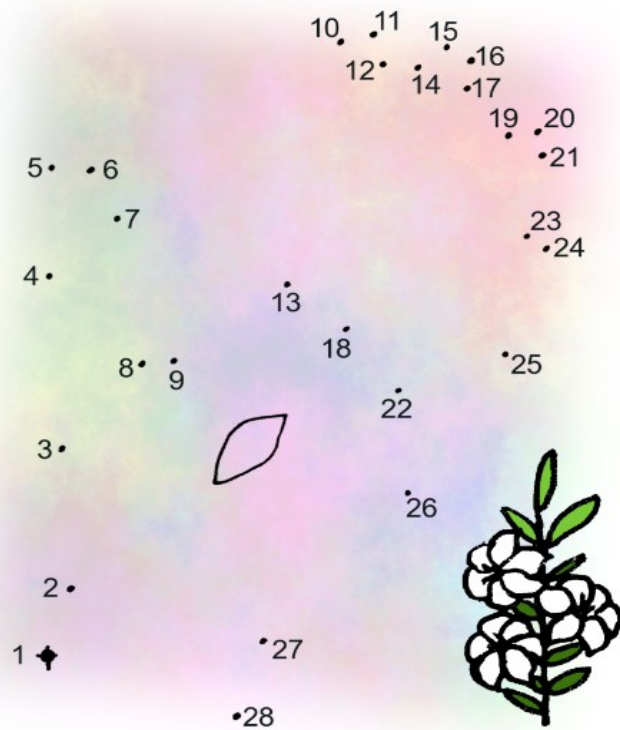
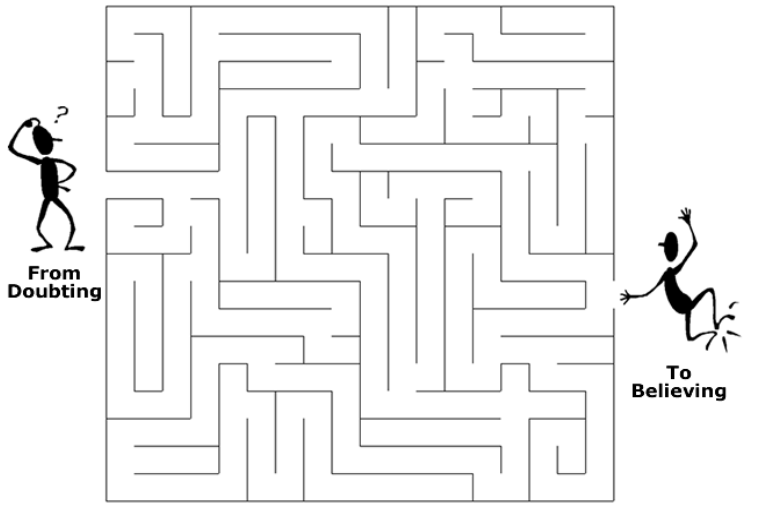
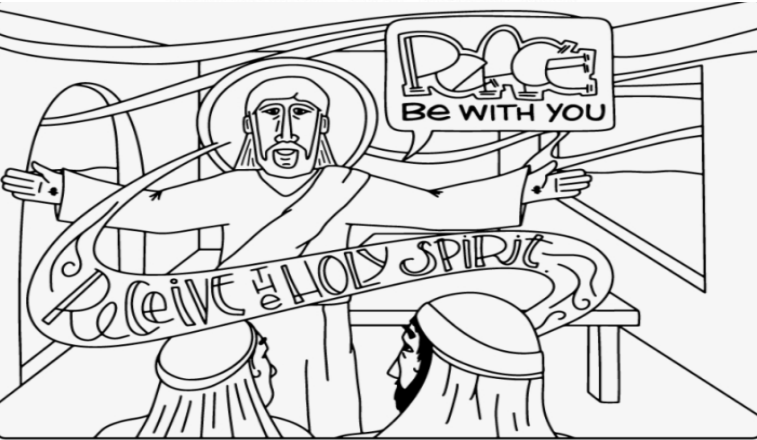


The Kids' Bulletin

Second Sunday of Easter
April 16th, 2023



Saint Thomas wasn't there the first time Jesus came to the Apostles after He rose from the dead. What did Thomas say he would have to see before he believed that Jesus was alive? Connect the dots to find out!



Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."
John 20:27 (NIV)

Believe It or Not!

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." John 20:25



Instructions: The letters of the words below are jumbled. Figure out what the word is and write it on the blank line provided. Clues are provided in case you need help.

- INAL _____
- ITFAH _____
- OEDSCL _____
- DHNAS _____
- ODRO _____
- HPYAP _____
- SHAMTO _____
- NSI _____
- UTDBO _____
- CAPEE _____

CLUES

- A thin piece of metal with one pointed end and one flat end which you hit with a hammer.
- To believe in something for which there is no proof.
- Not open.
- The body parts at the end of the arms.
- An entrance into a building or room.
- To be in a state of pleasure, satisfaction, joy or delight.
- The disciple who would not believe without seeing.
- To break God's law.
- To be undecided or unbelieving that something is true.
- Free from conflict; getting along with others; the opposite of war.

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

doors	locked	fear
Jesus	peace	disciples
rejoiced	Father	Receive
Holy	Spirit	retained
Thomas	Twin	nails
mark	finger	Messiah



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 School:	LOL 8869 6800
Parish Office Team:	Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang Jane Nguyen	Principal:	Ms Keiran Byrnes
Sacrament Co-Ordinator:	Mrs Artelle Lenthall	Reconciliation:	Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
Office Hours: Monday-Friday:	9am - 3.00pm	Baptismal Preparation:	19th April 2023
WEEKDAY MASS:	Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am Thursday 9.00am	Baptism:	23rd April 2023
WEEKEND MASS:	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9.30am	Parish Website:	www.olol7hills.com.au
		Pastoral Care of the Sick:	Sandy Manamperi 0480 266 339
		Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/LOL7Hills/

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER 16 April 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, Aurora Dumlao, Bonosa Enfesta, Julian Epondulan, Vernie Flores, John & William Formosa, Ranjan Fernando, Charlie Gauci, Bernard Gauci, Maria Garufo, Emmanuel Grech, Desmond Grogan, Estelle Hardwick, Inocencia Datuin, Rita Leon, Debbie Mifsud, Jessica Neodama, Paiboon Pundmand, Jude Ranasinghe, Maria Reyes, Lucia Yap Ong, Caroline Uy

Anniversaries: Fredy Alphonse, Michelle Azzopardi, Carmen Attard, Frank & Fortunata Baiada, Elvina Bamaba, Romeo Binihan, Sam Borg, Rosario & Aloysian Corera, Saviour Caruana, Audrey & Herman Chelliah, Charlie Chircop, James Daly, Antonia, Melvyn Fernandes, Josephine Francis, E. Franklin, Sheela Franklin, Emilia Galea, Sam & Mary Gardia, Jean Garrick, Elsie & Karl Garrick, Zoltan Gartner, Tarcisio 'Archie' Gatt, Christine Gomez, Charlie Gravina, Leonie Jordan, Chinedu Joseph & Family, Sammy Formosa, Harold Lafleur, Rosine Lafleur, Maria, Apolinario Maglaya, James McNally, Thomas Snr Morrissey, Anton Motha, 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,


Remembrance: France Angseeing, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Sam Borg, Lina Cabaero, Lim Cho, Dennis Clarke, Myrna Cruz, 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, Selvam Irudayaraj, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, 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, John & Rosaline Ratnam, Jose Reyes, Laureano Reyes, Yolanda Reyes, Karen Reyes, Rodrigues Family, Jose Sanchez, Sem Serna, Debe Toufic, Tony Vassallo, Jim Vella, Hector & Rita Welgampola,



KEEP UP TO DATE

By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more - a great way to stay up to date with what's on in our parish Visit www.olol7hills.org.au

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.

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





COVID- 19 UPDATE

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

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 Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47*

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone. The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed. They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved. The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; His love is everlasting.

1. Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say:
'His love has no end.' (R.)

2. I was thrust, thrust down and falling
but the Lord was my helper.
The Lord is my strength and my song;
he was my saviour.
There are shouts of joy and victory
in the tents of the just. (R.)

3. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad. (R.)

