

The Kids' Bulletin

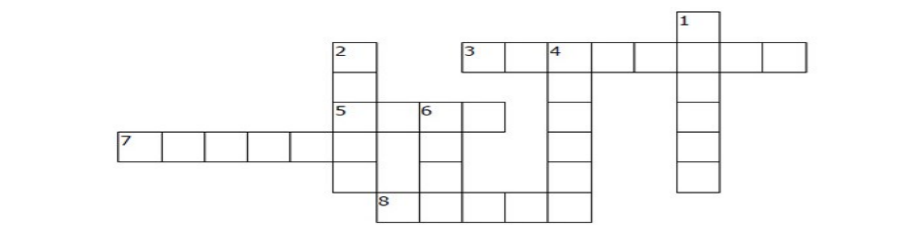
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 12th, 2023



Do not think that I came to abolish the law or the prophets...
Whoever opposes the commandments and teaches against them in the kingdom of heaven...

Some people in Jesus' time thought that He was going to get rid of the old law. What does He have to say about the commandments in today's Gospel reading?

Look at this picture in the mirror to find out!



- ACROSS: 3. To decide if a person is guilty or innocent; 5. A present that is given to another person; 7. Killing of a person by another person; 8. The place where gifts or sacrifices to God are made
- DOWN: 1. A group of human beings (men or women or children); 2. To be furious; 4. To be at risk of being injured or harmed; 6. A person who lacks good sense

| | | | |
|----------|--------|-------|--------|
| DANGER | PEOPLE | ANGRY | MURDER |
| JUDGMENT | GIFT | ALTAR | FOOL |

ABOLISH KINGDOM ANCESTORS ALTAR

COMPLETE HEAVEN KILL THRONE

PURPOSE VIRTUE ANGRY FOOTSTOOL

Our Lady of Lourdes with St. Bernadette

The Blessed Mother appears to St. Bernadette Soubirous for the first of 18 times.

The Blessed Mother calls herself "the Immaculate Conception."

Feast Day: Feb. 11



Multiple Choice

From the words provided for each clue, enter the letter of the word which best matches the definition.

- A group of human beings (men or women or children) A.ALTAR B.FOOL C.PEOPLE D.FIRE
- To be at risk of being injured or harmed A.DANGER B.FOOL C.REMEMBER D.GIFT
- A place where criminals are locked up A.ALTAR B.COURT C.DANGER D.PRISON
- The place where gifts or sacrifices are made to God A.ALTAR B.PEOPLE C.FIRE D.GIFT
- A person who lacks good sense A.FOOL B.GIFT C.JUDGE D.PRISON
- Killing of a person by another person A.COURT B.MURDER C.JUDGE D.PRISON
- The place where a trial is held A.PEOPLE B.COURT C.FOOL D.ANGRY
- The light, heat, and flame that comes from burning A.MURDER B.ALTAR C.FOOL D.FIRE
- To be furious A.ANGRY B.COURT C.JUDGE D.PEOPLE
- A present that is given to another person A.DANGER B.GIFT C.FIRE D.COURT
- A person who decides questions brought before a court A.FOOL B.DANGER C.PEOPLE D.JUDGE
- To recall something from your memory A.PRISON B.PEOPLE C.REMEMBER D.ANGRY



OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS

7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills. NSW. 2147 Ph. 9622 2920 Email: secretary@olol7hills.com.au

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| Parish Priest: | Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran | Parish School: | OLOL 8869 6800 |
| Parish Office Team: | Rosie Sadipoor, Jane Nguyen, Kim Dang | Principal: | Ms Keiran Byrnes |
| Sacrament Co-Ordinator: | Mrs Artelle Lenthall | Reconciliation: | Saturday 4:30-5:30pm |
| Office Hours: Monday-Friday: | 9am - 3.00pm | Baptismal Preparation: | 15th February 2023 |
| WEEKDAY MASS: | Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am, Thursday 9.00am | Baptism: | 19th February 2023 |
| WEEKEND MASS: | Saturday Vigil 6pm | Parish Website: | www.olol7hills.com.au |
| | | Pastoral Care of the Sick: | Sandy Manamperi 0480 266 339 |
| | | Facebook | https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/ |

