

Can you help Mary find the way to the empty tomb?

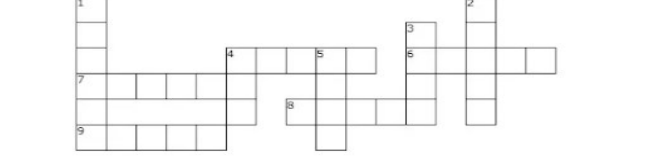
Easter: True or False?

How well do you know the Easter Story? See if you can figure out which of these are true and which are false.

- 1. After Jesus died on the Cross He was buried in a tomb for four days. True or false?
- 2. The first time the women went to the tomb on Easter morning, they saw Jesus' dead body in it. True or false?
- 3. Nobody went to Jesus' tomb until the afternoon on Easter Sunday. True or false?
- 4. At first when she saw Him, Mary Magdalen didn't recognize Jesus. True or false?
- 5. When Jesus rose from the dead, He could never die again. True or false?
- 6. With His resurrected body, Jesus could go through locked doors. True or false?
- 7. The disciples were not surprised when Jesus came back after He died, since they knew all along that was going to happen. True or false?

HE IS RISEN

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.



- ACROSS
 - 4. A piece of fabric made by weaving cotton, wool, or other fibers
 - 6. Not dead
 - 7. The day we celebrate Jesus' resurrection
 - 8. To have nothing inside
 - 9. What was used to cover the entrance to Jesus' tomb
- DOWN
 - 1. Messengers from heaven
 - 2. The color of snow; the opposite of black
 - 3. The woman who found the stone rolled away from Jesus' tomb
 - 4. To produce tears; to weep
 - 5. A grave or a room where someone is buried

EMPTY STONE	ANGELS ALIVE	EASTER TOMB	CLOTH CRY	WHITE MARY
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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:	LOLO 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/LOLO7Hills/

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
8/9 April 2023 • YR 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, Maximilian Epondulan, 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, 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 Barnaba, Romeo Biniathan, Sam Borg, Rosario & Aloysean Corera, 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, Zoltan Gartner, Tarcisio 'Archie' Gatt, Christine Gomez, Charlie Gravina, Leonie Jordan, Chinedu Joseph & Family, Sammy Formosa, Harold Lafleur, Rosine Lafleur, Maria, Apolinario Maglaya, 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, Jim Vella,
Remembrance: France Angseeing, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Sam Borg, Lina Cabaero, Lim Cho, Dennis Clarke, Myrna Cruz, Concepcion, 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 Sema, Debe Toufic, Tony Vassallo, Jim Vella, Hector & Rita Welgampola,

Our Lady of Lourdes
Ever Immaculate Virgin, Mother of mercy, health of the sick, refuge of sinners, comfort of the afflicted, you know my needs, my troubles, my sufferings; cast on me a look of pity.
By appearing in the grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, from which you dispense your favours, and already many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and physical. I come, therefore, with the most unbounded confidence to implore your maternal intercession. Obtain most loving mother, my requests, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.



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.

THE EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis 1:1-2:2

God saw all that he had made, and indeed it was good.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Response) Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

SECOND READING

A reading from the book of Exodus 14.15-15.1

Tell the children of Israel to march on, to walk through the sea on dry ground.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Response) Let us sing to the Lord;
he has covered himself in glory.

THIRD READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 55:1-11

Come to me and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant.

EPISTLE

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 6:3-11

Christ, having been raised from the dead, will never die again.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

28:1-10

He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee.

EASTER SUNDAY of the RESURRECTION of the LORD

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 10:34, 37-43

We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Response) This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

3:1-4

Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia! Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;
let us feast with joy in the Lord. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 20:1-9

The teaching of scripture is that he must rise from the dead.



GENERAL NOTICES...

NEW TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES? HOW CAN WE SERVE YOU?

Welcome. Wherever you are in your faith journey, it is great to have you. Please visit our website or call the parish office. We're here to serve you. www.olol7hills.org.au

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>



LOURDES OVER 50s GROUP

Over 50s Meeting Thursday 13th April 10.30am-1pm.
Please bring a plate for a shared lunch.
Look forward to seeing you there.

SICK AND/OR HOMEBOUND?

