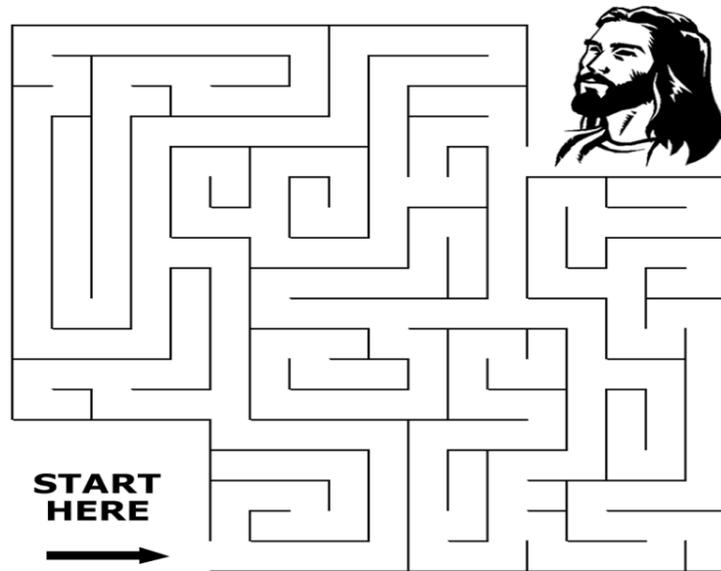
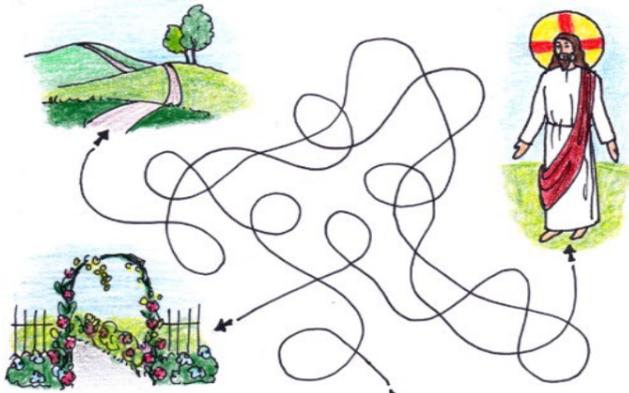


The Kids' Bulletin

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 7th, 2023

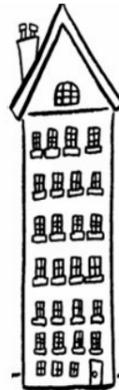


START
HERE



In today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells the disciples the way to the Father in Heaven. Do you know which is the way? Follow the squiggly line to find out!

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



HEARTS
TROUBLED
TRUST
ROOMS
HOUSE
TRUTH
BELIEVE
FATHER
LIVING
EVIDENCE
REASON
PERFORM

"I Am the Way"

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6
Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



"I AM" THE WAY, TRUTH, & THE LIFE

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.



K	P	I	H	Y	G	S	E	X	Q	J	U	C	O	N	F	D	A	Z	B	V	W	L	R	T	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 4-8-18-24-25-7 _____
- 25-24-14-12-20-23-8-17 _____
- 20-8-23-3-8-21-8 _____
- 16-18-25-4-8-24 _____
- 4-14-12-7-8 _____
- 2-24-8-2-18-24-8 _____
- 2-23-18-13-8 _____
- 22-18-5 _____
- 25-24-12-25-4 _____
- 23-3-16-8 _____

HOUSE	WAY	PLACE	PREPARE	HEARTS
LIFE	TRUTH	TROUBLED	FATHER	BELIEVE

JESUS



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@lol7hills.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 July 2023
WEEKDAY MASS:	Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am Thursday 9.00am	Baptism:	23rd July 2023
WEEKEND MASS:	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9.30am	Parish Website:	www.olol7hills.com.au
		Catechist Coordinator :	Sandy Manamperi 0480 266 339
		Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/LOLO7Hills/

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 7 MAY 2023 • Year A



Let us Pray for the Sick

Leonila Ahillon, George Alagiah, Mamerto Angele, Mary Attard, Cynthia Avery, Rosenda Bolano, Barrie Chamberlain, Rosella Booth, Jock Clark Snr, Anthony Janicska, Helen Hill, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Debra Price, Trent Ross, Sue Tipaldo, Natalie Woodward, Vinnie Zarha

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@lol7hills.com.au We can also arrange for Holy Communion or a visit if required.

