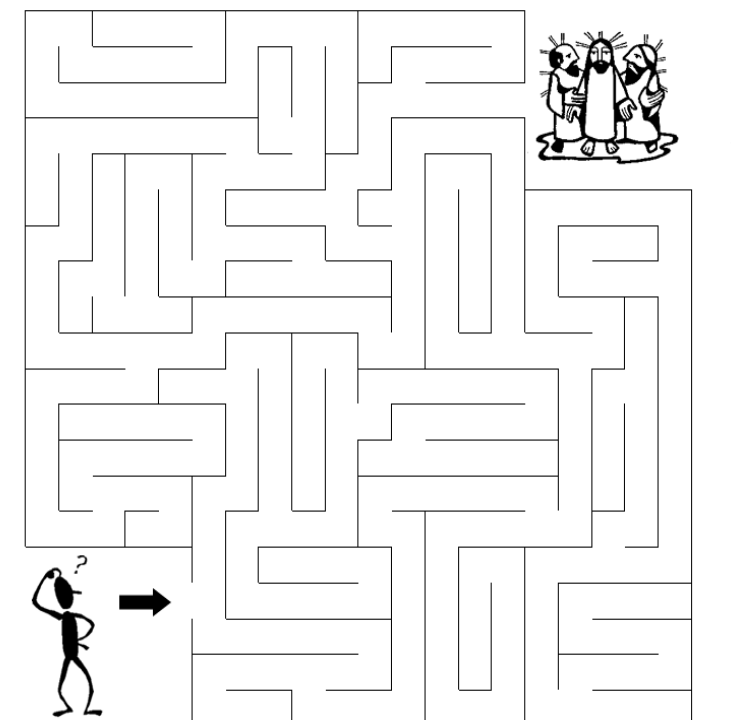


The Kids' Bulletin
Second Sunday of Lent
March 5th, 2023



What did Peter, James and John hear from the bright cloud when Jesus was transfigured on the mountain?
Look in the mirror to find out!

Transfiguration Maze



The Transfiguration
While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" Matthew 17:5 (NIV)
Based on Matthew 17:1-9

Word search grid containing letters for words like SIX, LOVE, JAMES, PETER, MOSES, DAYS, CLOTHES, GOOD, APPEARED, VOICE, WHITE, MOUNTAIN, JOHN, ELIJAH, HIGH.

Can you trace the word below?
J E S U S

The Transfiguration
While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" Matthew 17:5 (NIV)
Based on Matthew 17:1-9

Crossword puzzle with clues for ACROSS and DOWN, including words like CLOUD, GOOD, WHITE, LOVE, MOUNTAIN, CLOTHES.

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 Office Team: Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Jane Nguyen
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall
Office Hours: Monday-Friday: 9am - 3.00pm
WEEKDAY MASS: Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am, Thursday 9.00am
WEEKEND MASS: Saturday Vigil 6pm, Sunday 8am & 9.30am
Parish School: OLOL 8869 6800
Principal: Ms Keiran Byrnes
Reconciliation: Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
Baptismal Preparation: 19th April 2023
Baptism: 23rd April 2023
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.com.au
Pastoral Care of the Sick: Sandy Manamperi, 0480 266 339
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
5th of March 2023 • Year A

Let us Pray for the Sick
Leonila Ahillon, George Alagiah, Neil Amaratunga, Mamerto Angele, Mary Attard, Cynthia Avery, Rosenda Bolano, Barrie Chamberlain, Rosella Booth, Jock Clark Snr, Anthony Janicska, John Glover, Blago Milicevic, William Orley, Sr Colleen O'Sullivan RSJ, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, 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: Agnes Bonello, Bonosa Enfesta, John & William Formosa, Ranjan Fernando, Charlie Gauci, Maria Garufo, Desmond Grogan, Estelle Hardwick, Paiboon Pundmand, Jude Ranasinghe, Maria Reyes, Lucia Yap Ong

