

The Kids' Bulletin

Second Sunday of Advent
December 4th, 2022

The one who is
coming after me
is mightier than I.

→ B Δ + Δ Δ
X N ✓ - + I B C O N
Δ + - → - → B
→ O O C U ✓ + P + -
N < 7 7 + P B

What did Saint
John the Baptist
say about the one
who was coming
after him?
Use the code to
find out!

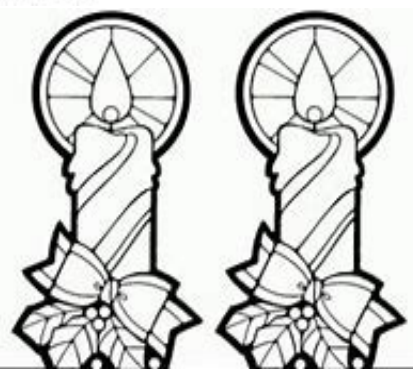
N X 7 B 7 → + Δ < O ✓ P U - N Δ C I
A B D E F H I L N O P R S T U W Y Z

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH
Make a straight path for the Lord

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

Try to find these words:

- Baptist
- hair
- Holy Spirit
- Isaiah
- judgement
- path
- river
- sandals
- shouting
- sins
- straight
- water



The Immaculate Conception

This Thursday we will be celebrating the Immaculate Conception of Our Blessed Mother. The words "Immaculate Conception" mean that she had no sin on her soul, not even original sin, from the first moment her life began!

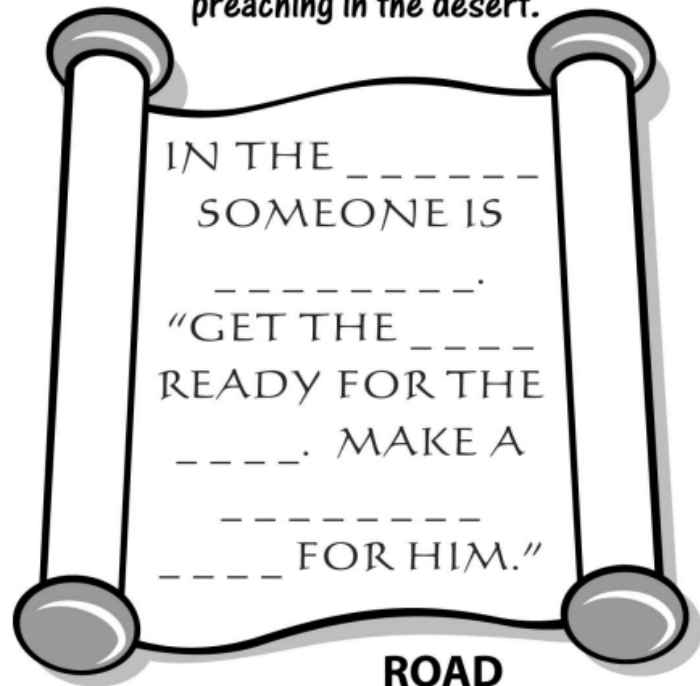
Why do you think God saved Mary from all sin? He wanted her to be the perfect mother for His Son Jesus. If you could make your own mother wouldn't you make her perfect too?



Mary is also a model to all people of how to live a good Christian life and to serve God as best we can. We should thank God for giving us such a beautiful example in His holy Mother. We should pray to Mary every day and ask her to help us love her Son Jesus more. Can you say an extra 'Hail Mary' on Our Lady's feast day?

Answer to "Peace Among Animals" puzzle: lamb, leopard, cat, bear, lion, baby.

Use the words below to complete Isaiah's prophecy which tells of John the Baptist preaching in the desert.



ROAD
STRAIGHT LORD PATH
SHOUTING DESERT



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 School:	LOLO 8869 6800
Parish Office Team:	Erika Hien, Sarah Lenthall, Kim Dang, Tricia Brown	Principal:	Ms Keiran Byrnes
Sacrament Co-Ordinator:	Artelle Lenthall	Reconciliation:	Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
Office Hours: Monday-Friday:	9am - 3.00pm	Baptism	18 December 2022
WEEKDAY MASS:	Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am Thursday 9.00am	Baptismal Preparation:	15th February 2023
WEEKEND MASS:	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9:30am	Parish Website:	www.olol7hills.com.au
		Pastoral Care of the Sick:	Bathista Emmanuel 0405 833 655
		Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/LOLO7Hills/

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
4 December 2022 - Year A



Let us Pray for the Sick
Leonila Ahillon, George Alagiah, Mario Attard, Mary Attard, Cynthia Avery, 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, 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: Bevan Woodward, Francisca Garcia, Ladislo Legaspi, Ray Monteclaro, Romeo Noble, Zenaide Reyes, Edwin Tabone.