Let us Pray for the Deceased

Recently Deceased: Neil Amaratunga, Agnes Bonello, Anton, Philomena & Clarence Corera, Sarojini Chary, Aurora Dumlaio, Julian Epondulan, Vernie Flores, Ranjan Fernando, Bernard Gauci, Teodoro Garcia, Maria Garufo, Emmanuel Grech, Desmond Grogan, Inocencia Datuin, Rita Leon, Debbie Mifsud, Jessica Neodama, Paiboon Pundmand, Emanuella Pozzolungo, Maria Reyes, Margie Silva, Eddie Tabone, Catherine Tran, Lucia Yap Ong, Caroline Uy

Anniversaries: Fredy Alphonse, Gay & Jacqueline Angley, Michelle Azzopardi, Carmen Attard, Frank & Fortunata Baiada, Elvina Barnaba, Romeo Biniahn, Sam Borg, Simeon Carlos, Rosario & Aloysean Corera, Saviour Caruana, Audrey & Herman Chelliah, Charlie Chircop, Antonia, Melvyn Fernandes, Josephine Francis, E. Franklin, Sheela Franklin, Emilia Galea, Jean Garrick, Elsie & Karl Garrick, Zoltan Gartner, Tarcisio 'Archie' Gatt, Christine Gomez, Charlie Gravina, Leonie Jordan, Chinedu Joseph & Family, Sammy Formusa, Rosine Lafleur, Maria, Apolinario Maglaya, Tomasa & Nicanor Magpayo, James McNally, Jasmine McElevey, Thomas Snr Morrissey, Anton Motha, Jason Muscat, Jim & Philippa Muscat, Alberto Nahoy, John O'Sullivan, Thirucheluum, Philomina, Theanmolish, Nirmala, Mile Perak, Lakshnian Perera, Juliet Peter, T. Philomina, John Portelli, John Ratnam, Cornelio & Illuminada 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, Melvyn Fernandes, Zaren & Sam Formosa, John & William Formosa, Charlie Gauci, Francisca Garcia, Selvam Irudayaraj, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Pauline Meilak, Mary Mifsud, Emilia & William Mifsud, Marcel Mohsen, Anton & Lourda Motha, Muscat Family, Josephine & Charles Muscat, Mary Muscat, Francis Muscat, Josefina Lim, Adrian Pereira, Jude Ranasinghe, 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 6:1-7*

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **(R.)**
2. For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**
3. The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the first letter of St Peter 2:4-9*

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia
I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the first holy Gospel according to John 14:1-12*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.' Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me? 'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. 'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

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: Luminare 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		
MAY 2023		
10	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	7.30pm
10	Confirmation—2nd Meeting	6.30pm
11	Lourdes over 50's Meeting	10.30am
12	Lourdes Luminare YAG Night	6.45pm
13	Confirmation -2nd Meeting (RPT)	4.30pm
14	Mother's Day	
14	Baptism	11.00am
22	St Vincent De Paul Meeting	7.00pm
28	Children's Liturgy	9.30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

6/7 MAY 2023	
Acolytes	Vigil: James Dinning 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am Sandy Manamperi
Ministers	Vigil: M.Mifsud, VOLUNTEER 8am: S.Nemorin, VOLUNTEER 9.30am: C.Brooks, B.Chandler
Readers	Vigil: A.Punch, C.Rodrigues 8am: P.Ferriols, K.Walker 9.30am F.Kennedy, A.Walker
Altar Servers	Vigil: Dominic Sant, Johnathan Sant 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am Sofia Cullili, Anthony Melki
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Tongan Choir
Flowers	Fenty, Gaby, Flo & Liz
Church cleaning	13 May Tongan Community
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: Kathy Chamberlain

13/14 MAY 2023

Acolytes	Vigil: Frank Paiva 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am Ryan Epondulan
Ministers	Vigil: L. La Guidara, B.Motha 8am: F.Balatbat, VOLUNTEER 9.30am: P.Gow, S.Lenthall
Readers	Vigil: L.Bellissimo, M.Simic 8am: J.Cabasa, A.McNally 9.30am M.Aquino, A.Joseph
Altar Servers	Vigil: A.Bagatella, A. La Guidara, C. La Guidara 8am: Sean Park, Philip Park 9.30am C.Attard, L.Cullili, M.Pieris
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Young Adults Group—Mother's Day
Flowers	Claudette & Judith
Church cleaning	18 May Cathy Hutchings Annette Peatman
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Urge 8am: Joyce Hillbrick 9.30am: VOLUNTEER

POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE FOR WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Dear brothers and sisters, dear young people!