Anniversaries: Fredy Alphonse, Michelle Azzopardi, Carmen Attard, Romeo Biniahan, Charlie Chircop, Sam Debatlica, Sylvia Debatlica, Antonia, Jim & Loui Dequala, Melvyn Fernandes, E. Franklin, Sheela Franklin, Emilia Galea, Sam & Mary Gardia, Jean Garrick, Elsie Garrick, Karl Garrick, Christine Gomez, Charlie Gravina, Chinedu Joseph & Family, Sammy Formosa, Harold Lafleur, Apolinario Maglaya, Thomas Jnr Morrissey, Thelma Morrissey, Stephen & Louis Mula, Jason Muscat, Jim & Philippa Muscat, Alberto Nahoy, Sashin Patrick, Mile Perak, John Ratnam, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Vivian Silva, Rosary Silva, Pauline & Santan Soares, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.

Remembrance: France Angseeing, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Sam Borg, Lina Cabaero, Dennis Clarke, Conception, Dominic & Monica D'Souza, Peter Diab, Bebe Diab, Felina Maglaya, Cini & Mangion Family, M.A Fernando, Zaren & Sam Formosa, Gerard Marcello, Pauline Meilak, Mary Mifsud, Marcel Mohsen, Anton & Lourda Motha, Louis & Stephen Mula, Muscat Family, Josephine & Charles Muscat, Mary Muscat, Francis Muscat, Adrian Pereira, Rosaline Ratnam, Rodrigues Family, Sem Serna, Debe Toufic, Jim Vella, Hector & Rita Welgampola

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 Dec'2021.
FACE MASKS ENCOURAGED
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.
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 book of Genesis 12:1-4

The Lord said to Abram, ‘Leave your country, your family and your father’s house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.
‘I will bless those who bless you:
I will curse those who slight you.
All the tribes of the earth
shall bless themselves by you.’

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

1. The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. (R.)

2. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. (R.)
3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy 1:8-10

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace.
This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud the Father’s voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. ‘Lord,’ he said ‘it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.’ He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.’ When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. ‘Stand up,’ he said ‘do not be afraid.’ And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. ‘Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.’

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.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

LOURDES: Luminate (Formally 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

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

UPCOMING COMMUNITY NOTICE

A concert will be held at Wentworthville Leagues Club at 2pm on Sunday 19th March. It will consist of two singers from Malta, Rock & Roll dancers and a skit by the Cittadini group. Come and enjoy the afternoon!
For tickets \$25 ring Monica Ledger on 0414859386, or Charles N Mifsud on 0421662298.

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		
MARCH 2023		
4	Parish Retreat	9.30am
5	LOURDES: Luminate Clean Up Oz Day	12.00pm
6	Social Justice SA	9.00am
8	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	7.30pm
9	Lourdes Over 50's Meeting	10.30am
10	Catholic Schools Week Mass	9.15am
12	LOURDES: Luminate Lifted Sports Day	9.00am
18	New Altar Servers training session	3.30pm
21	Confirmation Information Night	6.30pm
22	First Reconciliation (Group 1)	7.00pm
26	New Altar Servers Installation Mass	9.30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

4/5 March 2023

Acolytes	Vigil: Frank Paiva 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am Fayelene Kennedy
Ministers	Vigil: C.Gonzales, H.Gonzales 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am: B. Chandler, Paul Gow
Readers	Vigil: A.Punch, M, Simic 8am: N. Arambulo, P.Ferriols 9.30am C.Diaz, R.Epondulan
Altar Servers	Vigil: Amelia Laus, Lucas Laus 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am S.Culili, F.Wanandy
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Tongan Choir
Flowers	Fenty, Gaby, Flo & Liz
Church cleaning	2 March Beth Paiva Lourdes Spiteri
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Joyce Hillbrick 9.30am: Kathy Chamberlain

