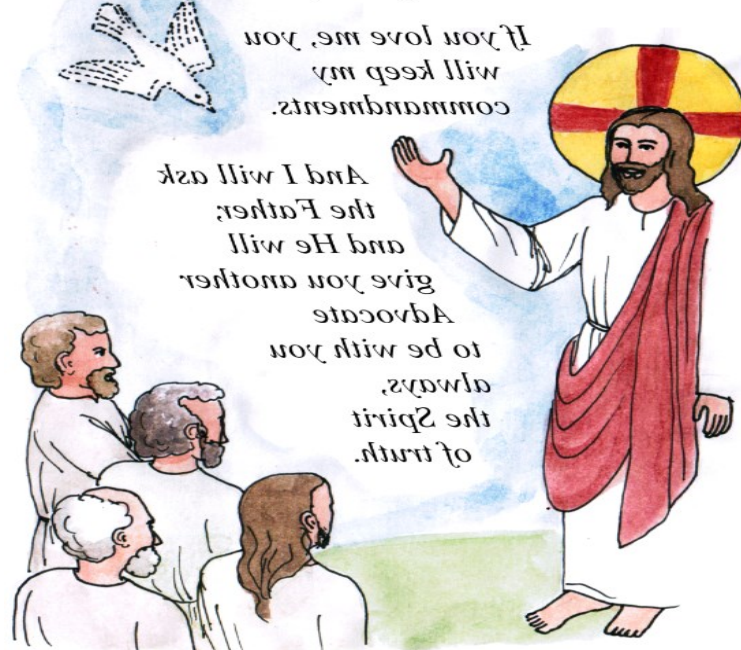


The Kids' Bulletin

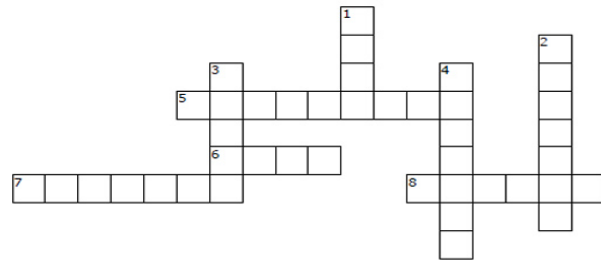
Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 14th, 2023



What did Jesus say to the disciples to prepare them for His departure? Look at this page in the mirror to find out!

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever." John 14:16 (NIV)
This puzzle is based on John 14:15-21 (NIV)



ACROSS

5. One who gives help or advice
6. To have a strong affection and attraction for someone
7. To give an order with authority
8. The first person of the Trinity; God the _____

DOWN

1. To be alive or have life
2. For all time; time without end
3. The whole earth and all the people on it
4. Children who have no parents

FATHER COUNSELOR	FOREVER LIVE	WORLD COMMAND	LOVE ORPHANS
---------------------	-----------------	------------------	-----------------

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

DISCIPLES	LOVE	FATHER
ANOTHER	ADVOCATE	SPIRIT
TRUTH	WORLD	ORPHANS
UNDERSTAND	SHOW	MYSELF



Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

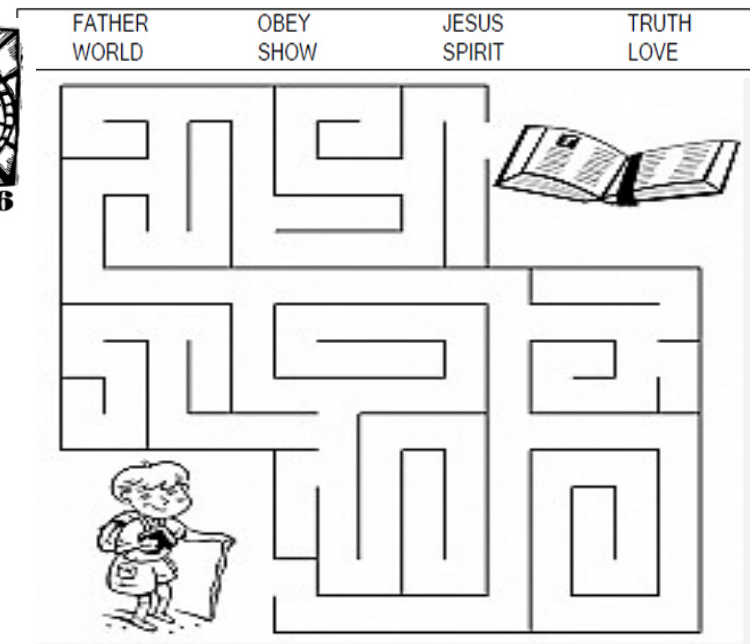
"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever." John 14:16 (NIV)