This is now the sixtieth time that we are celebrating the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, established by Saint Paul VI in 1964, during the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council. This providential initiative seeks to assist the members of the People of God, as individuals and as communities, to respond to the call and mission that the Lord entrusts to each of us in today's world, amid its afflictions and its hopes, its challenges and its achievements. This year I would ask you, in your reflection and prayer, to take as your guide the theme "Vocation: Grace and Mission". This Day is a precious opportunity for recalling with wonder that the Lord's call is grace, complete gift, and at the same time a commitment to bring the Gospel to others. We are called to a faith that bears witness, one that closely connects the life of grace, as experienced in the sacraments and ecclesial communion, to our apostolate in the world. Led by the Spirit, Christians are challenged to respond to existential peripheries and human dramas, ever conscious that the mission is God's work; it is not carried out by us alone, but always in ecclesial communion, together with our brothers and sisters, and under the guidance of the Church's pastors. For this has always been God's dream: that we should live with him in a communion of love. "Chosen before the creation of the world" The apostle Paul opens before us a remarkable horizon: in Christ, God the Father "chose us before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will" (Eph 1:4-5). These words allow us to glimpse life at its fullest: God has "conceived" us in his image and likeness and desires us to be his sons and daughters. We were created by love, for love and with love, and we are made for love. In the course of our lives, this call, which is part of the fibre of our being and the secret of our happiness, comes to us by the work of the Holy Spirit in ever new ways. It enlightens our minds, strengthens our wills, fills us with amazement and sets our hearts afire. At times, the Spirit comes to us in completely unexpected ways. So it was for me when, on 21 September 1953, as I was on my way to an annual school celebration, I was led to stop by a church and go to confession. That day changed my life and left a mark that has endured to the present day. God's call to the gift of self tends to make itself known gradually: in our encounter with situations of poverty, in moments of prayer, when we see a clear witness to the Gospel, or read something that opens our minds. When we hear God's word and sense that it is spoken directly to us, in the advice given by a fellow brother or sister, in moments of sickness or sorrow. In all the ways he calls us, God shows infinite creativity. The Lord's initiative and his gracious gift call for a response on our part. Vocation is "the interplay between divine choice and human freedom", a dynamic and exciting relationship between God and the human heart. The gift of vocation is like a divine seed that springs up in the soil of our existence, opens our hearts to God and to others, so that we can share with them the treasure we ourselves have found. This is the fundamental structure of what we mean by vocation: God calls us in love and we, in gratitude, respond to him in love. We realize that we are beloved sons and daughters of the one Father, and we come to see ourselves as brothers and sisters of one another. Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, when at last she "saw" this clearly, exclaimed, "At last I have found my calling: my call is love. Indeed, I have found my proper place in the Church... In the heart of the Church, my Mother, I will be love". "I am a mission on this earth" God's call, we said, includes a "sending". There is no vocation without mission. There is no happiness and full self-realization unless we offer others the new life that we have found. God's call to love is an experience that does not allow us to remain silent. Saint Paul says, "Woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!" (1 Cor 9:16). And the First Letter of John begins with the words, "What we have heard and seen, looked at and touched – the Word made flesh – we declare also to you, so that our joy may be complete" (cf. 1:1-4). Five years ago, in the Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate*, I spoke to every baptized person, saying, "You need to see the entirety of your life as a mission" (No. 23). Yes, because each and every one of us is able to say: "I am a mission on this earth; that is the reason why I am here in this world". Our shared mission as Christians is to bear joyful witness wherever we find ourselves, through our actions and words, to the experience of being with Jesus and members of his community, which is the Church. That mission finds expression in works of material and spiritual mercy, in a welcoming and gentle way of life that reflects closeness, compassion and tenderness, in contrast to the culture of waste and indifference. By being a neighbour, like the Good Samaritan (cf. Lk 10:25-37), we come to understand the heart of our Christian vocation: to imitate Jesus Christ, who came to serve, not to be served (cf. Mk 10:45). This missionary activity does not arise simply from our own abilities, plans and projects, nor from our sheer willpower or our efforts to practice the virtues; it is the result of a profound experience in the company of Jesus. Only then can we testify to a Person, a Life, and thus become "apostles". Only then can we regard ourselves as "sealed, even branded, by this mission of bringing light, blessing, enlivening, raising, healing and freeing". The Gospel icon of this experience is that of the two disciples journeying to Emmaus. After their encounter with the risen Jesus, they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the Scriptures to us?" (Lk 24:32). In those disciples, we can see what it means to have "hearts on fire, feet on the move". This is also my fervent hope for the coming World Youth Day in Lisbon, to which I joyfully look forward, with its motto: "Mary arose and went with haste" (Lk 1:39). May every man and woman feel called to arise and go in haste, with hearts on fire. *Called together and convened* The evangelist Mark relates the moment when Jesus called to himself twelve disciples, each by name. He appointed them to be with him and to be sent out to proclaim the message, to heal infirmities and to cast out demons (cf. Mk 3:13-15). The Lord thus laid the foundations of his new community. The Twelve were people from different social classes and trades; none of them was a person of influence. The Gospels speak too of other callings, like that of the 72 disciples whom Jesus sent out two by two (cf. Lk 10:1). The Church is an *Ecclesia*, the Greek word for *an assembly of persons called and convened*, in order to form the community of missionary disciples of Jesus Christ committed to sharing love among themselves (cf. Jn 13:34; 15:12) and spreading that love to all others, so that God's kingdom may come. Within the Church, all of us are servants, in accordance with the variety of our vocations, charisms and ministries. Our common vocation to give ourselves in love develops and finds concrete expression in the life of lay men and women, devoted to raising a family as a small *domestic church* and working as a leaven of the Gospel to renew the different sectors of society; in the testimony of consecrated women and men who are completely committed to God for the sake of their brothers and sisters as a prophetic sign of the kingdom of God; in ordained ministers – deacons, priests and bishops – placed at the service of preaching, prayer and fostering the communion of the holy People of God. Only in relation with all the others, does any particular vocation in the Church fully disclose its true nature and richness. Viewed in this light, the Church is a vocational "symphony", with every vocation united yet distinct, in harmony and joined together in "going forth" to radiate throughout the world the new life of the kingdom of God. *Grace and mission: a gift and a task.*

