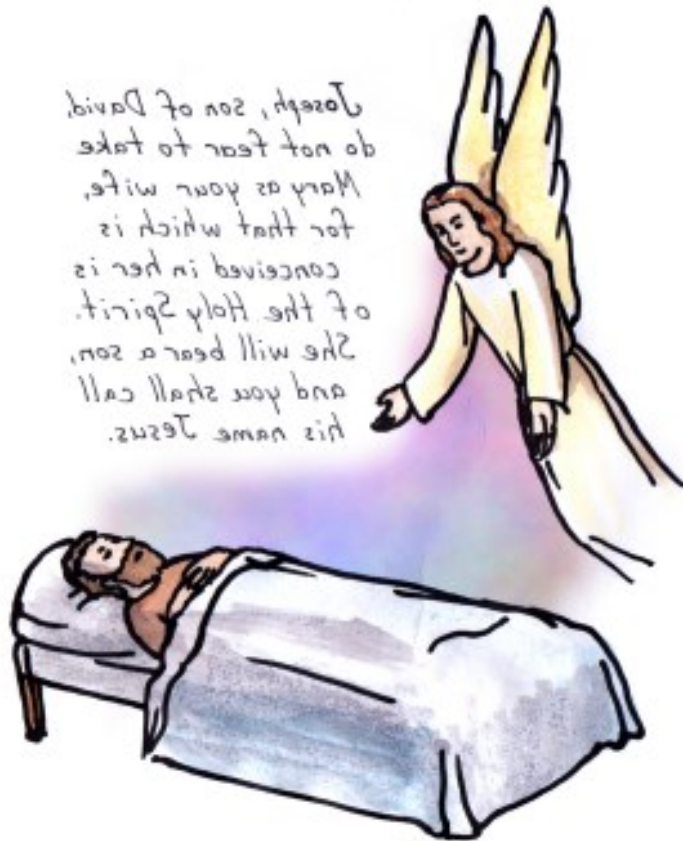
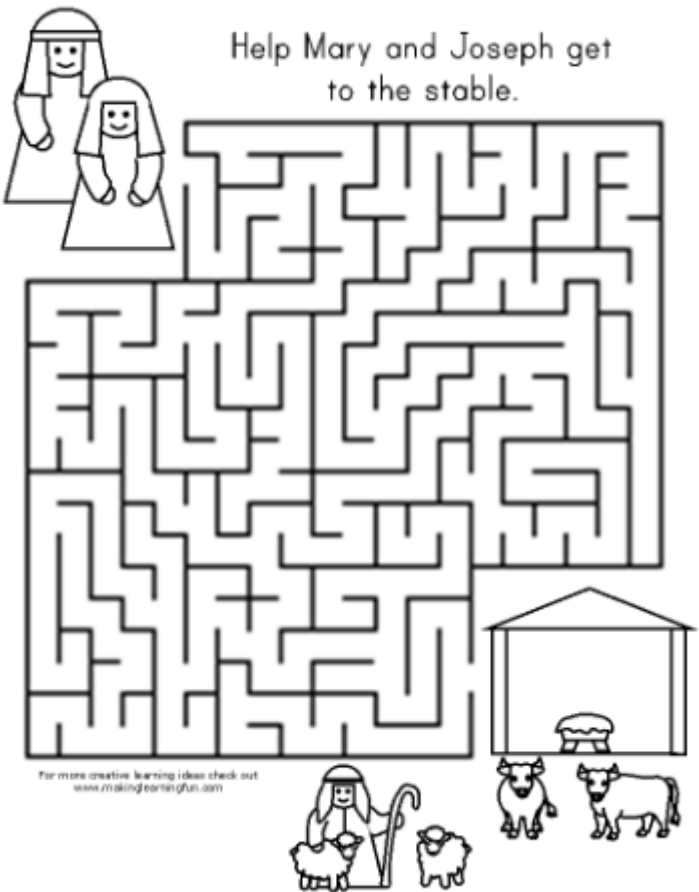


# The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 18th, 2022



An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!



## Jesus' Birthday is almost here!



Now there is only a week left until Christmas!

