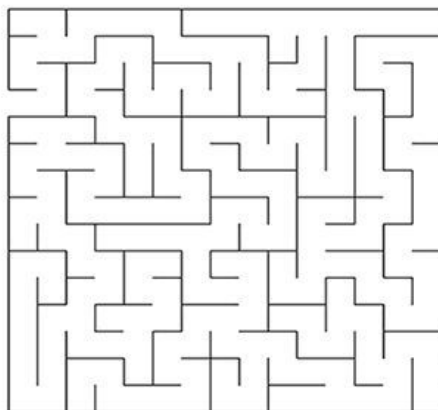


*What did the man that Jesus cured say to the people
who thought Jesus was a sinner?
Use the code at the bottom to find out!*

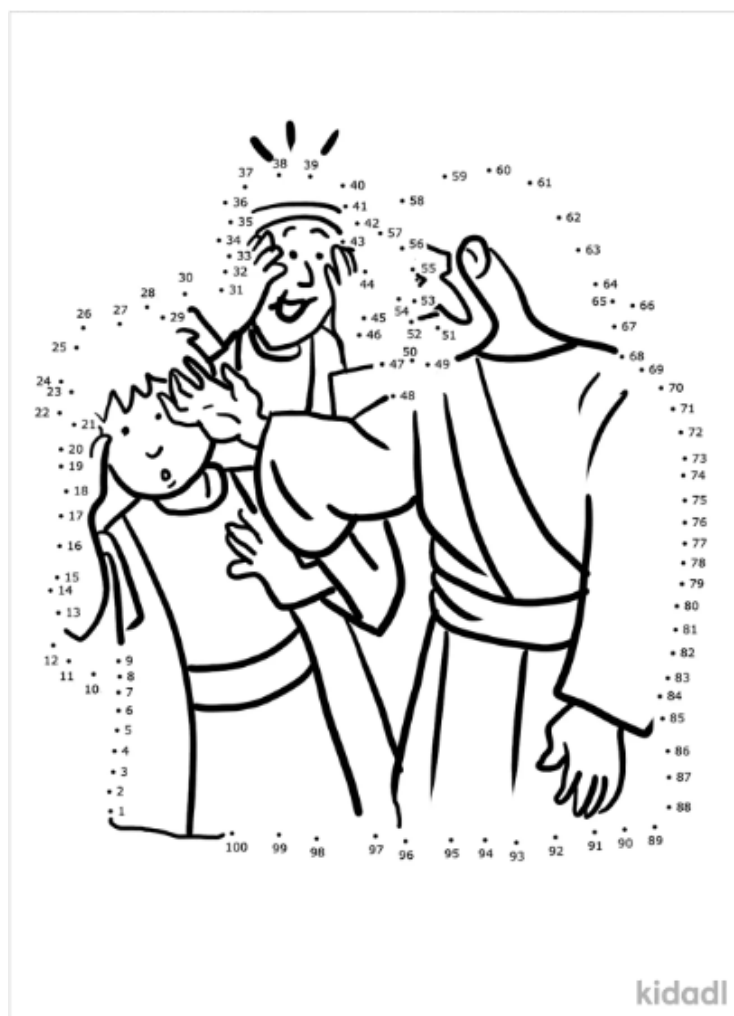


So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. John 9:7 (NIV)
The puzzle is based on John 9:1-34 (NIV).



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

BLIND	EYES	SPIT	POOL	WASH
WORLD	SINNED	SIGHT	NIGHT	BORN
HOME	MUD	LIFE	OPENED	LIGHT
SILIAM	PARENTS	RECEIVED	BIRTH	GROUND



Multiple Choice

So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. John 9:7 (NIV)

Choose the word that best matches the definition.