Dear brothers and sisters, vocation is a gift and a task, a source of new life and true joy. May the initiatives of prayer and of activity associated with this Day strengthen an awareness of vocation within our families, our parish communities, our communities of consecrated life, and our ecclesial associations and movements.



FROM FR. HENRY DUC

Dear Friends,

Since the Vatican II Council in the 60s of the last century, the Church has been defined as a 'pilgrim people'. This is a beautiful concept to describe the Church whose members like pilgrims are on the journey towards their heavenly home, the place with many rooms that Jesus in the Gospel known as his Farewell discourse this Sunday refers to as my Father's house and the place Jesus promises to go there to prepare for the disciples.

Both Thomas and Philip honestly express their ignorance in this matter, consequently Thomas takes the courage to ask him about the way to such a place, and in his response Jesus defines himself as 'the Way, the Truth and the Life.' The Way, because he is the one leading us to the Father and we all have to come to the Father through Jesus, and there is no other way around, except this Christo-centric way. The Truth, because all what he says is true and he can be trusted as he delivers what he promises. The Life because he is the source of Life, not an ordinary one, but everlasting, and he established the Eucharist at the Last Supper as the source to provide food for his Pilgrim people on their journey home.

Following his revelation that 'you know me, and you know my Father, too', Philip fails to understand the concept and asks Jesus to show him the Father. In reply, he opens for him to have a glimpse into the unity and oneness between him and the Father. 'To have seen me is to have seen the Father,' because 'I am in the Father, and the Father is in me,' argued Jesus. Most significantly, he promises that those who strongly believe in him will be able to carry out the same as his and even more spectacular works. The wondrous works of the Apostles recounted in the Acts of the Apostles and of the saints speak volume about such a promise from the Lord. It's worth to note Jesus' initial response to Philip following his request to see the Father, he gently challenges the man for his lack of understanding despite his rather long involvement with the group. 'Have I been with you all this time, and you still do not know me?' Jesus asks Philip. This question, in fact, seems to carry with it some disappointment with Philip, and could serve as a soul-searching question for us his disciples today about how much we know about Jesus and his teaching despite our long association in the Church.

