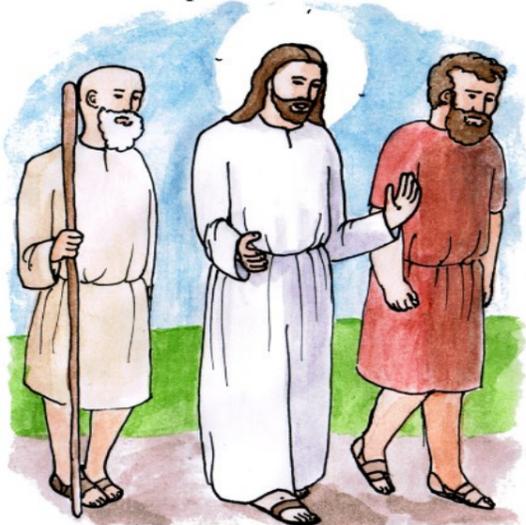


The Kids' Bulletin

Third Sunday of Easter
April 23rd, 2023



ABDEFGHIKNORT
7 0 9 0 x 1 - 3 / < - 0 0 1

The disciples on the road to Emmaus didn't recognize Jesus at first. How did they recognize Him eventually? Use the code to find out!

3 < 1 - 0 0 0 0 7 / 3 < 1
0 x 1 - 0 0 0 0 7 9

On the Road to Emmaus

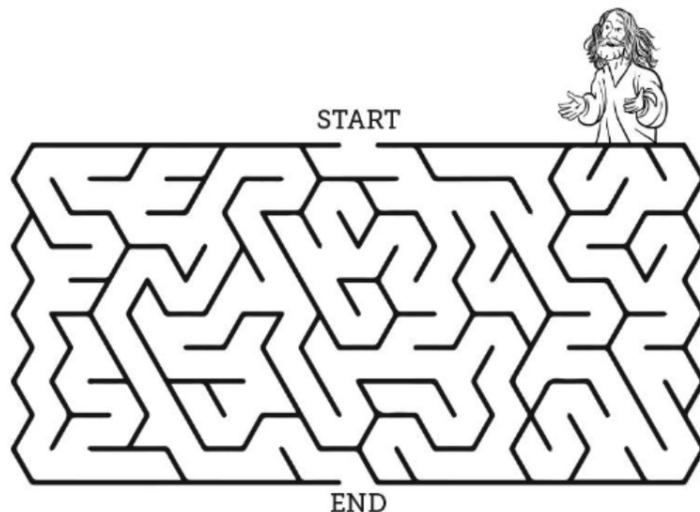
Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him. Luke 24:31a (NIV)

Choose the word that best matches the definition.

- A period of twenty four hours
A. month B. week C. year D. day
- Carrying on a conversation with someone
A. talking B. walking C. open D. day
- A person who visits
A. visitor B. prophet C. priest D. Moses
- To travel on foot
A. visit B. walk C. talking D. open
- To put to death on a cross
A. bury B. hang C. crucify D. day
- The Old Testament man who received the Ten Commandments from God
A. Noah B. David C. Moses D. Jacob
- The organs which make people able to see
A. ear B. heart C. mouth D. eyes
- Not closed
A. bread B. open C. day D. walking
- A food made from flour and water, mixed together and baked
A. fruit B. bread C. meat D. jello
- Not false
A. travel B. true C. hear D. spoken

THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

Lead Jesus to his disciples who are traveling.



On the Road to Emmaus

Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him. Luke 24:31a (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 24:13-35 (NIV).

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

WALKED	JESUS	SUFFER	CRUCIFIED
MOSES	BREAD	BELIEVE	VISITOR
THANKS	FOOLISH	PROPHET	EYES
CLEOPAS	OPENED	VILLAGE	EMMAUS



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: OLOL 8869 6800
Principal: Ms Keiran Byrnes
Reconciliation: Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
Baptismal Preparation: 19th April 2023
Baptism: 23rd April 2023
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.com.au
Pastoral Care of the Sick: Sandy Manamperi, 0480 266 339
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER 23 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, Zeferino Jayson Morales, 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, Baby & Jaime Cabrera, Sarojini Chary, Aurora Dumlaio, Bonosa Enfesta, Julian Epondulan, Vernie Flores, John & William Formosa, Ranjan Fernando, Charlie Gauci, Bernard Gauci, Maria Garufo, Gervais Garrick, Emmanuel Grech, Desmond Grogan, Estelle Hardwick, Mary Holmgren, Inocencia Datuin, Rita Leon, Debbie Mifsud, Jessica Neodama, Paiboon Pundmand, Emanuella Pozzolungo, Jude Ranasinghe, Maria Reyes, Eddie Tabone, Lucia Yap Ong, Caroline Uy