- ___ 1. Unable to see
A. blind B. deaf C. lame D. heal
- ___ 2. An adult male human being
A. woman B. girl C. man D. boy
- ___ 3. A sticky mixture of dirt and water
A. sand B. play dough C. rock D. mud
- ___ 4. The two organs in your face which are used to see
A. ears B. mouth C. eyes D. teeth
- ___ 5. Brightness that comes from the sun, candles, or electrical devices that allows things to be seen
A. mud B. light C. wash D. blind
- ___ 6. To make someone well from a sickness or injury
A. blind B. glory C. wash D. heal
- ___ 7. To clean something using water
A. wash B. heal C. see D. light
- ___ 8. Great admiration, honour and praise, especially as given to God
A. heal B. light C. wash D. glory

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.

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/OLOL7Hills/>



OUR LADY OF LOURDES
PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS
"Still a wonderful place to pray & stay."

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:	LOLO 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/LOLO7Hills/

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
19 March 2023 • Year A



Let us Pray for the Sick

 Leonila Ahillon, George Alagiah, Neil Amarawatha, Mamerto Angele, Mary Attard, Cynthia Avery, Rosenda Bolano, Barrie Chamberlain, Rosella Booth, Jock Clark Snr, Anthony Janicska, John Glover, Blago Milicevic, Rita Leon, William Orley, Sr Colleen O'Sullivan RSJ, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Pummalin Sumcad, Sue Tipaldo, Natalie Woodward, Carmen Xuerib

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, Frank & Fortunata Baidada, Romeo Biniahan, Saviour Caruana, Audrey & Herman Chelliah, Charlie Chircop, Antonia, Melvyn Fernandes, Josephine Francis, E. Franklin, Sheela Franklin, Emilia Galea, Sam & Mary Gardia, Jean Garrick, Elsie Garrick, Karl Garrick, Tarcisio 'Archie' Gatt, Christine Gomez, Charlie Gravina, Chinedu Joseph & Family, Sammy Formusa, Harold Lafleur, Rosine Lafleur, Apolinario Maglaya, Thomas Snr 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, Charlie Gauci, Gerard Marcello, Pauline Meilak, Mary Mifsud, Emilia & William 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 Welcampaola



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

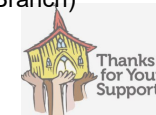
On behalf of the Parish Community, I would like to thank you very much for your ongoing support, which has been absolutely vital in keeping our Parish going strong. Projects completed include the Hall Kitchen renovation, Parish Meeting Room painting, Parish Office and Meeting Room Roof painted, Church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



FIRST READING
A reading from the first book of Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

- 1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)
- 2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. (R.)
- 3. You have prepared a banquet for me In the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. (R.)
- 4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. (R.)

SECOND READING
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Ephesians 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38 (Short version refer to slide for long)

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent').

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 13th April 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 Young Adults Group
The next group night is Friday, 14th of April, 2023 6:45-9:30pm in the Parish Hall. If you would like more information please contact Ian Epondulan: youthholol7h@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

Table with 3 columns: Date, Event, Time. Rows include OLOL PARISH CALENDAR MARCH 2023, APRIL 2023, and specific events like Palm Sunday and 2nd Rite of Reconciliation.

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

Table with 3 columns: Ministry, Name, Time. Rows include 18/19 March 2023 and 25/26 March 2023 rosters for Acolytes, Ministers, Readers, Altar Servers, Morning tea, Flowers, Church cleaning, and Welcomers.

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' CATECHESIS ON THE PASSION OF EVANGELIZATION:

The Second Vatican Council. 1. *Evangelization as ecclesial service*

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

In the last catechesis we saw how the first "council" in the history of the Church council, like that of Vatican II, the first council, was convened in Jerusalem over a matter linked to evangelization, namely the proclamation of the Good News to non-Jews – it was thought that Gospel should be proclaimed only to Jews. In the twentieth century, the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council presented the Church as the pilgrim People of God over time, and for her missionary nature. What does this mean? There is a bridge between the first and last Council, under the banner of evangelization, a bridge whose architect is the Holy Spirit. Today we listen to Vatican Council II to discover the evangelizing is always an *ecclesial service*, never solitary, never isolated, never individualistic. Evangelization is always carried out *in ecclesia*, that is in a community, and without proselytism, because that is not evangelization. Indeed, the evangelizer always transmits what he or she has received. Saint Paul was the first to write this: the gospel that he announced and the community received, and in which they remained steadfast, is the same that the Apostle had in turn received (cf. *1 Cor* 15:1-3). Faith is received and transmitted. This ecclesial dynamism of the transmission of the Message is binding and guarantees the authenticity of Christian proclamation. The same Paul writes to the Galatians: "Even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we preached to you, let him be accursed" (1:8). This is beautiful, and this is good for many fashionable views. The ecclesial dimension of evangelization constitutes, however, a criterion for confirmation of apostolic zeal. A necessary confirmation, because the temptation of proceeding "alone" is always lurking, especially when the path becomes impassable and we feel the burden of the commitment. Equally dangerous is the temptation to follow easier pseudo-ecclesial paths, to adopt the worldly logic of numbers and polls, to rely on the strength of our ideas, programmes, structures, "relationships that count". This will not do; this should help a little but the fundamental thing is the strength that the Spirit gives you to proclaim the truth of Jesus Christ, to proclaim the Gospel. The other things are secondary. Now, brothers and sisters, we place ourselves more directly in the school of the Second Vatican Council, rereading some passages of the Decree *Ad gentes* (AG), the document on the missionary activity of the Church. These texts of Vatican Council II fully retain their value even in our complex and plural context. First of all, this document, *Ad gentes*, invites us to consider the love of God the Father as a wellspring, which "on account of His surpassing and merciful kindness and graciously calling us moreover to share with Him His life and His cry" - this is our vocation – "has generously poured out, and does not cease to pour out still, His divine goodness. Thus He who created all things may at last be "all in all" (*1 Cor* 15:28), bringing about at one and the same time His own glory and our happiness" (no. 2). This passage is fundamental, because it says that the love of the Father is destined for *every human being*. God's love is not only for a little group, no ... for everyone. Keep that word firmly in mind and in the heart: everyone, everyone, no-one excluded: this is what the Lord says. And this love for every human being is a love that reaches every man and woman through the mission of Jesus, mediator of salvation and our redeemer (cf. AG, 3), and through the mission of the Holy Spirit (cf. AG, 4), who – the Holy Spirit – works in everyone, both in the baptized and the non-baptized. The Holy Spirit works! The Council, furthermore reminds us that it is the task of the Church to continue the mission of Christ, who was "sent to preach the Gospel to the poor"; therefore, the document *Aggentes* continues, "the Church, prompted by the Holy Spirit, must walk in the same path on which Christ walked: a path of poverty and obedience, of service and self-sacrifice to the death, from which death He came forth a victor by His resurrection" (AG, 5). If it remains faithful to this "path", the mission of the Church is "an epiphany, or a manifesting of God's decree, and its fulfilment in the world and in world history" (AG, 9). Brothers and sisters, these brief comments also help us understand the ecclesial meaning of the apostolic zeal of each disciple-missionary. Apostolic zeal is not enthusiasm; it is another thing, it is a grace of God, that we must preserve. We must understand its meaning, because in the pilgrim and evangelizing People of God, there are no active or passive individuals. There are not those who preach, those who proclaim the Gospel in one way or another, and those who remain silent. "All the baptized", says *Evangelii gaudium*, "whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization" (Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii gaudium*, 120). Are you Christian? "Yes, I have received Baptism". And do you evangelize?" "But what does this mean?" If you do not evangelize, if you do not bear witness, if you do not give that witness of the Baptism you have received, of the faith that the Lord gave you, you are not a good Christian. By virtue of the Baptism received and the consequent incorporation in the Church, every baptized person participates in the mission of the Church and, in this, in the mission of Christ the King, Priest and Prophet. Brothers and sisters, this task "is one and the same everywhere and in every condition, even though it may be carried out differently according to circumstances" (AG, 6). This invites us not to become rigid or fossilized; it redeems us from that restlessness that is not of God. The missionary zeal of the believer also expresses itself as a creative search for new ways of proclaiming and witnessing, new ways of encountering the wounded humanity that Christ took on. In short, of new ways of serving the Gospel and serving humanity. Evangelization is a service. If a person says that he is an evangelizer, and does not have that attitude, that servant's heart, and believes himself to be a master, he is not an evangelizer, no ... he is wretched. Returning to the fountainhead of the love of the Father and to the missions of the Son and the Holy Spirit does not close us up in spaces of static personal tranquillity. On the contrary, it leads us to recognize the gratuitousness of the gift of the fullness of life to which we are called, a gift for which we praise and thank God. This gift is not only for us, but rather it is to be given to others. And it also leads us to live ever more fully what we have received, by sharing it with others, with a sense of responsibility and travelling together along the roads, very often the tortuous and difficult ones of history, in vigilant and industrious expectation of its fulfilment. Let us ask the Lord for this grace, to take in hand this Christian vocation and to give thanks to the Lord for what he has given us, this treasure. And to try to communicate it to others.