Would you like to receive Communion? Or seriously ill or in danger of death? We have dedicated ministers who can visit and bring you communion. Feel free to approach or call Fr Henry for the Holy Anointing of the Sick. Please call the parish office 96222920

FUNERALS

When a Funeral is to be celebrated, please contact Fr. Henry before contacting the Funeral Home. Funerals are not permitted on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation.

BAPTISM

Parents desiring Baptism for their children are encouraged to contact the parish office to arrange for the required preparation class for parents.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Lourdes: Luminate Young Adults Group

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

OLOL PARISH CALENDAR

APRIL 2023

6	Last Day School Term 1	
10	Fr Henry's Birthday	
10	St Vincent De Paul Meeting	7.00pm
12	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	7.30pm
13	Over 50's Meeting	10.30am
14	Lourdes Young Adults Group Meeting	6.45pm
16	Children's Liturgy	9.30am
19	Baptism Preparation Meeting	7.30pm
21	Fr Henry's Anniversary Morning Tea	
23	Confirmation Enrolment Program	9.30am
24	School Term 2 Starts	
25	Anzac Day	
27	Finance Committee Meeting	8.00pm

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

EASTER 8/9 April 2023

Acolytes	Vigil: Eugene Miu, Derick Soares, Sandy Manamperi 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am Kilifi Huihui
Ministers	Vigil: Kilifi Huihui, VOLUNTEERS 8am: Chrisha Gonzales, Helen Gonzales 9.30am: Paul Gow, Anna Bellissimo
Readers	Vigil: Pepito Ferriols, Christina Diaz, Jemma Sarmiento, Alison Punch 8am: Jo Cabasa, Erika Hein 9.30am S. Manamperi, Kamela Huihui
Altar Servers	Vigil: Anthony Melki, Diana Park, Sean Park, Philip Park 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am Lourdes Sadipoor, VOLUNTEERS
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Young Adults Group
Flowers	Fennie & Angela
Church cleaning	20 April Cathy Hutchings Annette Peatman
Welcomers	Vigil: VOLUNTEER 8am: Joyce Hillbrick 9.30am: VOLUNTEER

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 C.Diaz, S.Manamperi
Altar Servers	Vigil: Samuel Thoms 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am Sofia Culili, Florencia Wanandy
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Tongan Choir
Flowers	Annette & Mary B
Church cleaning	26 April Jessie Borg Anne McNally
Welcomers	Vigil: VOLUNTEER 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: Kathy Chamberlain

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.

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



"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mt 27:46). This is the cry that today's liturgy has us repeat in the responso-
rial psalm (cf. Ps 22:2), the only cry that Jesus makes from the cross in the Gospel we have heard. Those words bring us to
the very heart of Christ's passion, the culmination of the sufferings he endured for our salvation. "Why have you forsaken
me?"