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
12th February 2023 • Year A
HAPPY FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Let us Pray for the Sick
Leonila Ahillon, George Alagiah, Neil Amarutunga, Mary Attard, Cynthia Avery, Rosella Booth, Anthony Janicska, John Glover, Blago Milicevic, William Orley, Sr Colleen O'Sullivan RSJ, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Sue Tipaldo, Phan Tran, 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: Francis Muscat, Bonosa Enfesta, John & William Formosa, Ranjan Fernando, Charlie Gauci, Estelle Hardwick, Jude Ranasinghe

Anniversaries: Fredy Alphonse, Carmen Attard, Romeo Binahan, Charlie Chircop, Sam Debatatta, Sylvia Debatatta, Antonia, Jim & Loui Dequala, E. Franklin, Sheela Franklin, Sam & Mary Gardia, Jean Garrick, Elsie Garrick, Karl Garrick, Christine Gomez, Chinedu Joseph & Family, Harold Lafleur, Thomas Jnr Morrissey, Thelma Morrissey, Stephen & Louis Mula, Jim & Philippa Muscat, Alberto Nahoy, Sashin Patrick, Mile Perak, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Vivian Silva, Rosary Silva, Pauline & Santan Soares, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella, Hector & Rita Welgampola

Remembrance: France Angseeing, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Sam Borg, Dennis Clarke, Peter Diab, Bebe Diab, Cini & Mangion Family, Melvyn Fernandes, M.A Fernando, Zaren & Sam Formosa, Desmond Grogan, Gerard Marcello, Pauline Meilak, Mary Mifsud, Marcel Mohsen, Anton & Lourda Motha, Muscat Family, Josephine & Charles Muscat, Mary Muscat, Adrian Pereira, John & Rosaline Ratnam, Rodrigues Family, Sem Serna, Debe Toufic, Jim Vella.

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.

FACE MASKS ENCOURAGED

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 Dec'2021.

HOWEVER OUR SAFETY PLAN STILL RECOMMENDS SOCIAL DISTANCING WHERE POSSIBLE.

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

REGULAR COLLECTIONS - First and Second

* FIRST COLLECTION and Matt's Point is for the support of Priests throughout the Diocese.

ON-LINE BANK DONATIONS

Account name: Parramatta Diocesan Clergy

BSB: 067 950

ACC: 00 00 4265

Reference: Seven Hills - 6035

* SECOND COLLECTION or Planned Giving Program

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

ON-LINE BANK DONATIONS

Account Name: Seven Hills Catholic Church.

BSB: 067 950

ACC: 000552

Reference: (Your Planned Giving envelope number or for a one off donation, 'DONATION')

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

Account Name: Seven Hills Catholic Church

BSB: 062 315

ACC ID #: 00901486

AGENT #: 660

Thanks for Your Support!

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

They are happy whose life is blameless,
who follow God’s Law!
They are happy those who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts. (R.)

Bless your servant and I shall live
and obey your word.
Open my eyes that I may consider
the wonders of your law. (R.)

You have laid down your precepts
to be obeyed with care.
May my footsteps be firm
to obey your statutes. (R.)

Teach me the demands of your statutes
and I will keep them to the end.
Train me to observe your law,
to keep it with my heart. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 2:6-10

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him. These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:17-27

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven. ‘You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors; You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother “Fool” he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him “renegade” he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny. You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell. ‘It has been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her writ of dismissal, But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery. ‘Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God’s throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is “Yes” if you mean yes. “No” if you mean no; anything more than this comes from evil one.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

GENERAL NOTICES...

NEW TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES? HOW CAN WE SERVE YOU?
Welcome. Wherever you are in your faith journey, it is great to have you. Please visit our website or call the parish office. We’re here to serve you.
www.olol7hills.org.au

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



LOURDES OVER 50s GROUP
Over 50s Meeting Thursday 9th March 10.30am-1pm.
Please bring a plate for a shared lunch.
Look forward to seeing you there.