Anniversaries: Fredy Alphonse, Gay & Jacqueline Angley, Michelle Azzopardi, Carmen Attard, Frank & Fortunata Baiada, Elvina Barnaba, Romeo Biniahan, Sam Borg, Simeon Carlos, Rosario & Aloysean 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, Tomasa & Nicanor Magpayo, James McNally, Thomas Snr Morrissey, Anton Motha, Stephen & Louis Mula, Jason Muscat, Jim & Philippa Muscat, Alberto Nahoy, Mile Perak, John Portelli, 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

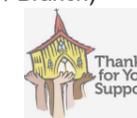
On behalf of the Parish Community, I would like to thank you very much for your ongoing support, which has been absolutely vital in keeping our Parish going strong. Projects completed include the Hall Kitchen renovation, Parish Meeting Room painting, Parish Office and Meeting Room Roof painted, Church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

FIRST READING *A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33*

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him: I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy: my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence. 'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.' The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Lord, you will show us the path of life.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.' (R.)</p> <p>2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. (R.)</p> | <p>3. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the
dead, nor let your beloved know decay. (R.)</p> <p>4. You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever. (R.)</p> |
|---|---|

SECOND READING *A reading from the first letter of St Peter 1:17-21*

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God. The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the first holy Gospel according to Luke 24:13-35*

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast. Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.' Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself. When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?' They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread. The Gospel of the Lord.

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		
24	School Term 2 Starts	
25	Anzac Day	
27	Finance Committee Meeting	8.00pm
MAY 2023		
3	Confirmation -1st Meeting	6.30pm
4	Healing Mass	8.00am
6	Confirmation -1st Meeting (RPT)	4.30pm
8	St Vincent De Paul Meeting	7.00pm
10	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	7.30pm
11	Lourdes over 50's Meeting	10.30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

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, VOLUNTEER 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.Culilli, 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 Ugre 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: VOLUNTEER	

29/30 APRIL 2023		
Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Ernie Gartner 9.30am Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: A.Bellissimo, C.Gonzales 8am: F.Balatbat, E.Gartner 9.30am: VOLUNTEERS	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, J.Sarmiento 8am: N.Arambulo, E.Miu 9.30am C.Diaz, K.Huihui	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Amelia Laus, Lucas Laus 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am VOLUNTEERS	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	VOLUNTEER	
Flowers	Team	
Church cleaning	4 May	Beth Paiva Lourdes Spiteri
Welcomers	Vigil: Helen Gonzales 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: VOLUNTEER	

POPE FRANCIS: 'NO ONE MUST FEEL ALONE IN ILLNESS' By Deborah Castellano Lubov

'No one must feel alone in illness,' insisted Pope Francis as he addressed members of the Italian Religious Association of Social and Health Institutes (ARIS) in the Vatican on Thursday morning. Expressing his appreciation and encouragement, the Pope observed that ARIS is involved in the management of healthcare facilities of Christian inspiration, and could be compared to the inn of the Good Samaritan, where the sick can receive "the oil of consolation and the wine of hope."

Church's exemplary witness

The Pope recalled that religious healthcare in Italy has a beautiful and centuries-old history.

"The Church has done much, through healthcare, to listen to and pay attention to the poor, weak and abandoned segments of society. There has been no lack of authoritative witnesses in this sphere, who have known how to recognise and serve the sick and suffering Christ to the point of the complete gift of self, even at the sacrifice of one's life." In healthcare, the Pope warned against the culture of discarding. "When the sick person is not placed at the centre and considered in his or her dignity, attitudes are generated that can even lead to speculation on the misfortunes of others, and this must make us vigilant." As the Church, the Holy Father urged, "we are called to respond above all to the demand for the health of the poorest, the excluded and those who, for economic or cultural reasons, see their needs ignored."

