step ahead, an outstretched hand, always! Because otherwise we close off the only reasonable door to peace.

Sometimes some do not accept dialogue: too bad! But dialogue must always be done, at least offered, and this is good for those who offer it; it helps them to breathe.



FROM FR. HENRY DUC

Dear Friends,

One of my good friends is a solicitor with a strong sense of social justice and always prepared to offer help to the needy in the community, and I once called on him for assistance after a car accident caused by a truck when I stopped at traffic lights, the company refused to accept responsibility for their driver and even instructed their lawyers to write me a very nasty letter.

I showed him the letter and he then penned a very sound reply to them the next day. His letter was so effective, to the point that the opposition had to change their tune immediately from threatening to conciliatory. I always remember what he kept telling me with a cheeky smile, 'You can always trust poor solicitors, and I'm the poorest among them.'

In the Gospel today, Jesus talks about legal matters, more specifically about a judge, someone higher compared to solicitors in the legal system, and not about any ordinary judge but an unjust one who had no fear of anyone, even God Himself. This unjust and fearless man, however, had to give in to a persistent widow, who had kept bothering him day in day out by pleading with him for a just hearing against the person trying to harm her. We might say he feared no one but the widow, out of her patience and persistence in preserving her legitimate rights.

Jesus utilized the powerful imagery of such a widow as an inspiring example to encourage us to do the same with our daily prayers, meaning that we need to ask for help from God with patience and persistence, similar to the way the widow approached the judge in the story, and the chance is that we will receive a favourable hearing from God, for He is just, kind and generous, much, much more than the unjust judge, and we can count on Him in our needs.

In this Silver Jubilee Mass today, may I ask everyone in the community to join with me in our prayer of thanksgiving for God's guiding and protective grace in our lives, especially in my past years, and let us pray that the Lord will continue to guide and protect us on the days ahead, and respond favourably as we call on Him in our needs today and every day in our lives.

Have a wonderful week filled with gratitude and thanksgivings.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...



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. For more information, please email our Youth Coordinator Sarah - s.lenthall8@gmail.com

HSC STUDENTS

Please continue to pray for all students, especially those in our parish in the coming weeks, so that they will enjoy good results in their HSC this year.

FR HENRY'S SILVER JUBILEE MASS ON SUNDAY 16TH OCTOBER

All are very welcomed to join in the festival of food and music after the 9.30am Mass on Sunday to mark my Silver Jubilee of priesthood.

Thank you to all our staff, ministers and volunteers, especially the Organising committee for giving all they could to make this event so fantastic in every way. Please continue to pray for me and walk with me on the journey to make this community better every day.

Many thanks,

Fr Henry

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

As usual, the meeting began with a prayer followed by a spiritual reading entitled 'Reformed' written by Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga, a member of the Council of Cardinals established by Pope Francis since April 2013 with the task to advise him on the governance of the universal Church. Cardinal Oscar highlights in particular concrete works of reform, especially in the Roma Curia initiated by Pope Francis. He mentions two elements most essential to Church lot of people often overlook: One, the central place of Jesus in every attempt to reform in the Church, and two, the need of a reform of mentality or spirit, not just about making changes or introducing new things. So, let us pray for the success of the Synod of Bishops, that all thoughts, ideas and contributions will help to bring forth a renewed spirit to rejuvenate the Church and its people.



LOURDES OVER 50's The next meeting will be held in the Parish Hall on Thursday 13th October from 10.30 am to 1.00 pm. Please bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided. Parishioners are welcome to join us.

DIOCESAN NEWS

OFFICE FOR SAFEGUARDING SPRING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The Office for Safeguarding is offering a range of opportunities to complete your Safeguarding training this spring.

- Full-day training session on Monday 17 October from 9.30am to 2.30pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown
- Weekly training sessions on Monday 24 and 31 October and Monday 7 November from 10am to 11.30am at St Andrew the Apostle Parish, Marayong.

Full-day training session on Saturday 29 October from 10am to 3pm at St Matthew's Parish, Windsor.

To register for one of these options, please email safe-guardingtraining@parracatholic.org

THE DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA IS HEADING TO WYD23 IN LISBON

Bishop Vincent has announced a pilgrimage to the next World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal from July 21 – August 11, 2023. Young people 16-35 and their families are encouraged to learn more at www.parrawyd.org
For all enquiries contact James Camden, Head Mission Engagement – james.camden@parracatholic.org

DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS: 30 October

The annual Wedding Anniversary Mass will be held on Sunday 30 October at 11am at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Bishop Vincent will celebrate Solemn Mass, followed by a light lunch at the Cathedral Hall. All couples celebrating a significant wedding anniversary will receive a certificate from Bishop Vincent. Please register your name, years of marriage and numbers attending at marriage@parracatholic.org by 21 October. Family and friends are welcome.