Summary of the Holy Father's words

Dear brothers and sisters: In our catechesis on apostolic zeal, we now consider the ecclesial aspect of evangelization. The proclamation of the Gospel is not the task of isolated individuals, but a communal service to the Church's apostolic faith, which must be passed down in its integrity to every generation. Zeal for the spread of the Gospel is inseparable from this ecclesial dimension, which protects the Christian message from distortion and from accommodation to worldly interests and ways of thinking. The Vatican II Decree on the Church's Missionary Activity presents all evangelization as having its source in the immense love of God our Father, poured out on the world through the missions of the Son and the Holy Spirit, and prolonged in the Church's mission of proclaiming this saving love to all the ends of the earth. As "missionary disciples", all the baptized are called to imitate the self-sacrificing love of Christ by bearing creative and convincing witness to the truth of his word and its reconciling power, not only for individuals, but for the life of our entire human family.

FROM FR. HENRY DUC



Dear Friends,

Fr Anthony de Mello SJ has been one of my most favorite Christian writers and I have most of his books, some I bought myself and others were kindly given to me by one of our parishioners. Just to let you know how popular he has been to the wider world, I give you this example: I typed the name 'Anthony de' on Google this week, and his name came fourth. That was incredible for a priest who passed away 36 years ago. He died on 2 June 1987 to be exact. One of the best stories he wrote, I reckon, was about an elderly catechumen, who was baptised as Catholic, but knew very little about catechism due to his age, so some of his older mates would often try to make fun of him. When they kept quizzing him about Jesus' life and teachings, he just simply reply, 'look, I don't know much about Jesus, but since my baptism, my life has completely changed. I used to be a gambler. I used to drink and smoke a lot, but I am absolutely clean these days.'

This above mentioned confession of Fr Anthony's catechumen reminds me so much of what the blind man who was healed by Jesus responds to temple officials, while they interview him and try to put lot pressure upon his parents and then make him confess that Jesus was a sinner. He argues that because God listens not to sinners, but to those who are devout and carry out his will, so Jesus must be from God, since God listens to Him. The Gospel this Sunday is truly remarkable, for it gives us more than just an account about a spectacular miracle performed by Jesus, and about the intensified tension rising in the relationship between Jesus and the Temple authority ultimately leading to Jesus' Passion, death and resurrection that we are about to commemorate once again, but more significantly a highlight of symbolic contrast between the blind man and the Pharisees and other likeminded people. Here in the background of the story the evangelist appears to make this point that Jesus helped open the eye of the blind man in a dual way physical and spiritual. He was given the eye sight to see the world around him like any normal person, and also received the gift of faith to recognize the true identity of Jesus as the Son of God, and on the contrary, the Pharisee and their supporters were turned into some kind of spiritual blindness for failing to recognize who Jesus really was, though their eyes had no problem.

