

The Kids' Bulletin

First Sunday of Advent
November 27th, 2022

Sort the letters to fill in the blanks at the bottom



In today's second reading
Saint Paul tells the Romans to throw off the
works of darkness and put on the

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

*It's Time to get Ready
for Christmas!*

Advent is here! In a few weeks
it will be Christmas, so it's time
to start getting ready!



During Advent we remember
Jesus' first coming, and get ourselves and our
homes ready to celebrate His birthday.
Lighting the candles on an Advent wreath
helps us to remember that Jesus,
the light of the world, is
coming. We start with one
candle, and every week light
one more, so that the closer
we get to Jesus' coming the
brighter it gets.



In Advent we also think about Jesus' second
coming. In today's Gospel reading Jesus tells
the people to be prepared for that
time. We must never let ourselves
forget that this world and this life
are only temporary and that we
have something much greater to
look forward to: Jesus and Heaven!



Fill in the Blanks: The Lord is Coming!



Matthew 24:37-44 As it was in the days of Noah,
so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

In those days the flood,
they were eating and drinking,
marrying and giving in marriage,
up to the day that Noah

the ark.

They did not know until the flood came
and them all away.
So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man.

Two will be out in the field;
one will be , and one will be left.

Two women will be
 at the mill;
one will be taken, and one will be left.

Therefore, awake!

For you do not know on which day
your Lord will come.

STAY ENTERED MEN BEFORE
GRINDING TAKEN CARRIED



Use the words in the list at the
bottom to fill in the blanks in
today's Gospel reading.
Use the letters in the boxes
to fill in the blanks at the end.

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

Words to
Find

Words can be
found left to right
and up and down

- Advent
- Wreath
- Candles
- Purple
- Hope
- Peace
- Joy
- Love
- Mary
- Joseph
- Jesus



OUR LADY OF LOURDES
PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS
"Full 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: Erika Hien, Sarah Lenthall,
Kim Dang, Tricia Brown
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Artelle Lenthall
Office Hours: Monday-Friday: 9am - 3.00pm
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: 15th February 2023
Baptism: 27th November 2022
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.com.au
Pastoral Care of the Sick: Bathista Emmanuel
0405 833 655
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 27 November 2022 - Year A



Let us Pray for the Sick

Leonila Ahillon, George Alagiah, Mario Attard, Mary Attard, Cynthia Avery,
David Benjamin, Rosella Booth, Barrie Chamberlain, John Chandler, Ruby
Chary,
Parakrania 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, 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 who 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, Elsie Glover, Ladislao Legaspi, Ray Monteclaro,
Sr Christina Morrissey RSJ, Romeo Noble, Adrian Pereira, Zenaída Reyes, Helen
Salem, Edwin Tabone, John Walker, Christine Woodward (sister-in-law of Bill and
Chris), Ladislao Legaspi, Romeo Noble, Zenaída Reyes, Ray Monteclaro.

Anniversaries: Ngan Siu Eng, John Falzon, Melvyn Fernandes, Josefa & Florencio
Flores, Martina Joseph, Felina & Apolinaria Maglaya, Ngoc Khuong Mai, Pauline
Meilak, Mary Mifsud, Lourda Motha, Aurora Nonato, Lee Pisch, Rosaline Ratman,
Julia & France St Flour, Alison Vella

November Remembrance—Book of Eternal Life

Let us pray for those gone before us.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful
parted,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.
Amen



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 December 2021.

HOWEVER OUR SAFETY PLAN STILL RECOMMENDS
SOCIAL DISTANCING WHERE POSSIBLE.

**PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND IF YOU ARE
EXPERIENCING ANY FLU LIKE SYMPTOMS.
Please Help Us Keep Our Community Safe.**

REGULAR COLLECTIONS - First and Second

* **FIRST COLLECTION** and **Matt's Point** are 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

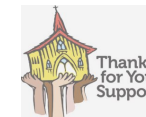
On behalf of the Parish Community, I would like to thank you very much
for your ongoing support, which has been absolutely vital in keeping our
Parish going strong. Projects completed include the Hall Kitchen renova-
tion, Parish Meeting Room painting, Parish Office and Meeting Room
Roof painted, Church 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 prophet Isaiah Is 2:1-5

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.’ He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord. The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when I heard them say:
‘Let us go to God’s house.’
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. (R.)