11/12 March 2023

Acolytes	Vigil: John Jordan 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am Eugene Miu
Ministers	Vigil: A.Bellissimo, VOLUNTEER 8am: L.Fernandes, A.McNally 9.30am: C.Brooks, S.Lenthall
Readers	Vigil: L.Bellissimo, Benno Motha 8am: Jo Cabasa, VOLUNTEER 9.30am M.Aquino, A.Walker
Altar Servers	Vigil: A.Bagatella, D.Sant, J.Sant 8am: Sean Park, Philip Park 9.30am Leo Culili, VOLUNTEERS
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Young Adults Group
Flowers	Claudette & Judith
Church cleaning	11 March Tongan Community
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Ugre 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: Lena Falzon

BECOME A CATECHIST AN SRE VOLUNTEER!

SRE’s are parish volunteers who:
Teach and share their faith with children of their parish who attend government schools; Have a passion for sharing the gift of faith with young people; Have an hour per week to prepare and share their time and talents with young people; Are people who respond to the central mission of the Church to make Jesus known and loved.
OLOL SRE’s go into Seven Hills, Seven Hills North, Bert Oldfield, Vardys Road State primary schools and The Hills Sports High School.
New volunteers SRE’s will be given support, training, teaching materials and will start as a classroom helper. For further enquiries please contact Sandy in the parish office. 96222920

POPE FRANCIS AT AUDIENCE: PREACH GOD’S NEARNESS WITH OUR MEEKNESS *By Devin Watkins*

At the weekly General Audience, Pope Francis reflects on the Christian proclamation of God’s nearness, and urges us to draw strength from our relationship with Jesus in order to preach the Gospel together in meekness.

Pope Francis continued his catechesis series on the passion of evangelizing—apostolic zeal—at the Wednesday General Audience. He reflected on the “missionary discourse” which Jesus gave to His disciples in the Gospel of Matthew (10:7-16) soon after He called them.

Coming or going? The Pope noted that Jesus called the 12 Apostles “so that they might be with Him and He might send them out to preach.” He pointed to the dual action of “being with” and “going out” in Jesus’ call, saying Christian missionary activity begins with the encounter with Christ and moves outward. *“Bearing witness to Him means radiating Him. But, if we do not receive His light, we will be extinguished. If we do not attend Him, we will bear ourselves instead of Him, and it will all be in vain.”* He added that Jesus sends His disciples out soon after calling them, which shows that missionary experience is an integral part of Christian formation.

God’s freely-given love Pope Francis went on to reflect on three aspects of the Christian proclamation: why, what, and how to proclaim. Jesus, he said, lays out the “why” in a few succinct words: “Freely you have received, freely give.”

God’s freely given love fills us and we are naturally impelled to share that love with others, said the Pope.

Nearness of God He noted that the “what” of our proclamation has to do with the nearness of the kingdom of heaven.

The most important aspect of preaching, said Pope Francis, is that “God is near”. *“It is easier to exhort people to love God than to allow ourselves to be loved by Him.”* The Pope said the Christian proclamation must give God the first place, while we allow ourselves to be molded by His love and action.

Meekness in preaching Pope Francis then spoke at length about “how” to proclaim, which he noted formed the lengthier part of Jesus’ own missionary discourse. *“He tells us that the manner, the style is essential to bearing witness. Let’s listen to how He wants us to be: ‘I send you out as sheep among wolves.’”* Jesus, added the Pope, never asks us to face the wolves with counter arguments or well-prepared defenses of the faith. Rather, Jesus tells His disciples to be “meek and innocent, willing to sacrifice”. And He will in turn protect His lambs from the wolves, but only if they remain meek as lambs.

Missionary unity In conclusion, Pope Francis noted that Jesus says to go out on mission together without any material provisions or worldliness, trusting only in God’s Providence. “The apostolic Church is completely missionary, and it finds its unity in the mission,” he said. “So: go forth, meek and good as lambs, without worldliness, together.”