SICK AND/OR HOMEBOUND?
Would you like to receive Communion? Or seriously ill or in danger of death? We have dedicated ministers who can visit and bring you communion. Feel free to approach or call Fr Henry for the Holy Anointing of the Sick. Please call the parish office 96222920

FUNERALS
When a Funeral is to be celebrated, please contact Fr. Henry before contacting the Funeral Home. Funerals are not permitted on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation.

BAPTISM
Parents desiring Baptism for their children are encouraged to contact the parish office to arrange for the required preparation class for parents.

SCAM ALERT!!
Beware of any suspicious emails or text messages. Call the parish office for verification.

MASS INTENTIONS
All Mass intentions must be submitted to the Parish Office on or before Thursday

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP
Meet the second Friday of every month in the Parish Hall at 7pm
For more information contact Ian Epondulan: 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>



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

Acolytes, Ministers, Readers and Altar Servers,
please remember to arrive 15 minutes before the beginning of Mass.

LOLO MINISTRY ROSTER

11/12 February 2023

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Acolytes | Vigil: John Jordan 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am Ryan Epondulan |
| Ministers | Vigil: H. Gonzales, L. LaGuidara 8am: E. Gartner, E. Mui 9.30am: B. Chandler, P.Gow |
| Readers | Vigil: A. Pinch, M. Simic 8am: N. Arambulo, P. Ferriols 9.30am C.Diaz, F. Kennedy |
| Altar Servers | Vigil: A. La Guidara, C. La Guidara, A. Spadaro 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am S.Culili, F. Wanandy |
| Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass) | LOLO Feast Day |
| Flowers | Claudette & Judith |
| Church cleaning | 11 Feb Tongan Community |
| Welcomers | Vigil: Chrisha Gonzales 8am: Joyce Hillbrick 9.30am: Kathy Chamberlain |

18/19 February 2023

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Acolytes | Vigil: James Dinning 8am: Ernie Gartner 9.30am Ramzee Michael |
| Ministers | Vigil: Benno Motha 8am: C.Gonzales, H.Gonzales 9.30am: C.Brookes, M.Michael |
| Readers | Vigil: L.Bellissimo, J.Sarmiento 8am: A.Joseph, A.McNally 9.30am M.Aquino, A, Walker |
| Altar Servers | Vigil: A. Bagatella, S.Thoms 8am: Sean Park, Philip Park 9.30am Leo Culili |
| Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass) | Young Adults Group |
| Flowers | Fennie & Angela |
| Church cleaning | 16 Feb C. Hutchings, A. Peatman |
| Welcomers | Vigil: Ram Ugre 8am: Suzy Nemorin 9.30am: Maria Michael |

LOLO PARISH CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2023

| | | |
|----|------------------------------------|--------|
| 12 | LOLO FEAST DAY MASS & CELEBRATIONS | 9.30am |
| 12 | Sacramental Enrolment Mass | 9.30am |
| 15 | Sacramental Meeting | 6.30pm |
| 15 | Baptism Preparation Program | 7.30pm |
| 18 | Sacramental Meeting (RPT) | 4.30pm |
| 21 | SRC Meeting Term 1 | 9.00am |
| 22 | Ash Wednesday | |
| 23 | Social Justice Meeting | 6.00pm |
| 25 | Parish Retreat | |

POPE FRANCIS DECRIES CONFLICTS AND ECONOMIC COLONIALISM IN DR CONGO *By Lisa Zengarini*

In his first speech upon his arrival to the Democratic Republic of Congo, on Tuesday, Pope Francis decried the conflicts that continue to ravage the country, and the reckless exploitation of its immense natural resources by foreign forces. Meeting with government authorities, civil society, and the diplomatic corps in the garden of the “Palais de la Nation” in Kinshasa, after his courtesy visit to Congolese President Felix Tshisekedi, the Pope urged the Congolese people to take their destiny into their own hands by rejecting violence and hatred. He explained that his visit is born from his desire to bring them “the closeness, the affection and the consolation of the entire Catholic Church”, and that he is coming “as a pilgrim of reconciliation and peace”.