Anniversaries: Carolina Borg, Melvyn Fernandes, MA Fernando, Felina Cabral Mayuyo, Pauline Meilak, Anton Motha, Aurora Nonato, Rosaline Ratman, Julia & France St Flour, Shane Vaz, Alison Vella.

Remembrance: France Angseeing, Roy, Mary and Des Barney, Joseph & Carmena, Gerard Marcello, Mary Mifsud, Lourda Motha, Stephen and Louis Mula, Muscat Family, Josephine & Charles Muscat, Mary Muscat, John & Rosaline Ratnam.

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

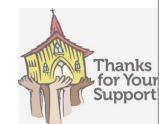
On behalf of the Parish Community, I would like to thank you very much for your ongoing support, which has been absolutely vital in keeping our Parish going strong. Projects completed include the Hall Kitchen renovation, Parish Meeting Room painting, Parish Office and Meeting Room Roof painted, Church 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 prophet Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. (R.)

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to the earth's bounds. (R.)

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name. **The Word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 3:1-12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

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		
December		
5	St Vincent De Paul	7:00pm
7	Parish Pastoral Council	7:30pm
8	Christ Community Prayer Group	9:00am
8	Legion of Mary	1:30pm
9	Young Adult Group	5:30pm
11	Parish Diamond Jubilee	9.30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

3 / 4 December 2022

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am Eugene Miu
Ministers	Vigil: Chrisha 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 Tongan Choir
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	
Flowers	Fenty, Gaby, Flo & Liz
Church cleaning	7 Dec Sheila Enright, Lourdes Spiteri & Beth Paiva.
Welcomers	Vigil: Helen Gonzales 8am: Joyce Hillbrick 9.30am: Lena Falzon

10/11 December 2022

Acolytes	Vigil: James Dinning 8am: Ernie Gartner 9.30am Ian Epondulan
Ministers	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario, Benno Motha 8am: Edith Gartner, Antony Joseph 9.30am: Anna Bellissimo, Sandy Manamperi
Readers	Vigil: Noreen Do Rosario, Alison Punch 8am: Jo Cabasa, Anne McNally 9.30am: Mercy Aquino, Laura Bellissimo
Altar Servers	Vigil: Alexa Bagatella, Alex Spadaro 8.00am: Not filled 9.30am: Leo Culilli, Sofia Culilli, Majeri Pieris Young Adults Group
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	
Flowers	Claudette & Judith
Church cleaning	15 Cathy Hutchings & Annette Peatman
Welcomers	Vigil: John Jordan 8am: Rita Paolini 9.30am: Kathy Chamberlain

Walking together and dialogue Pointing out that the Church is going through times when the synodal spirit needs to take root precisely in the way of being Church, the Pope writes "this means that we walk together in the same direction...what God expects from the Church of the third millennium." This means regaining the awareness of being a people on a journey and embarking on it together. With this spirit he invites Catholic Action to encourage the regional associations in the various local churches.

"With a synodal spirit it is necessary to learn to listen to each other, to relearn the art of dialoguing with others without barriers or prejudices, in a special way even with those who are outside, on the margins, so we seek to be near them, which is God's style," writes the Pope.

Listening to everyone The Pope urges the new FIAC leadership "to be men and women of listening," not "'leaders' of the desk, papers and Zoom," not to fall into the temptation of institutional structuralism that designs and organizes from statutes, regulations and inherited projects, in the past good and useful but perhaps not meaningful today.

He asks that they listen to the men, women, elderly, young and children, in their own places, and hear their silent cries they express. And he invites them to have "an attentive ear so as not to give answers to questions that no one asks or say words that no one is interested in hearing." In summary, he suggests they listen with "ears open to newness and with a Samaritan heart" while also "listening to the beats of the signs of the times."