POPE FRANCIS’ CATECHESIS ON THE PASSION OF EVANGELIZATION:

The apostolic zeal of the believer. 6. The protagonist of the proclamation: the Holy Spirit

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

In our catechetical itinerary on the passion for evangelizing, today we start from the words of Jesus that we have heard: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Mt 28:19). “Go”, says the Risen One, not to indoctrinate, not to make proselytes, no, but to *make disciples*, that is, to give everyone the opportunity to come into contact with Jesus, to know and love Him freely. Go and *baptise* : to baptise means to immerse; and therefore, before indicating a liturgical action, it expresses a vital action: to immerse one’s life in the Father, in the Son, in the Holy Spirit; to experience every day the joy of the presence of God who is close to us as Father, as Brother, as Spirit acting in us, in our very spirit. To baptise is to immerse oneself in the Trinity. When Jesus says to His disciples — and also to us — “Go!”, He is not just communicating a word. No. He simultaneously communicates *the Holy Spirit*, because it is only thanks to Him, thanks to the Holy Spirit, that one can receive Christ’s mission and carry it out (cf. Jn 20:21-22). The Apostles, in fact, out of fear, remain closed up in the Upper Room until the day of Pentecost arrives and the Holy Spirit descends upon them (cf. Acts 2:1-13). And in that moment the fear leaves them, and, with His power, those fishermen, mostly unlettered, will change the world. “But if they can’t speak...”. But it is the word of the Spirit, the strength of the Spirit that bears them onward to change the world. The proclamation of the Gospel, therefore, is only realized in the power of the Spirit, who precedes the missionaries and prepares hearts: He is “the engine of evangelisation”. We discover this in the Acts of the Apostles, where on every page we see that *the protagonist of the proclamation* is not Peter, Paul, Stephen, or Philip, but is *the Holy Spirit*. In the Book of Acts, too, a crucial moment in the beginning of the Church is recounted, which can also say a lot to us. Then, as now, tribulations were not lacking among consolations — beautiful moments and not so beautiful moments — joys were accompanied by worries, both things. One [worry] in particular: how to deal with the pagans who came to the faith, with those who did not belong to the Jewish people, for example. Were they or were they not bound to observe the prescriptions of the Mosaic Law? This was no small matter for those people. Two groups were thus formed, between those who considered the observance of the Law indispensable and those who did not. In order to discern, the Apostles gathered in what came to be called the ‘Council of Jerusalem’, the first in history. How to resolve the dilemma? They might have sought a good compromise between tradition and innovation: some rules are observed, and others are left aside. Yet the Apostles do not follow this human wisdom to seek a diplomatic balance between the one and the other; they don’t follow this, but they adapt to the work of the Spirit, who had anticipated them by descending upon the pagans as He had upon them. And so, removing almost every obligation related to the Law, they communicate the final decisions, made — and this is what they write — by the Holy Spirit and by us (cf. Acts 15:28), this went out, “the Holy Spirit with us” — the Apostles always act in this way. Together, without being divided, despite having different sensitivities and opinions, they listen to the Spirit. And He teaches one thing, which is also valid today: every religious tradition is useful if it facilitates the encounter with Jesus. Every religious tradition is useful if it facilitates the encounter with Jesus. We could say that the historic decision of the first Council, from which we also benefit, was motivated by a principle, *the principle of proclamation* : everything in the Church must be conformed to the requirements of the proclamation of the Gospel; not to the opinions of the conservatives or the progressives, but to the fact that Jesus reaches people’s lives. Therefore, every choice, every usage, every structure, and every tradition is to be evaluated on the basis of whether they favour the proclamation of Christ. When decisions are found in the Church — for example ideological divisions: “I am conservative because...” “I am progressive because...”. But where is the Holy Spirit? Be careful, for the Gospel is not an idea; the Gospel is not an ideology. The Gospel is a proclamation that touches the heart and makes you change your heart, but if you take refuge in an idea, in an ideology, whether right or left or centre, you are making the Gospel a political party, an ideology, a club of people. The Gospel always gives you this freedom of the Spirit that acts within you and carries you forward. And how necessary it is today that we take hold of the freedom of the Gospel and allow ourselves to be carried forward by the Spirit. In this way the Spirit sheds light on the path of the Church, always. In fact, He is not only the light of hearts; He is the light that orients the Church: He brings clarity, helps to distinguish, helps to discern. This is why it is necessary to invoke Him often; let us also do so today, at the beginning of Lent. Because, as Church, we can have well-defined times and spaces, well-organised communities, institutes and movements, but without the Spirit, everything remains soulless. The organization is not enough; it is the Spirit that gives life to the Church. The Church, if she does not pray to Him and invoke Him, she closes in on herself, in sterile and exhausting debates, in wearisome polarisations, while the flame of the mission is extinguished. It is very sad to see the Church as if she were nothing more than a parliament. No. The Church is something else. The Church is the community of men and women who believe and proclaim Jesus Christ, but moved by the Holy Spirit, not by their own reason. Yes, you use your reason, but the Spirit comes to enlighten and move it. The Spirit makes us go forth, propels us to proclaim the faith in order to confirm ourselves in the faith, pushes us to go on mission to rediscover who we are. That is why the Apostle Paul recommends: “Do not quench the Spirit” (1 Thess 5:19). Do not quench the Spirit. Let us pray to the Spirit often, let us invoke him, let us ask him every day to kindle his light in us. Let us do this before each encounter, to become apostles of Jesus with the people we find. Don’t quench the Spirit, either in the Christian communities or in each one of us.