Congolese people are more precious than their diamonds

Likening the DRC to a diamond, one of the many riches of the country, the Pope noted that the Congolese people are “infinitely more precious than any treasure found in their fruitful soil.” He remarked that beyond the abundance of natural resources, they also have a “spiritual wealth” to be found in their hearts from where “peace and development are born”, for which, he said, every Congolese should “feel called to do his or her part.” “May violence and hatred no longer find room in the heart or on the lips of anyone, since these are inhuman and un-Christian sentiments that arrest development and bring us back to a gloomy past.”

Blood diamonds

Pope Francis went on to lament the exploitation that DRC and the whole African continent continue to endure today in the form of “economic colonialism” which, he said, is “equally enslaving”, making the Congolese people “foreign” to their own land. “The poison of greed has smeared its diamonds with blood,” the Pope denounced, calling on the world acknowledge the “catastrophic” injustices committed in the past, and for an end to the ongoing plundering of its natural resources. “Hands off the Democratic Republic of the Congo! Hands off Africa! Stop choking Africa: it is not a mine to be stripped or a terrain to be plundered. May Africa be the protagonist of its own destiny!”

International community resigned to violence in DRC

Pope Francis then turned to the international community which, he said, “has practically resigned itself to the violence devouring” DRC, calling for a renewed effort to support development and peace in the African nation. “The current peace processes, which I greatly encourage, need to be sustained by concrete deeds, and commitments should be maintained,” said the Pope. He expressed immense gratitude to the countries and the organizations that are providing substantial aid in this regard, helping to combat poverty and disease, supporting the rule of law and promoting respect for human rights. “Room needs to be made for diplomacy that is authentically human, for a diplomacy where peoples are concerned for other peoples, for a diplomacy centered not on control over land and resources, expansionism and increased profits, but rather on providing opportunities for people to grow and develop.”

Avoid regressing to tribalism and hostility

Going back to the image of the diamond, Pope Francis noted that the richness of the Congolese society stems from its “polyhedral” character, which must be therefore preserved “avoiding any form of regression to tribalism and hostility.” “The problem,” he remarked, recalling a Congolese proverb, “is not the nature of ethnic and social groups, but the way in which they choose to live together: their willingness or not to encounter one another, to be reconciled and to start anew makes the difference between the grimness of conflict and a radiant future of peace and prosperity.” In this regard, Pope Francis emphasized the crucial role that religions and civil society are called to play in contributing to this richness by committing to building peace and of fraternity in DRC.

Need for transparency in civic and political life

Continuing with the metaphor of the diamond, Pope Francis focused on transparency in civic and political life, noting that what “dims the light of goodness in a society is often the darkness of injustice and corruption.” In this regard, he underscored the crucial importance of promoting transparent and credible elections and greater participation in the peace processes and of pursuing the common good and people’s security, rather than personal or group interests. Also, he said, the presence of the State in every part of the territory should be strengthened and the many refugees and displaced persons should be cared for.

Make DRC’s most precious diamonds shine

Pope Francis went on to stress the urgent need to invest in education in order to make the “its most precious diamonds shine”. He lamented in this regard that all too many Congolese children still do not attend school, and are instead exploited and subjected to servile labour in the mines. “Children, young girls and all young people represent hope for the future: let us not allow that hope to be stifled, but instead cultivate it with passion!” Bringing his long address to a close, Pope Francis recalled the shared responsibility to be “good stewards of creation”, to protect the natural environment, and highlighted the need for long-term international support to improve the life of Africans, going beyond emergency.

POPE FRANCIS AT ECUMENICAL PRAYER IN SOUTH SUDAN *By Francesca Merlo*

In Juba’s John Garang Mausoleum, concluding his second day in South Sudan, Pope Francis addressed the faithful gathered for an ecumenical prayer. He noted that from the South Sudanese land, “wracked by violence”, “many prayers have now been raised to heaven”. Pope Francis asked all those present to reflect on three verbs:

To pray -

The first, is to pray. Pope Francis noted that prayer gives us the strength to go forward, to overcome our fears, to glimpse, even in the darkness, the salvation that God is even now preparing. He added that “prayer brings down God’s salvation upon the people”, and that the prayer of intercession is the type of prayer that we, as shepherds of God’s holy people, are especially called to practise. The Holy Father urged all those present to support each other in this effort. “In the diversity of our confessions, let us feel united among ourselves, as one family, responsible to pray for everyone.”