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:
‘Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!’ (R.)

It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.
For Israel’s law it is,
there to praise the Lord’s name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David. (R.)

For love of my brethren and friends
I say: ‘Peace upon you!’
For love of the house of the Lord
I will ask for your good. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 13: 11-14

You know ‘the time’ has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ. The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 24: 37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘As it was in Noah’s day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.
‘So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming.
You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.’ 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/>

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 9622 2920.

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



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
Thursdays at 1.30pm in the Parish Meeting Room. All Welcome.

CHRIST COMMUNITY PRAYER GROUP
Thursdays 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>

OLOL PARISH CALENDAR		
November		
26	Bishop’s Christmas Appeal	
27	First Day of Advent	
December		
1	Christ Community Prayer Group	1:30pm
1	Legion of Mary	1.30pm

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

26/27 November 2022

Acolytes	Vigil: Derick Soares 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am Ramzee Michael
Ministers	Vigil: L. La Guidara, R. Soares 8am: F. Balatbat, Volunteer 9.30am: M. Michael, Eugene Miu
Readers	Vigil: S. Menezes, C. Rodrigues 8am: E. Hien, K. Walker 9.30am: A. Joseph, S. Manamperi
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. La Guidara,C. La Guidara, Volunteer. 8.00am: Volunteers 9.30am: Leo Culili, Sofia Culili, Volunteer.
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ
Flowers	Annette & Mary B.
Church cleaning	3 Dec Judith Deloso
Welcomers	Vigil: John Jordan 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: Volunteers

3 / 4 December 2022

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am Eugene Miu
Ministers	Vigil: Chrisa Gonzales, Marinela Simic. 8am: Lorraine Fernandes, Suzy Nemorin. 9.30am: Barbara Chandler, Paul Gow.
Readers	Vigil: Noreen Do Rosario, Jemma Sarmiento. 8am: Nina Arambulo, Maricel Santos. 9.30am: Christina Diaz, Jeanine Nonato.
Altar Servers	Vigil: Amelia Laus, Lucas Laus, Johnathan Sant. 8.00am: Not filled 9.30am: Chloe Attard
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Tongan Choir
Flowers	Fenty, Gaby, Flo & Liz
Church cleaning	3 Dec Sheila Enright, Beth Paiva, Lourdes Spiteri.
Welcomers	Vigil: Helen Gonzales 8am: Joyce Hillbrick 9.30am: Lena Falzon

...continued **POPE FRANCIS WITH MEMBERS OF THE FEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN ORGANISATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE** *By Lisa Zengarini*
Building the world together

The Pope also noted that FOCSIV's motto - 'A world to be built together, respecting creation, in which each person can fulfill himself in full dignity!' - is "a very timely message in this historical moment" in which "the shadow of a Third World War hangs over the destiny of entire nations, with terrible consequences for people".

Walking on the path of the Good Samaritan

Pope Francis then reflected on three objectives that characterize the organization, and should concern everyone: volunteering, peace, and integral development.

Noting that being a volunteer, is a "courageous sign of openness, towards our neighbour" based "on a deep-rooted attitude of solidarity" and fraternity, the Pope remarked that FOCSIV shows that "it is possible to be 'all brothers' by embracing every human being that the Lord places on the paths of our lives", like the Good Samaritan did.

Promoting peace

The Holy Father then dwelled on the objective of peace, referring in particular to the ongoing war in Ukraine, as well as in many other parts of the globe.

"[For months we have seen images of destruction, of death. Peace in justice is a necessary condition for a dignified life, to build a better future together.]"

He remarked that nurturing and sharing peace with those they serve is the most important "gift" that FOCSIV volunteers can bring with them, because "the world does not need empty words, but convinced witnesses and peacemakers open to dialogue."

Forced migration one of the great evils our era

Finally, the Pope focused on FOCSIV's commitment for development to bring about a dignified life for everyone, emphasizing that only "the integral developmen of a person and of the context in which he or she lives", allows the accomplishment of "a good life open to the future" at a personal and social level.