The sufferings of Jesus were many, and whenever we listen to the account of the Passion, they pierce our hearts. There
were *sufferings of the body*: let us think of the slaps and beatings, the flogging and the crowning with thorns, and in the end,
the cruelty of the crucifixion. There were also *sufferings of the soul*: the betrayal of Judas, the denials of Peter, the condem-
nation of the religious and civil authorities, the mockery of the guards, the jeering at the foot of the cross, the rejection of the
crowd, utter failure and the flight of the disciples. Yet, amid all these sorrows, Jesus remained certain of one thing: the close-
ness of the Father. Now, however, the unthinkable has taken place. Before dying, he cries out: *"My God, my God, why have
you forsaken me?"* The forsakenness of Jesus. This is the most searing of all sufferings, *the suffering of the spirit*. At his
most tragic hour, Jesus experiences abandonment by God. Prior to that moment, he had never called the Father by his
generic name, "God". To convey the impact of this, the Gospel also reports his words in Aramaic. These are the only words
of Jesus from the cross that have come down to us in the original language. The real event is the extreme abasement, being
forsaken by the Father, forsaken by God. We find it hard even to grasp what great suffering he embraced out of love for
us. He sees the gates of heaven close, he finds himself at the bitter edge, the shipwreck of life, the collapse of certainty. And
he cries out: "Why?" A "why" that embraces every other "why" ever spoken. "Why, God?". *"My God, my God, why have you
forsaken me?"* In the Bible, the word "forsake" is powerful. We hear it at moments of extreme pain: love that fails, or is reject-
ed or betrayed; children who are rejected and aborted; situations of repudiation, the lot of widows and orphans; broken mar-
riages, forms of social exclusion, injustice and oppression; the solitude of sickness. In a word, in the drastic severing of the
bonds that unite us to others. There, this word is spoken: "abandonment". Christ brought all of this to the cross; upon his
shoulders, he bore the sins of the world. And at the supreme moment, Jesus, the only-begotten, beloved Son of the Father,
experienced a situation utterly alien to his very being: abandonment, the distance of God. Why did it have to come to
this? *He did it for us*. There is no other answer. For us. Brothers and sisters, today this is not merely a show. Every one of
us, hearing of Jesus' abandonment, can say: *for me*. This abandonment is the price he paid for me. He became one with
each of us in order to be completely and definitively one with us *to the very end*. He experienced abandonment in order not
to leave us prey to despair, in order to stay at our side forever. He did this for me, for you, because whenever you or I or any-
one else seems pinned to the wall, lost in a blind alley, plunged into the abyss of abandonment, sucked into a whirlwind of so
many "whys" without an answer, there can still be a hope: Jesus himself, for you, for me. It is not the end, because Jesus
was there and even now, he is at your side. He endured the distance of abandonment in order to take up into his love every
possible distance that we can feel. So that each of us might say: in my failings, and each of us has failed many times, in my
desolation, whenever I feel betrayed or betrayed others, whenever I feel cast aside or have cast aside others, whenever I feel
forsaken or have abandoned others, let us think of Jesus, who was abandoned, betrayed and cast aside. There, we find
him. When I feel lost and confused, when I feel that I can't go on, he is beside me. Amid all my unanswered questions
"why...?", he is there. That is how the Lord saves us, from within our questioning "why?" From within that questioning, he
opens the horizon of hope that does not disappoint. On the cross, even as he felt utter abandonment – this is the ultimate
end – Jesus refused to yield to despair; instead, he prayed and trusted. He cried out his "why?" in the words of the Psalm
(22:2), and commended himself into the hands of the Father, despite how distant he felt him to be (cf. Lk 23:46) or rather,
whom he did not feel, for instead he felt himself abandoned. In the hour of his abandonment, Jesus continued to trust. At the
hour of abandonment, he continued to love his disciples who had fled, leaving him alone. In his abandonment he forgave
those who crucified him (v. 34). Here we see the abyss of our many evils immersed in a greater love, with the result that our
isolation becomes fellowship. Brothers and sisters, a love like this, embracing us totally and to the very end, the love of
Jesus, can turn our stony hearts into hearts of flesh. His is a love of mercy, tenderness and compassion. This is God's style:
closeness, compassion and tenderness. God is like this. Christ, in his abandonment, stirs us to seek him and to love him
and those who are themselves abandoned. For in them we see not only people in need, but Jesus himself, abandoned:
Jesus, who saved us by descending to the depths of our human condition. He is with each of them, abandoned even to
death... I think of the German so-called "street person", who died under the colonnade, alone and abandoned. He is Jesus
for each of us. So many need our closeness, so many are abandoned. I too need Jesus to caress me and draw close to me,
and for this reason I go to find him in the abandoned, in the lonely. He wants us to care for our brothers and sisters who
resemble him most, those experiencing extreme suffering and solitude. Today, dear brothers and sisters, their numbers are
legion. Entire peoples are exploited and abandoned; the poor live on our streets and we look the other way; there are
migrants who are no longer faces but numbers; there are prisoners who are disowned; people written off as prob-
lems. Countless other abandoned persons are in our midst, invisible, hidden, discarded with white gloves: unborn children,
the elderly who live alone: they could perhaps be your father or mother, your grandfather or grandmother, left alone in retire-
ment homes, the sick whom no one visits, the disabled who are ignored, and the young burdened by great interior emptiness,
with no one prepared to listen to their cry of pain. And they find no path other than suicide. The abandoned of our day. The
"Christs" of our day. Jesus, in his abandonment, asks us to open our eyes and hearts to all who find themselves aba-
doned. For us, as disciples of the "forsaken" Lord, no man, woman or child can be regarded as an outcast, no one left to him-
self or herself. Let us remember that the rejected and the excluded are living icons of Christ: they remind us of his reckless
love, his forsakenness that delivers us from every form of loneliness and isolation. Brothers and sisters, today let us implore
this grace: to love Jesus in his abandonment and to love Jesus in the abandoned all around us. Let us ask for the grace to
see and acknowledge the Lord who continues to cry out in them. May we not allow his voice to go unheard amid the deafen-
ing silence of indifference. God has not left us alone; let us care, then, for those who feel alone and abandoned. Then, and
only then, will we be of one mind and heart with the one who, for our sake, "emptied himself" (Phil 2:7). He emptied himself
completely for us.