Duty to defend the right to care

He lamented that in Italy, he sees, a return of 'health poverty,' especially in the regions marked by more difficult socio-economic situations. "There are people who, because of a lack of means, are unable to seek treatment, for whom even the payment of a co-payment is a problem; and there are people who have difficulty in accessing health services because of very long waiting lists, even for urgent and necessary visits." The need for intermediate care, he added, is also growing, "given the increasing tendency of hospitals to discharge the sick in a short time, favouring the treatment of the more acute phases of the illness over that of chronic pathologies."

Integral care

"Health care of Christian inspiration has a duty to defend the right to care, especially of the weaker sections of society, privileging the places where people are most suffering and least cared for." The Pope encouraged healthcare workers always to accompany the people they welcome into their institutions with integral care, which does not neglect the spiritual and religious assistance of the sick, their families and health workers. In this, too, he said, healthcare institutions of Christian inspiration "should be exemplary." "It is not just a matter of offering sacramental pastoral care, but of giving complete attention to the person."

Never alone in illness

"No one must feel alone in illness!" he said. "On the contrary, each person should be supported in his or her questions of meaning and helped to walk the sometimes long and tiring road of infirmity with Christian hope." Pope Francis concluded, telling them to "keep alive the charism of your Founders, not so much to imitate their gestures, but rather to welcome their spirit, not so much to defend the past, but to build a present and a future in which to announce, with your presence, God's closeness to the sick, especially the most disadvantaged and marginalised by the logic of profit." The Holy Father prayed that the Blessed Mother accompany them, as he offered them his blessing, and asked them to pray for him.

POPE FRANCIS

Catechesis. The passion for evangelization: the apostolic zeal of the believer. 9. Witnesses: Saint Paul. 2

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning! After having seen, two weeks ago, St Paul's personal zeal for the Gospel, we can now reflect more deeply on the evangelical zeal as he himself speaks of it and describes it in some of his letters. By virtue of his own experience, Paul is not unaware of the danger of a distorted zeal, oriented in the wrong direction. He himself had fallen into this danger before the providential fall on the road to Damascus. Sometimes we have to deal with a misdirected zeal, doggedly persistent in the observance of purely human and obsolete norms for the Christian community. "They make much of you," writes the Apostle, "but for no good purpose" (*Gal 4:17*). We cannot ignore the solicitude with which some devote themselves to the wrong pursuits even within the Christian community itself; one can boast of a false evangelical zeal while actually pursuing vainglory or one's own convictions or a little bit of love of self. For this reason, we ask ourselves, what are the characteristics of true evangelical zeal according to Paul? The text we heard at the beginning seems useful for this, a list of "arms" that the Apostle indicates for the spiritual battle. Among these is *readiness to spread the Gospel*, translated by some as "zeal" – this person is zealous in carrying forward these ideas, these things – and referred to as a "shoe". Why? How is zeal for the Gospel related to what is worn on your feet? This metaphor picks up on a text from the prophet Isaiah, who says this: "How beautiful on the mountains are / the feet of the one who brings good tidings, / who publishes peace, who brings good tidings of good, who publishes salvation / who says to Zion: 'Your God reigns'" (*52:7*). Here too, we find reference to the feet of a herald of good news. Why? Because the one who goes to proclaim must move, must walk! But we also note that Paul, in this text, speaks of footwear as part of a suit of armour, following the analogy of the equipment of a soldier going into battle: in combat it was essential to have stability of footing in order to avoid the pitfalls of the terrain – because the adversary often littered the battlefield with traps – and to have the strength to run and move in the right direction. So the footwear is to run and to avoid all these things of the adversary. Evangelical zeal is the support on which proclamation is based, and heralds are somewhat like the feet of the body of Christ that is the Church. There is no proclamation without movement, without 'going out', without initiative. This means there is no Christian if not on the move; no Christian if the Christian does not go out of themselves in order to set out on the journey and bear the proclamation. There is no proclamation without movement, without walking. One does not proclaim the Gospel standing still, locked in an office, at one's desk or at one's computer, arguing like 'keyboard warriors' and replacing the creativity of proclamation with copy-and-paste ideas taken from here and there. The Gospel is proclaimed by moving, by walking, by going. The term used by Paul to denote the footwear of those who bear the Gospel is a Greek word denoting readiness, preparation, alacrity. It is the opposite of sloppiness, which is incompatible with love. In fact, elsewhere Paul says: "Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord" (*Rom 12:11*). This attitude was the one required in the Book of Exodus to celebrate the sacrifice of the Passover deliverance: "In this manner you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night". A herald is ready to go, and knows that the Lord passes by in a surprising way. He or she must therefore be free from schemes and prepared for an unexpected and new action: prepared for surprises. One who proclaims the Gospel cannot be fossilised in cages of plausibility or the idea that "it has always been done this way," but is ready to follow a wisdom that is not of this world, as Paul says when speaking of himself: "My speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God" (*1 Cor 2:4-5*).