The voice of the Spirit "The Church cannot stand on the margins of history, entangled in its affairs," the Pope underscores, as "it is called to listen to and see the signs of the times, to make of history with its complexities and contradictions a story of salvation." For the Pope, it is necessary to be "a vitally prophetic Church that with its signs and gestures shows there are alternatives for harmonious coexistence, human relations, work, love, power and service," and therefore "it is necessary to listen to the voice of the Spirit." "In every age," he concludes, "the Spirit opens us to his newness," teaching the Church of "the vital need to go out, the physiological need to proclaim, not to close in on itself." And while the worldly spirit pushes one to focus only on one's own problems and interests, tenaciously defending one's own affiliations and groups, the Spirit frees us and "invites us to walk ancient and ever new paths: those of witness, poverty and mission, to free us from ourselves and send us out into the world."

Follow Mary's example In conclusion, the Pope urges an active listening, which gives rhythm to one's work and is necessary to "be a Church that breathes missionary life." That's what the Virgin Mary did as "she listened, got up and walked to go and serve" others. The Pope then assured the International Forum of Catholic Action members of his prayers so they can "make this time a time of grace, with the audacity to listen, the serenity to discern, and the courage to proclaim" the Gospel through their daily witness.

POPE FRANCIS' INTERVIEW FROM THE BARHAIN TRIP (Continued)

Antonio Pelayo, *Vida Nueva*: *Holy Father, the only time you spoke off-the-cuff on this trip was to refer to 'tormented Ukraine' and to the 'peace negotiations.'* *I would like to ask you if you can tell us anything about how these negotiations are going on the Vatican side. And another question: Have you spoken lately with Putin or do you intend to do so in the near future?*

Pope Francis: Good. First of all: the Vatican is constantly attentive, the Secretariat of State works and works well, works well. I know that the secretary, Archbishop Gallagher, works well there. Then, a bit of history. The day after [the beginning of] the war – I thought this could not be done, an unusual thing – I went to the Russian embassy, to speak with the ambassador, who is a good man. I have known him for six years, since he arrived. He is a humanist. I remember a comment he made to me then: '*Nous sommes tombés dans la dictature de l'argent*' [We have fallen into the dictatorship of money], talking about civilization. A humanist, a man fighting for equality. I told him I was willing to go to Moscow to talk to Putin, if the need arose. Lavrov [the foreign minister, ed.] replied very politely – 'Thank you' – [but] that it was not necessary for the moment. Since then we have been very interested. I spoke three times on the phone with President Zelensky; then with the ambassador a few more times. And work is being done to get closer, to seek solutions. The Holy See also does what it has to do with regard to prisoners, these things... they are things that are always done and the Holy See has always done them, always. And (then) the preaching for peace. What strikes me – that's why I use the word 'tormented' for Ukraine – is the cruelty, which is not of the Russian people, perhaps... because the Russian people are a great people. It is of the mercenaries, of the soldiers who go off to war as an adventure, mercenaries... I prefer to think of it this way because I have high esteem for the Russian people, for Russian humanism. Just think of Dostoevsky, who to this day inspires us, inspires Christians to think of Christianity. I have great affection for the Russian people and I also have great affection for the Ukrainian people. When I was eleven years old, there was a priest close to me who celebrated in Ukrainian and had no altar boys, and he taught me to serve Mass in Ukrainian, and all these Ukrainian songs I know them in their language because I learned them as a child. So I have a very great affection for the Ukrainian liturgy. I am in the midst of two peoples that I love. It's not just me. The Holy See has had many confidential meetings, many good results. Because we cannot deny that a war, at the beginning, perhaps makes us brave. But then it tires and hurts and we see the evil that a war does. This regards the more human, closer part. Then I would like to lament, taking advantage of this question: three world wars in a single century! The one of 1914-1918, the one of 1939-1945, and this one! This one is a world war, because it is true that when empires, either on one side or the other weaken, they need to make a war in order to feel strong – and also to sell weapons! I believe that today the greatest calamity in the world is the arms industry. Please! I've been told, I don't know if it's true or not, that if we didn't make weapons for a year, we could end world hunger. The arms industry is terrible. A few years ago, three or four, a ship full of weapons came from a certain country to Genoa and they had to pass the weapons onto a bigger ship to take them to Yemen. The workers in Genoa didn't want to do it... It was a gesture. Yemen: more than ten years of war. Yemen's children have no food. The Rohingya, moving from one side to the other because they were expelled, always at war. Myanmar, it's terrible what's happening... Now I hope something will stop today in Ethiopia, with a treaty... But we are at war everywhere and we don't understand this. Now we are closely affected, in Europe, by the Russian-Ukrainian war. But it is everywhere, for years. In Syria, twelve to thirteen years of war, and nobody knows if there are prisoners and what goes on there. Then Lebanon, we talked about this tragedy...I don't know if I've said this sometimes to you. When I went to Redipuglia, in 2014, I saw that – and my grandfather had been at Piave and had told me what was going on there – and all those graves of young men... I cried, I cried, I'm not ashamed to say it. Then once, on 2 November, a day in which I always go to a cemetery, I went to Anzio and saw the grave of all those American boys, [who died] in the Anzio landings. [They were] 19-20-22-23 years old, and I cried, really, it came from my heart... And I thought of the mothers and of when they hear a knock on their door: 'Ma'am, an envelope for you.' She opens the envelope: 'Ma'am, I have the honour to inform you that you have a son who is a hero of the fatherland...' The tragedies of war. I don't want to speak ill of anyone, but it touched my heart: when the commemoration of the Normandy landings took place. The heads of so many governments were there to commemorate that. It was the beginning of the fall of Nazism, it's true. But how many boys were left on the beaches in Normandy? They say thirty thousand... Who thinks of those boys? War sows all of this. That is why you, who are journalists, please be pacifists, speak out against wars, fight against war. I ask you as a brother. Thank you.



