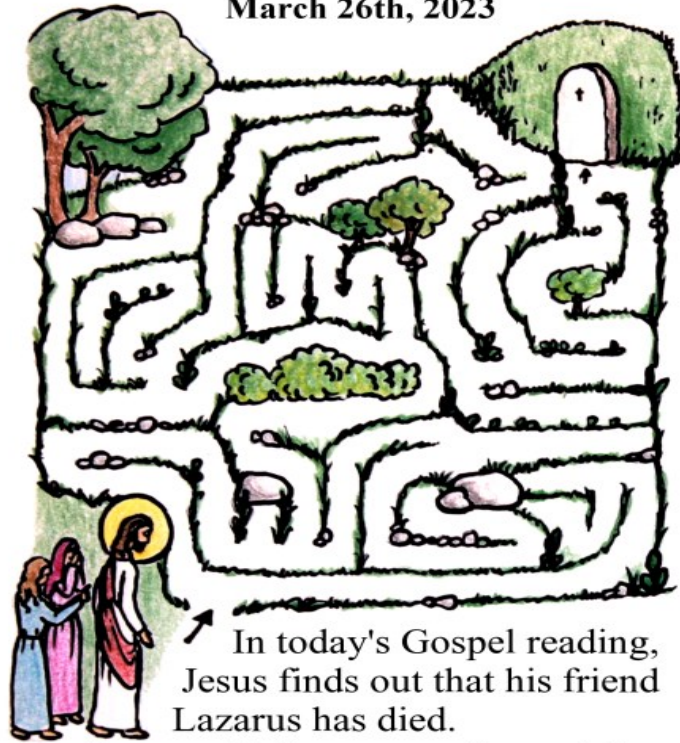


# The Kids' Bulletin

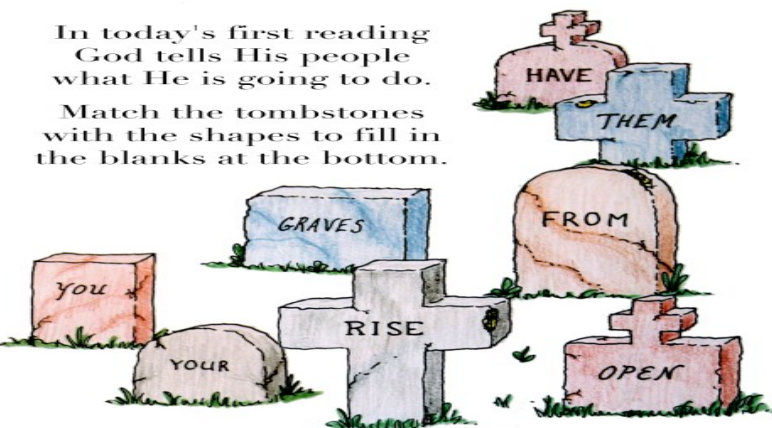
Fifth Sunday of Lent  
March 26th, 2023



In today's Gospel reading, Jesus finds out that his friend Lazarus has died. Can you find your way through the maze to the tomb where Jesus will raise him from the dead?

## An Ezekiel Puzzle

In today's first reading God tells His people what He is going to do. Match the tombstones with the shapes to fill in the blanks at the bottom.



I will \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_

A	M	A	R	T	A	H	R	A	M
S	I	T	E	E	F	A	L	B	A
R	S	E	Y	A	H	A	E	L	B
E	Y	U	A	T	Z	T	N	M	Y
T	R	O	R	A	H	E	O	S	T
S	A	A	P	A	R	T	T	R	E
I	M	A	N	Y	Z	U	S	U	B
S	U	Y	R	A	E	A	D	U	J
R	A	Z	A	L	A	Z	L	O	T
T	N	E	M	T	N	I	O	E	R

LAZARUS  
BETHANY  
SISTERS  
MARTHA  
MARY  
OINTMENT  
FEET  
BROTHER  
JUDAEA  
TOMB  
STONE  
PRAYER



Jesus is the way...  
the ONLY way!