To work-

Speaking of the verb “work”, Pope Francis noted that the peace of God is not only a truce amid conflicts, “but a fraternal fellowship that comes from uniting and not absorbing; from pardoning and not overpowering; from reconciling and not imposing”. Let us work tirelessly, urged the Pope “for the peace that the Spirit of Jesus and the Father urges us to build: a peace that integrates diversity and promotes unity in plurality”. “Those who choose Christ choose peace, always; those who unleash war and violence betray the Lord and deny his Gospel.” “What Jesus teaches us is clear,” added the Pope, “we are to love everyone, since everyone is loved as a child of our common Father in heaven”.

To journey -

The third and final verb is “to journey”. The Pope noted that in this country, “Christian communities have been deeply committed to promoting processes of reconciliation”, before expressing his gratitude for this “radiant testimony of faith born of the realisation, expressed not only in words but also in deeds that prior to any historical divisions, there remains one unchanging fact, namely, that we are Christians”. Speaking of ecumenism in South Sudan, Pope Francis described this reality as “a precious treasure” and an act of praise for the name of Jesus. “May the witness of unity among believers overflow to the people as a whole.”

Memory and commitment-

Bringing his discourse to an end, Pope Francis introduced two final words for the South Sudanese encouraging them to persevere in their journey: memory and commitment. Memory means making sure that “the steps that you take follow in the footsteps of those who have gone before you. Commitment. means journeying towards unity when love is concrete. Finally, Pope Francis noted that together with the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, they travelled to South Sudan as “pilgrims, to be with you”. “Let us love each other constantly, from the heart.”



FROM FR. HENRY DUC

Dear Friends,

In the last five or so years, you may have heard a lot about ‘fake news’ when we have someone trying to accuse someone else of spreading false news, consequently the public have been left confused in identifying where the truth is. Perhaps long before we have this modern day ‘fake-news’ phenomenon, the tendency of disguising lies in the form of truths did exist in one way or another, for instance, Joseph Goebbels shamefully made this infamous statement, that ‘if you repeat a lie often enough, people will believe it, and you will even come to believe it yourself,’ and based on such a wicked view, he and his men went on to commit the killings of millions of innocent people in WWII as we know. In the Gospel today, Jesus also brings to our attention a similar issue as he warns the disciple about an effort to blame him for trying to abolish the Law and the Prophets, a deadly accusation eventually leading to his death after three years on the road to preach his Good News. This accusation obviously came from the powerful groups of the Pharisees and the scribes, targets of Jesus’ strong criticism for their rigidity, legalism, and ritualism, meaning their efforts to turn the Jewish Law and worship into an end by themselves, instead to help connect people with the Lord. In response to such a big ‘fake news’, Jesus publicly claims that he has no intention to abolish the Law and the teachings of the prophets, even just one dot or one little stroke, but to make them better. He then points out four areas that he is going to focus on in his ministry as following: Number one regarding the Fifth commandment, he is prepared to take people to a much further step by claiming that people will be held accountable even for their offensive language against others, and that reconciliation is a must for any authentic worship. Number two has something to do with the Sixth and Ninth Commandments, adultery according to him is more than just acting inappropriately but should be judged by peoples’ intention and inner thoughts as well. Number three is a kind of an extension of the Sixth and Ninth Commandments dealing directly with the issue of divorce, Jesus’ stand is much harder than the Jewish one which allows a man to divorce his wife by offering her a writ of dismissal, he really narrows down the scope by naming fornication as the ground for divorce. Number four perhaps is dealing with the Eighth commandment, here Jesus calls for a broader stand compared to the traditional position encouraging people to take an oath as a standard way to prove their honesty, he encourages his followers to always stay transparent and straight forward, any attempt to bend the truth is merely an evil product.