Unscramble the letters and write the word correctly in the space provided.



John 14:16

1. OBYE _____
2. LVOE _____
3. ISPTRI _____
4. SWHO _____
5. UESSJ _____
6. OWRDL _____
7. TRUHT _____
8. RTAFEH _____



7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills. NSW. 2147

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS

"Still a wonderful place to pray & stay."

Ph. 9622 2920

Email: secretary@olol7hills.com.au

Parish Priest:	Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran	Parish School:	LOL 8869 6800
Parish Office Team:	Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang Jane Nguyen	Principal:	Ms Keiran Byrnes
Sacrament Co-Ordinator:	Mrs Artelle Lenthall	Reconciliation:	Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
Office Hours: Monday-Friday:	9am - 3.00pm	Baptismal Preparation:	19th 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/LOL7Hills/

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 14 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 Hili, 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@olol7hills.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, Vernie Flores, Ranjan Fernando, Teodoro Garcia, Maria Garufo, Emmanuel Grech, Desmond Grogan, Helen Hili, Inocencia Datuin, Rita Leon, Debbie Mifsud, Jessica Neodama, Margie Silva, Emanuella Pozzolonguo, Eddie Tabone

Anniversaries: Fredy Alphonse, Gay & Jacqueline Angley, Michelle Azzopardi, Carmen Attard, Frank & Fortunata Baiada, Cecil Beed, Sam Borg, Peter Bonnici, Helen Bonnici, Simeon Carlos, Audrey & Herman Chelliah, Charlie Chircop, Antonia, Melvyn Fernandes, Josephine Francis, E. Franklin, Sheela Franklin, Emilia Galea, Jean Garrick, Elsie & Karl Garrick, Zoltan Gartner, Charlie Gravina, Ginny Heke, Leonie Jordan, Oliver Jordan, Chinedu Joseph & Family, Sammy Formusa, Rosine Lafleur, Maria, Apolinario Maglaya, Tomasa & Nicanor Magpayo, Jasmine McElevey, Thomas Snr Morrissey, Irene Moroney, Anton Motha, Jason Muscat, Jim & Philippa Muscat, Alberto Nahoy, Thirucheluum, Philomina, Theanmolish, Nirmala, Mile Perak, Lakshnian Perera, Juliet Peter, T. Philomina, John Portelli, John Ratnam, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Vivian Silva, Rosary Silva, Pauline & Santan Soares, Shane Vaz, Salvu Zammit

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, Julian Epondulan, 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 & Francis Muscat, Josefina Lim, Adrian Pereira, Jude Ransinghe, John & Rosaline Ratnam, Jose Reyes, Laureano Reyes, Maria Reyes, Yolanda Reyes, Karen Reyes, Rodrigues Family, Jose Sanchez, Sem Serna, Debe Toufic, Tony Vassallo, Jim Vella, Hector & Rita Welgampola,

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

Our Lady of Lourdes

Ever Immaculate Virgin, Mother of mercy, health of the sick, refuge of sinners, comfort of the afflicted, you know my needs, my troubles, my sufferings; cast on me a look of pity.

By appearing in the grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, from which you dispense your favours, and already many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and physical. I come, therefore, with the most unbounded confidence to implore your maternal intercession. Obtain most loving mother, my requests, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
Amen.