In this regard he highlighted that forced migration pushing millions of desperate men, women and children to face "inhumane journeys and all kinds of violence" to seek a better future, can be prevented only by ensuring a real development in every country.

Pope Francis, therefore, encouraged FOCSIV volunteers to go forward boldly in their mission of taking care of the most vulnerable, like the Good Samaritan, in the awareness that "we cannot be indifferent to suffering; we cannot allow anyone to go through life as an outcast."

Fraternity vs "civilization of confrontation"

In his off-the-cuff address, Pope Francis insisted on the crucial importance of their voluntary service promoting the Christian value of human fraternity as opposed the "civilization of confrontation", which has led to the current wars raging across the world.

"Volunteering is a hymn to fraternity." 27,000 volunteers

Since its foundation 50 years ago, FOCSIV has deployed some 27,000 volunteers and young people across the world to carry out development projects in the social, health, agricultural, food, and educational fields. At the same time, the Federation promotes education campaigns and lobbying at institutional level in Italy to create awareness on social justice issues.

POPE FRANCIS' INTERVIEW FROM THE BARHAIN TRIP (Continued)

Carol Glatz, *CNS: Your Holiness, during this trip to Bahrain you spoke about fundamental rights, including women's rights, their dignity, the right to have their space in the social and public sphere; and you encouraged young people to have courage, to make noise; to move forward toward a more just world. Given the situation close by, in Iran, with the protests sparked by some women and many young people who want more freedom, do you support this effort of women and men demanding to have the basic rights that are also found in the Document on Human Fraternity?*

Pope Francis: We have to tell each other the truth. The struggle for women's rights is an ongoing struggle. Because in some places women have equality with men, but not in other places. No? I remember in the 1950s in my country, when there was the struggle for women's civil rights: for women to be able to vote. Because until about the '50s only men could do so. And I think of this same struggle in the U.S. But why, I ask myself, does the woman have to struggle like this to keep her rights? There is a...I don't know if it is a legend, a legend about the origin of women's jewelry – maybe it's a legend – that explains the cruelty of so many situations against women. It is said that women wear so much jewelry because in a country – I don't remember, perhaps it's a historical fact – there was a custom that when the husband got fed up with the woman, he would say to her, 'Get out!' and she couldn't go back in and take anything. She had to leave with what she had on her. And (that would be) why they would amass gold, to be able at least to take something away. They say this is the origin of jewelry. I don't know if it is true or not, but the image helps us.

Rights are fundamental. But how come in the world today we cannot stop the tragedy of young girls' infibulation? This is terrible.

Today. The fact that this practice exists, that humanity cannot stop this crime, a criminal act! Women, according to two comments I heard, are either "disposable" material – that's bad – or they are 'a protected species.' But equality between men and women is still not universally found, and there are these instances, where women are second-class citizens or less. We have to keep fighting for that because women are a gift. God didn't create man and then give him a little dog for fun. He didn't. He created them equal, man and woman. And what Paul wrote in one of his letters about male-female relationships, which seems old-fashioned to us today, at that time was so revolutionary that it was scandalous. He said the man should take care of the woman as his own flesh. This, at that moment, was a revolutionary thing. All women's rights come from this equality. And a society that is unable to give the woman her place does not move forward. We have the experience (of this). In the book I wrote, *Torniamo a sognare*, in the part about economics, for example, there are women economists currently in the world who have changed the economic vision and are able to carry it forward. Because they have a different gift. They know how to run things in another way, which is not inferior, it is complementary. I once had a conversation with a head of government, a great head of government, a mother with several children, who was very successful in solving difficult situations. And I said to her, 'Tell me, Ma'am, how did you solve such a difficult situation?' She began to move her hands like this, in silence. Then she said to me: '[This is] how [we] mothers do it.'