FROM FR. HENRY DUC
Dear Friends,

In recent years you might have heard of a new trend promoting the consumption of insects as food to combat against the global shortage of food, particularly in the context of climate change. This sounds crazy and scary, but it's nothing new to many people across the world, especially dwellers in the South East Asian countries, such as Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam, where frogs, spiders, locusts and crickets have been used by many as food for thousands of years. I haven't tried spiders yet, but used to hunt frogs and dig up crickets from their holes in corn fields, to help mum diversify our daily menu. I have to say that they were delicious when appropriately prepared.

If we need to nominate a patron for this food movement, St John the Baptist could be the perfect one to fit the bill thanks to the way he chose to live his life as the herald of Jesus, the Son of God. According to Matthew in the Gospel account this Sunday, John covered his body with the garment made of camel hairs, and consumed locusts and wild honey as food during his stay in the wilderness. In other words John opted for an ascetic way of life. Typical of a hermit, who paid least attention to fancy food and clothes and more to helping the people of good will better prepare themselves for the Lord through his strong and inspiring messages. He encouraged people to take actions such as taking baptisms and making confessions prior to making the commitment to transform their lives.

John in fact was a fascinating preacher, since he possessed the rare skill to utilize pairs of contrasting images such as the axe and the tree, the fan and the chaff to send out messages, challenging his listeners to do more than just listening to him, but to take appropriate actions to change their lives.

Let us pray in the Eucharist for the grace to inspire us to take the action each of us required to do, so that this Christmas will become spiritually profitable for us.

Have a life-transforming week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION ON SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER - LUNCH AFTER 9:30AM MASS

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 0437 572 636 or Parish Office 9626 2920.

PARISH WORKING BEE

We are going to have a Working Bee starting from 9am on Saturday 17 December, 2022 to tidy up the surrounding areas of the church and all are welcomed to join the community for this physical preparation for Christmas. Please come along for a good exercise with lunch to be provided.

CHURCH VACUUMING

We urgently need extra people to do the church vacuuming once a month for about one hour mostly on a Wednesday after the 8.00 am Mass or on a Thursday after the 9.00 am Mass. If you can help either phone the Parish Office 9622 2920 or Mary on 0447 676 371.

CHURCH WASHING

We urgently need someone to wash and iron the altar cloths etc that are used during the week. Also to wash the main altar and side altar cloths, plus the Priest's albs, chasubles, tabernacle covers when required. Phone Mary on 0447 676 371 if you can help.

MASSES ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Ministers are urgently required for the Christmas Eve Masses. If you are able to help, please put your name on the Christmas Mass Roster 2022 sheet on the back Sacristy notice board. Many Thanks, Eugene



FREE ZUMBA CLASSES
Every Tuesday and Thursday 6-7pm in the Hall. Everyone Welcome!