In today's Gospel reading God gave St. Joseph a special job. He told him to take care of Mary and the baby Jesus. St. Joseph thought he was just an ordinary person and didn't expect to have such an important responsibility, but he did what God asked.



God has given us a responsibility too. We have to love Jesus as much as we can. How can you love and honour Jesus at Christmas time? If your family has a nativity scene you can pray to Jesus while you look at it. Right now you have a few days left to get ready for Jesus' birthday. Ask St. Joseph to help you prepare for Jesus' coming.

Answers to Cross-Word: Across: 2. Saint 6. Immanuel 7. deep 8. like 10. virgin 12. child. Down: 1. name 3. house 4. time 5. heaven 7. David 9. high 11. God

www.thekidsbulletin.com

## Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love

"I will do what asks of me"



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:

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:

LOLO 8869 6800

Principal:

Ms Keiran Byrnes

Reconciliation:

Saturday 4:30-5:30pm

Baptism

18 December 2022

Baptismal Preparation:

15th February 2023

Parish Website:

www.olol7hills.com.au

Pastoral Care of the Sick:

Bathista Emmanuel  
0405 833 655

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/LOLO7Hills/>

## Fourth Sunday of Advent 18 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, John Glover, Anthony Janicska, Spencer Leon, Cynthia Lopez, Marie Marchand, 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, 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: Ranan Fernando, Francisca Garcia, Francis Muscat, Adrian Pereira.

Anniversaries: Merlene & Ralph Blackford, Philomena Corera, Rita De Silva, Hansel De Silva, Ivan Elisher, Melvyn Fernandes, M A Fernando, Enrique Lumagbas, Felina Cabral Mayuyo, Pauline Meilak, Irene Moroney, Anton Motha, Stephen & Louis Mula, Aurora Nonato, Aurelio Pangilinan, Floriano Sernasr, Jim Vella.

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

### 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



• **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')

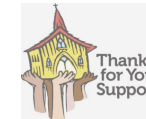
#### IN-PERSON BANK DEPOSIT (at a Bank Inst / Branch)

Account Name: Seven Hills Catholic Church

BSB: 062 315

ACC ID #: 00901486

AGENT #: 660



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/LOLO7Hills/>



## First Reading

### A reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, ‘Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.’ ‘No’, Ahaz answered ‘I will not put the Lord to the test.’

Then Isaiah said: ‘Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means “God-is-with-us”.’

### The Word of the Lord.

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**(R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world and all its peoples.  
It is he who set it on the seas;  
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?  
Who shall stand in his holy place?  
The man with clean hands and pure heart,  
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

He shall receive blessings from the Lord  
and reward from the God who saves him.  
Such are the men who seek him,  
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

## SECOND READING

### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

### The Word of the Lord.

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

A virgin will give birth to a son;  
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

**Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her public-ity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.’ Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means ‘God-is-with-us’. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

### The Gospel of the Lord.



#### PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the altar.  
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen

## GENERAL NOTICES...

### NEW TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES? HOW CAN WE SERVE YOU?

Welcome. Wherever you are in your faith journey, it is great to have you. Please visit our website or call the parish office. We're here to serve you.  
[www.olol7hills.org.au](http://www.olol7hills.org.au)

**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK** <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

### 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](mailto:youtholol7h@gmail.com)



**KEEP UP TO DATE** By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more - a great way to stay up to date with what's on in our parish.  
Visit [www.olol7hills.org.au](http://www.olol7hills.org.au)

### LEGION OF MARY

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

### CHRIST COMMUNITY PRAYER GROUP

The last two prayer group meetings for 2022 will be held at 9am on Wednesday 14 and Wednesday 21 December.  
Next year the weekly prayer group meetings will begin on Thursday 12 January 2023 and held after the 9:30am Mass. **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		
18	Baptism	
19	St Vincent De Paul	7pm
20	Second Rite Reconciliation	7.30pm
21/22	Confession	8.30-9.30am
24	Children/Family Christmas Mass	6pm
24	Christmas Mass	9pm
24	Midnight Mass	12am
25	Christmas Mass	8.00 & 9.30am

## OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

### 17/18 December 2022

Acolytes	Vigil: 8am: 9.30am	Derick Soares Louis Fernandes Ramzee Michael
Ministers	Vigil: 8am: 9.30am	Crystal Menezes, Rosey Soares Fennie Balatbat Lorraine Fernandes Maria Michael Eugene Miu
Readers	Vigil: 8am: 9.30am	Volunteer Catherine Rodrigues Pepito Ferriols Volunteer Helen Katopau
Altar Servers	Vigil: 8.00am: 9.30am	Johnathan Sant Samuel Thoms Volunteer Volunteers Olina Katopau Celestina Katopau Parish Pastoral Council
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)		
Flowers		Fennie & Angela
Church cleaning	21 Dec	Jessie Borg & Anne McNally
Welcomers	Vigil: 8am: 9.30am	Judith Deloso Volunteer Volunteer

### 24/25 December 2022

Acolytes		Special Roster
Ministers		Special Roster
Readers		Special Roster
Altar Servers		Special Roster
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)		Couples for Christ
Flowers		Annette & Mary B.
Church cleaning	28 Dec	Sue Abela, Jessie Borg, Anne McNally
Welcomers		Special Roster

### Accompaniment in life's journey

By looking at the cross, "we lift our eyes to heaven and see our destiny," he added, in serving those we accompany in their life. **The Lord's priests** The gift of the Holy Spirit accompanies the priest in his journey and vocation of being priests of Christ, the Pope said. He encouraged the seminarians from Barcelona to always savour and remember this love the Lord has poured out on them by calling them to this vocation, a love He will pour abundantly into their hearts, in their ordination and in the rest of their days. "Never extinguish that fire that will make you fearless preachers of the Gospel, dispensers of divine treasures. Be united with Jesus, like Mary, to surrender yourselves with Him in the Eucharistic sacrifice, and also in the glory of His triumph." In conclusion, the Pope urged the seminarians to take up the rosary, to ask Mary, Queen and Mother of Mercy, to help them "discover the mysteries of the priesthood," and to contemplate the mysteries of her Son, "accepting that the joy of following Christ and perfect identification with the cross are the only path to glory."

### POPE FRANCIS PRAYER ON THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

*Below find the full text of the Holy Father's prayer for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception:* Our Immaculate Mother, today the people of Rome gather around you. The flowers, laid at your feet from so many urban realities, express their love and devotion for you who watch over us all. And you also see and welcome those invisible flowers that are so many invocations, so many silent supplications, sometimes stifled, hidden, but not from you, who are Mother. *After two years in which I came alone to pay homage to you at the dawning of the day, today I return to you together with the people of this Church and this City. And I bring you the thanks and supplications of all your children, near and far.* From Heaven where God has welcomed you, you see earthly things far better than we do; but as Mother you listen to our invocations to present them to your Son, to His Heart full of mercy. *First of all I bring you the filial love of countless men and women, not only Christians, who nourish for you the greatest gratitude for your beauty, full of grace and humility: for in the midst of so many dark clouds you are a sign of hope and consolation.* I bring you the smiles of the children, who learn your name before one of your images, in the arms of their mothers and grandmothers, and who begin to know that they also have a Mother in Heaven. And when it happens in life that those smiles give way to tears, how important it is to have known you, to have had the gift of your motherhood! *I bring you the gratitude of the elderly and the old: a thanks expressed with their lives, woven of memories, of joys and sorrows, of achievements that they are well aware have been achieved with your help, holding their hands in yours.* I bring you the worries of families, of fathers and mothers who often struggle to make ends meet at home, and, day by day, face small and large challenges to get by. In particular, I entrust to you the young couples who, looking to you and to Saint Joseph, go forward courageously in life trusting in God's Providence. *I bring you the dreams and anxieties of young people, open to the future but held back by a culture rich in things and poor in values, saturated with information and deficient in education, persuasive in deluding and ruthless in disappointing. I especially commend to you the children, who have been most affected by the pandemic, that little by little they might resume spreading and flapping their wings and rediscover the enjoyment of flying high.* Immaculate Virgin, I would have liked to have brought to you today the thanksgiving of the Ukrainian people for the peace we have long been asking the Lord for. Instead, I still have to present to you the supplication of the children, of the elderly, of the fathers and mothers, of the young people of that tormented land. But in reality we all know that you are with them and with all who are suffering, just as you were beside the cross of your Son. *Thank you, our Mother! Looking to you who are without sin, may we continue to believe and hope that love might conquer hatred, that truth might conquer lies, that pardon might conquer offenses, that peace might conquer war. So be it!*