In summary, Jesus through this Gospel aims to exhort us to always keep guard of our thoughts and intentions. We must make sure that all our thoughts and intentions remain good and just, and in tune with his commandments of love for God and love for humanity. As we celebrate our Parish and School Feast day this year, let us ask Our Lady of Lourdes to help steer us away from any spirituality reflecting the spirit of rigidity, legalism and ritualism of the Pharisees and empower us with Jesus’ spirit reflecting his way of love.

Have a charity-filled week,

Fr. Henry

PARISH NEWS...

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH AND SCHOOL FEAST DAY
CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU**

Congratulations to you all on the occasion of Our Parish and School feast day this weekend.

This is a time both to celebrate and reflect upon the healing power of Our Lady granted to those asking her for help. Let us continue to entrust ourselves, our families and our community into her motherly hands.

I would like to thank our school community for staging the exhibition to mark this special occasion, and all our staff and volunteers for their helping hands in providing food, entertainment, setting up, serving and cleaning. Thank you Evelyn for co-ordinating the entire operation.



Fr. Henry



SACRAMENTAL PROCESS 2023

Children in Yr. 3 and above are invited to join the Sacramental Program starting with the Enrolment Mass at 9.30am on Sunday 12th February, feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

13 members of our Parish Pastoral Council met last Wednesday starting with a prayer and a reflection upon the article entitled Pope Francis’ Fiercest Opposition: the Church’s Clerical Workforce by Robert Mickens from La Croix International, bringing to light the efforts of a group of clergy led by some powerful ones trying to undermine Pope Francis’ reform endeavor by spreading rumor and false accusations. We need to be aware of this divisive move in the Church often disguised as faith defenders. The meeting proceeded with reports from the school and other Parish groups, including the Social group about the logistics for our Parish Feast day this week

CHURCH VACUUMING

We urgently need extra people to do the church vacuuming once a month for about one hour mostly on a Saturday 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.**

PARISH LENTEN RETREAT

After a long break due to Covid, we are blessed to have our Parish Lenten retreat back this year, and Fr David Orr OSB accepted my invitation on behalf of the parish to come and lead us for the retreat on Saturday 4th March from 9.30am to 3pm.

Fr David has been an expert in liturgy and was involved in the Beatification Mass for Mary MacKillop on January 19, 1995, and I was fortunate to have him as my lecturer during my student days. Please spare that Saturday to join the retreat.

Evolutionary Spirituality Retreat: 3 – 5 March

The Social Justice group of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, invite you to an evolutionary spirituality retreat from Friday 3 March at 7pm to Sunday 5 March at 2pm at the Guntawang Environmental Bushland Retreat at Oakdale. During the weekend there will be times of reflection, dialogue and encounters within natural bushland. Registration is \$95 for the whole weekend.

To RSVP, please contact antiphon1@outlook.com or socialjustice@olol7hills.com.au or phone 0429 595 231.

Thank You

A special thank you to Lena Saliba for washing and ironing all of the altar server robes during January. It was greatly appreciated.

Social Justice. We Need YOU and your friends for 2 hours **6:15pm-8:15pm** (arrival from 5:30pm) **Tuesday 28th February** at Sydney Alliance Assembly, Morley Centre, 2 Darcy Road, Westmead. Bishop Vincent will be attending. This is a rare opportunity to pressure and persuade NSW politicians to act on the common good agenda of united civil society. Mark the date or even better register at <https://events.humanitix.com/sydney-alliance-nsw-election-assembly-february-28> (Organisation: Catholic Diocese of Parramatta). Contact Terry for more information on 0409373715 or socialjustice@olol7hills.com.au
The issues: cost of living, climate change, affordable and renewable energy, affordable and social housing, and fair renting reforms (including removing no-grounds eviction and climate-proofing rental properties)

Ordination to the Presbyterate

The Diocese of Parramatta wishes to congratulate Fr Adam Carlow, Fr Matthew Dimian and Fr Jack Elkazzi following their ordination to the priesthood on Thursday 2 February. Visit catholicoutlook.org in the coming week for an article and photographs from the ordination as well as a video introducing the new priests to the Diocese.