SECOND READING *A reading from the first letter of St Peter 1:3-9*

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls. The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!
You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;
happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the first holy gospel according to John 20:19-31*

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I can see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name. 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 11th May 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, 12th of May, 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 Catholic 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>

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.

OLOL PARISH CALENDAR		
APRIL 2023		
19	Baptism Preparation Meeting	7.30pm
21	Fr Henry's Anniversary Morning Tea	9.00am
23	Confirmation Enrolment Program	9.30am
24	School Term 2 Starts	
25	Anzac Day	
27	Finance Committee Meeting	8.00pm
MAY 2023		
4	Healing Mass	8.00am
8	St Vincent De Paul Meeting	7.00pm
10	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	7.30pm

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

15/16 April 2023		
Acolytes	Vigil: Derek Soares 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am Fayelene Kennedy	
Ministers	Vigil: M.Mifsud, R.Soarese 8am: F.Balatbat, S.Nemorin 9.30am: B.Chandler, S.Lenthall	
Readers	Vigil: Alison Punch, C.Rodriges 8am: K.Walker, Pepito Ferriols 9.30am Mercy Aquina, S.Manamperi	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Samuel Thoms 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am Sofia Culili	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church cleaning	20 April	Cathy Hutchings Annette Peatman
Welcomers	Vigil: VOLUNTEER 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: Kathy Chamberlain	

22/23 April 2023		
Acolytes	Vigil: John Jordan 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am Ramzee Michael	
Ministers	Vigil: L.La Guidara, F.Paiva 8am: L.Fernandes, A.McNally 9.30am: M.Aquino, M.Michael	
Readers	Vigil: L.Bellissimo, B.Motha 8am: A.Joseph, M.Santos 9.30am R.Epondulan, I.Epondulan	
Altar Servers	Vigil: A.Bagatella, A.La Guidara, C.La Guidara 8am: Sean Park, Philip Park 9.30am C.Attard, L.Culili, M.Pieris	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Flowers	Annette & Mary B	
Church cleaning	26 April	Jessie Borg Anne McNally
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Ugere 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: VOLUNTEER	

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

Today the Gospel lets us relive the women's encounter with the Risen Jesus on Easter morning. It thus reminds us that it was them, the women disciples, who were the first to see him and encounter him. We might ask ourselves: why them? For a very simple reason: because they were the first to go to the tomb. Like all the disciples, they too were suffering because of the way the story of Jesus seemed to have ended; but, unlike the others, they do not stay at home paralyzed by sadness and fear: in the early morning, at sunrise, they go to honour the body of Jesus, bringing aromatic ointments. The tomb had been sealed and they wonder who could have removed that stone, so heavy (cf. *Mk 16:1-3*). But their wish to carry out this gesture of love prevails over all else. They are not discouraged, they overcome their fears and their anguish. This is the way to find the Risen One: to come out from our fears, to come out from our anguish. Let us run through the scene described in the Gospel: the women arrive, they see the empty tomb and, "with fear and great joy", they run, the text says, "to tell his disciples" (*Mt 28:8*). Now, just as they are going to give this news, Jesus comes towards them. Let us take good note of this: Jesus meets them while they are going to announce him. This is beautiful: Jesus meets them while they are going to announce him. When we proclaim the Lord, the Lord comes to us. At times we think that the way to be close to God is that of keeping him close to us; because then, if we reveal ourselves and start to talk about it, then judgements, criticisms come, perhaps we do not know how to respond to certain questions or provocations, and so it is better not to talk about it, and to close up: no. Instead, the Lord comes while we proclaim him. You always find the Lord on the path of proclamation. Proclaim the Lord and you will encounter him. Seek the Lord and you will encounter him. Always on the path, this is what the women teach us: we encounter Jesus by witnessing him. We encounter Jesus by witnessing him. Let us give an example. At times we will have received wonderful news, such as, for example, the birth of a child. So, one of the first things we do is to share this happy news with friends: "You know, I have had a baby. He is beautiful". And, by telling it, we also repeat it to ourselves and somehow make it come alive again for us. If this happens for good news, every day or on some important days, it happens infinitely more for Jesus, who is not only good news, nor even the best news of life, no, but he is life itself, he is "the resurrection and the life". Every time we announce it, not by propaganda or proselytizing – that, no: proclaiming is one thing, propaganda and proselytism are another matter – every time we proclaim him, the Lord comes towards us. He comes with respect and love, as the most beautiful gift to share, Jesus dwells in us every time we proclaim him. Let us think again of the women of the Gospel: there was the sealed stone and despite this, they go to the tomb; there was an entire city that had seen Jesus on the cross and nevertheless they go to the city to announce that he is alive. Dear brothers and sisters, when one encounters Jesus, no obstacle can prevent us from proclaiming him. If instead we keep his joy for ourselves, perhaps it is because we have not yet truly encountered him. Brothers, sisters, before the women's experience we ask ourselves: tell me, when was the last time you bore witness to Jesus? When was the last time I bore witness to Jesus?