Inspired by this beautiful Gospel, let us pay extra attention upon the issue of our spiritual blindness, a spiritual deficiency that makes us unable to see Jesus present in the Eucharist, in the Blessed Sacrament, in the people around us, especially the needy, so let us ask for Jesus' grace to heal us from such a blindness and help us see him clearer and better.

Have a grace-filled week.

Fr. Henry

PARISH NEWS...

OFFERTORY PROCESSION FOR OUR WEEKEND MASSES

With the intention to help our community to get more involved at Mass and better appreciate our share in the priesthood of the faithful, meaning our call to be priests, prophets and kings or queens of Jesus through baptism that Fr David Orr reminded us in our recent Parish retreat, I would like to invite all our parishioners to take part in the offertory procession, especially families that have some special celebrations in the families, such as wedding anniversaries, baptisms, birthdays, or death anniversaries. Please see Fr Henry or Ernie before Mass to arrange it.

REPORT FROM OUR RECENT PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

In our recent meeting, members of the Council had the chance to listen to various reports from different groups in the parish, such as Over 50s, Vinnies, Sacramental Program, RCIA, Catechists, Children Liturgy, Altars Servers, and Diocesan Council. We also had the opportunity to reflect upon the article entitled Francis the Reformer Rooted in Vatican II. Full Stop by Michael Sean Winters as part of the commemoration of Pope Francis' 10th anniversary often regarded as pastor, teacher and reformer. He has continued to say and do things to encourage us to change our mentality, especially our better care for the poor and the environment.

Lourdes: Luminare (Young Adults Group) Update:

Well done to all those who participated in the Catholic Youth Parramatta: Clean Up Australia Day at Rotaract Hill, Seven Hills on Sunday, 5th of March 2023 especially Fr Henry! The park is much cleaner for all to enjoy!

Congrats to all who participated in the Catholic Youth Parramatta: Lifted Sports Day at Patrician Brothers' College, Blacktown last Sunday, 12th of March 2023. Thank you for your efforts in playing fair and giving each sport a go!



Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during LENT at 7.30pm



CONFIRMATION ENROLMENT 21st March 2023 6.30PM

Parents wishing to enrol their Year 6 (or above) child in the 2023 Confirmation Process there will be an Information Meeting in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 21st March 6.30-7.30pm. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Friday 26th May 2023. If you would like more information please contact Artelle in the parish office.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

All children from 5 yrs up are invited to join in the Children's Liturgy at our 9.30am Mass on Sunday 18th March. Thank you Jem and Sandy for helping to bring back the liturgy for children in our parish.

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.

BISHOP'S GOOD SHEPHERD APPEAL

Support our Seminarians to humbly serve our faith community. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal by scanning this QR code or via yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal



Thank you for accompanying our seminarians on their spiritual journey to becoming priests.

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. Application Forms are available at the back sacristy. There is a Training session on this Saturday 18th March at 3.30pm and the Installation Mass at 9.30am on Sunday 26th March, 2023.

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

****NEW DATE** MET Worship RCIA Workshop: 29 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 29 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, please contact hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org

Diocesan Food and Toiletries Drive for Refugees

Each week, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) and the House of Welcome (HoW) provide much needed food and toiletry items to hundreds of Refugees from across the Diocese of Parramatta. These services depend on donations. You can organise a food and toiletries drive in your parish, school or workplace, or make a cash donation to support JRS and HoW. Find more information at parracatholic.org/diocesanfooddrive or call JRS on (02) 9356 3888 or HoW on (02) 9727 9290.