FROM FR. HENRY DUC

Dear Friends,
Thanks to Egeria's diary recounting her pilgrimage to the Holy Land, especially her time in Jerusalem
during the Holy Week sometime in the fourth century, we have some idea about how the early Christians
carried out the Holy Week and Easter liturgies. For instance, the reading of the Last Supper narrative took
place in the cave where the Lord was said to share his last meal with them, and there was a procession to
the garden of Gethsemane on Holy Thursday, and a veneration of the Cross and a 'three hour' service
called Station Before the Cross carried out to commemorate Jesus' three hours on the Cross on Good
Friday. For Easter Vigil, she noted that the baptism for children took place at the baptismal font in the
chapel called the Anastasis and they were led by the bishop from there into the main church where the
congregation was keeping watch. Hymns were sung, the account of Jesus' resurrection read, a prayer made, the oblation
offered by the bishop and all were then dismissed. It's worth noting that baptism was very much a key part of the Easter Vigil
in the Early Church and we continue to celebrate this highly symbolic tradition in the Church today with the baptism for one
catechumen this year, who will join others in the RCIA to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. This significant part of the
liturgy helps us relate well to our celebration of Easter, since it reminds us so much of Jesus' on going invitation asking us to
bury our sins in the tomb, to rise up with Christ in the grace of Easter, and get ourselves ready to take part in the mission that
the Risen Lord did ask his female disciples to do as they met him at the tomb which was to proclaim with confidence the
great news of his resurrection from the dead to the others, as Matthew tells us in the Gospel for the Easter Vigil, and also as
John recounts how he and Peter were made aware of Jesus' empty tomb thanks to the tip-off of the women in their group.
Let us pray for each one of us, especially for Diane Tran who is going to be baptised, and confirmed together with Laura
Donnelly and Katherine Fountain at our Easter Vigil this year, that we all may be able to try the best we can in the mission to
let the light and hope of the Risen Christ shine brighter through the ways we live our everyday lives.
Have a happy and grace-filled Easter,

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



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
FR. HENRY**
May
Our Lady
of Lourdes
fill your heart with
blessings and joy
10th April

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



RCIA CONGRATULATIONS
To Diana Tran who has been fully initiated into the church at
tonight's Easter Saturday Vigil Mass and to Katherine
Fountain and Laura Donnelly who have completed their
initiation into the faith through celebrating their Confirmation
and First Holy Communion. May God bless you all in your
continuing journey of faith.
Our other three Candidates Tanisha, Tianna and Dante
Chalon will celebrate their Sacraments at a later date.
Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

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.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
All members of our Parish Pastoral Council are invited to
attend a meeting on Wednesday 12 April at 7.30pm in the
Parish Meeting room.

Easter Offertory
Alleluia! He is Risen!



Please Scan to Give
and support our parish to
share Christ's message
of love and salvation with all



Donations can also be given by following the link below or
the Easter offering envelopes.
<https://parracatholic.org/easter-offertory-23/>



BISHOP VINCENT'S EASTER MESSAGE 2023

Bishop Vincent has released his video message for Easter 2023 to the people of the Diocese of Parramatta. The letter can be watched on YouTube on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33IB11hZSWo>

Thank You for Supporting our Holy Spirit Seminarians



Bishop Vincent, Parramatta Catholic Foundation, and our Holy Spirit seminarians thank you for your kind-hearted generosity and support for our future priests. For anyone who hasn't had a chance to donate, please visit [your-catholicfoundation.org.au/appeal](https://catholicfoundation.org.au/appeal) or scan this QR code. Please continue to pray for the Diocesan ministries supported by Parramatta Catholic Foundation, including our Holy Spirit Seminarians and all those who contribute to their education, formation, and care.