REGULAR COLLECTIONS - First and Second

FIRST COLLECTION and Matt's Point is for the support of Priests throughout the Diocese.

ON-LINE BANK DONATIONS

Account name: Parramatta Diocesan Clergy
BSB: 067 950
ACC: 00 00 4265
Reference: Seven Hills - 6035

SECOND COLLECTION or Planned Giving Program

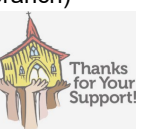
On behalf of the Parish Community, I would like to thank you very much for your ongoing support, which has been absolutely vital in keeping our Parish going strong. Projects completed include the Hall Kitchen renovation, Parish Meeting Room painting, Parish Office and Meeting Room Roof painted, Church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

ON-LINE BANK DONATIONS

Account Name: Seven Hills Catholic Church.
BSB: 067 950
ACC: 000552
Reference: (Your *Planned Giving envelope number* or for a one off donation, 'DONATION')

IN-PERSON BANK DEPOSIT (at a Bank Inst / Branch)

Account Name: Seven Hills Catholic Church
BSB: 062 315
ACC ID # 00901486
AGENT # 660



COVID- 19 UPDATE
PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING ANY FLU LIKE SYMPTOMS.
Please Help Us Keep Our Community Safe.

All are welcome to join us for **Our Lady of Lourdes, Seven Hills, Sydney, NSW, Australia Facebook LIVE-STREAM WEEKEND MASS** celebrated by **Fr. Henry Huu Duc Tran on Saturdays 6PM (Vigil),** <https://www.facebook.com/LOL7Hills/>

FIRST READING *A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8, 14-17*
Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: ‘How tremendous your deeds! **(R.)**

2. ‘Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!’
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men. **(R.)**
3. He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might. **(R.)**

4. Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my
prayer nor withhold his love from me. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the first letter of St Peter 3:15-18*
Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.
Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the first holy Gospel according to John 14:15-21*
Jesus said to his disciples: ‘If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.’

The Gospel of the Lord.



PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION
My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the altar.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen

GENERAL NOTICES...

NEW TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES? HOW CAN WE SERVE YOU?
Welcome. Wherever you are in your faith journey, it is great to have you. Please visit our website or call the parish office. We’re here to serve you.
www.olol7hills.org.au

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



LOURDES OVER 50s GROUP
Over 50s Meeting Thursday 8th June 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, 9th of June, 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		
17	Confirmation—2nd Meeting	6.30pm
20	Confirmation –2nd Meeting (RPT)	4.30pm
22	St Vincent De Paul Meeting	7.00pm
28	Children’s Liturgy	9.30am
JUNE		
1	Fr Henry Annual Leave	
8	Over 50’s Meeting	10.30am
9	Lourdes Luminate YAG	6.45pm
12	King’s Birthday Public Holiday	

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

13/14 MAY 2023		
Acolytes	Vigil: Frank Paiva 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am Ryan Epondulan	
Ministers	Vigil: L. La Guidara, B.Motha 8am: J. Irudayaraj, VOLUNTEER 9.30am: P.Gow, S.Lenthall	
Readers	Vigil: L.Bellissimo, M.Simic 8am: J.Cabasa, A.McNally 9.30am M.Aquino, F.Kennedy	
Altar Servers	Vigil: A.Bagatella, A. La Guidara, C. La Guidara 8am: Sean Park, Philip Park 9.30am C.Attard, L.Culili, M.Pieris	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	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	

20/21 MAY 2023		
Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: A. Bellissimo, C.Gonzales 8am: L. Fernandes, J. Irudayaraj 9.30am: VOLUNTEERS	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, J. Sarmiento 8am: E.Miu, M.Santos 9.30am C. Diaz, K. Huihui	
Altar Servers	Vigil: S.Thoms, A.Laus 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am A. Melki, L. Sadipoor, J.Kingston	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Office	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church cleaning	24 May	Jessie Borg Anne McNally
Welcomers	Vigil: Helen Gonzales 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: VOLUNTEER	