FROM FR. HENRY DUC

Dear Friends,

As Catholics we know that Jesus Christ is the centre of our faith and worship, and we confess that He has two natures: divine and human united in his person, the one of God’s Son, and for this reason he is true God and true man (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church articles 480 & 481). It is worth to note that throughout the Gospels Jesus’ Son of God title was mentioned 23 times and the Son of Man’s 83 times.

For this second Sunday of Lent, we have the Gospel account giving us a glimpse into both his humanity and divinity through his transfiguration right before the eyes of Peter, James, and John up in the mountain away from the crowds. According to the evangelist, the disciples saw Jesus’ face shown like the sun and his

clothes became white as the light. Moses and Elijah then came along and had a chat with Jesus, while a bright cloud covered them, and there was a voice coming out from the cloud, saying, ‘this is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to Him. ’This extraordinary scene of the display both of Jesus’ divinity and his divine world was too much for the disciples to handle, consequently they fell on their faces and were overwhelmed by fear. Then everything returned to normal, when Jesus asked them to stand up and have no fear. It all happened perhaps like a dream to them, since there was no one around anymore, but the four of them, and the transfigured Jesus had quickly disappeared, and replaced by the same Jesus whom they had lived and mingled with for quite a few years. Obviously, it is more than just an effort to present his divine nature to the disciples, Jesus also means to open the door of his divine world, so the disciples could have a look into it, and through this unique experience, Jesus tends to tell the disciples of old and us today that such a wonderful world is real, and we are invited to enter that world given that we listen to Jesus as God the Father wants us to do. Let us give praise and thanks to Jesus, our Savior, true God and true Man, and ask for the grace to help us hear and embrace Jesus’ teaching and put it into practice both through our everyday words and deeds filled with our love for God and love for our brothers and sisters around us, especially the broken, voiceless and marginalized.

Have a Christocentric week.

Fr. Henry

PARISH NEWS...

Lourdes Young Adults Group celebrates 5th year in ministry with a new name!

In celebrating our 5th Anniversary, the new name is now: **LOURDES: Luminate L.O.U.R.D.E.S.** stands for: **Living OUT Real Discipleship, Evangelisation and Service Luminate:** Shedding light on the darkness to bring the light of Christ to others, connecting young people through faith and fellowship, providing a safe space and community that welcomes all.