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:

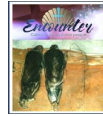
Book Presentation: Fr Frank Brennan “An Indigenous Voice to Parliament”. Fr Frank Brennan SJ will give a public presentation of his new book “An Indigenous Voice to Parliament”. The book outlines both the “Yes” case and the “No” case. **Sunday 2 April, 1.30pm**, The Crypt of St Patrick's Church in The Rocks (Enter from Grosvenor Street). All welcome. Admission Free. Copies of the book available
Memorial event to remember the Appin Massacre of 1816. Wanga 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 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@parrcatholic.org

MET from Catholic Schools Diocese of Parramatta are pleased to invite you to join us for a pilgrim on a virtual pilgrimage over Zoom as we make our way through the Holy Land. For more information please contact your parish office.



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 Friday 21 April 2023 For more information and to apply, visit

<https://catholicjobsonline.com.au/job/executive-assistant-to-ccress-nsw-act/>

CCD St Matthew's Gospel Series: Starting 28 April

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Catholic Theological College
 Sign up for one of 18 short, online sessions.
Engaging Your Faith – May 2023
Theology, Vatican II, Scripture, Spirituality, Science & Faith.
 Choose what interests you from \$25 per session.
 For more information and to register:
ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/

Easter Sunday 9 April

Happy Easter from all at Caritas Australia!

Thank you for your continued support for Project Compassion – past, present and future. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**

Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2023 Lenten appeal.

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 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