## Picture Differences

Below are two drawings. There are ten differences in these drawings. How many can you find? Circle the differences in each drawing then check the answers on the back.



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

7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills. NSW. 2147

Ph. 9622 2920

Email: secretary@olol7hills.com.au

Parish Priest:

Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran

Parish Office Team:

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:

LOL 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/LOL7Hills/>

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 26 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, Sarujini Chary, 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, Anton, Philomena & Clarence Corera, Bonosa Enfesta, John & William Formosa, Ranjan Fernando, Charlie Gauci, Maria Garufo, Desmond Grogan, Estelle Hardwick, Debbie Mifsud, Paiboon Pundmand, Jude Ranasinghe, Maria Reyes, Lucia Yap Ong

**Anniversaries:** Fredy Alphonse, Michelle Azzopardi, Carmen Attard, Frank & Fortunata Baiada, Romeo Biniah, Sam Borg, 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 Formosa, 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, Lim Cho, Dennis Clarke, Conception, Emerenciana Dizon, Anacleto Dizon, 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, Josefina Lim, Adrian Pereira, Rosaline Ratnam, Rodrigues Family, Jose Sanchez, Sem Serna, Debe Toufic, Jim Vella, Hector & Rita Welgampola, Tony Vassallo

### Our Lady of Lourdes

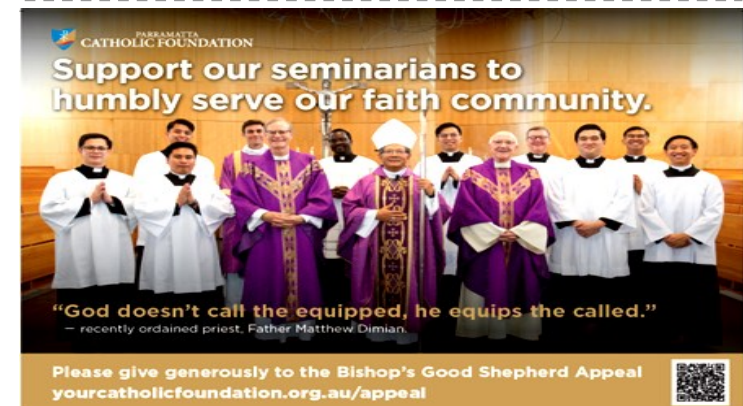
Ever Immaculate Virgin, Mother of mercy, health of the sick, refuge of sinners, comfort of the afflicted, you know my needs, my troubles, my sufferings; cast on me a look of pity. By appearing in the grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, from which you dispense your favours, 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. 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



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/LOL7Hills/>



## FIRST READING

*A reading from the first book of Ezekiel 37:12-14*

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,  
Lord, hear my voice!  
O let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my pleading. **(R.)**
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,  
Lord, who would survive?  
But with you is found forgiveness:  
for this we revere you. **(R.)**
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord,  
I count on his word.  
My soul is longing for the Lord  
more than watchman for daybreak.  
(Let the watchman count on daybreak  
and Israel on the Lord.) **(R.)**
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption,  
Israel indeed he will redeem  
from all its iniquity. **(R.)**

## SECOND READING

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Romans 8:8-11*

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;  
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

## GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 11: 3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45 (Short version refer to slide for long)*

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, ‘Lord, the man you love is ill.’ On receiving the message, Jesus said, ‘This sickness will end not in death but in God’s glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.’ Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, ‘Let us go to Judaea.’ On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, ‘If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.’ ‘Your brother’ said Jesus to her ‘will rise again.’ Martha said, ‘I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said: ‘I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ ‘Yes, Lord,’ she said ‘I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.’ Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, ‘Where have you put him?’ They said, ‘See how much he loved him!’ But there were some who remarked, ‘He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man’s death?’ Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, ‘Take the stone away.’ Martha said to him, ‘Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.’ Jesus replied, ‘Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: ‘Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.’ When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, here! Come out!’ The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, let him go free.’ Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

**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 13<sup>th</sup> 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, 14<sup>th</sup> of April, 2023 6:45-9:30pm in the Parish Hall. If you would like more information please 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

### 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>

### 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’ 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

### OLOL PARISH CALENDAR MARCH 2023

26	New Altar Servers Installation Mass	9.30am
27	St Vincent De Paul Meeting	7.00pm
29	First Reconciliation (Group 2)	7.00pm
30	Finance Committee Meeting	8.00pm

### HOLY WEEK ROSTERS

Palm Sunday and Holy Week Rosters are now available on the notice board of the back sacristy. Can all ministers please check these. Altar servers if would like to volunteer to serve please put your name down for your chosen mass.

## OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

### 25/26 March 2023

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Frank Paiva 9.30am Sandy Manamperi
Ministers	Vigil: H.Gonzales, M.Mifsud 8am: F.Balatbat, E.Gartner 9.30am: C.Brooks, A.Walker
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, A. Punch 8am: N. Arambulo, K.Walker 9.30am M.Aquino, F.Kennedy
Altar Servers	Vigil: VOLUNTEERS 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am Sofia Culili, F. Wanandy
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ
Flowers	Annette & Mary B
Church cleaning	30 March Beth Paiva Lourdes Spiteri
Welcomers	Vigil: Chrisha Gonzales 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: Kathy Chamberlain

### 1/2 April 2023 PALM SUNDAY

Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Tongan Choir
Flowers	Fenty, Gaby, Flo & Liz
Church cleaning	8 April Tongan Community
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Urge 8am: Rita Paolini 9.30am: Lena Falzon

1 <sup>st</sup> April 6:00 PM ACOLYTE Kilifi Huihui READER Marinela Simic Kamela Huihui	2 <sup>nd</sup> April 8:00 AM ACOLYTE Eugene Miu READER Benno Motha Anne McNally	2 <sup>nd</sup> April 9:30 AM ACOLYTE Ryan Epondulan READER Mercy Aquino Adrian Walker
Gospel Luke 22:14-23:56 Fr Henry	Gospel Luke 22:14-23:56 Fr Henry	Gospel Luke 22:14-23:56 Fr Henry
Narrator Catherine Rodridges	Narrator Pepito Ferriols	Narrator Christina Diaz
Others/Crowd Laura Bellissimo	Others/Crowd Kathy Walker	Others/Crowd Anne McNally
<u>EUCCHARIST MINISTER</u> Chrisha Gonzales Helen Gonzales	<u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER</u> Fennie Balabat	<u>EUCCHARIST MINISTER</u> Carole Brooks Sarah Lenthall
Altar Servers Alexa Bagatella	Altar Servers Sean Park Philip Park Christina La Guardia Alex La Guardia Vacant: Vacant:	Altar Servers Sebastian Costello Saoirse Costello Lenoardo Costello Chloe Attard Leo Culili Majerin Pieris



POPE FRANCIS AT AUDIENCE:

Catechesis. The passion for evangelization: the apostolic zeal of the believer 7. The Second Vatican Council.