FROM FR. HENRY DUC

Dear Friends,

While I was wandering in Pnom Penh, the capital city of Cambodia in 1984, nearly forty years ago, waiting for the trip to be smuggled up to the north west of Cambodia and cut through the jungle to get to the border of Thailand with the hope to reach one of the Refugee camps set up along the border, I got spotted by a tradesman from my village who had done some business there. The person made no attempt to approach me, and chose to inform my dad when he returned home. My dad thought it was nonsense and kept telling the man that he should be mixed up with someone else and was very determined that I was still in the seminary. In reality I was no longer in the seminary then, and had

crossed the border to enter our neighbouring country from Vietnam without informing anyone in the family of the decision, since I was instructed to keep absolutely quiet about the trip and dad would never support such an attempt. I couldn't help recall such a memorable chapter of my past life, as I read the Gospel story this Sunday during the week. Two disciples on their way to Emmaus about 11 kms away from Jerusalem could never expect that Jesus has actually risen from the dead, though he kept repeating the message again and again while he was living with them.

I guess they probably started their journey rather late, so when they almost reached their destination it was early in the evening. Of course, it wasn't a happy and joyful trip for the pair, because they looked sad when Jesus disguised as a strange fellow traveller approached them and initiated the conversation with asking about the matter they were talking about, which of course was of his recent Passion, crucifixion, death and burial, as they began to unfold later.

Despite Jesus' effort to give them the hint about who he was, when he reminded them of what was written about his suffering and glory in the Old Testament, they completely failed to pick up the clue..

Though they were ignorant, they were kind and hospitable to invite their unexpected companion to stay and share a supper with them in the inn. The turning point finally arrived when the guest took the bread, prayed the blessing prayer, broke it and handed it to them. This gesture instantly triggered their memory of the same gesture their beloved Master had done in the Last Supper not long ago, this gesture helped open their mind to recognise the Risen Jesus, this gesture they called the breaking of bread as they came back to share with other disciples about their amazing encounter with the post-resurrection Jesus, and it has become the trademark of Christian Catholic worship known as the Eucharist. In our breakings of bread this Sunday, let us give praise and thanks to Jesus for the gift of the Eucharist as the food to nourish us with his life-giving word and flesh. Let us pray that our participation in the Eucharist today helps open our minds and hearts, so that we might see the Lord better in people around us, especially the poor and needy, and bear witness to him the best we can.

Have a Eucharist-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 2023

Please pray for the children as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next month on the 26/5. May God bless them on this sacred and special day and may the commitment they make continue to sustain and strengthen them on their personal Faith Journey. Amen.



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.

PARISH BIN ROSTER - VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

We are seeking volunteers to assist 4 times a year to place the Parish bins on the kerbside (Grantham Road) once a week on Tuesday. Please contact the Parish Office if you are able to help out. *Thank you.*

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 or complete a New Parishioner Form and we can include you. We really appreciate the generosity by all our Parishioners.



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.

SYNOD 12-15 October 2023 This is the first ever Synod for our Diocese and all parishioners are invited to come together and be part of this transformative process and event that leads to the renewal in the Church's life. Resources have been created for parishioners in the Diocese of Parramatta which can be found at the link www.parracatholic.org/synod2023.