Catechesis. The passion for evangelization: *Jesus, model of evangelization*



Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Last Wednesday we began a series of catechesis on the passion of evangelization, that is, on the apostolic zeal that should enliven the Church and every Christian. Today, let us look at the unsurpassable model of proclaiming: *Jesus*. The Christmas Day Gospel defined him as the “Word of God” (cf. *Jn* 1:1). The fact that he is the *Logos*, that is, the Word, highlights an essential aspect of Jesus: He is always in relation, outgoing, never isolated, always in relation, outgoing. The word, in fact, exists to be transmitted, communicated. So it is with Jesus, the Eternal Word of the Father, reaching out to us, communicated to us. Christ not only has words of life, but makes his life a Word, a message: that is, he lives always turned toward the Father and toward us. Always looking at his Father who sent him and looking at us to whom he was sent. Indeed, if we look at his days, described in the Gospels, we see that intimacy with the Father — prayer — occupies first place. This is why Jesus gets up early, when it is still dark, and goes into deserted areas to pray (cf. *Mk* 1:35; *Lk* 4:42), to speak with the Father. He makes all of his decisions and most important choices after having prayed (cf. *Lk* 6:12; 9:18). It is precisely within this relationship, in the prayer which connects him to the Father in the Spirit, that Jesus discovers the meaning of his being human, of his existence in the world, because he is on a mission for us, sent by the Father to us. It is thus interesting to note the first public act that he accomplishes after the years of his hidden life in Nazareth. Jesus does not work a great wonder, he does not send an impactful message, but he mingles with the people who were going to be baptized by John. In this way, he offers us the key by which he acts in the world: spending himself for sinners, putting himself in solidarity with us without distance, in a total sharing of life. In fact, speaking about his mission, he will say that he did not come “to be served but to serve, and to give his life” (*Mk* 10:45). Every day after praying, Jesus dedicates his entire day to the proclamation of the Kingdom of God and dedicates it to people, above all to the poorest and weakest, to sinners and to the sick (cf. *Mk* 1:32-39). That is, Jesus is in contact with the Father in prayer and then he is in contact with all the people through his mission, through catechesis, to teach the path of the Kingdom of God. Now, should we want to represent his style of life with an image, it would not be difficult for us to find it: Jesus himself offers it to us. We have heard him, speaking of himself as the *Good Shepherd*, the one who, he says, “lays down his life for the sheep” (*Jn* 10:11). This is Jesus. In reality, being a shepherd was not just a job that required time and a lot of dedication; it was a true and proper way of life: 24 hours a day, living with the flock, accompanying it to pasture, sleeping among the sheep, taking care of those who were weakest. In other words, Jesus does not do something for us, but he gives everything. He gives his life for us. He has a *pastoral heart* (cf. *Ez* 34:15). He is a shepherd for all of us. Indeed, to sum up the action of the Church in one word, precisely the term “pastoral” is often used. And to evaluate our pastoral work we need to confront ourselves with the model, confront ourselves with Jesus, Jesus the Good Shepherd. Above all, we can ask ourselves: do we imitate him, drinking from the wells of prayer so that our heart might be in harmony with his? Intimacy with him is, as a beautiful volume by Abbot Chautard suggested, *the soul of every apostolate*. Jesus himself clearly said it to his disciples: “Apart from me you can do nothing” (*Jn* 15:5). If we stay with Jesus, we discover that his pastoral heart always beats for the person who is confused, lost, far away. And ours? How many times do we express our attitude toward people who are a bit difficult or with whom we have a bit of difficulty: “But it’s their problem, let them work it out...”. But Jesus never said this, never. Instead, he always went to meet all the marginalized, the sinners. He was accused of this — of being with sinners — because he brought God’s salvation precisely to them. We have heard the parable of the lost sheep, found in chapter 15 of the Gospel of Luke (cf. vv. 4-7). Jesus also speaks about the lost coin and about the prodigal son. If we want to train our apostolic zeal, we should always have chapter 15 of Luke before our eyes. Read it often. There we can understand what apostolic zeal is. There we discover that God does not remain contemplating the sheep pen, nor does he threaten them so they won’t leave. Rather, if one leaves and gets lost, he does not abandon it but goes in search of it. He does not say, “It left. That’s its fault. That’s its business!” His pastoral heart reacts in another way: the pastoral heart *suffers* and the pastoral heart *takes risks*. It *suffers*: yes, God suffers for those who leave and, while he mourns over them, he loves them even more. The Lord suffers when we distance ourselves from his heart. He suffers for all who do not know the beauty of his love and the warmth of his embrace. But, in response to this suffering, he does not withdraw; rather, he *takes a risk*. He leaves the 99 sheep who are safe and ventures out for the lost one, thus doing something both risky and unreasonable, but consonant with his pastoral heart which misses the one who left. The longing for those who have left is constant in Jesus. And when we hear that someone has left the Church, what do we want to say? “Let them work it out”. No. Jesus teaches us nostalgia for those who have left. Jesus does not feel anger or resentment but pure longing for us. Jesus feels nostalgic for us and this is God’s zeal. And I wonder, do we have similar sentiments? Perhaps we see those who have left the flock as adversaries or enemies. “And this person?” “No, they’ve gone to the other side, they’ve lost the faith, they’re going to hell...”, and we are serene. When we meet them at school, at work, on the streets of the city, why don’t we think instead that we have a beautiful opportunity to witness to them the joy of a Father who loves them and has never forgotten them? Not to proselytize, no! But that the Word of the Father might reach them so we can walk together. To evangelize is not to proselytize. To proselytize is something pagan; it is neither religious nor evangelical. There is a good word for those who have left the flock and we have the honour and the burden of being the ones to speak that word. Because *the* Word, Jesus, asks this of us: to always draw near to everyone, with an open heart, because he is like that. Perhaps we have been following and loving Jesus for some time and have never wondered if we share his feelings, if *we suffer* and *we take risks* in harmony with Jesus’s heart, with this pastoral heart, close to Jesus’s pastoral heart! This is not about proselytism, as I said, so that others become “one of us”. No, this is not Christian. It is about loving so that they might be happy children of God. In prayer, let us ask for the grace of a pastoral heart, an open heart that draws near to everyone, so as to bear the Lord’s message as well as to feel Christ’s longing for each of them. For without this love that suffers and takes risks, our life does not work. If we Christians do not have this love that suffers and takes risks, we risk pasturing only ourselves. Shepherds who are shepherds of themselves, instead of being shepherds of the flock, are people who comb “exquisite” sheep. We do not need to be shepherds of ourselves, but shepherds for everyone.

