



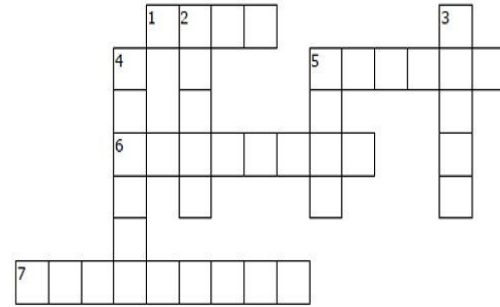
The Nativity of The Lord Christmas Day 25 December 2022



The Birth of Jesus

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7 (KJV)

Puzzle is based on Luke 2:1-20



ACROSS

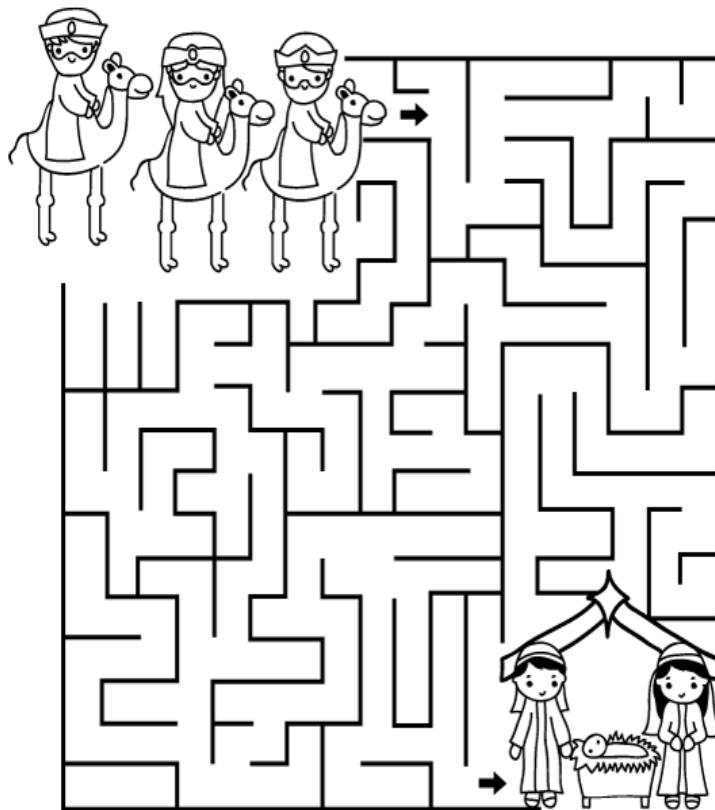
1. An infant or very young child
5. The place where Mary laid the baby Jesus
6. A person who takes care of sheep
7. The city where Jesus was born

DOWN

2. Heavenly being that told the shepherds about Jesus' birth
3. The savior of the world
4. The earthly father of Jesus
5. The mother of Jesus

JOSEPH	ANGEL	BETHLEHEM	BABY
MARY	SHEPHERD	JESUS	MANGER

Help the Three Wise Men find the manger.



Nativity Word Scramble

1. STRA _ _ _ _
2. MAGREN _ _ _ _ _
3. MYAR _ _ _ _
4. SEPHE _ _ _ _
5. DOEYKN _ _ _ _ _
6. AEGLN _ _ _ _
7. JPHOES _ _ _ _ _
8. JSSEU _ _ _ _
9. KIGSN _ _ _ _
10. STBALE _ _ _ _ _

All these words come from the Christmas story. Can you unscramble them?



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:

Tricia Brown, Jane Letran
Sarah Lenthall, Kim Dang

Sacrament Co-Ordinator:

Mrs Artelle Lenthall

Office Hours: Monday-Friday:

9am - 3.00pm

WEEKDAY MASS:

Tuesday—Friday 8.00am

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:

22nd January 2022

Parish Website:

www.olol7hills.com.au

Pastoral Care of the Sick:

Bathista Emmanuel
0405 833 655



Christmas Year A 24th & 25th December, 2022

Have a blessed Christmas & Happy New Year

Joy to the world



Christmas Eve 6.00pm, 9.00pm

READINGS

1st Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

2nd Reading: Apostles 13:16-17, 22-25

Gospel: Matt 1:18-25

The Lord takes delight in you.

Paul spoke of Christ, the son of David

A genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David.

RESPONSE TO PSALM: *For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia! Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed: the Saviour of the world will be our king. Alleluia!

Christmas Midnight Mass

READINGS

1st Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

A son is given to us

God's grace has been revealed to all people

Today a saviour has been born for you

RESPONSE TO PSALM: *Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia! Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

Christmas Day 8am, 9:30am and 6pm

READINGS

1st Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

2nd Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

Gospel: John 1:1-18

All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of our God.

In our own time, God speaks to us through his Son.

*The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we saw his glory.*

RESPONSE TO PSALM: *All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia! A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia!