Today, what shall I do so that the people I meet receive the joy of his proclamation? And again: can someone say: this person is serene, happy, good, because he has met Jesus? Can this be said of every one of us? Let us ask Our Lady to help us be joyful proclaimers of the Gospel.

After the Regina Coeli, the Holy Father continued:

Dear brothers and sisters!

Today is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the so-called Belfast or Good Friday Agreement, which put an end to the violence that had troubled Northern Ireland for decades. With a spirit of gratitude, I pray to the God of peace that what was accomplished in that historic step be consolidated for the benefit of all men and women of the Isle of Ireland. I reiterate my wishes for a happy Easter to you all, Romans and pilgrims from various countries: "Christ is risen; he is risen indeed". I greet you warmly, especially the teenagers of the parishes of Vigevano, the young people of Pisa and those of Appiano Gentile. I thank all of you who sent your good wishes to me in these days. I am especially grateful for your prayers: by the intercession of the Virgin Mary, may God may God reward each one with his gifts! And I hope everyone will spend these days of the Octave of Easter, in which the celebration of Christ's Resurrection is extended, in the joy of faith. Let us persevere in invoking the gift of peace for the whole world, especially for dear and tormented Ukraine. Happy Monday of the Angel! Please do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your lunch and *arrivederci*.

POPE FRANCIS

Catechesis. The passion for evangelization: the apostolic zeal of the believer. 9. Witnesses: Saint Paul. 1

Summary of the Holy Father's words

Dear brothers and sisters: In our continuing catechesis on apostolic zeal, we now consider some of the great men and women in the history of the Church whose lives exemplify love for Christ and passion for the spread of the Gospel. We begin, naturally, with the Apostle Paul. Paul's encounter with the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus transformed his zeal for the Law, which had led him to persecute Christians, into a consuming desire to proclaim the Gospel of God's loving mercy, revealed in the paschal mystery. Paul's conversion was truly a profound experience of death and resurrection; reborn in Christ, he became a "new creation" (*2 Cor 5:17*), now filled with zeal to carry the good news of our salvation to all the nations. Paul's example shows us that at the heart of all missionary zeal is a living encounter with the risen Lord. It also shows us that zeal for the Gospel can never justify violence or persecution in the name of the God of mercy, who invites us freely to accept his gift of new life by believing in the Gospel of Jesus his Son.



FROM FR. HENRY DUC



Dear Friends,

Recently Therese, my ten-year-old my niece asked me as part of her school project some questions about why I had to leave Vietnam in 1984 and what happened to me on my journey, and I told her that I was made to run away from the communist government whose policy was tough and brutal then, especially towards Catholics, and that lot of things happened to me during my three-month sojourn in Cambodia plus 11 months kept in the Refugees camps in Thailand before I was given the visa to go to Australia. For nine years living under the communist regime, I came to experience what Thomas Sowell, American Political writer, said about the communists, that it is a regime in which 'everyone may be called "comrade," but some comrades have the power of life and death over other comrades,' and I