2. Being apostles in an apostolic Church

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Let us continue the catechesis on the passion of evangelizing: not only on “evangelizing”, but on the *passion* for evangelizing and, in accordance with Vatican Council II, let us try to understand better what it means to be “apostles” today. The word “apostle” reminds us of the group of the Twelve disciples chosen by Jesus. At times we refer to some saint, or more generally the bishops, as “apostles”: they are apostles, because they go in the name of Jesus. But are we aware that being apostles concerns every Christian? Are we aware that it concerns each one of us? Indeed, we are called *to be apostles* — that is, envoys — *in a Church* that, in the Creed, we profess as *apostolic*. So, what does it mean to be apostles? It means being *sent for a mission*. The event in which the Risen Christ sends his apostles into the world, passing on to them the power he himself received from the Father and giving them his Spirit, is exemplary and foundational. We read in the Gospel of John: “Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you’. And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’” (20:21-22). Another fundamental aspect of being an apostle is the *vocation*, that is, the calling. It has been thus ever since the beginning, when the Lord Jesus “called to him those whom he desired; and they came to him” (Mk 3:13). He constituted them as a group, attributing to them the title of “apostle”, so they would be with him and to send them on mission (cf. Mk 3:14; Mt 10:1-42). Saint Paul, in his letters, presents himself as “Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle”, that is, an envoy (1 Cor 1:1), and again, “Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle” (Rm 1:1). And he insists on the fact that he is “an apostle not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead” (Gal 1:1); God called him from his mother’s womb to proclaim the gospel among the nations (cf. Gal 1:15-16). The experience of the Twelve apostles and the testimony of Paul also challenges us today. They invite us to verify our attitudes, to verify our choices, our decisions, on the basis of these fixed points: everything depends on a gratuitous call from God; God also chooses us for services that at times seem to exceed our capacities or do not correspond with our expectations; the call received as a gratuitous gift must be answered gratuitously. The Council says: “the Christian vocation by its very nature is also a vocation to the apostolate” (Decree *Apostolicam actuositatem* [AA], 2). It is a calling that is common, just as “a common dignity [is shared] as members from their regeneration in Christ, having the same filial grace and the same vocation to perfection; possessing in common one salvation, one hope and one undivided charity” (*Lumen gentium*, 32). It is a call that concerns both those who have received the sacrament of Orders, consecrated persons, and all lay faithful, man or woman: it is a call to all. You, the treasure you have received with your Christian vocation, are obliged to give it: it is the dynamic nature of the vocation, the dynamic nature of life. It is a call that empowers them to actively and creatively perform their apostolic task, within a Church in which “there is a diversity of ministry but a oneness of mission. Christ conferred on the Apostles and their successors the duty of teaching, sanctifying, and ruling in His name and power. The laity likewise — all of you, the majority of you are laypeople — share in the priestly, prophetic, and royal office of Christ and therefore have their own share in the mission of the whole people of God in the Church and in the world” (AA, 2). In this framework, what does the Council mean by the collaboration of the laity with the hierarchy? How does it envisage this? Is it a mere strategic adaptation to new situations that arise? Not at all, not at all: there is something more, that exceeds the contingencies of the moment and which maintains its own value for us too. The Church is like this. She is apostolic. Within the framework of the unity of the mission, the diversity of charisms and ministries must not give rise, within the ecclesial body, to privileged categories: here there is no promotion, and when you conceive of Christian life as a promotion, that the one who is above commands all the others because he has succeeded in climbing, this is not Christianity. This is pure paganism. The Christian vocation is not a promotion, so as to rise, no! It is something else. It is a great thing because, although “by the will of Christ some are” in an important position, perhaps doctors and “pastors and dispensers of mysteries on behalf of others, yet all share a true equality with regard to the dignity and to the activity common to all the faithful for the building up of the Body of Christ”. (LG, 32). Who has more dignity in the Church: the bishop, the priest? No, we are all Christians in the service of others. Who is more important in the Church: the religious sister or the common person, the baptized, the child, the bishop...? They are all equal, we are equal and, when one of the parties thinks they are more important than the others, somewhat turning up their nose, they are making a mistake. That is not the vocation of Jesus. The vocation that Jesus gives, to everyone, but also to those who seem to be in the highest places, is service, serving others, humbling oneself. If you find a person in the Church who has a higher vocation and you see them as vain, you will say, “Poor soul”; pray for him, because he has not understood what God’s vocation is. God’s vocation is adoration of the Father, love for the community, and service. This is what being apostles is, this is the witness of apostles. The matter of equality in dignity asks us to rethink many aspects of our relations, which are decisive for evangelization. For example, are we aware of the fact that with our words we can undermine the dignity of people, thus ruining relationships within the Church? While we try to engage in dialogue with the world, do we also know how to dialogue among ourselves as believers? Or in the parish, one person goes against another, one speaks badly of another in order to climb up further? Do we know how to listen to understand another person’s reasons, or do we impose ourselves, perhaps even with appeasing words? To listen, to be humble, to be at the service of others: this is *serving*, this is being Christian, this is being an apostle. Dear brothers and sisters, let us not be afraid to ask these questions. Let us shun vanity, the vanity of positions. These words can help us to confirm how we live our baptismal vocation, how we live our way of being apostles in an apostolic Church that is at the service of others. Thank you.