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



Young Adult Faith Formation: 2 April

Young Adult Faith Formation sessions continue on Sunday 2 April 2023 at The Hustle, 4-6 Purdy Rd, Minchinbury, at 7pm. Sarah Alimangohan will speak and lead discussion on the question 'What is Beauty?' We encourage all adults 18-35 to come along and enjoy some faith formation and fellowship! Call Mark on 0477 004 678 for more information.

Mission: One Heart, Many Voices Conference: 3-5 May

Catholic Mission and Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) invite you to save the date for the sixth biennial national Mission Conference. Three days of professional and personal development focused on mission. Date: Wednesday 3 May to Friday 5 May 2023. Venue: SMC Conference & Function Centre, 66 Goulburn St, Sydney. For more information, visit www.mohmv.com.au.

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.

Marriage Enrichment Weekend

We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love!

Come and join us on 14-16 April 2023 at a Marriage Encounter Weekend in a Covid safe environment at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW – a stunning & tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney.

Book online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wwme.org.au

Soul Food Podcast – Pastoral Formation

Do you find life & faith inspiration by listening to the experiences of others?

Pastoral Formation's Soul Food Podcast features life & faith stories of people from our diocesan family. Listen now for FREE via our website or on Spotify: <https://pfparra.org.au/soulfood/>

Positions Vacant:

- 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/>

For more events, please go to: parracatholic.org/events

POPE FRANCIS AT ANGELUS



Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno*, good Sunday!

This Sunday, the Gospel presents us one of the most beautiful and fascinating encounters Jesus has – the one with the Samaritan woman (cf. *Jn* 4:5-42). Jesus and his disciples take a break near a well in Samaria. A woman arrives and Jesus says to her, “Give me a drink” (v. 8). I would like to pause specifically on this expression: *Give me a drink*. This scene depicts Jesus, thirsty and tired. A Samaritan woman finds him at the hottest hour, at midday, asking for refreshment like a beggar. It is an image of God’s abasement. God lowers himself in Jesus Christ for our redemption. He comes to us. In Jesus, God made himself one of us, he lowered himself. Thirsty like us, he suffers our same thirst. Thinking about this scene, each one of us can say: the Lord, the Teacher, “asks me for a drink. So, he is thirsty like me. He shares my thirst. You are truly near me, Lord! You are in touch with my poverty.” But I can’t believe it! “You have grasped me from below, from the lowest part of myself, where no one reaches me” (P. Mazzolari, *La Samaritana*, Bologna 2022, 55-56). And you have come to me from below and you have grasped me from below because you were thirsting and thirst for me. In fact, Jesus’ thirst is not only physical. It expresses the deepest thirsts of our lives, and above all, *a thirst for our love*. He is more than a beggar. He “is thirsty” for our love. And this will emerge at the culminating moment of his passion, on the cross, where, before dying, Jesus will say: “I thirst” (*Jn* 19:28). That thirst for love brought him to descend, to lower himself, to abase himself, to be one of us. But the Lord who asks for a drink is the One who gives to drink. Meeting the Samaritan woman, he speaks to her about the Holy Spirit’s living water. And from the cross, blood and water flow from his pierced side (cf. *Jn* 19:34). Thirsty for love, Jesus quenches our thirst with love. And he does with us what he did with the Samaritan woman – he comes to meet us in our daily life, he shares our thirst, he promises us living water that makes eternal life well up within us. *Give me a drink*. There is a second aspect. These words are not only a request from Jesus to the Samaritan woman, but a cry – silent at times – that meets us every day and asks us to slake someone else’s thirst, to take care of someone else’s thirst. How many say ‘*give me a drink*’ to us – in our family, at work, in other places we find ourselves. They thirst for closeness, for attention, for a listening ear. People say it who thirst for the Word of God and need to find an oasis in the Church where they can drink. *Give me a drink* is a cry heard in our society, where the frenetic pace, the rush to consume, and especially indifference, that culture of indifference, generate aridity and interior emptiness. And – let us not forget this – ‘*give me a drink*’ is the cry of many brothers and sisters who lack the water to live, while our common home continues to be polluted and defaced. Exhausted and parched, she too “is thirsty”. Before these challenges, today’s Gospel offers living water to every one of us who can become a refreshing spring for others. And so, like the Samaritan woman who leaves her jug at the well and went to call the people of her village (cf. v. 28), we too will no longer only think of slaking our own thirst, our material thirst, our intellectual or cultural thirst, but with the joy of having met the Lord, we will quench others’ thirst, giving meaning to someone else’s life, not as masters, but as servants of that Word of God who has thirsted for us, who continually thirsts for us. We will understand their thirst and share the love he has given to us. A question to ask myself and all of you is coming to: Are we able to understand the thirst of others, the thirst people have, the thirst so many in my family, in my neighbourhood have? Today, we can ask ourselves: Do I thirst for God? Am I aware that I need his love like water to live? And then: I who am thirsty, am I concerned about the thirst of others, their spiritual thirst, their material thirst?