**POPE FRANCIS' INTERVIEW FROM THE BARHAIN TRIP** *(Continued)* **Vania De Luca Rai-Tg3:** *Your Holiness, you have also spoken about migrants in recent days. Four ships off the coast of Sicily, with hundreds of women, men, children, in difficulty – but not all of them can disembark. Do you fear a policy of 'closed ports' by the centre-right is back in Italy? And how do you assess the position of some northern European countries on this? And then I also wanted to ask you in general: What impression, what judgment do you have regarding the new Italian government, which for the first time is led by a woman?*

**Pope Francis:** It's a challenge, it's a challenge. Regarding migrants, [this is] the principle: Migrants must be welcomed, accompanied, promoted, and integrated; if these four steps cannot be taken, the work with migrants cannot be good. Welcomed, accompanied, promoted, and integrated; we must go forward towards integration. And the second thing I say: Each EU government has to agree on how many migrants it can receive. Instead, there are four countries that receive migrants: Cyprus, Greece, Italy, and Spain, those closest to the Mediterranean. Inland there are some, like Poland, Belarus... But [speaking] of the great issue of migrants that cross the sea: lives must be saved. Do you know today that the Mediterranean is a cemetery? Perhaps the biggest cemetery in the world. I think I told you last time that I read a book in Spanish called *Hermanito*, it's tiny and it reads quickly, I think it has certainly been translated into French and also into Italian. It can be read in two hours. It's the story of a boy from Africa, I don't know if he was from Tanzania or where he was from, who following in his brother's footsteps arrived in Spain: he suffered slavery five times before embarking! Many people, he recounts, are brought during the night to those boats – no to those big ships that have another role – and if they don't want to get on: boom, boom! And they leave them on the beach – it really is a dictatorship of slavery what those people do – and then there is the risk of dying at sea. If you have time read this book, it is important. The migrant policy must be agreed upon between all countries; you cannot make a policy without consensus, and the European Union must take in hand a policy of collaboration and help, it cannot leave the responsibility for all the migrants that arrive on the beaches of Cyprus, Greece, Italy, and Spain. The government's policy up to now has been to save lives. That is true. Up to a certain point. And I think this [Italian] government has the same policy... The details I don't know, but I don't think it wants to change. I think it has already landed children, mothers, and the sick, at least from what I heard, the intention was there. Italy, let's think here... this government cannot do anything without the agreement of Europe; the responsibility is a European one. And then I would like to mention another European responsibility with regard to Africa. I think this was said by one of the great stateswomen we have had and have – Merkel. She said that the problem of migrants must be solved in Africa. But if we think of Africa with the motto: "Africa must be exploited," it is logical that migrants – people – run away. In Europe, we must try to make development plans for Africa. To think that some countries in Africa are not masters of their own subsoil, that they still depend on colonialist powers! It is hypocrisy to want to solve the problem of migrants in Europe; let's solve it at home too. The exploitation of people in Africa is terrible because of this concept. On 1 November, I had a meeting with university students from Africa. The meeting was the same I already had with Loyola University in the United States. Those students have a capacity, an intelligence, a critical sense [It.: *'criticità'*], a desire to move forward, but sometimes they cannot because of the colonialist force that Europe has in their governments. If we want to solve the problem of migrants for good, let's solve Africa. The migrants who come from elsewhere are fewer, they are fewer, but we have Africa, let's help Africa. The new [Italian] government starts now. I am here: I wish it the best. I always wish the best to a government because the government is for everyone and I wish it the best so that it can take Italy forward. And to all the others who are against the winning party, I hope that they collaborate with a critical sense, with help, but a government of collaboration, not a government where 'they treat you well to your face, but they're working on your downfall' [It.: *'ti muovono il viso, ti fanno cadere'*] if you don't like one thing or another. Please, on this point I call for responsibility. Tell me, is it fair that from the beginning of the century until now Italy has had 20 governments? Let's stop with these jokes.