“Everybody in a synodal Church has a voice in deciding the direction of the Church.”

SR NATHALIE BECAVART

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 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>

REACH - Wellbeing program for people over the age of 18years – 2 May

Reach Recovery Program, designed by the Black Dog Institute.

Tuesday from 10am to 12pm, 2nd May for 9 weeks at Bank Bazaar and Bank Bar & Cafe, 290/294 Windsor Street, Richmond NSW 2753 – Morning Tea provided- Presenter Virginia Field. RSVP: (02) 8843 2500 or email enquiries@ccss.org.au

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

'Dare to Dream!', via Zoom, 5x Wednesday, 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 May, 5.00-6.30 pm (AEST).

"We have had dreams and there is no one to interpret them" and Joseph said to them, "do not interpretations belong to God?" (Genesis 40:8) Join our director, Clare Shearman, and guests in our 'dream lab'. Based on the Dreams session previously offered as part of the Siloam Program, this five-week program will explore the significance of our dreams, include the practice of dream circles, provide guidance and practice for working with dreams our own and others', consider the potential for our dreams to personally and collectively shape the future. Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. Cost \$130. Book and pay via website www.heartoflife.melbourne, email info@heartoflife.melbourne or 98901101.

Positions Vacant:

- **Policy Coordinator** – Diocese of Parramatta
- **Communications and Digital Manager** – Diocese of Parramatta
- **Communications Assistant** – Diocese of Parramatta
- **Lead Support** – Diocesan Synod - please email your details to parracatholicjobs@parracatholic.org

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

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@stanthonychurch.org.au by 18 April 2023. If you would like more information regarding this position, please contact the office on (02) 9631 3316.



POPE FRANCIS' REGINA CAELI

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

Today, Divine Mercy Sunday, the Gospel recounts two apparitions of the Risen Jesus to his disciples, and in particular, to Thomas, the "doubting Apostle" (cf. *Jn* 20:24-29). In reality, Thomas is not the only one who struggled to believe. In fact, he represents all of us a little bit. Indeed, it is not always easy to believe, especially when, as in his case, he had suffered a tremendous disappointment. And after such a huge disappointment, it was difficult to believe. He had followed Jesus for years, running risks, and enduring

discomforts. But the Teacher had been put on a cross like a criminal, and no one had freed him. No one had done anything! He was dead and everyone was afraid. How could he trust again? How he could trust such news that said he was alive? There was a doubt inside him. Thomas, however, shows that he was courageous. While the others had closed themselves inside the Upper Room out of fear, he went out, running the risk that someone might recognize, report and arrest him. We could even think that, with his courage, he would have deserved more than the others to meet the Risen Lord. Instead, precisely because he had been away, Thomas was not there when Jesus had appeared the first time to the disciples on Easter evening, thus losing that opportunity. He had gone away from the community. How could he retrieve the opportunity? Only by going back with the others, returning to that family he had left behind, scared and sad. When he does so, when he returns, they tell him that Jesus had come, but he struggles to believe he wants to see his wounds. And Jesus satisfies him: eight days later, he appears again in the midst of his disciples and shows them his wounds, his hands, his feet, these wounds that are the proof of his love, that are the ever-open channels of his mercy. Let us reflect on these facts. In order to believe, Thomas wants an extraordinary sign – to touch the wounds. Jesus shows them to him, but *in an ordinary way*, coming in front of everyone, in the community, not outside. It's as if he said to him: if you want to meet me, do not look far away, remain in the community, with the others. Don't go away...pray with them...break bread with them. And he says this to us as well. That is where you will find me; that is where I will show you the signs of the wounds impressed on my body: the signs of the Love that overcomes hatred, of the Pardon that disarms revenge, the signs of the Life that conquers death. It is there, in the community, that you will discover my face, as you share moments of doubt and fear with your brothers and sisters, clinging even more strongly to them. Without the community, it is difficult to find Jesus. Dear brothers and sisters, the invitation given to Thomas is valid for us as well. We, where do we seek the Risen One? In some special event, in some spectacular or amazing religious manifestation, solely at the emotional or sensational level? Or rather in the community, in the Church, accepting the challenge of staying there, even though it is not perfect? Despite all of its limitations and failures, which are our limitations and failings, our Mother Church is the Body of Christ. And it is there, in the Body of Christ, that, now and forever, the greatest signs of his love can be found impressed. Let us ask ourselves, however, if in the name of this love, in the name of Jesus's wounds, whether we are willing to open our arms to those who are wounded by life, excluding no one from God's mercy, but welcoming everyone – each person like a brother, like a sister, like God welcomes everyone. God welcomes everyone. May Mary, *the Mother of Mercy*, help us to love the Church and to make her a welcoming home for everyone.