POPE FRANCIS: JESUS REVOLUTINISES OUR UDERSTAND OF FAMILY *By Joseph Tulloch*
Pope Francis on Friday addressed a group of pilgrims from the Italian Diocese of Asti, reflecting with them on how Jesus revolutionises our understanding of the family. He had chosen the topic because he himself has relatives in the northern Italian region, where his father was born and many of his mother's family had roots.
Visit to Asti a “consolation” The Pope began by recalling his visit to Asti in November of last year. “That day and a half which I spent with you,” he said, “was a consolation. A moment of real human warmth.” The Holy Father said that he remembered his stay in the northern Italian town above all as a time with family, understood “in a broad sense”: he had been able to spend time with his relatives, but also with the “family” of the local Church and the civic community.
Jesus and the family revolution “Family” thus became the focus of the Pope's address to the group of pilgrims. It is a reality, he said, which “has changed so much, and is still changing”, but nevertheless “remains a key value”. Despite its continual evolution, however, Pope Francis stressed, the real change in our understanding of the family has come not from modern developments but from Jesus himself, who told his disciples that “whoever does the will of my Father is my brother, sister, and mother.” “These words of Jesus,” the Holy Father said, “if we think seriously about them, create a new way of understanding family.” The most important bond for Christians, that is, is “no longer that of blood, but the love of Christ.” Noting that he had begun his speech by addressing those present as “brothers and sisters”, the Pope said that “this is not just a formula, a conventional expression. No. It's a reality, a new reality generated by Jesus Christ.”
Fratelli tutti This new sense of family, Pope Francis said, is also reflected in the phrase “*Fratelli tutti*” (“Siblings all”), the name given to a new outpatients' clinic in Asti, dedicated to the service of the most needy. The phrase was also the title of an encyclical letter written by the Pope in 2020, dedicated to fraternity and social friendship. As the “Fratelli tutti” clinic in Asti shows, the Holy Father concluded, fraternity is not just a “nice saying, an ideal for dreamers. It has a foundation, Jesus Christ, who made us all brothers and sisters, and it has a way, the Gospel, which is the way of walking in love, in service, in forgiveness.”