Let us Pray for the Sick

Leonila Ahillon, George Alagiah, Mary Attard, Cynthia Avery, Rosella Booth, Barrie Chamberlain, John Chandler, David Barrow, David Bejamin, Barrie Chamberlain, Myrna G Cruz, Elizabeth Ehsman, Danilo Dolot, Parakramia Diaz, Ruby Rose Chary, Melvyn Fernandes, Jose Garcia, Wendy & Klaus, Anslan Lawrence, Anush Fernando, Alfredo Fernandez, Joseph Franco, Spencer Leon, Anthony Janicska, John Glover, Cynthia Lopez, Gerard Marcello, Marie Marchand, Ananda Nayana, Blago Milicevic, Sr Colleen O'Sullivan RSJ, Wiranjan Peiris, Salome Pillay, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Sandra Roseworn, Susantha Seranayake, Bernie Sivapatham, Joan Spillane, Pummalin Sumcad, Sue Tipaldo, Phan Tran, 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 the Parish Office on 9622 2920. We can also arrange for Holy Communion or a visit if required.

Let us Pray for the Deceased

Recently Deceased: Ranjan Fernando, Francisca Garcia, Francis Muscat, Adrian Pereira.

Anniversaries: Carmen Attard, John Azzopardi, Philomena Corera, Silvia & Sam De Batista, Peter Diab, Bebe Diab, Toufic Debe, Rita De Silva, Hansel De Silva, Ivan Elisher, Melvyn Fernandes, M.A Fernando, Sam & Mary Gardia, Enrique Lumagbas, Marcel Mohsen, Felina Cabral Mayuyo, Pauline Meilak, Irene Moroney, Anton Motha, Stephen & Louis Mula, Aurora Nonato, Aurelio Pangininan, Floriano Sernasr, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.

Remembrance: France Angseeing, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Merlene & Ralph Blackford, Rosario Cabasa, Joseph & Carmena, Dennis Clarke, Cini & Mangion Family, Myrna Cruz, Bonosa Enfesta, Fernandes Family, Charlie Gauci, Gerard Marcello, Pauline Meilak, Mary Mifsud, Lourda Motha, Muscat Family, Josephine & Charles Muscat, Mary Muscat, Jesus Oplencia, John & Rosaline Ratnam, Jose, Laureano & Karen Reryes, John Zarent Williams.



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR GREETINGS

What a year for us to remember. Anyway, let us praise and thank God for giving us the opportunity to celebrate Christmas, knowing that a lot of people all over the world won't have the opportunity. May the child Jesus confident in his love.. Have a blessed Christmas and a grace-filled New Year. **Fr Henry.**

CHRISTMAS THANK YOU

Many thanks to all our ministers, helpers, volunteers and Parish staff for the hard works they have done to make our Christmas liturgies truly special and our church fit for the occasion.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office will be closed between Christmas and New Year. We wish you a wonderful Christmas and many blessings and a warm welcome for 2023. During January, will be closed. If you require assistance, please call 9622 2920 and leave a voicemail message. These messages are checked daily and we will endeavour to assist you as soon as possible. Thank You.

ROSTER The roster for the next 6 months is ready to access over the internet and can you get a copy at the back of the Church.

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR CATHOLIC CARE'S ASSISTANCE WITH CARE AND HOUSING SERVICE No one should be homeless or without support. Your Christmas gift today will enable Catholic Care to give homeless people practical and emotional support, and a safe place to call home. Please stretch out your hand to the poor and give generously via the Bishop's Christmas Appeal envelopes, at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal. Thank you for your prayers, heart-felt compassion, and help to end homelessness.

CHRISTMAS OFFERTORY

Christmas is a joyous time when we come together as a parish family to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Our Lady of Lourdes relies on the generosity of our faith community to sustain our liturgical, sacramental, pastoral and charitable ministries and we are ever grateful for your support. Please consider giving a Christmas Offertory gift in the envelopes provided.



FROM FR. HENRY DUC

Dear Friends,

It's depending on which Mass you go to this weekend either Christmas Eve, Midnight or Christmas Day, you will have a chance to listen to one of the accounts focusing on the nativity of Jesus.

For those who attend the 6pm and 9.30pm Mass, the Gospel of Matthew gives us a glimpse into Jesus' genealogy starting from Abraham and ending with St Joseph, and more interestingly a highlight of the complexity of Mary's conception making Joseph feel uneasy, consequently he planned to divorce her informally.

Thanks to the angel's intervention, the mystery of Mary's pregnancy was revealed to Joseph, and he felt released and went ahead to carry out what the angel instructed him to do, which was to take Mary home as his wife and name her son Jesus.