Women have their own way of solving problems, which is not man's way. And both ways must work together: the woman, equal to the man, works for the common good with that insight that women have. I have seen that in the Vatican, every time a woman comes in to do a job in the Vatican, things get better. For example, the vice governor of the Vatican is a woman, the vice governor is a woman, and things have changed for the best. In the Council for the Economy, there were six cardinals and six lay people, all male. I changed the lay people I put one male and five women. And this is a revolution because women know how to find the right way, they know how to move forward. And now I have put Marianna Mazzuccato in the Pontifical Academy for Life. She is a great economist from the United States, I put her there to give a little more humanity to it.

Women carry their own, they don't have to become like males. No! they are women, we need them. And a society that erases women from public life is a society that impoverishes itself. It impoverishes itself. Equality of rights, yes. But also equality of opportunity. Equality of opportunities in order to move forward, otherwise we become impoverished.

I think with that I have said what globally needs to be done. But we still have some way to go. Because there is this 'machismo'. I come from a people with machismo. Argentinians, we are masculinist, always. And that is bad, but then we turn to our mothers, who are the ones who solve the problems. This machismo kills humanity. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to say this, which is [something that] I carry in my heart. Let's fight not only for rights, but because we need to have women in society to help us change.



FROM FR. HENRY DUC

Dear Friends,
We celebrate the Church New Year this Sunday, since we enter into another liturgical year, therefore it is very appropriate for us to wish each other a very Happy New Year this weekend.
As you know, we just completed Year C of a three-year A, B, C circle in the Church last week, so we start again a new liturgical circle beginning with Year A. Throughout this Year A, the Gospel of Matthew is going to become the principal Gospel, and we will have many opportunities to hear various accounts from Matthew's Gospel telling us about Jesus' life and teachings.

From a historically speaking, we find the evidence in Papias of Hierapolis' writings in 110 revealing to us that 'Matthew put together the sayings of the Lord in Hebrew, and from then on everyone translated them according to his ability,' and we know that bishop and martyr St Irenaeus wrote in 185 that 'Matthew published a gospel among the Hebrews and in their language, while Peter and Paul went out to evangelize Rome and establish the Church.'

Through his account chosen for this First Sunday of Advent, Matthew highlights Jesus' message asking the disciples to stay away and stand ready at all times due to the unexpected nature of the coming of the Son of Man.

This message was delivered to the disciples prior to Jesus' Passion, death and Resurrection, and Jesus referred to the biblical story of Noah to evoke the sense of vigilance and preparedness in his disciples, and also utilized the symbolism of the nighttime burglar to explain to the disciples the reason why he earnestly called them to remain vigilant, awaken and fully prepared at all times for his day and time. The reason for their vigilance is because he is coming at a time completely unknown to them like a thief during the night, consequently they have no other ways to deal with it except their total and constant preparation for him. This is the spirit of the Advent season, the time in the Church helping us focus on a twofold preparation: Christmas and the Second Coming.

Let us ask for Jesus' grace in this First Week of Advent to take to heart his message inviting us to stay awake constantly and try our best to keep ourselves spiritually awaken through our connection with Him by means of his living words and sacraments, especially the Eucharist.

Have a spiritually vigilant week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION ON SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER

Please help bring cakes, desserts, fruits for a shared lunch if you can, and we also need volunteers to bring cooked dishes to share.

For further details please ring Evelyn or Parish Office.

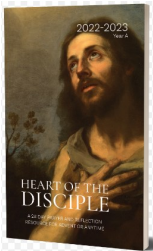
PARISH BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Our Book of remembrance will be on display in front of the Altar at all Masses throughout November and rest at the Baptismal font before Mass, and all are welcome to enter the names of the deceased.

"Heart of the Disciple" is a new 28-day reflection resource that can be used during Advent by individuals and groups, or at any time during the 2022-2023 liturgical year. Its main purpose is to help us to find a few minutes each day to practice what it means to sit with God and to trust God to lead us forward.

\$5.00 from the Piety Shop

Audio https://evangelisationbrisbane.org.au/hotd_audio/



BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL 27 NOVEMBER

We invite parishes to show compassion once again for the poor, marginalized, and socially excluded. The Bishop's Appeal is raising funds for Catholic Care's Assistance with Care and Housing service to help our homeless

brothers and sisters to find a safe and secure place to call home.





PARRAMATTA
CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

No one should be without a place to call home.

Help Catholic Care end homelessness in our community.

Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal

DONATE NOW



DIOCESAN NEWS

GLENBROOK PARISH ADVENT RETREAT: 10 December

You are invited to join St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook for their Advent Retreat, titled, 'Jesus the greatest gift from God' on Saturday 10 December from 9am to 3pm. Most Rev David Walker, Bishop Emeritus of Broken Bay, will be the guest presenter. For more information and to RSVP, please contact the parish office on (02) 4742 6958 or secr-tary@stfinbars.org.au

FIRST CPR TRAINING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST!

The Diocese of Parramatta is participating in a program called FirstCPR that involves education and training in responding to cardiac arrest in the community. The program will provide you with CPR accredited training to parish staff and volunteers and is free of charge. Sessions will be organised across the Diocese and require a minimum of 10 people per session. For more information, and to express your interest, please visit <https://parracatholic.org/cpr-training-eoi/>

JOIN THE 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.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S ADVENT 2022 RESOURCES

Journey through Advent with Caritas Australia's new Parish Resources, useful for small groups or individuals. Exploring seasonal themes of peace, hope, joy and love through a social justice lens, this resource offers Gospel readings, stories of people Caritas Australia serves, reflection questions, prayers, song suggestions and ideas for putting faith into action. Visit www.caritas.org.au/advent to download the resource.

PALMS AUSTRALIA – Roll up your sleeves, make a difference overseas Do you require professional renewal, or are you seeking a retirement challenge? Communities in countries such as American Samoa, Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tanzania and Timor-Leste are asking for qualified and experienced Australians to mentor their people in education, health, administration, agriculture and more. Embrace one of the Palms Australia mission opportunities abroad by visiting www.palms.org.au, or by calling (02) 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567

SYDNEY ALLIANCE ASSEMBLY with NSW Treasurer Matt Kean: 30 November

You are invited to join people from across the Diocese of Parramatta to participate in a Sydney Alliance Assembly. At this event, we will discuss the issues of housing, cost of living, energy, and climate change with NSW Treasurer Matt Kean on Wednesday 30 November from 6pm–8pm (dinner provided) at Parramatta Mission, 119 Macquarie St, Parramatta. Please register at www.bit.ly/3hHJQNV. For any questions, please contact Quyen Nguyen at qnguyen@sydneyalliance.org.au or 0451 018 808.

POPE FRANCIS CATECHIS ON DISCERNMENT

Catechesis on Discernment. 8. "Why are we desolate?"

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Today, let us resume the catecheses on the theme of *discernment*. We have seen how important it is to *read* what stirs within us, so as not to make hasty decisions, spurred by the emotion of the moment, only to regret them when it is too late. That is, to read what happens and then make decisions.

In this sense, even the spiritual state we call *desolation*, when in the heart everything is dark, it is sad, these things, this state of *desolation* can be an opportunity for growth. Indeed, if there is not a little dissatisfaction, a little healthy sadness, a healthy capacity to dwell in solitude and to stay by ourselves without fleeing, we risk always remaining on the surface of things and never making contact with the core of our existence. Desolation causes a "rousing of the soul": when one is sad it is as if the soul were shaken; it keeps us alert, it fosters vigilance and humility, and protects us from the winds of fancy. These are indispensable conditions for progress in life, and hence also in the spiritual life. A perfect but "aseptic" serenity, without feeling, when it becomes the criterion for decisions and behaviour, makes us inhuman. We cannot ignore our feelings: we are human and sentiment is a part of our humanity. And without understanding feelings we are inhuman; without living our sentiments we will also be indifferent to the sufferings of others and incapable of accepting our own. Not to mention that such a "perfect serenity" cannot be reached by this path of indifference. This sterile distance: "I won't get involved in things, I will keep my distance": this is not life, it is as though we lived in a laboratory, shut away, so as not to have microbes and diseases. For many saints, restlessness was a decisive impetus to turn their lives around. This artificial serenity will not do. Yes, a healthy restlessness is fine, the restless heart, the heart that seeks its way. This is the case, for example, of Augustine of Hippo, Edith Stein, Joseph Benedict Cottolengo, or Charles de Foucauld. Important choices come at a price that life presents, a price that is within reach of everyone; or rather, the important choices do not come from the lottery, no; they have a price and you have to pay that price. It is a price that you must pay with your heart, it is the price of the decision, the price of making some effort. It is not free of charge, but it is a price within reach of everyone. We must all pay for this decision so as to leave behind the state of indifference. The state of indifference brings us down, always.