May Our Lady intercede for us and sustain us on the way.

After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters,

I greet all of you, members of the faithful from Rome and pilgrims from many countries, especially those who have come from Madrid and Spalato. I greet the parish groups from Padua, Caerano San Marco, Bagolino, Formia and Sant’Ireneo in Rome. This Friday, 17 March, and Saturday, the 18th, the “24 Hours for the Lord” initiative will be repeated throughout the entire Church. This is a time dedicated to prayer, to adoration, and to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. On Friday afternoon, I will go to a parish in Rome for the Penance Celebration. A year ago, in this context, we accomplished the solemn Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, invoking the gift of peace. Our act of entrusting does not falter, our hope does waver! The Lord always listens to the prayers that his people address to him through the intercession of the Virgin Mother. Let us remain united in faith and solidarity with our brothers and sisters who suffer because of the war.

Let us especially not forget the battered people of Ukraine! I wish everyone a good Sunday. Please, do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your lunch and *arrivederci*!

POPE FRANCIS RECENT INTERVIEW ON THE FLIGHT BACK TO ROME FROM DRC *Alexander Hecht (ORF TV)*

A question to the Pope: there has been much talk in recent days about unity. There has also been a demonstration of Christian unity in South Sudan, and also of unity within the Catholic Church itself. I would like to ask you if you feel this after the death of Benedict XVI: have your job and your mission been more difficult for you, because of tensions between the different wings of the Catholic Church have become stronger?

Pope Francis

On this point, I would like to say that I was able to talk about everything with Pope Benedict. [Also] to change opinion. He was always by my side, supporting me, and if he had any issue, he would tell me and we would talk. There were no problems. Once I spoke with him about the marriage of homosexual people, about the fact that marriage is a sacrament and that we cannot make a sacrament, but that there is a possibility of ensuring legal protection of property rights, which began in France, [where] any person can form a civil union, not necessarily as a couple. For example, old ladies who are retired... because you can earn a lot. A person who considered himself to be a great theologian, went to Pope Benedict, through a friend of his, and made a complaint against me. Benedict was not concerned. He called four top-level cardinal theologians and said: “Explain this to me”, and they explained it. And so, the story ended. It is an anecdote that shows how Benedict acted when there was a complaint. Some stories going around, that Benedict was embittered by what the new Pope did, are “a game of telephone.” In fact, I consulted Benedict for some decisions to be taken. And he agreed. He agreed. I believe that Benedict's death has been exploited by people who want to add grist to their mill. And those who exploit such a good person, such a man of God, I would say a holy father of the Church, well I would say they are unethical people, they are people belonging to a party, not to the Church... You can see everywhere the tendency to make theological views parties. These things will fall on their own, or if they don't they will go on as has happened many times in the history of the Church. I wanted to say clearly who Pope Benedict was: he was not embittered.