POPE FRANCIS: THE DEVIL LOOKS FOR MAN'S FAILURE, BUT CAN DO NOTHING IF THERE IS PRAYER

In the interview, Pope Francis was asked to comment on the testimony of a young nun, whether he has ever dealt directly with cases of demonic possession and exorcism, and if the Devil can also act in the Vatican and even attack the Pope.

Holy Father, in the testimony of the possessed nun, we read that the Devil reportedly spoke about you saying: "I hate him, he always speaks badly of me. Have you seen how much trouble I cause him?" What can we make of these statements?

I am not personally familiar with this case and, therefore, cannot comment. But, yes, it is possible that I get on the Devil's nerves, because I try to follow the Lord and do what the Gospel says. And that annoys him. At the same time, he is certainly happy when I commit some sin. He seeks man's failure, but he has no chance if there is prayer.

Have you ever dealt directly with people possessed by the Devil?

When I was archbishop of Buenos Aires I had several cases of people who came to me saying they were possessed. I sent them for a consultation with two good "specialist" priests: they are not healers, but exorcists. One is called Carlos Alberto Mancuso and he was an exorcist in the Diocese of La Plata. The other was my confessor, Father Nicolas Mihaljevic, a Croatian-born Jesuit. Both of them later told me that only two or three of those people were really victims of diabolical possession. The others suffered from diabolical obsession, which is quite different because they didn't have the Devil in their bodies. This should be specified.

And as a pontiff, have you ever practiced exorcisms?

No, that never happened. If it were to happen, I would ask for the support of a good exorcist, as I already did as an archbishop.

Several people have said about Benedict XVI that during his pontificate he was attacked by the Devil - who always tempts us - but that, despite having suffered from this, he resisted well. Paul VI in 1972 said that the smoke of Satan had entered the Temple of God through some fissure. Can the Devil therefore also act in the Vatican and attack the Pope?

What is certain is that the Devil tries to attack everyone without distinction, and tries above all to strike those who have more responsibilities in the Church or in society. Even Jesus suffered temptations from the Devil, we can also think of those [suffered] by Simon Peter, to whom He said: "Get away from me, Satan". Even the Pope, therefore, is attacked by the evil one. We are human beings and he always tries to attack us. It is painful, but in the face of prayer, he has no chance! And then, yes, it is true, as Saint Paul VI said, that the Devil can also enter the Temple of God, to sow discord and turn one against the other: divisions and attacks are always the work of the Devil. He always tries to insinuate himself to corrupt the heart and mind of man. The only salvation is to follow the path indicated by Christ.

Should we be afraid of the Devil?

I think that there are some very dangerous demons and I am talking about "polite" demons. Jesus also talks about this, we read it in the Gospel of Luke: He says that when the impure spirit is chased away, it wanders through the desert seeking relief. But at a certain point he gets bored and so he goes back "home", from where he had been kicked out, and he sees that the house is in order, it's beautiful, like when he was inside.

What happens at that point? He calls other demons, more wicked than himself, he brings them, they enter the house, politely, they ring the bell, they take possession in a polite manner. The soul, not taking care to examine the conscience, doesn't take any notice, or out of spiritual lukewarmness lets them in. These demons are terrible. Because they kill you. It is the worst possession. Spiritual worldliness covers all these things. There is no escape: the Devil either destroys directly with wars and injustices, or he does it politely, in a very diplomatic way, as Jesus recounts. Discernment is needed.