utterly refused to let anyone to administer the power of life and death over me. In the first reading this Sunday from the Acts of the Apostles, we have the evidence about the existence of the first ever communist group established born out of the eagerness of the early Christians to fully dedicate their lives in prayers following their conversion. This communist-like attempt, however, was found impractical and exploited by corrupted members such as Annanis and Sapphira trying to pocket some of the money from the sale of a piece of land and their dishonest act brought them to death (cf Acts 5.1-11), consequently the Christian commune was soon put to rest. With the Gospel reading, we have a beautiful account highlighting Jesus' mercy shown to Thomas and this Gospel is particularly appropriate for this Divine Mercy Sunday as we are asked to contemplate upon God's mercy. Despite Thomas' skepticism about his resurrection from the death and his outspoken challenge to get a meeting with the Risen Christ as the condition to change his doubtful mind, Jesus patiently fulfilled Thomas' requirement by appearing to the group of the disciples plus Thomas, eight days after he issued his daring challenge. Jesus gently showed Thomas his hands and side and challenged him to go ahead with his plan. Thomas had no courage to touch Jesus as he said previously and was able to utter five words: 'my Lord and my God', and this, perhaps, was his way to profess his faith in Jesus that 'you are my Lord and my God, I believe in you.' Jesus' response to Thomas was truly significant for us to keep in mind that 'you believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' This statement was obviously aimed not just at Thomas, but at his future disciples, including us his disciples today as well, since it is a great honour and blessing for us to have faith in Jesus, the faith tested by people like Thomas and handed down to us through the Apostles.

Let us give praise and thanks to our Risen Lord for allowing Thomas to put him on the test as a way both to assure Thomas and the other disciples that he has truly risen from the dead, and to reveal his compassion and mercy. Let us ask Jesus to help strengthen our faith and be more mindful of the privilege to have such a faith.

Have a Divine Mercy-oriented week,

Fr. Henry

PARISH NEWS...

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORDS OF THANKS

Thank you to all our ministers and volunteers who worked really hard to make our Lenten, Holy Week and Easter liturgies so special and the church look fantastic in and out.



CONFIRMATION PROCESS 2023

The Enrolment Mass for parents wishing to enrol their Year 6 (or above) child in the 2023 Confirmation Process will be on Sunday 23rd April at 9.30am.

Parents and children attend this Mass. The 4 week process of instruction begins on the 3rd of May (or at repeated meeting on the 6th) concluding with the Sacrament of Confirmation celebrated on Friday 26th May this year.

PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES

Thank you for supporting our Caritas Project Compassion for 2023. It would be appreciated if all could please return their Project Compassion boxes as soon as possible.

REPORT FROM OUR RECENT PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Members of the Parish Pastoral Council met last Wednesday and apart from the reports from various Parish groups, especially about the coming Diocesan Synod in which everyone will have a chance to contribute later one, we also spent some time to read an article entitled 'The Evangelical Pope: Preaching and Living an Incarnated Faith' by Robert Mickens. This article is made available for all today, if you are interested in it.

PLANNED GIVING 2023/24 ENVELOPES

Thank you to all 2nd Collection givers for 2022/23. We will be organising and distributing our Envelopes for the next financial year shortly and would like to make sure all our details are correct. If you need to change address or bank details or if your family would like to join our planned giving for the next year please contact the Parish Office on 9622 2920 or complete a New Parishioner Form and we can include you. We really appreciate the generosity by all our Parishioners.

FR. HENRY'S ANNIVERSARY MORNING TEA

Please join us next Friday, 21st of April 9am for a morning tea in the Parish Meeting Room to celebrate Fr Henry's 28th Anniversary of Priesthood. Congratulations and many thanks to Fr Henry for his years of devoted and caring ministry, especially here at OLOL. May God bless you aways.



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.



April 16th
May 21st
June 18th



Social Justice: Memorial event to remember the Appin Massacre of 1816. Winda 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. Contact Terry on 0409373715 if you need a lift to attend. 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>

CCD St Matthew's Gospel Series: Starting 28 April

CCD is hosting Dr Laurie Woods presenting A Study of St Matthew's Gospel - April 28; May 5, 12, 19 & 26. 10 am to 2pm at Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. To book please email Maree Collis ccd.training@parracatholic.org

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 Tuesday: 2, 9, 16 May. Downstairs at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown. RSVP via <https://pfarra.org.au/faithlife/>

MET Worship 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 to 8:30pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. RSVP by 1 May to hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org

Holy Family Services,

Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth and the Polish Community in Marayong invites you to share the community spirit in celebration of the Constitution Day, Our Lady Queen of Poland Feast and Multiculturalism of our Neighbourhood. During the day will be the time for family activities, ethnic group performances, good food and time for prayer.