Let us pray today for the grace to keep us straight on the Way of Jesus to reach our heavenly home, for the wisdom to treasure the truth of his teaching, and the zeal to embrace his Life given to us especially through the Eucharist.

Have a grace-filled week,

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

FAREWELL MASS FOR ALISON, ERIKA AND SARAH

We are having a Farewell Mass for Alison, Erika and Sarah at the 9.30am Mass this Sunday 7 May, 2023. We joyfully welcome them back on this occasion to give praise and thanks to God for their service given to our Parish community, and pray that the Lord will continue to walk with them on the next chapter of their life journeys.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Tara Seaman, Dante Chalon, Tianna Chalon and Tanisha Chalon who recently celebrated their First Holy Communion.

LOURDES LUMINATE YOUNG ADULTS GROUP NIGHT

All are welcome to join us for dinner and formation this Friday 12th May, 2023 from 6:45pm in the Parish Hall.

Please bring food to share.

Guest speaker: Rev. Fr. Christopher del Rosario

Topic: The Importance of Fatima Today

For more info contact: Ian Epondulan -

youthlol7h@gmail.com

Instagram/Facebook:

@lol7hills / Lourdes 7Hills Young Adults

L.O.U.R.D.E.S.: Living **OUt** Real Discipleship,

Evangelisation and **Service Luminat**:

Shedding light on the darkness to bring the light of Christ to others, connecting young people through faith and fellowship, providing a safe space and community that welcomes all.



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Members of the Parish Pastoral Council are invited to attend our monthly meeting in the Parish Meeting room at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10 May, 2023.

BECOME A CATECHIST AN SRE VOLUNTEER!

SRE's are parish volunteers who: Teach and share their faith with children of their parish who attend government schools; Have an hour per week to prepare and share their time with young people; Are people who respond to the central mission of The Church to make Jesus known and loved. OLOL SRE's go into Seven Hills, Seven Hills North, Bert Oldfield, Vardys Road State primary schools & The Hills Sports High School. **New volunteers SRE's will be given support, training, teaching materials and will start as a classroom helper.** For further enquiries please contact Sandy in the parish office 96222920

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.*

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL PENTECOST CELEBRATIONS

Please join the Catholic Charismatic Renewal NSW & Parramatta in celebrating Pentecost 2023 with an uplifting, inspiring encouraging Holy Spirit afternoon of Praise & Worship, Testimonies, Hearing the Word of God, and Prayer Ministry. Date Saturday 27th May 2023, Venue: Servants of Jesus Centre 15 Park Rd, Seven Hills. Time: 2pm-5.30pm. Enquiries: 9810 2499.

Positions Vacant:

- **Communications and Digital Manager** – Diocese of Parramatta
- **Communications Assistant** – Diocese of Parramatta
- **Lead Support** – Diocesan Synod

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

Invitation to Register for CPR Training: 13 May and 5 June

You are invited to register for an accredited CPR Course being offered by Surf Life Saving NSW. This is being offered as FREE course to the Parishes of the Diocese 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 Parish, Springwood on Saturday 13 May from 10am or
- Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown, on Monday 5 June from 4pm.

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

Springwood East Timor Support Group Trivia Night: 20 May

24th Anniversary Trivia Night – Join us for an evening of fun and flashes of brilliance to aid the Timorese people with Medical and Education initiatives. On Saturday 20 May 7pm for a 7:30 start at St Thomas Aquinas School Hall – 168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood. BYO nibbles & drinks – Tables of 8 to 10. Minimal Prizes this year – Donation box available, Tickets are \$20 each. Payment at the door – credit card accepted. Please call Dennis on 0425209840 for any queries.

Quakers Hill Parish Bingo Fundraiser: 3 June

Mary Immaculate Parish, Quakers Hill, is hosting a Bingo night fundraiser for our Youth Groups on Saturday 3 June 2023 from 7pm. Bookings now open to secure a seat/table (6 people). We have limited seats so please get in early. Please email the parish office at parishoffice@maryimmac.org.au

Mary Help of Christians Procession: 20 May

Join The Servants of Mary Help of Christians for their annual procession ahead of the Feast of Mary, Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia on Saturday 20 May. Mass will commence at 10am at St Peter's Surry Hills, followed by a street procession through to St Mary's Cathedral and Mass at 12pm. All are welcome to attend.