TO ALL PARISHIONERS OF OLOL SEVEN HILLS

Faith **doing** justice" is a core part of our community here at Our Lady of Lourdes. As St Teresa of Calcutta said, "Give to the poor in handfuls." It has been humbling to be part of the generosity displayed by our parishioners in the past. Our final collection for the year is our Annual Vinnies Christmas Appeal. By helping the St. Vincent De Paul Christmas appeal and Christmas hamper donations, you will be assisting in two ways. At a local level, our members and volunteers will be able to offer direct assistance to families and individuals. At a broader level, you will be contributing to the large and varied network of short and long-term support services for people in NSW who require specialised care.

How to Donate:

We are requesting donations of gift cards from Woolworths, Coles or Aldi. They will then be distributed to Individuals and families in need in Seven Hills. These individuals and families then have the dignity of selecting food and/or gifts for themselves at Christmas. Gift cards can be brought and placed in one of the poor boxes in the church. Take a tag from one of the Christmas trees and make up an appropriate hamper. Please return your hamper by the 11th of December to enable us to distribute them in time for Christmas. Envelopes are available in the pews - Fill out and return during one of the collections or send by post. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

St. Vincent De Paul told his followers there are no people so rich that they have nothing to receive and none so poor that they have nothing to give. Support for this appeal will benefit recipients, and addresses poverty and disadvantage in our communities. At the same time, it is an endorsement of the concern and generosity of donors. We thank you in advance for your compassionate generosity. Reno Abela
On Behalf of the OLOL Seven Hills Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

DIOCESAN NEWS

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 or scan this QR code. Thank you for your prayers, heart-felt compassion, and help to end homelessness.



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

PATRICIAN BROTHERS COLLEGE BLACKTOWN ENROLMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Patrician Brothers College, Blacktown, has a small number of vacancies for Year 7 2023 and is accepting early applications for 2024. Contact the College Enrolment Department for more information on (02) 8811 0300, email patricianbros@parra.catholic.edu.au or <https://forms.gle/ANccWVNQBZjQ4pSD6>



ENROL NOW

The College has a small number of vacancies for Year 7, 2023 and is accepting early applications for 2024.

Contact our College Enrolments Department for more information.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

P: 8811 0300 W: www.patsblacktown.catholic.edu.au
E: patricianbros@parra.catholic.edu.au

100 FLUSHCOMBE ROAD, BLACKTOWN

Fine young men striving for personal excellence centred in faith



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**

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

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.

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/>

POSITIONS VACANT

Parish Office Coordinator (part-time)
St Andrew the Apostle Parish,
Marayong **Applications close 10pm Sunday 4 December 2022**

Parish Bookkeeper (part-time)
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish,
Wentworthville **Applications close 10pm Tuesday 6 December.**

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

POPE FRANCIS: MAY ADVENT AWAKEN US TO GOD'S PRESENCE IN OUR DAILY LIFE

By Thaddeus Jones

Welcoming pilgrims in Saint Peter's Square on the first Sunday of Advent, Pope Francis offered his customary reflections and catechesis before leading the recitation of the Angelus prayer. Today's Gospel, he recalled, reminds us that the Lord is coming to be with us, marking the "foundation of our hope," a fact that should give us consolation even in the most difficult times of our lives.

The Lord close to us The Pope pointed out that the Lord always visits us in our lives, "makes Himself close, and will return at the end of time to welcome us in His embrace." But we naturally ask ourselves, how will the Lord come to visit us and how will we recognize and welcome Him?

The Lord visiting us The first question the Pope asked requires us to reflect more deeply, as we often hear the Lord is present in our daily lives, accompanying us in our journey. This reality may get lost at times, he observed, as we become "distracted" by the many concrete aspects of our daily lives; or perhaps we only look for spectacular and miraculous signs of the Lord's presence. The Pope pointed out how Jesus in today's Gospel reminded His listeners that God will come when we least expect it and in our normal, everyday lives, as in "the days of Noah."

God's presence in our daily lives The Pope underscored that "God conceals Himself in the most common and ordinary situations in our life," and we need to be constantly aware of this reality, not awaiting extraordinary events. This can be when we face someone in need, a chance encounter, or even in what might seem quiet or dull moments of daily life. "It is right there that we find the Lord, who calls to us, speaks to us, and inspires our actions."