WHEN: 7 May 2023 from 11am to 5pm

WHERE: 116 Quakers Road, Marayong (Church, hall and all around the property)

Let's celebrate the community we create. All are welcome!

Invitation to Register for CPR Training

You are invited to register for this accredited CPR Course being offered by Surf Life Saving NSW as part of a project being offered by The University of Sydney, Westmead Applied Research Centre.

The course runs for 2.5 hours and will be presented at two locations across the Diocese. St Thomas Aquinas Springwood on Saturday 13th May beginning at 10am, or Bishop Bede Heather Centre Blacktown on Monday 5th June at 4pm.

Please contact the Parish Office for information on how to register for the venue of your choice.

Faith in Marriage Seminar: 19 May

The annual Diocesan Faith in Marriage Seminar returns in 2023 with Chris Padgett, American Speaker, Musician, Author and Professor of Theology. This free event will be held on Friday 19 May at 7:30pm at St Paul the Apostle Church, 40 Buckleys Road, Winston Hills. Please register your attendance at marriage@parracatholic.org

Positions Vacant:

- **Policy Coordinator** – Diocese of Parramatta
- **Communications and Digital Manager** – Diocese of Parramatta
- **Communications Assistant** – Diocese of Parramatta

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

- **Executive Assistant** (permanent part-time) – NSW Catholic Conference of Religious Educators in State Schools(CCRESS)

Applications close 21 April 2023. For more information and to apply, visit <https://catholicjobsonline.com.au/job/executive-assistant-to-ccress-nsw-act/>

Toongabbie Parish is hiring! Parish Secretary and Bookkeeper

St Anthony of Padua Parish, Toongabbie, is looking for a Parish Secretary and Bookkeeper. This is a permanent part-time position with 30 hours per week worked over five days. Please forward applications and resumes to the Parish secretary at secretary@stanthonyschurch.org.au by 18 April 2023. If you would like more information regarding this position, please contact the office on (02) 9631 3316.



Thank You!



Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2023. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit caritas.org.au/project-compassion and donate online.

Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty.

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' URBI ET ORBI MESSAGE, EASTER 2023



Dear brothers and sisters,
Christ is risen!

On this day we proclaim that he, the Lord of our life, is "the resurrection and the life" of the world (cf. *Jn* 11:25). Today is Easter, the Pasch, a word that means "passage", for in Jesus the decisive passage of humanity has been made: the passage from death to life, from sin to grace, from fear to confidence, from desolation to communion. In him, the Lord of time and history, I would like to say to everyone, with heartfelt joy, Happy Easter!

May this Easter be for each of you, dear brothers and sisters, and in particular for the sick and the poor, the elderly and those experiencing moments of trial and weariness, a passage from affliction to consolation. We are not alone: Jesus, the Living One, is with us, forever. Let the Church and the world rejoice, for today our hopes no longer come up against the wall of death, for the Lord has built us a bridge to life. Yes, brothers and sisters, at Easter the destiny of the world was changed, and on this day, which also coincides with the most probable date of Christ's resurrection, we can rejoice to celebrate, by pure grace, the most important and beautiful day of history.

Christòs anesti! – "Christ is risen; he is truly risen!" In this traditional proclamation of the Churches of the East, the word "truly" reminds us that our hope is not an illusion, but the truth! And that, in the wake of Easter, humanity's journey, now marked by hope, advances all the more readily. The first witnesses of the resurrection show this by their example.

The Gospels speak of the haste with which, on the morning of Easter, the women "ran to tell the disciples" (*Mt* 28:8). Mary Magdalene "ran and went to Simon Peter" (*Jn* 20:2), while John and Peter himself then "ran together" (cf. v. 4) to the place where Jesus had been buried. Later, on the evening of Easter, after meeting the Risen Lord on the road to Emmaus, two disciples "set out without delay" (cf. *Lk* 24:33) and travelled several miles, uphill and in the dark, spurred on by the irrepressible joy of Easter that burned in their hearts (cf. v. 32). The same joy that led Peter, on the shore of the Lake of Galilee, after catching sight of the risen Jesus, to leave the boat with the others, to throw himself immediately into the water and to swim quickly towards him (cf. *Jn* 21:7). At Easter, then, the journey quickens and becomes a race, since humanity now sees the goal of its journey, the meaning of its destiny, Jesus Christ, and is called to make haste to meet him, who is the hope of the world.