We continue our regular monthly meetings, next LOURDES: Luminate is on Friday, 17th of March 2023 6:45-9:30pm in the Parish Hall.

PARISH LENTEN RETREAT THANK YOU

Many thanks to Fr David Orr OSB for accepting the invitation to come and lead us for our Parish retreat this year.

Thank you Maryse Anseesing for providing lunch for the day and all attendants for setting aside your precious times to join the retreat.

Fr Henry

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

All members of the Parish Pastoral Council are reminded to attend our monthly meeting on Wednesday 8 March at 7.30pm in the Parish Meeting room.



WE ARE RECRUITING NEW ALTAR SERVERS!

If your child has completed their First Holy Communion and is in year 4 or higher, Fr Henry would like to invite them to become an Altar Server and join our team by helping serve at Masses. Application Forms are available in front of the back sacristy or by contacting the Parish Office. Please return completed forms to Fr Henry by the 15th March. There will be a Training session on Saturday 18th March at 3.30pm and the Installation Mass at 9.30am on Sunday 26th March, 2023.



Innovative learning in a changing world

Enrolling Now

OUR LADY of LOURDES
SEVEN HILLS

OPEN DAYS

6 March 2023 6:00pm - 7:30pm

8 March 2023 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Children's Liturgy

Our Lady of Lourdes - Seven Hills

Children you are warmly invited to attend Children's Liturgy during the 9.30am Sunday Mass.



March 19th

April 16th

May 21st



Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during LENT at 7.30pm



LOURDES: Luminate Upcoming Events

Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday, 5th of March 2023 12-1pm, Rotaract Hill, Cnr Terminus Road & Hartley Road, Seven Hills (in front of Seven Hills Train Station Commuter Carpark)

Lifted Sports Day on Sunday, 12th of March 2023 9am-4pm, Patrician Brothers' College, 100 Flushcombe Rd, Blacktown

For inquiries please contact Laura Bellissimo on 0423839333

Clean up Diocese of Parramatta Day: 5 March

Catholic Youth Parramatta and MET – Peace, Justice and Ecology invite you to take action! On Clean Up Australia Day, Sunday 5 March, witness to the call to take care of God’s creation. Join or organise a group to clean up a site in your local area. Express your interest today by visiting <https://parracatholic.org/cleanup/>

Jesus Light of the World Community Healing Recollection: 11 March

Jesus Light of the World Communities is hosting a Healing Recollection Day on Saturday 11 March from 9am to 5pm at St Joseph’s Parish Hall, Walz St, Rockdale. Fr Rey Sentillas MI from the Archdiocese of Sydney will be speaking, and there will be time for Mass. Bookings are essential via <https://www.trybooking.com/CFURP>. For enquiries, please contact Helen on 0433 455 114 or Ida on 0424 267 500.

MET Worship RCIA Workshop: 15 March

Parish teams involved in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults at Easter are invited to a workshop hosted by the MET Worship team on Wednesday 15 March at 7pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Parish teams will learn how to prepare for the Rites on Holy Saturday and where to after Easter. To RSVP by 13 March, please contact hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org

Patrick’s Day Business Breakfast: 17 March

St Patrick’s Cathedral Parish, Parramatta, are hosting the St Patrick’s Day Business Breakfast, an annual event acknowledging faith and nation building and connecting Not-For-Profit organisations with business communities. The Breakfast will be held on Friday 17 March from 7am to 9am at the Cathedral Hall, with guest speaker Dr Andrew Charlton MP, Federal Member for Parramatta. Tickets are \$100 per person and can be purchased via <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1012636> or by scanning the QR code.