Recognizing and welcoming the Lord The Pope said the second question regards how we can recognize and welcome the Lord. "We must be awake, alert, vigilant. Jesus warns us: there is the danger of not realizing His coming and being unprepared for His visit. I have recalled on other occasions what Saint Augustine said: 'I fear the Lord who passes by'... that is, I fear that He will pass by and I will not recognize Him!" The Pope recalled how Jesus spoke about the people in the time of Noah, who were living their ordinary lives until they were swept away by the floods, as they were absorbed in their own matters. We need to always discern God's presence in our daily lives and not miss this big picture, as can happen when we are distracted by earthly matters only.

Be alert and vigilant The Pope said Advent is the time we can be "shaken out" of our lethargy and awakened "from our slumber" to be vigilant always. We can ask ourselves if we are alert and vigilant, and if we "recognize God's presence in daily situations," saying that if we are unaware of this reality today, we will be unprepared when He arrives at the end of times. "May we be helped by the Holy Virgin, Woman of waiting, who knew how to perceive the passing of God in the humble and hidden life of Nazareth and welcomed Him in her womb."

POPE FRANCIS: GENUINE CONSOLATION CONFIRMS WE ARE DOING GOD'S WILL

By Christopher Wells

"How can we recognize authentic consolation?" Pope Francis asked at the beginning of Wednesday's General Audience. In his continuing catechesis on discernment, the Holy Father turned to the Spiritual Exercises of Jesuit founder St Ignatius of Loyola, who says we must examine our thoughts to see if they are inclined to the good in their beginning, middle, and end. If all are directed towards what is good, "It is a sign of the good Angel," the Pope said; while if our thoughts and intentions propose something bad, or weaken or distract our soul, it is a sign that such thoughts "proceed from the evil spirit, the enemy of our profit and eternal salvation."

Examining our thoughts and actions The Pope gave several examples. An action such as praying is good in its beginning if it inclines us toward love of God and neighbour; and is bad if it is done in order to avoid our duties. Similarly, if praying leads me to pride and disdain of others, even a good action can be bad in the middle.

Finally, we can ask about the end of a thought or action. An action can be bad in its outcome if it distracts me from other goods I should be doing, or if I become aggressive and angry, or focus on myself to the point of losing confidence in God.

Importance of daily examination of conscience Pope Francis notes that the enemy of the human soul is often devious, searching for a way into our hearts to corrupt our thoughts and actions. So, he continued, a patient examination of the origin and truth of our thoughts is "indispensable." "This is why a daily examination of conscience is so important," he said. "It is the valuable effort of rereading experience from a particular point of view." "Noticing what happens is important, it is a sign that God's grace is working in us, helping us to grow in freedom and awareness." The Pope added that genuine consolation can serve as a kind of confirmation "that we are doing what God wants of us", that we are on the right path.

What is good for me here and now Finally, he reminded us that discernment "is not simply about what is good or about the greatest possible good, but about what is good for me here and now." Discernment can help us to see what God expects of us at this moment, helping us to choose between different possibilities "in our search for the true good."

POPE FRANCIS: LISTEN ATTENTIVELY WITH AN OPEN HEART

By Sebastián Sanson Ferrari and Tiziana Campisi

Pope Francis addressed a message to the International Forum of Catholic Action (FIAC) that took place in Rome in recent days, offering first his greetings to the new leadership. He also greeted all members at the conclusion of Sunday's Angelus in St. Peter's Square, recalling their assembly meeting that brings together Catholic Action coordinators from around the world. The Pope recalled that their journey started more than 30 years ago when Cardinal Eduardo Pironio saw the need to create the Forum so that Catholic Action could contribute to the challenges of the new evangelization, bringing together the richness of each place and culture. He writes, "many of you have decisively followed this intuition and contributed your own abilities and desire to proclaim the Gospel despite the difficulties of the times, since in previous years there were no means of communication and rapprochement between countries."

"Difficult times and hopes

Looking at today's world, the Pope notes that in some places individualism has been revived and led to the scourge of violence between countries and peoples, undermining the hope for universal fraternity. "Nevertheless, difficult times can be challenging and transformed into times of hope," the Pope writes quoting Cardinal Pironio who spoke about the importance of being a sign in this life. But not a sign of emptiness or death, but a sign of light that communicates hope. "Hope is capable of overcoming the difficulties, the disagreements, the crosses that arise in daily life," affirms the Pope.