Peace, Justice & Ecology Sharing: 15 February

Peace, Justice and Ecology (PJE) Sharings are quarterly online gatherings for everyone who is interested in Social Justice, Care for Creation or Global Peace. You are invited to join the conversation, this time with a focus on Caritas Project Compassion 2023 on Wednesday 15 February from 6:30pm to 8pm. To receive a Zoom link, please RSVP via email: met@parracatholic.org

MET Lenten Music Formation Session: 13 February

Musicians and liturgy planners are invited to attend an evening exploring music for Lent on Monday 13 February from 7pm to 8.30pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. The session will be presented by Eric Grella, Music Formation Facilitator, MET, and Assistant Music Director at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. To RSVP, please contact hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org

MET Lenten Scripture Reflection Night: 21 February

Looking for a Scripture reflection session on the season of Lent? You and your key contacts are most welcome to attend the 2023 Diocesan Lenten Scripture Reflection Night with Dr Laurie Woods. Tuesday 21 February – 6:30PM to 8:30PM. Downstairs at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown. RSVP via <https://pfparra.org.au/lent2023>

MET – Worship Celebrating Holy Week Seminar: 4 March

The MET - Worship team are organising a seminar for acolytes and ministers at the altar (senior servers) in preparation for the celebration of Holy Week. Presented by liturgist Chris Ohlsen, the session will be held on Saturday 4 March from 9.30am to 3pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion St Blacktown. Refreshments and lunch will be provided. To RSVP by 28 February, please contact mary.gale@parracatholic.org or phone (02) 8838 3456.

St Bernadette's Lalor Park Wednesday Evening Devotions

St Bernadette's Parish, Lalor Park, is hosting weekly devotions to Our Lady of Lourdes and St Bernadette every Wednesday evening at 6.30pm with Adoration and Rosary and special prayers, followed by Mass at 7.30pm. All are welcome. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9672 4037 or admin@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au

Mass available for the Nigerian Catholic Community

The Nigerian Catholic community come together to celebrate Mass every second and fourth Sundays of the month at 11am at Holy Family Church, South Granville, 200 The Trongate, Granville. For more information, please contact community chaplain Fr Chinonye Akamadu on 0451 174 438 or chuk.akamadu@parracatholic.org or Stella Nwosu on 0405 478 472.

Sydney Alliance NSW Election Assembly: 28 February

Join Bishop Vincent Long and people from across the Diocese to participate in a NSW Election Assembly with NSW Treasurer Matt Kean (LIB), Shadow Treasurer Daniel Mookhey (ALP) and representatives of the crossbench. The assembly will focus on social justice issues like housing, climate and cost of living. The assembly will be held on Tuesday 28 February from 6:15pm – 8:15pm at the Morley Centre, 2 Darcy Rd, Westmead. Please register at <https://bit.ly/nswelectionassembly>.

Process & significance of the change to the Constitution & the Voice to Parliament CCJP Seminar with Patricia Anderson AO. Pat Anderson is an Alyawarre woman known nationally and internationally as an advocate for the rights and health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Ms Anderson is Chair of the Lowitja Institute and has extensive experience in Aboriginal health, including community development, policy formation and research ethics. She was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 2014 for distinguished service to the Indigenous community as a social justice advocate, particularly through promoting improved health, and educational and protection outcomes for children. Ms Anderson was Co-Chair of the Referendum Council that released its final report in 2017 and has since led the work of the Uluru Dialogue in partnership with the ILC UNSW. Pat will speak on the process & significance of the change to the Constitution & the Voice to Parliament. Thursday 23 February, 4pm – 6pm, Convent of Mercy, 6 Victoria Rd, Parramatta, No cost, and refreshments provided. For more information, RSVP and flyer, click http://www.ccjpoz.org/templates/ccj/page/page_html_standard.php?seclD=50.