LIFTED Live in the Forecourt is back for 2022!

All are welcome to St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta on 22 October from 7pm to 10pm for LIFTED Live. Encounter the vibrancy and dynamism of young people of our Church. Live performances, games, activities, art exhibition, and adoration. Share your gifts and talent with our Diocesan community by visiting www.parracatholic.org/liftedeoi. If you have questions? Email qwayne.quevara@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

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED FOR THE DIOCESE OF BROOME

The Diocese of Broome, WA, urgently requires volunteers to assist with the work of the local Church in various Aboriginal communities for a range of tasks including administration, building maintenance and gardening. Placements are preferred for a period of six months plus. In return, volunteers are offered accommodation, living expenses and an allowance. For further details and an application form, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Janet Ryan on (08) 9192 1060 or email volunteers@broomedioocese.org

CATHOLIC BUSHWALKING CLUB

The Sydney-based Catholic Bushwalking Club seeking new members to join their club. Membership is not restricted to Catholics, and is open to all who share an interest in bushwalking and the outdoors. Membership offers a choice of graded walks for a variety of fitness levels on most weekends, and some on weekdays. To learn more about the Club and to become a member, visit <http://www.cbcsnw.org.au/> or call Adriana on 0478 919 427.

POSITION VACANT

Project Coordinator (part-time) – Catholic Youth Parramatta, Diocese of Parramatta
Applications close 10pm Monday 7 November.

NORTH ROCKS PARISH GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS: 19 November

Christ the King Parish, North Rocks, will be celebrating its 50th anniversary with Mass presided by Bishop Vincent on Saturday 19 November, the Feast of Christ the King, at 5.30pm. All are welcome to celebrate this significant parish milestone, with former parishioners particularly invited to the celebration. For catering purposes, please confirm your attendance with the parish office on northrocks@parracatholic.org

MET WORSHIP FORMATION FOR MINISTRY OF COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND DYING 22 October

MET – Worship will be hosting a formation session for those already active in the Ministry of Communion to the Sick and Dying on Saturday 22 October from 9.30am – 3pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. The formation day includes a reflection on the Spirituality of Suffering, Working within Safeguarding Guidelines and the Practicalities of this ministry. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on (02) 8838 3456 or mary.gale@parracatholic.org

MET Worship Formation for Ministers at the Altar:

12 November

The Worship – Mission Enhancement Team are organising an Ongoing Formation Day for Ministers at the Altar, Adult servers and Acolytes on Saturday 12 November at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown, from 9.30am to 3pm. Morning tea and lunch will be provided. To register, please contact the Worship team on (02) 8838 3456 or email mary.gale@parracatholic.org

POPE FRANCIS AT MASS ON THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE VATICAN II COUNCIL: 'LEARN FROM VATICAN II HOW TO SEE THE CHURCH'

By Christopher Wells

"Do you love Me? Feed My sheep." These words of Jesus, originally spoken to St Peter, are "also addressed to us, to us as Church," said Pope Francis in his homily at Mass celebrated on Tuesday, marking the sixtieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Ecumenical Council of the Vatican – Vatican II.

In fact, the Pope said, the Council was "one great response" to the Lord's question, "Do you love Me?"

"To rekindle her love for the Lord," he said, "the Church, for the first time in her history, devoted a Council to examining herself and reflecting on her nature and mission."

Pope Francis then suggested three ways we can learn from the Council to look at the Church, beginning with looking at her from God's point of view, "from on high, with God's eyes, eyes full of love." He warned against looking at the Church from our own point of view, condemning both "progressivism" and "traditionalism" as infidelity, "forms of Pelagian selfishness that puts our own tastes and plans above the love of God."

Instead, he said, "Let us rediscover the Council in order to restore primacy to God, to what is essential: to a Church madly in love with its Lord and with all the men and women whom He loves."

"Let us rediscover the Council's passion and renew our own passion for the Council!"

Church exists for sake of love

Turning to the word "feed," Pope Francis explained that this is the kind of love that Jesus desires from St Peter. Originally a fisherman, Peter was made a shepherd, one who is called to live among his sheep and to love them.