As we know, the Gospel of Matthew was written mainly for the Jewish community in diaspora, a community quite familiar with the messianic teachings of the prophets, the writer managed to put an extra touch about Mary's conception that it fulfilled the prophecy in the Old Testament about the Virgin to conceive and give birth to a son called Emmanuel (cf Isa 7.14), therefore this son must be the Messiah.

For those who go to the Midnight Mass, the Gospel of Luke explains to us the reason why Mary heavily conceived and Joseph originally from Nazareth had to go to Bethlehem, found no room available in the inn and were forced to wrap her newly-born baby in swaddling clothes and place him in a manger.

The angel then broke the most joyful news about the birth of the savior, Christ the Lord with the shepherds watching their flocks in the fields. Though this Lukan account of Christmas stops at this point, we know that the shepherds did respond to the angel's message and they rushed to come over to the spot where Jesus, Mary and Joseph were staying and paid homage to the Son of God.

For those who choose to go to Mass on Christmas Day, John gives us a highly abstract and philosophical reflection upon the entry of the Son of God called the Word into the human world as the light to enlighten all dwellers on earth. The Word had John as his witness verifying his pre-existence in eternity, and also met with certain resistance from those who preferred not to accept him.

However, it is a great honor for those who embrace and accept him, they are given the grace to make them sons and daughters of God.

In the joyful spirit of Christmas, let us give praise and thanks to God for making the impossible possible through the nativity of Jesus born of the Virgin Mary, and for revealing Jesus to us through our faith. May the grace of Christmas open our hearts and minds to welcome Jesus into our lives and try our best to live our lives worthy of our call as God's sons and daughters.

Have a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year,
Fr Henry

POPE FRANCIS AT ANGELUS: 'GOD CAN TURN A CRISIS INTO A NEW HORIZON.'

By Devin Watkins

Pope Francis prayed the noon-day Angelus with pilgrims in a sunny St. Peter's Square on Sunday, reflecting on the day's Gospel (Mt 1:18-24). Focusing his remarks on the example of St. Joseph, the Pope noted that the man who would become Jesus' foster father probably began his betrothal to Mary with good, simple dreams for his new life and family, such as an "affectionate wife, many wonderful children, and a dignified job."

However, his discovery that Mary was expecting a child that was not his must have created "shock, pain, confusion, perhaps even irritation and disappointment."

Shattered dreams

As his dreams and world fell to pieces around him, St. Joseph considered that the Mosaic Law gave him two options, either accuse Mary of her alleged infidelity or secretly annul their engagement without exposing her to harsh consequences, which however would have cast the burden of shame upon him.

Joseph, noted Pope Francis, takes the second option since it is "the way of mercy".

"And behold, at the height of his crisis, right when he is thinking and evaluating all this," said the Pope, "God shines a new light in his heart – He declares to him in a dream that Mary's motherhood did not come about because of a betrayal, but by the work of the Holy Spirit, and the baby that would be born is the Saviour."

When he awoke, St. Joseph understood that God was fulfilling in him—albeit in an unexpected way—the greatest dream of every devout Israelite: to be the father of the Messiah.

Trust versus guarantees

Pope Francis went on to say that St. Joseph knew he would have to entrust himself to God completely by welcoming Mary and her Son in a way that was different to anything that had been done before.

"Joseph would have to renounce all reassuring certainties, his perfect plans, his legitimate expectations, and open himself to a future that he would have to discover."

The "just man" displayed heroic courage and said "yes" to God, trusting Him completely and asking for no further guarantees.

Shattered dreams and new horizons

Turning to what we can learn today from this Gospel episode, Pope Francis noted that we all have our own life goals, which we often reflect on more around Christmas, even those that have not panned out the way we had hoped.

Joseph, added the Pope, shows us the way to understand those shattered dreams.

"We do not need to give in to negative feelings, like anger or isolation – this is the wrong way!" he said. "Instead, we need to attentively welcome surprises in life, even crises."

In moments of crisis, we should "consider everything", like Joseph, rather than making impulsive decisions.

When we keep the door open to God in the midst of a personal crisis, concluded Pope Francis, God can intervene, since He is an "expert in transforming crises into dreams."

"God opens crises into new horizons, perhaps not as we would expect, but in the way that He knows how. God's horizons are surprising, but infinitely more grand and beautiful than ours!"



BISHOPS VINCENT'S 2022 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Bishop Vincent's 2022 Christmas message can be viewed online

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K4xhsRrNuPQ>

Fr Andrew Rooney's Ordination – 7.30mins https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYd_N0y7Zi4

Hallelujah – a moving rendition for the Mass of Thanksgiving for Greg Whitby, retiring Executive Director of Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta - 4.37mins <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6j5WlzYsMmg>

God's Plan for Mary – 4mins - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGreLI-tBEM>

ADVENTures with Mum and Dad – 7.30mins -- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tHLfn_Sr1sU

Christmas Through the Eyes of Kindergarten – 7.45 mins - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mrXS7vUpI8A>

Christmas Offering