Positions Vacant:

Parish Office Administration Assistant – St Thomas Aquinas Parish, Springwood.
 Policy Coordinator – Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 10pm Monday 20 February**
 People and Culture Adviser – Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 10pm Monday 20 February**
 Sacramental Coordinator – Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Kellyville – **Applications close Monday 20 February**
 More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

Holy Spirit Mission This year's speaker is Br. Colin Calmiano presented by Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) Parramatta. Saturday 25th February, 9am to 5pm St Patrick's Church, 51-59 Allawah Street, Blacktown. Praise and Worship, Individual Prayer Ministry, Reconciliation, Kids Ministry and Parish Mass celebrated by Fr. Reginaldo Lavilla at 5:30pm. Register at <https://qr.link/VuWp62>

POPE FRANCIS' INTERVIEW ON THE PLANE BACK TO ROME FROM THE RECENT TRIP TO DR CONGO AND SOUTH SUDAN TOGETHER WITH OTHER RELIGIOUS LEADERS

Q: Jean-Baptiste Malenge (RTCE-Radio Catholique Elikya ASBL)

Holy Father, you have longed to visit the DRC... you have seen the joy... What importance would you assign the agreement signed in 2016 between the Holy See and the DRC on education and health?



Pope Francis

I am not familiar with that agreement; however, the Secretariat of State can offer an opinion. I know there has recently been an agreement in the pipeline, but I am unable to answer that. I don't even know the difference between the new one that is on the way. These matters are handled by the Secretary of State, by Gallagher, and they are good at making agreements that benefit everyone. I saw there in DR Congo a great desire to move forward, and so much culture. Before coming here, I had a Zoom meeting a few months ago with a group of very intelligent African university students. You have people of superior intelligence – this is one of your riches: intelligent young people and space must be made for them, rather than shutting doors. Having so many natural riches that attract people to come and exploit Congo – pardon the word – this idea is present: 'Africa has to be exploited.' Some say – I don't know if it is true – that former colonial empires granted independence from the ground up, but not underground, so they come for minerals. But we have to rid ourselves of the idea that Africa is there to be exploited. And talking about exploitation strikes me; the problems in the east cause me pain. I was able to meet with victims of that war, who were wounded, even amputees. There was great pain, and all to strip away riches. This is no good. No good. Congo has so many possibilities.

Archbishop Welby

I don't know the west of Congo so well. My wife has been there again, working with women in conflict. But I was... I've done a lot of traveling in the East the last time in 2018, just before COVID. And I want to agree wholeheartedly with what His Holiness has said. We need to be clear. Congo is not the playground of the great powers or for the piracy of the small mining companies. The companies there act irresponsibly with artisanal mining, kidnap - the use of child soldiers, rape on a huge scale and they simply pillage the country. That country should be one of the richest on the face of the planet. One of the biggest grantors of aid to the rest of Africa. It has been tortured. It was given political independence technically, but no economic independence.

And all the experience of the East - I was last there during Ebola, right in the middle of the militia area, and we were training pastors in how to work with Ebola of all kinds... The churches are doing extraordinary work there. The only functional group, particularly, Father, the Roman Catholic Church, does wonderful work. The Great Lakes Peace Project, led by the Roman Catholic Church, is wonderful, but the great powers have to say: 'Africa and Congo in particular hold so much in the way of the ore and the metals and the minerals and the resources that we will need round the world, if the world economy is to go green and save the planet from climate change.' And the only way that that can be done in a way that does not cover our hands with blood is if the great powers seek the peace of the Congo and not merely their prosperity.

Rt. Rev. Greenshields

I don't want to add too much because I think that was a very eminent answer to it. But it's a warning, isn't it, to those of us who have. But I think that it was something that the Pope mentioned here about young people. Bright, good young minds deserve the opportunity to develop. Now, from my own experience in other parts of the world, bright young female minds deserve the right to the same opportunities exactly as any others in whatever country, but especially in the developing countries. And that would be my plea. The rights of women and young women in particular have to be recognised as paramount.

'THE WELL' offers spiritual nourishment

Need some inspiration and spiritual encouragement? Why not check out The Well? The Diocese's 'on demand' streaming site has a tonne of video and prayer resources for you to explore and engage with during this difficult time. Check it out on www.thewell.org.au