### FROM FR. HENRY DUC

Dear Friends,

In the Palestine of Jesus, Jewish marriage custom consists of two parts, namely the engagement and the consummation or wedding ceremony. The engagement period usually lasts for a year, and during this time the bride spent time making her wedding dress and preparing for her big day, and physical contacts between the bride and the groom were not allowed, though they could communicate to each other through messages delivered by the best man. The engagement began with the signing of a formal marriage agreement or with the groom bringing gifts to the bride's family. In the post-engagement period, the bride and the groom were legally considered as husband and wife, even though they did not live together under one roof. The consummation started with the wedding ceremony followed by the reception, and the groom formally brought his wife to his home. They began to live together, and the consummation completed the marriage contract. What happened in the relationship between Mary and Joseph in the Gospel this Sunday clearly fails to follow such a marriage tradition of the Jews, when Joseph suddenly found out that Mary, his bride to be was pregnant during the engagement period. Logically speaking, she is bearing the child of someone else, and as a true gentleman, a man of honor as Matthew said of him, Joseph planned for an informal divorce as a solution to get out of the relationship and to help save face for Mary. While pondering upon such a plan in his mind, God's angel appeared to him in a dream and revealed to him the truth behind Mary's mysterious conception, that her child being conceived by the Spirit of God. The words 'Do not be afraid,' the angel said to the troubled Joseph very much echoed what the angel told Mary at her Annunciation, while she felt quite overwhelmed by the enormous task of being the mother of the Son of God entrusted to her, a virgin, they work the magic in giving both of them. Giving them the strength and confidence to fulfill their call: Mary as the Mother of Jesus, and Joseph as the Spouse of Mary tasked with the responsibility to name the child as

Jesus, meaning 'God saves' or 'salvation', which obviously highlights his mission. Let us pray today for the grace to help us remain strong in faith at all times, especially in our testing times, when we are faced with issues and problems, such as age, health, relationship, job opportunity.

Have a faith-filled week.

## PARISH NEWS...

### DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION THANK YOU

The sudden loss of 20 helium balloons obviously dampened our Diamond Jubilee spirit last Sunday, still we continued to have a great Mass and a fun time after Mass with lot of people participating, both from our parish and beyond.

Thank you everyone for coming, especially our magnificent team of volunteers led by the one and only Evelyn Beed for their generosity to cook, serve food and clean up, to set up tables and chairs and put them away, and to help provide live entertainment. May Our Lady of Lourdes always remains their powerful intercessor before her almighty Son.

### CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE OUR LADY OF LOURDES 2022



#### December

20 Parish Second Rite of Reconciliation	7.30pm
21 Individual Confession	8.30-9.30am
22 Individual Confession	9.30-10.30am
24 Children/Family Christmas Mass	6.00pm
24 Christmas Mass	9.00pm
24 Midnight Mass	12.00am
25 Christmas Day Mass	8.00 & 9.30am

#### January

1 New Years Day Mass	8.00 & 9.30am
7 Vigil of the Epiphany	6.00pm
8 The Epiphany of the Lord	8.00 & 9.30am



### FREE ZUMBA CLASSES

**Every Tuesday and Thursday 6-7pm in the Hall.**

**Everyone Welcome!**



### 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.

### CALLING ALL NEW ALTAR SERVERS

If you completed The Altar Servers training this year, either during school hours or on the weekend. We would like to invite you to receive a Special Blessing from Fr Henry on Sunday 18 December 2022 at the 9.30am mass. Please come along.