Summary of the Holy Father's words

Dear brothers and sisters: In our continuing catechesis on missionary zeal, we now consider the apostolic dimension of evangelization. In the Creed, we profess that the Church is “apostolic”. An “apostle” is literally one who is “sent”. In the Scriptures, we read that Jesus chose the twelve Apostles, called them to himself and then sent them forth to proclaim the Gospel. After his resurrection, he appeared to the Twelve and said: “As the Father has sent me, so now I send you”, breathing upon them the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins (Jn 20:21-22). Within the diversity of ministries and charisms in the Body of Christ, all the baptized are called and sent forth to advance the Church’s apostolate. Those who are ordained have received the mission of teaching, governing and sanctifying in Jesus’ name and authority, yet all the members of the faithful, as sharers in the Lord’s priestly, prophetic and regal office, are called to be missionary disciples, “apostles in an apostolic Church”. May the recognition of our common dignity and equality inspire us to ever greater unity and cooperation in proclaiming, by word and example, the good news of our salvation in Christ.



FROM FR. HENRY DUC

Dear Friends,

Throughout his life, Jesus had no fear of showing his emotion when he saw people in pain or suffering, but only twice in his entire life, writers of the Gospels tell us that he actually shed tears: one when he foretold the future destruction of Jerusalem, which probably occurred 50 years later by the hands of the Romans (cf. Lk 19:41), and the other when he returned to Bethany confronted by all the weeping and mourning taking place at the house of his dead friend Lazarus; Jesus simply didn’t feel distressed, he literally wept for the man’s passing, and decided to bring him back to life. This was one of the greatest miracles, or ‘signs’ according to John, second only to the greatest one which was Jesus’ Resurrection from death, which we are going to commemorate in two weeks time. It’s worth to note what really happened leading to Lazarus’ death. John tells us at the start of the account that he, Jesus’ close friend was ill. The word ‘ill’ sounds rather ordinary in English, but extremely significant in this case, since it was translated from the Greek word ‘asthenes’, meaning ‘without strength’, ‘feeble’, or ‘insignificant.’ This extraordinary detail perhaps allows us to presume that Lazarus might have had a stroke causing his loss of strength and making him weaker and weaker, and finally he passed away. By the time Jesus decided to make the trip to see Lazarus, he made this very important point to sum up the significance of the trip that Lazarus was dead and he was going to the man’s place to strengthen the faith of the disciples. Then when he met Martha, he revealed a little bit more about what he was going to do and its theological implication, that ‘I am the resurrection and the life... and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.’ His words obviously were beyond the reach of both the disciples and Martha. Since they were highly theological, and the spectacular sign, meaning the resurrection of Lazarus they were about to witness was the occasion to verify Jesus as the source of life both here on earth and eternity. The most significant moment of this Gospel account, of course, was the moment when Jesus began to pray asking the Father to answer his prayer aimed to bring faith to those present then, and command Lazarus, who has long gone to get up and come out of his tomb. Prior to that, he invited people to move the stone away from the tomb despite the protest from Martha for fear of the bad odor from the corpse which was buried there for four days. He, however, was determined for that too be taken away and the rest was history as we know. Some see the stone in this story carries with it a rather symbolic meaning, for it reminds us readers of the story today of our vices and sins blocking our relationship with Jesus, and such a stone has to be removed to give us access to the source of life and grace. Let us give praise and thanks to Jesus for the gift of faith that each of us has received to connect us with the source of resurrection and eternal life that we have experienced right here and now through our reception of the Holy Communion, we also ask for Jesus’ grace to help remove the stone of vices and sins away from us, so that we always remain closely connected to him. Have a resurrection-oriented week.

Fr. Henry

PARISH NEWS...