Christian Meditation Introduction and Renewal Day: 21 May

You are invited to a Christian Meditation Introduction and Renewal Day at St Benedict's Monastery, 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia, on Sunday 21 May from 10.30am to 3pm, with registration from 10am. Morning tea will be provided, but BYO picnic lunch. No need to register ahead of time. Donations welcome. For enquiries, please contact either Ann Bergman on anniebergman@hotmail.com or Ann Lomas on atlomas@bigpond.com or (02) 9653 2637.

'Anointed' MGL Sisters Pentecost Intensive Retreat: 24-28 May

Deepen in your anointing as a Christian called to intentional relationship with the Trinity, radical discipleship, generously sharing the charismatic gifts and a life of mission and service through inputs, discussion and practical workshops. Join us for 5 days live-in at Carmel House, Varroville. More info & register: www.trybooking.com/CFBRF

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Pentecost Celebration: 27 May

Come and prepare on the eve of Pentecost with the Catholic Charismatic Renewal NSW and Parramatta Communities. Come to an uplifting, inspiring, encouraging afternoon of worship, testimonies, listening to the Word of God and prayer ministry on Saturday 27 May from 2pm to 5pm at Servants of Jesus, 15 Park Rd Seven Hills. Register now via <https://www.trybooking.com/CHJKP>

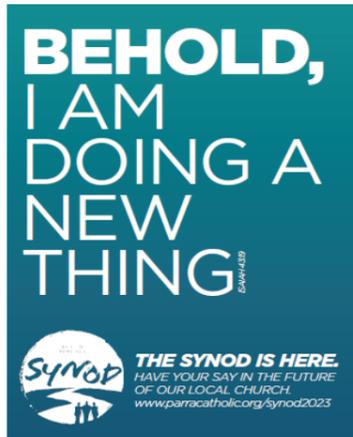
PALMS Australia Mission: Transform Lives - theirs...and yours

Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills and knowledge with those who have few other chances for training. Build enduring global relationships while assisting sustainable, self-reliant, community development. Explore 35 positions by scanning the QR code below. On our website you can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand. Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know by calling (02) 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567 or visit www.palms.org.au



Diocesan Synod 2023 – The Time is Now!

Join the Diocese of Parramatta as we listen and respond to the Holy Spirit through the People of God in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Let us go forwards towards the horizon that awaits us. Learn more at parracatholic.org/synod2023



POPE FRANCIS' REGINA CAELI



Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

On this third Sunday of Easter, the Gospel narrates the encounter of the Risen Jesus with the disciples of Emmaus (cf. *Lk* 24:13-35). These are two disciples who, resigned to the death of the Master, decide on the day of Passover to leave Jerusalem and to return home. Perhaps they were a little uneasy because they had heard the women coming from the sepulchre and saying that the Lord was like that... they go away. And while they are walking, sadly talking about what has happened, Jesus appears beside them, but they do not recognize him. He asks them why they are so sad, and they say to him: "But, are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" (v. 18). And Jesus replies: "What things?" (v. 19). And they tell him the entire story, and Jesus makes them tell him the story. Then, while they are walking, he helps them reinterpret the facts in a different way, in the light of the prophecies, of the Word of God, of all that had been proclaimed to the people of Israel. To reread: that is what Jesus does with them, helping to reread. Let us dwell on this aspect. Indeed, for us to it is important to reread our history together with Jesus: the story of our life, of a certain period, of our days, with its disappointments and hopes. Besides, we too, like those disciples, faced with what happens to us, can find ourselves lost in the face of these events, alone and uncertain, with many questions and worries, disappointments, many things. Today's Gospel invites us to tell Jesus everything, sincerely, without being afraid of disturbing him: he listens; without fear of saying the wrong thing, without shame at our struggle to understand. The Lord is happy whenever we open ourselves to him; only in this way can he take us by the hand, accompany us and make our hearts burn again (cf. v. 32). We too, then, like the disciples of Emmaus, are called to spend time with him so that, when evening comes, he will remain with us (cf. v. 29). There is a good way of doing this, and today I would like to propose it to you: it consists of dedicating some time, every evening, to a brief *examination of conscience*. But, what happened today within me? That is the question. It is a matter of *rereading the day with Jesus*, rereading my day: opening the heart to him, bringing to him people, choices, fears, falls and hopes, all the things that happened; to learn gradually to look at things with different eyes, with his eyes and not just our own. We can thus relive the experience of those two disciples. Before Christ's love, even that which seems wearisome and unsuccessful can appear under another light: a difficult cross to embrace, the decision to forgive an offence, a missed opportunity for redress, the toil of work, the sincerity that comes at a price, and the trials of family life can appear to us in a new light, the light of the Crucified and Risen, who knows how to turn every fall into a step forward. But to do this, it is important to *drop our defences*: to leave time and space for Jesus, not to hide anything from him, to bring him our miseries, to let ourselves be wounded by his truth, to let our heart vibrate at the breath of his Word. We can begin today, to dedicate this evening a moment of prayer during which we ask ourselves: how was my day? What were its joys, what were its sorrows, what were its mundanities, what happened? What were the pearls of the day, possibly hidden, to be thankful for? Was there a little love in what I did? And what are the falls, the sadness, the doubts and fears to bring to Jesus so that He can open new ways to me, to lift me up and encourage me? May Mary, wise Virgin, help us to recognize Jesus who walks with us and to reread- the word: *re-read* – every day of our life in front of him.