### 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.**



## DIOCESAN NEWS

### 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.



**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**



**22 DAYS JULY 21 – AUGUST 11**

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

### 2022 CHRISTMAS MASS AND RECONCILIATION TIMES

Christmas Mass and Reconciliation Times from parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are available now on our Diocesan website ([www.parracatholic.org](http://www.parracatholic.org)), on Catholic Outlook ([www.catholicoutlook.org](http://www.catholicoutlook.org)) and on our Diocesan social media channels. Merry Christmas from the Diocese of Parramatta.



### 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](http://www.caritas.org.au/advent) to download the resource.



**World Day of the Sick Mass**

including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

**11am | Saturday 11 February 2023**

Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown

### DIOCESAN WORLD DAY OF THE SICK MASS: 11 February 2023

A Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on Saturday 11 February 2023 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals.

RSVPs are required by:

6 February 2022 to [hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org](mailto:hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org)

### ACBA ADVENT APPEAL FOR UKRAINE

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is supporting a special Advent appeal for the people of Ukraine, following a request from Bishop Mykola Bychok CSsR, Eparch of Sts Peter and Paul for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia. Collections in dioceses, eparchies and parishes on the Second and/or Third

Sunday of Advent will support *Mudra Sprava* (Wise Action), a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation in Ukraine. The organisation has three focus areas: Evacuation of people from frontline territories; Food packages for people in need; Shelters for internally displaced persons. Find out more at: [www.catholic.au](http://www.catholic.au)

### POPE FRANCIS AT ANGELUS: WITH JESUS WE CAN ALWAYS BEGIN ANEW

*Dear brothers and sisters, blessed Sunday!*

The Gospel of this third Sunday of Advent speaks to us about John the Baptist who, while in prison, sends his disciples to ask Jesus: "Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?" (Mt 11:4). Indeed, John, hearing of Jesus' works, is seized with doubt as to whether He is really the Messiah or not. In fact, he imagined a stern Messiah who would come and do justice with power by hastening sinners. Now, on the contrary, Jesus has words and gestures of compassion towards all; at the centre of His action is the mercy that forgives, whereby "the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them" (v. 6). It does us good, however, to look more closely at this crisis of John the Baptist, as it can tell us something important too.

The text emphasizes that John is in prison, and this, as well as being a physical place, makes us think of the inner situation he is experiencing: in prison there is darkness, there is no possibility of seeing clearly and seeing beyond it. In effect, the Baptist is no longer able to recognize Jesus as the awaited Messiah. He is assailed by doubt, and he sends the disciples to check: "Go and see if he is the Messiah or not". It surprises us that this should happen to John, the one who had baptized Jesus in the Jordan and had indicated him to his disciples as the Lamb of God (cf. Jn 1:29).

But this means that even the greatest believer goes through the tunnel of doubt. And this is not a bad thing; on the contrary, sometimes it is essential for spiritual growth: it helps us understand that God is always greater than we imagine Him to be. His works are surprising compared to our calculations; His actions are different, always, they exceed our needs and expectations; and therefore, we must never stop seeking Him and converting to His true face. A great theologian used to say that God "needs to be rediscovered in stages... sometimes believing that we are losing Him" (H. DE LUBAC, *Sur les chemins de Dieu*). This is what the Baptist does: in doubt, he still seeks Him, questions Him, "argues" with Him and finally rediscovers Him. John, defined by Jesus as the greatest among those born of women (cf. Mt 11:11), teaches us, in short, not to close God within our own mindsets. This is always the danger, the temptation: to make ourselves a God to our measure, a God to use. And God is something else.