THE CHURCH TRADITION TO VEIL IMAGES DURING LENT

The practice of veiling images, an old-aged tradition in the Church, alerts us that something is different, it can be startling at first, but the last two weeks of Lent are a time of immediate preparation for the celebration of the Sacred Triduum. The veils are hard to miss and they serve as a reminder to get ready! The veiled images build within us a longing for Easter Sunday. The veils seem out of place, and even counterintuitive. It can seem strange that the crucifix is covered up during Passiontide. Through this absence of images, our senses are heightened and we become more aware of what is missing. Similarly, the suppression of the Alleluia during Lent effectively demonstrates that we are in exile from our true Home, where the angels sing Alleluia without ceasing. When images are unveiled before the Easter Vigil, we are reminded that we, in a sense, live in a veiled world. It is through our own death that we are able to see our true home, and the veil is lifted. Christ lifts the veil through His Resurrection. *Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.* John 11:25-26

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](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal)



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

Lourdes: Luminare (Young Adults Group) Update:

Catholic Youth Parramatta: Good Friday Night Walk -

Stations of the Cross on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> of April, 2023 11:30pm. Over 1000 young people will walk from St Patrick’s Church, Blacktown to St Patrick’s Cathedral, Parramatta stopping by our OLOL7Hills at 11:30pm on Good Friday. All are welcome to join us as we reflect on the Passion of Christ. For more info, please contact Ryan Epondulan - [ryan.epondulan@gmail.com](mailto:ryan.epondulan@gmail.com)

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during LENT at 7.30pm



NEW ALTAR SERVERS INSTALLATION

Congratulations to our new Altar Servers who will be installed at the 9.30am Mass this week. I would like to thank these children for their generosity to offer their service. Please keep them in your prayers.

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.

Holy Week 2023



APRIL		
1 & 2	Palm Sunday Masses	6.00pm (Sat) 8.00am 9.30am
4	Parish Reconciliation 2 <sup>nd</sup> Rite	7.30pm
6	Confession Practice for Altar Servers Holy Thursday Mass (The Lord’s Supper)	8.30-9.30am 3:00pm 7.30pm
7	Good Friday Stations Practice for Altar Servers Celebration of the Lord’s Passion	10.00am 11.30am 3.00pm
8	Confession Practice for Altar Servers Holy Saturday Mass (Easter Vigil)	9.30-10.30am 2.00pm 6.00pm
9	Easter Sunday Masses	8.00am 9.30am



## 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.

## CYP Good Friday Night Walk: 7 April

Young people are invited to join Catholic Youth Parramatta and Bishop Vincent for the annual 21km Good Friday Night Walk from Blacktown to the Cathedral. For more information and to register visit <https://parracatholic.org/goodfridaywalk/>

**Social Justice:** NSW Election Sydney Alliance event and others with write ups in Catholic Outlook  
**Faith in action: concrete wins for the common good** <https://catholicoutlook.org/faith-in-action-concrete-wins-for-the-common-good/>

**Diocese of Parramatta first Catholic organisation to achieve external safeguarding accreditation** <https://catholicoutlook.org/diocese-of-parramatta-first-catholic-organisation-to-achieve-external-safeguarding-accreditation/>

**Voice to Parliament – an Important Stepping Stone** <https://catholicoutlook.org/voice-to-parliament-an-important-stepping-stone/>

## Upcoming Events Social Justice Events:

**Book Presentation: Fr Frank Brennan** “An Indigenous Voice to Parliament”. Fr Frank Brennan SJ will give a public presentation of his new book “An Indigenous Voice to Parliament”. The book outlines both the “Yes” case and the “No” case. **Sunday 2 April, 1.30pm**, The Crypt of St Patrick’s Church in The Rocks (Enter from Grosvenor Street). All welcome. Admission Free. Copies of the book available  
**Memorial event to remember the Appin Massacre of 1816.** Winga Myamly Reconciliation Group organises the annual Memorial event to remember the Appin Massacre of 1816. This event is an opportunity for Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal people come together, to physically walk together. Through this journey we have learnt that reconciliation occurs through listening... and learning from the stories of the people... remembering stories never told in history books... stories of people whose spirit survives. **Sunday 16 April, 11am:** Community get together, 1pm -3:30pm: Memorial ceremony. [wingamyamly.com](http://wingamyamly.com) Participants are advised to bring appropriate footwear, hats, sunscreen and bottled water. Fold up chairs are also recommended as seating is limited. Food variety is limited so those with special dietary requirements are advised to bring something of their own. There is accessible parking and a short walk to the memorial site. There will be a bus service for those unable to walk the short distance to the site.