Jesuit Social Services’ 2023 Annual Dinner: 25 March

Jesuit Social Services invites you to join them at their 2023 Annual Dinner on 25 March at Q Events, 123 Queen Street, Melbourne. Be sure to book soon to avoid missing out on hearing about our work, as well as an evening of great food, wine, auctions, raffles, entertainment and catching up with old friends. Tickets are \$230 - tables of 10 are available. To book, visit jesuit.social/2023dinner

Caritas Australia Turkey and Syria Earthquake Emergency Appeal

Following devastating earthquakes in Türkiye (formerly Turkey) and Syria, which has killed thousands of people, Caritas Australia’s partners are on the ground as they assess the scale of damage and critical needs. Your donation to Caritas Australia can have a profound and lasting impact on those affected by the Turkey, Syria earthquake. By donating, you will help to provide vital emergency aid and essential items needed during a time of crisis. Visit <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/turkey-and-syria-earthquake/> to show your support.

Palms Australia: Change their lives and yours

Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills with those who have less opportunity to develop their talents. Explore 35 positions by scanning the QR code below. On our website, you can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand. Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know: (02) 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567 or visit www.palms.org.au



Positions Vacant:

- *OLQP Parish Greystanes* - 1. *Maintenance* / 2. *Cleaning*

Two employed roles are available, each 8-10 hours, or the possibility of combining both roles.

Role 1. Maintenance and improvement works in the buildings and grounds – Requires proven handy-person skills with trade experience or equivalent.

Role 2. Cleaning and hygiene care for offices, bathrooms and meeting areas – Requires practical experience and pride in work.


Successful applicants will work closely united with the parish team. Role descriptions available.

Please contact Christine via 96318135 or parishoffice@olqp.org.au


- *Mission & Renewal Project Officer (permanent full-time)* - Catholic Diocese of Bathurst

- *Corrective Services Chaplain, Wellington Correctional Centre (permanent full-time)* - Catholic Diocese of Bathurst


For more details, and to apply, please visit <https://bathurst.catholic.org.au/careers/>



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CATHOLIC
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OF DIVINITY

Enrolments are still open for Semester 1 at Catholic Theological College.

We have many areas of study that may be of interest such as *John Henry Newman and the Church in the Nineteenth Century, Pastoral Leadership for a Safe Church and many online options*

For more information contact: registrar@ctc.edu.au or visit ctc.edu.au



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

Second Sunday of Lent
4 & 5 March



PROJECT
COMPASSION

Tereesa is a Gamilaroi woman from Western Sydney who struggled with homelessness while raising her four children. Through the Baabayn Young Mums and Bubs Group, Tereesa was able to reconnect with her culture and create a better future for her children.



Please donate to Project Compassion 2023

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

POPE FRANCIS AT ANGELUS



Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

The Gospel of this first Sunday of Lent presents to us Jesus in the desert, tempted by the devil (cf. *Mt* 4:1-11). “Devil” means “divider”. The devil always wants to create division, and it is what he sets out to do by tempting Jesus. Let us see, then, *from whom* he wants to divide him, and *how* he tempts him.*From whom* does the devil want to divide Jesus? After receiving Baptism from John in the Jordan, Jesus was called by the Father “my beloved Son” (*Mt* 3:17), and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in the form of a dove (cf. v. 16). The Gospel thus presents us the three divine