May we too make haste to progress on a journey of reciprocal trust: trust among individuals, peoples and nations. May we allow ourselves to experience amazement at the joyful proclamation of Easter, at the light that illumines the darkness and the gloom in which, all too often, our world finds itself enveloped.

Let us make haste to surmount our conflicts and divisions, and to open our hearts to those in greatest need. Let us hasten to pursue paths of peace and fraternity. Let us rejoice at the concrete signs of hope that reach us from so many countries, beginning with those that offer assistance and welcome to all fleeing from war and poverty.

At the same time, along this journey we also encounter many stumbling blocks, which make it more difficult and demanding to hasten towards the Risen Lord. To him, then, let us make our prayer: Lord, help us to run to meet you! Help us to open our hearts!

Help the beloved Ukrainian people on their journey towards peace, and shed the light of Easter upon the people of Russia. Comfort the wounded and all those who have lost loved ones because of the war, and grant that prisoners may return safe and sound to their families. Open the hearts of the entire international community to strive to end this war and all conflict and bloodshed in our world, beginning with Syria, which still awaits peace. Strengthen all those affected by the violent earthquake in Turkey and in Syria itself. Let us pray for all those who have lost family and friends, and for those left homeless. May they receive consolation from God and assistance from the family of nations.

On this day, Lord, we entrust to you the city of Jerusalem, the first witness of your resurrection. I express deep concern for the attacks in recent days that threaten the desired climate of trust and reciprocal respect necessary for the resumption of dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians, so that peace may reign in the Holy City and in the entire region.

Lord, aid Lebanon, which still seeks stability and unity, so that divisions may be overcome and all citizens cooperate for the common good of the country.

Be mindful of the beloved people of Tunisia, and in particular the young and those suffering from social and economic hardship, so that they may not lose hope and may work together to build a future of peace and fraternity.

Turn your gaze to Haiti, which has long experienced a grave social, economic and humanitarian crisis, and support the efforts of political actors and the international community to seek a definitive solution to the many problems that afflict that sorely tried people.

Consolidate the processes of peace and reconciliation undertaken in Ethiopia and in South Sudan, and grant an end to violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Sustain, Lord, the Christian communities that today celebrate Easter in particular circumstances, as in Nicaragua and Eritrea, and remember all who are prevented from freely and publicly professing their faith. Grant consolation to victims of international terrorism, especially in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mozambique and Nigeria.

Help Myanmar to pursue paths of peace, and enlighten the hearts of leaders, so that the deeply afflicted Rohingya may encounter justice.

Comfort refugees, deportees, political prisoners and migrants, especially those who are most vulnerable, as well as the victims of hunger, poverty and the dire effects of the drug trade, human trafficking and all other forms of slavery. Lord, inspire the leaders of nations to ensure that no man or woman may encounter discrimination and be violated in his or her dignity; that in full respect for human rights and democracy these social wounds may be healed; that the common good of the citizenry may be pursued always and solely; and that security and the conditions needed for dialogue and peaceful coexistence may be guaranteed.

Brothers, sisters, may we rediscover the enjoyment of the journey, quicken the heartbeat of hope and experience a foretaste of the beauty of heaven! Today, let us summon the energy to advance in goodness towards Goodness itself, which never disappoints. If, as one of the ancient Fathers once wrote, "the greatest sin is not to believe in the power of the resurrection" (SAINT ISAAC OF NINEVEH, *Sermones Ascetici*, I, 5), today let us believe and profess: "Christ is truly risen from the dead!" (*Sequence*). We believe in you, Lord Jesus. We believe that, with you, hope is reborn and the journey continues. May you, the Lord of life, encourage us on our journey and repeat to us, as you did to the disciples on the evening of Easter: "Peace be with you!" (*Jn* 19:21).