**Further background:** <https://australian.museum/learn/first-nations/unsettled/fighting-wars/appin-massacre>

## MET FaithLIFE Scripture Course: Starting 2 May

Want to learn more about different ways to pray? Sign up for the FaithLIFE 3-night short course on “Prayer” with Br Barry Donaghue, brought to you by the Mission Enhancement Team (MET). 6:30PM to 8:30PM on three Tuesdays: 2 + 9 + 16 May. Downstairs at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown. RSVP via <https://pfparra.org.au/faithlife/>

## Liturgical Music Workshop: 4 May

Musicians, Clergy & Liturgy Planners are invited to attend a Music Workshop Presented by Eric Grella on Singing the Psalms & Chant on Thursday 4 May from 7pm - 8:30pm at 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown. RSVP by 1 May to [hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org](mailto:hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org)

## 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](http://www.palms.org.au)



**Positions Vacant: Policy Coordinator** -The Diocese of Parramatta is recruiting for a part-time Policy Coordinator to work within the Chancery. If you have experience in policy writing and tertiary qualifications in Law, HR or compliance, we encourage you to apply. For a confidential chat, call Marie Iemma on 0499 874 420 or email your CV and cover letter to [parracatholicjobs@parracatholic.org](mailto:parracatholicjobs@parracatholic.org)

**Caritas AUSTRALIA**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
**25 & 26 March**

**PROJECT COMPASSION**  
FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

Project Compassion brings together Australian schools, parishes and supporters to raise funds for people in vulnerable communities across the world. This year, we introduced you to the story of four inspiring people whose lives have been transformed with your generous support: Laxmi, Tereesa, Priscilla and Thu. Today, they are creating a better world for their families, their communities and for all future generations.

**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 and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or by calling 1800 024 413.

**OLMC PARRAMATTA MUSICAL – THE LITTLE MERMAID**

You are warmly invited to their College Musical, The Little Mermaid to be held over 3 nights in May. Come along before the show & enjoy dinner from a variety of food trucks available from 5.30pm!

**Performance Dates:** Thursday 18 May, Friday 19 May & Saturday 20 May  
**Time:** 7.00pm (food stalls from 5.30pm)  
**Venue:** Edith Angel Hall (enter via Gate 7 Ross Street) **Parking:** Free parking at Parramatta Leagues Club  
**Tickets** - \$25 each.  
 To purchase, visit [olmc.nsw.edu.au](http://olmc.nsw.edu.au)