Persons joined in love. Then Jesus himself will say that he came into the world to make us, too, partake in the unity between him and the Father (cf. *Jn* 17:11). The devil, instead, does the opposite: he enters the scene to divide Jesus from the Father and to distract him from his mission of unity for us. He always divides. Let us now see *how* he tries to do it. The devil wants to take advantage of the human condition of Jesus, who is weak as he has fasted for forty days and is hungry (cf. *Mt* 4:2). The evil one then tries to instil in him three powerful “poisons”, to paralyse his mission of unity. These poisons are *attachment*, *mistrust*, and *power*. First and foremost, the poison of attachment to material goods, to needs; with persuasive arguments the devil tries to convince Jesus: “You are hungry, why must you fast? Listen to your need and satisfy it, you have the right and the power: transform the stones into bread”. Then the second poison, *mistrust*: “Are you sure the Father wants what is good for you? Test him, blackmail him! Throw yourself down from the highest point of the temple and make him do what you want”. Finally, *power*: “You have no need for your Father! Why wait for his gifts? Follow the criteria of the world, take everything for yourself, and you will be powerful!”. The three temptations of Jesus. And we too live among these temptations, always. It is terrible, but that is just how it is, for us too: attachment to material things, mistrust and the thirst for power are three widespread and dangerous temptations, which the devil uses to divide us from the Father and to make us no longer feel like brothers and sisters among ourselves, to lead us to solitude and desperation. He wanted to do this to Jesus, he wants to do it to us: to lead us to desperation. But Jesus defeats the temptations. And how does he defeat them? By avoiding discussion with the devil and answering with the Word of God. This is important: you cannot argue with the devil, you cannot converse with the devil! Jesus confronts him with the Word of God. He quotes three phrases from the Scripture that speak of freedom from goods (cf. *Dt* 8:3), trust (cf. *Dt* 6:16), and service to God (cf. *Dt* 6:13), three phrases that are opposed to temptation. He never enters into dialogue with the devil, he does not negotiate with him, but he repels his insinuations with the beneficent Words of the Scripture. It is an invitation to us too; one cannot defeat him by negotiating with him, he is stronger than us. We defeat the devil by countering him in faith with the divine Word. In this way, Jesus teaches us to defend unity with God and among ourselves from the attacks of the divider. The divine Word that is Jesus’ answer to the temptation of the devil. And we ask ourselves: what place does the Word of God have in my life? Do I turn to it in my spiritual struggles? If I have a vice or a recurrent temptation, why do I not obtain help by seeking out a verse of the Word of God that responds to that vice? Then, when temptation comes, I recite it, I pray it, trusting in the grace of Christ. Let us try, it will help us in temptation, it will help us a great deal, so that, amid the voices that stir within us, the beneficent one of the Word of God will resound. May Mary, who welcomed the Word of God and with her humility defeated the pride of the divider, accompany us in the spiritual struggle of Lent.

After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters,

Distressing news continues to arrive from the Holy Land: many people killed, even children... How can this spiral of violence be stopped? I renew my appeal to make dialogue prevail over hatred and vengeance, and I pray to God for the Palestinians and Israelis, that they may find the path to fraternity and peace, with the help of the international community. I am also very concerned about the situation in Burkina Faso, where terrorist attacks continue. I invite you to pray for the people of that dear country, so that the violence they have suffered does not make them lose faith in the path of democracy, justice and peace. This morning I learned with sorrow of the shipwreck off the Calabrian coast, near Crotone. Forty dead have already been recovered, including many children. I pray for each one of them, for the missing and for the other surviving migrants. I thank those who have brought relief and those who are providing shelter. May Our Lady sustain these brothers and sisters of ours. And let us not forget the tragedy of the war in Ukraine; the war has already continued for a year. And let us not forget the suffering of the Syrian and Turkish people due to the earthquake.

I address my greeting to all of you who have come from Italy and from other countries. I greet the pilgrims from Spain, Portugal, Mexico and Croatia. I greet the faithful of Palermo, Montelepre, Termini Imerese and Riese Pio X; the students of the Interregional Seminary of Campanian in Naples; teenagers from various parishes of the diocese of Milan; the young candidates for Confirmation from Cavaion and Sega, Verona; the group from Limbadi and the children about to receive their First Communion, from Sant’Aurea in Ostia Antica. I welcome the Italian Organ Donors’ Association, which is celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of its founding: I thank you for your commitment to social solidarity, and I urge you to continue to promote life through the donation of organs. A special greeting goes to those who have come on the occasion of World Rare Diseases Day, which will take place the day after tomorrow; I reiterate my encouragement to the Associations of the sick and their relatives; may our closeness never be lacking, especially to children, to let them feel God’s love and tenderness. And I wish you all a happy Sunday. Please, do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your meal, and *arrivederci!*