Desolation is also an invitation to *gratuitousness*, to not acting always and solely with a view to emotional gratification. Being desolate offers us the possibility of growth, of initiating a more mature, more beautiful relationship with the Lord and with our loved ones, a relationship that is not reduced to a mere exchange of giving and having. Let us think of our childhood, for example, think: as children, it often happens that we look for our parents to obtain something from them, a toy, some money to buy an ice cream, permission... And so, we look for them not for themselves, but for personal gain. And yet, the greatest gift is them, our parents, and we understand this gradually as we grow up.

Many of our prayers are also somewhat like this: they are requests for favours addressed to the Lord, without any real interest in him. We go to ask, to ask, to ask the Lord. The Gospel notes that Jesus was often surrounded by many people who sought him out in order to obtain something: healing, material assistance, but not simply to be with him. He was pushed by the crowds, yet he was alone. Some saints, and even some artists, have contemplated this condition of Jesus. It may seem strange, unreal, to ask the Lord: "How are you?" Instead, it is a beautiful way to enter into a true, sincere relationship, with his humanity, with his suffering, even with his singular solitude. With him, with the Lord, who wanted to share his life with us to the full.

It does us a great deal of good to learn to *be with him*, to be with the Lord, to learn to be with the Lord *without ulterior motives*, exactly as it happens with people we care for: we wish to know them more and more, because it is good to be with them. Dear brothers and sisters, the spiritual life is not a technique at our disposal, it is not a programme for inner "wellbeing" that it is up to us to plan. No. The spiritual life is *the relationship with the Living One*, with God, the Living One who cannot be reduced to our categories. And desolation, then, is the clearest response to the objection that the experience of God is a form of wishful thinking, a simple projection of our desires. Desolation is not feeling anything, when everything is dark, but you seek God in the desolation. In that case, if we think that he is a projection of our desires, we would always be the ones to plan, and we would always be happy and content, like a record that repeats the same music. Instead, those who pray realize that the outcome is *unpredictable*: experiences and passages from the Bible that have often enthralled us, today, strangely, do not move us. And, equally unexpectedly, experiences, encounters and readings that we have never paid much attention to or preferred to avoid – such as the experience of the cross – bring immense peace. Do not fear desolation; face it with perseverance, do not evade it. And in desolation, try to find the heart of Christ, to find the Lord. And the answer will come, always. Faced with difficulties, therefore, never be discouraged, please, but confront the test with determination, with the help of the grace of God, which is never lacking. And if we hear within us an insistent voice that wants to turn us away from prayer, let us learn to unmask it as the voice of the tempter; and let us not be influenced; let us simply do the opposite of what it tells us! Thank you.

POPE FRANCIS WITH MEMBERS OF THE FEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN ORGANISATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

By Lisa Zengarini

Pope Francis, on Monday, addressed the Federation of Christian Organizations for International Voluntary Service (FOCSIV), celebrating its 50th anniversary of foundation.

The network, which gathers 94 organizations committed to fighting poverty and promoting human dignity through development projects in over 80 countries, was founded in Italy in 1972.

A beautiful sign of fraternity in a broken world

In his prepared remarks that were handed over to the those present, Pope Francis thanked the Italian charity for its "valuable contribution" to the fight against all forms of poverty and marginalization, to the protection of human dignity and the development of local communities, which, he said, "shows that every little piece can build the great mosaic of fraternity".

"You are a beautiful sign of the Mother Church which generates hope in a world that has grown accustomed to the scandals of hunger and wars. Your witness is a concrete response to those who no longer believe in a possible peace."

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Ordination Mass to the Diaconate

Mr Tom Green

SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER AT 5.30PM ST PATRICK'S CHURCH
MARY, QUEEN OF THE FAMILY PARISH, ALLAWAH ST, BLACKTOWN