## POPE FRANCIS AT ANGELUS



## POPE FRANCIS AT ANGELUS

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

Today, the Gospel depicts Jesus giving sight to a man blind from birth (cf. *Jn* 9:1-41). But this wonder is badly welcomed by various people or groups. Let us look at the details. But I would like to say: today, take the Gospel of John and read about this miracle of Jesus. The way John recounts it in chapter 9 is really beautiful. It only takes two minutes to read it. It makes us see how Jesus proceeds and how the human heart proceeds: the good human heart, the tepid human heart, the fearful human heart, the courageous human heart. Chapter 9 of the Gospel of John. Read it today. It will help you a lot. And what are the ways that these people welcome it? First of all, there are Jesus’ disciples who, faced with the man born blind, engage in small talk and ask whether his parents or he was to blame (cf. v. 2). They look for a culprit. And we fall into this many times which is so convenient – to look for a culprit rather than asking challenging questions in life. And today, we can say: What does the presence of this man mean for us, in my life? What is this person asking of us? Then, once the healing takes place, the reactions intensify. The first are from his neighbours who are sceptical: “This man was always blind. It is not possible that he now sees – it can’t be him! It’s someone else” – scepticism (cf. vv. 8-9). This is unacceptable to them. Better to leave everything like it was before so we do not need to face this problem (cf. v. 16). They are afraid, they fear the religious authorities and do not pronounce themselves (cf. vv. 18-21). In all these reactions, for various reasons, there emerge hearts closed in front of the sign of Jesus: because they seek a culprit, because they do not know how to be surprised, because they do not want to change, because they are blocked by fear. Today there are many similar situations. Faced with something that is truly a testimony of a person, a message about Jesus, we fall into this – we look for another explanation, we do not want to change, we look for a more elegant way out rather than accepting the truth. The only person who reacts well is the blind man. Happy to see, he testifies to what happened to him in the simplest way: “I was blind, now I see” (v. 25). He tells the truth. Before, he had been forced to ask for alms to live on, and suffered from the prejudice of the people: “He is poor and blind from birth. He has to suffer. He has to pay for his sins or those of his forebears”. Now free in body and spirit, he bears witness to Jesus – he neither invents nor hides anything. “I was blind and now I see”. He is not afraid of what the others will say. He had already known the bitter taste of marginalization his whole life. He had already personally experienced the indifference, the contempt of the passers-by, of those who considered him to be an outcast in society, useful at best for the pious practice of giving some alms. Now healed, he no longer fears those contemptuous attitudes because Jesus has given him his full dignity. And this is clear, it always happens when Jesus heals us. He gives us back our dignity, the dignity of the healing of Jesus, complete, a dignity that comes forth from the depths of the heart, that takes hold of one’s entire life. And, on the sabbath in front of everyone, Jesus liberated him and gave him sight without asking him for anything, not even a thank you, and he bears witness to this. This is the dignity of a noble person, of a person who knows he is healed and begins again, is reborn. That rebirth in life that they spoke about today on “A Sua Immagine”: to be reborn. Brothers, sisters, through all these characters, today’s Gospel puts us too in the midst of the scene, so we might ask ourselves: What position do we take? What would we have said then? And above all, what will we do today? Like the blind man, do we know how to see the good and to be grateful for the gifts we receive? I ask myself: How is my dignity? How is your dignity? Do we bear witness to Jesus, or do we spread criticism and suspicion instead? Are we free when faced with prejudices or do we associate ourselves with those who spread negativity and small talk? Are we happy to say that Jesus loves us, that he saves us, or, like the parents of the man born blind, do we allow ourselves to be caged in by the fear of what others will think? Trepid hearts who do not accept the truth and do not have the courage to say, “No, it’s like this”. And further, how do we welcome the difficulties and indifference of others. How do we welcome people who have so many limitations in life? Whether they be physical, like this blind man; or social, like the beggars we find on the street? Do we welcome them like an inconvenience or as an occasion to draw near to them with love? Brothers and sisters, today, let us ask the grace to be surprised every day by God’s gifts and to see the various circumstances of life, even the most difficult ones to accept, as occasions to do good, as Jesus did with the blind man. May Our Lady help us in this, together with Saint Joseph, the just and faithful man.

## After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters!

Yesterday in Ecuador, an earthquake caused deaths, injuries and considerable damage. I am near to the Ecuadorian people and I assure you of my prayers for the deceased and for all who are suffering. I greet all of you, people from Rome and pilgrims from many countries – I see flags: Colombian, Argentinian, Polish...many, many countries.... I greet those from Spain who have come from Murcia, Alicante and Albacete. I greet the parishes of Saint Raymond Nonnato and the Canadian Martyrs in Rome, and that of Christ the King in Civitanova Marche; the Association of Salesian Cooperators; the boys and girls from Arcore, the confirmation candidates from Empoli and those from the parish of Our Lady of the Rosary in Rome. I greet the young people of the Immaculate, they are great! It’s a pleasure to greet the participants in the Rome Marathon! I congratulate you because, spurred on by “Vatican Athletics” you are making this important sporting event an occasion for solidarity in favour of the poorest. And today, we extend best wishes to all fathers! May they find in Saint Joseph a model, support and consolation to live their fatherhood well. And all together, for fathers, let us pray to the Father [Our Father...]. Brothers and sisters, let us not forget to pray for the battered Ukrainian people, who continue to suffer due to war crimes. I wish all of you a good Sunday. Please do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your lunch and *arrivederci*.



## ‘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](http://www.thewell.org.au)