After the Regina Caeli

Dear brothers and sisters!

Yesterday, in Paris, Henri Planchat, priest of the Congregation of Saint Vincent de Paul, Ladislav Radigue and three companion priests of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary were beatified. Pastors inspired by apostolic zeal, they were united in their witness to the faith to the point of martyrdom, which they suffered in Paris in 1871, during the so-called Paris "Commune". A round of applause for the new Blessed! Yesterday was Earth Day. I hope that commitment to care for creation may always be united with effective solidarity with the poorest. Unfortunately, the situation in Sudan remains grave, and therefore I renew my appeal for an end to the violence as soon as possible and for a return to the path of dialogue. I invite everyone to pray for our Sudanese brothers and sisters. Today is the 99th Day of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, on the theme *For the love of knowledge. The challenges of the new humanism*. I hope that that largest Italian Catholic university will face these challenges with the spirit of the founders, in particular the young Armida Barelli, proclaimed Blessed a year ago. Next Friday I will go to Budapest, in Hungary, for three days, to complete the trip I made in 2021 for the International Eucharistic Congress. It will be an opportunity to embrace once again a Church and a people so dear to me. It will also be a journey to the centre of Europe, over which the icy winds of war continue to blow, while the displacement of so many people puts urgent humanitarian questions on the agenda. But now I wish to address you with affection, dear Hungarian brothers and sisters, as I look forward to visiting you as a pilgrim, friend and brother of all, and to meet, among others, the authorities, the bishops, the priests and consecrated persons, the young, the university community and the poor. I know you are making great efforts to prepare for my arrival: I thank you from my heart for this. And I ask you all to accompany me on this journey with your prayers. And let us not forget our Ukrainian brothers and sisters, still afflicted by this war. I greet you all from my heart, Romans and pilgrims from Italy and many countries – I see the flags of so many countries – in particular those of Salamanca and the students of Albacete, as well as the Veneto-Trentino grouping of the Order of Malta Relief Corps. I greet the faithful of Ferrara, Palermo and Grumello del Monte; the community of the Diocesan School of Lodi; the young people of various towns in the dioceses of Alba, Bergamo, Brescia, Como and Milan; the candidates for Confirmation from many Italian parishes; the pupils of the Sacred Heart Institute of Cadoneghe; the "Volontieri" cooperative from Casoli and the "Mototurismo" group from Agna. I wish you all a good Sunday; and please do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your meal, and *arrivederci!*

Special Greetings

I extend a warm welcome to the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's Audience, especially the groups from England, Denmark, Malta, Kenya, Kuwait, Australia, Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines and the United States of America. In the joy of the Risen Christ, I invoke upon you and your families the loving mercy of God our Father. May the Lord bless you all! Lastly, my thoughts turn to *young people*, to *the sick*, to *the elderly* and to *newlyweds*. Inspired by the apparition of Christ to the two "disciples of Emmaus" (cf. *Lk* 24, 13-35), may you know how to find Jesus in prayer and in reflection, and, as happened to the wayfarers of Emmaus, may your hearts burn for the desires, enthusiasm and certainties that only the divine Master can evoke. And brothers and sisters, let us not forget to pray for battered Ukraine. I offer my blessing to all of you.