This, the Pope said, is the second way of looking at the Church: looking around, being in the world without looking down on others. "How timely the Council remains!" he said. "It helps us reject the temptation to enclose ourselves within the confines of our own comforts and convictions," and leads us to "imitate God's approach," to seek the lost sheep and lead them back to the fold.

He said, "the Church, our holy and hierarchical Mother, springing from the heart of the Trinity, exists for the sake of love," and called on the faithful to "resist the temptation to self-absorption." The People of God, said Pope Francis, "are a pastoral people," called especially to care for the poor and the outcast.

Single, unified of the Lord

Pope Francis concluded his homily with an impassioned plea for unity in the Church.

God, he said, "wants us to see the whole" and this is the third way of looking at the Church. The Pope lamented the tendency of Christians to "choose sides" in the Church, instead of being servants to all.

"We are His sheep, His flock," the Pope said, "and we can only be so together, and as one."

"Let us overcome all polarization and preserve our communion!"

Finally, Pope Francis thanked the Lord "for the gift of the Council," and prayed that He might "free us from the presumption of self-sufficiency and from the spirit of worldly criticism... to lead us forth from the shadows of self-absorption... [and] save us from the forms of polarization that are the devil's handiwork."

POPE FRANCIS AT AUDIENCE: 'DERIRE IS THE COMPASS TO DISCERN OUR DIRECTION'

By Benedict Mayaki, SJ

During his Catechesis at the Wednesday General Audience, Pope Francis continued reflecting on discernment, focusing on its indispensable "ingredient": desire.

He said that "discernment is a form of searching, and searching, always stems from something we lack, but somehow know."

Desire

Explaining further about this knowledge of something we lack, but somehow know, Pope Francis noted that spiritual teachers refer to it as "desire" - a nostalgia for fullness that never finds full fulfilment, and is the sign of God's presence in us.

He said that the Italian word *desiderio*, comes from the Latin term *de-sidus* which means "the lack of the star," of the reference point, which orients our path of life.

"It evokes a suffering, a lack, and at the same time a tension to reach the good that is missing," the Pope said, and hence, desire is the "compass to understand where I am and where I am going."

Desire, the Pope continued, is "not the craving of the moment."

"A sincere desire knows how to touch deeply the chords of our being, which is why it is not extinguished in the face of difficulties or setbacks."

Illustrating further, the Pope referred to instances when we are thirsty, noting that if we do not find something to drink, we do not give up. On the contrary, our yearning for water increasingly occupies our thoughts and actions, until we become willing to make any sacrifice in order to quench our thirst.

"Obstacles and failures do not stifle the desire; on the contrary, they make it even more alive in us," the Pope said.

Desires last through time

"Unlike the desire or emotion of the moment," he said, "desire lasts through time, even a long time, and tends to materialize."

He gave the example of a young person who wants to be a doctor, and embarks on a course of study and work that occupies years of their life.

This choice, the Pope explained, means he will have to set limits, say "no" to other courses of study, avoid diversions and distractions, especially during the most intense times of study.

It is thus, "the desire to give his life a direction and reach that goal enables him to overcome these difficulties."

"In effect, a value becomes beautiful and more easily achievable when it is attractive. As some have said, 'more important than being good is having the desire to become good.'"

Desires and miracles

The Pope then highlighted that Jesus, before performing a miracle, often questioned the person about his or her desire.

Recalling the example of the paralytic at the pool of Bethesda whom Jesus asked: "Do you want to be well?" (Jn 5:6), Pope Francis noted that the paralytic's answer reveals a series of strange resistances to healing, which do not relate only to him.

In fact, Jesus' question was an invitation to bring clarity to his heart, to welcome a possible leap forward, to no longer think of himself and his life "as a paralytic," transported by others; however, the man does not seem to be convinced.

Here the Pope noted that "by engaging in dialoguing with the Lord, we learn to understand what we really want from life."

Desire separates lasting projects from wishful thinking

"Often it is indeed desire that makes the difference between a successful, coherent and lasting project, and the thousands of wishes and good intentions with which, as they say, 'hell is paved with,'" the Pope said.

Particularly in this era which seems to promote the maximum freedom of choice, but at the same time reduces desire to the "desire of the moment," the Pope suggested, we are bombarded by a thousand proposals, projects and possibilities, "which risk distracting us and not permitting us to calmly evaluate what we really want."

In this regard, he noted that many people suffer because "they do not know what they want from their lives," and because "they have probably never got in touch with their deepest desire." Thus, they risk "passing one's existence between attempts and expedients of various kinds, never getting anywhere, and wasting precious opportunities. And so certain changes, though desired in theory, when the opportunity arises, are never implemented."