Brothers and sisters, we too at times find ourselves in his situation, in an inner jail, unable to recognize the newness of the Lord, whom we perhaps hold captive in the presumption that we already know everything about Him. Dear brothers and sisters, one never knows everything about God, never! Perhaps we have in mind a powerful God who does what He wants, instead of the God of humble meekness, the God of mercy and love, who always intervenes respecting our freedom and our choices. Perhaps we even find ourselves saying to Him: "Are you really you, so humble, the God who is coming to save us?". And something similar can happen to us with our brothers and sisters too: we have our ideas, our prejudices and we attach rigid labels to others, especially those we feel are different to us. Advent, then is a *time for overturning our perspectives*, for letting ourselves be surprised by God's mercy. Astonishment: God always astonishes. We saw, not long ago, in the television programme "A Sua Immagine", they were talking about wonder. God is always the One who stirs wonder in you. A time – Advent – in which, preparing the Nativity display for the Infant Jesus, we learn again who our Lord is; a time to leave behind certain preconceptions and prejudices about God and our brothers and sisters. Advent is a time in which, instead of thinking about gifts for ourselves, we can give words and gestures of consolation to those who are wounded, as Jesus did with the blind, the deaf and the lame. May Our Lady take us by the hand, like a mother, may she take us by the hand in these days of preparation for Christmas, and help us recognize in the smallness of the Infant the greatness of God who is coming.

#### After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters!

Yesterday, in Barbacena in Brazil, Isabel Cristina Mrad Campos was beatified. This young woman was killed in 1982 at the age of twenty, in hatred of the faith, for having defended her dignity as a woman and the value of her chastity. May her heroic example inspire in particular the young to render generous witness of faith and adhesion to the Gospel. A round of applause for the new Blessed! I follow with sorrow and concern the news from South Sudan about the violent clashes of the past few days. Let us pray to the Lord for peace and national reconciliation, so that the attacks may cease and that civilians may always be respected. Today is World Mountain Day, which invites us to recognize the importance of this marvellous resource for the life of the planet and of humanity. The theme this year – "Women move mountains" – it is true, women move mountains! – reminds us of the role of women in caring for the environment and in safeguarding the traditions of mountain populations. From mountain people we learn the sense of community and of walking together. I greet you all, here in Rome, from Italy and from many parts of the world. In particular, I greet the faithful from Barcelona, Valencia, Alicante, Beirut, Cairo, and those of Mexico and Poland. I greet the Tanzanian Catholic community in Italy; parish groups from Terni, Panzano in Chianti, Perugia, Nozza di Vestone; the Alpini Choir of Rome; and the representatives of citizens who live in the most polluted areas of Italy, in the hope of a just solution to their serious problems and the illnesses that come from this polluted environment.

And I would like to send a cordial greeting to the detainees in the "Due Palazzi" prison of Padua: I greet you affectionately!

And now I will bless the "Bambinelli", the little statuettes of the Infant Jesus that you, dear boys and girls, have brought here and then, returning home, will place in the Nativity scene. I invite you to pray, before the creche, that the Nativity of the Lord will bring a ray of peace to children all over the world, especially those forced to live the terrible and dark days of war, this war in Ukraine that destroys many lives, so many lives, and many children. The blessing of the *Bambinelli* ... [The Pope blesses them]. I wish you all a blessed Sunday and a good journey towards the Nativity of the Lord. Please, do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your lunch, and *arrivederci*.

### POPE FRANCIS TO SEMINARIANS: LIVE A LIFE OF PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

*By Vatican News staff reporters*

Meeting with seminarians and community members of the *Seminario Conciliar de Barcelona* at the Vatican on Saturday, Pope Francis encouraged the seminarians to bring God's love to the world through their personal witness and ministry.

The Pope handed them his prepared address where he recalls some of the essentials of what it means to be a priest.

#### Life of prayer

During the time of formation, the Pope pointed out that there can be two temptations in particular that need to be faced.

The first is a tendency to focus only on negative situations or experiences, while the second is to try to propose an idea of the world that is "idyllic and unreal" for people to relate to or understand.

He recalled that the first obligation of a priest is to live a life of prayer that springs from thanksgiving for the love and attention God has shown the priest in calling him to His service. This is the first joyful mystery from which everything springs, he added.

A priest, the Pope observed, is not a "ruler of souls through silver and gold." Rather, his wealth "is only the virtue of the name of Jesus," which means "making Him present in the Eucharist, in the sacraments, in the Word, so that He is born in the hearts of men and women." **Accompaniment in life's journey**

In his prepared text, the Pope also recalled that the Lord asks us for "the sacrifice of the heart" and renouncing our own will, as the Lord does in Gethsemane.