POPE FRANCIS Catechesis. The Journey to Hungary

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*
Three days ago I returned from my trip to Hungary. I wish to thank all those who prepared and accompanied this visit with prayer, and to renew my gratitude to the Authorities, the local Church, and the Hungarian people, a courageous people, rich in memory. During my stay in Budapest I was able to feel the affection of all Hungarians. Today I would like to tell you about this visit through two images: *roots* and *bridges*. *Roots*. I went as a pilgrim to a people whose history—as St John Paul II said—has been marked by “many saints and heroes, surrounded by hosts of humble and hard-working people” (*Speech at the welcome ceremony*, Budapest, 6 September 1996). It's true: I have seen so many humble and hard-working people proudly cherish the bond with their roots. And among these roots, as the testimonies during the meetings with the local Church and with the young people made clear, there are first and foremost the saints: saints who gave their lives for the people, saints who bore witness to the Gospel of love and who were lights in times of darkness; so many saints of the past who today exhort us to overcome the risk of defeatism and the fear of tomorrow, remembering that *Christ is our future*. The saints remind us of this: Christ is our future. However, the solid Christian roots of the Hungarian people have been put to the test. Their faith was tested by fire. Indeed, during the atheist persecution of the 20th century, Christians were struck down violently, with bishops, priests, religious, and lay people killed or deprived of their freedom. And while attempts were made to cut down the tree of faith, the roots remained intact: there remained a hidden Church, but alive, strong, with the power of the Gospel. And in Hungary this last persecution, this communist oppression was preceded by the Nazi oppression, with the tragic deportation of a large Jewish population. But in that atrocious genocide, many distinguished themselves by their resistance and their ability to protect the victims; and this was possible because the roots of living together were firm. We in Rome have a great Hungarian poet who has been through all these trials and tells young people of the need to fight for an ideal, not to be overcome by persecution, by discouragement. This poet is 92 years old today: Happy birthday, Edith Bruck! But even today, as emerged in meetings with young people and the world of culture, freedom is under threat. How? Above all with kid gloves, by a consumerism that anaesthetises, where one is content with a little material well-being and, forgetting the past, one “floats” in a present made to the measure of the individual. This is the dangerous persecution of worldliness, brought about by consumerism. But when the only thing that counts is thinking about oneself and doing what one likes, the roots suffocate. This is a problem throughout Europe, where dedicating oneself to others, feeling a sense of community, feeling the beauty of dreaming together and creating large families are in crisis. The whole of Europe is in crisis. So let us reflect on the importance of preserving the roots, because only by going deep will the branches grow upwards and bear fruit. Each of us can ask ourselves, even as a people, each of us: what are the most important roots in my life? Where am I rooted? Do I remember them, do I care for them? After the roots comes the second image: *bridges*. Budapest, born 150 years ago from the union of three cities, is famous for the bridges that cross it and unite its parts. This recalled, especially in meetings with the authorities, the importance of building bridges of peace between different peoples. This is, in particular, the vocation of Europe, which is called, as a “bridge of peace,” to include differences and to welcome those who knock on its doors. In this sense, the humanitarian bridge created for so many refugees from neighbouring Ukraine, whom I was able to meet while also admiring the great network of charity of the Hungarian Church, is beautiful. The country is also very committed to building “bridges for tomorrow”: there is great concern for ecological care—and this is a very, very beautiful thing about Hungary—ecological care and a sustainable future, and work is being done to build bridges between the generations, between the old and the young, a challenge that cannot be renounced by anyone today. There are also bridges that the Church, as emerged at the dedicated meeting, is called upon to stretch towards the people of today, because the proclamation of Christ cannot consist only in repeating the past, but always needs to be updated, so as to help the women and men of our time to rediscover Jesus. And, finally, recalling with gratitude the beautiful liturgical moments, the prayer with the Greek-Catholic community and the solemn Eucharistic Celebration that was so well attended, I think of the beauty of building bridges between believers: Sunday at Mass there were Christians of various rites and countries, and of different denominations, who work well together in Hungary. Building bridges, bridges of harmony and bridges of unity. I was struck, on this visit, by the importance of music, which is a characteristic feature of Hungarian culture. Finally, I want to recall, at the beginning of the month of May, how very devoted the Hungarians are to the Holy Mother of God. Consecrated to her by the first king, Saint Stephen, they used to address her without pronouncing her name, out of respect, calling her only by the Queen's titles. To the Queen of Hungary, therefore, we entrust that dear country; to the Queen of Peace, we entrust the building of *bridges* in the world; to the Queen of Heaven, whom we acclaim at this Easter time, we entrust our hearts that they may be rooted in the love of God.

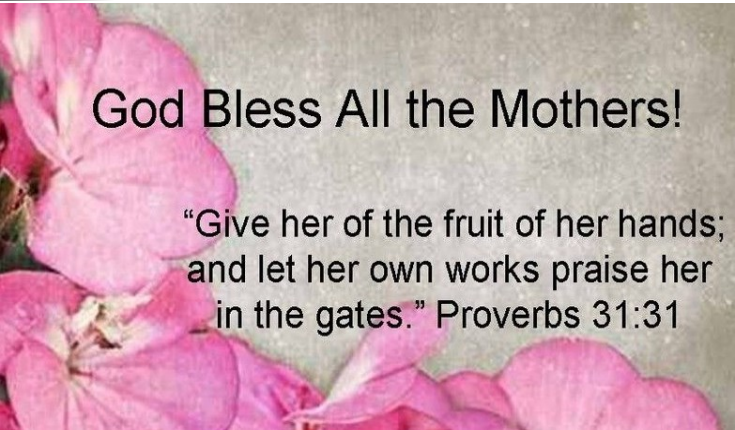
FROM FR. HENRY DUC



Dear Friends,
We all know that love is Jesus' commandment and he expects his followers to keep his commandment. It's important for us, his followers to remember that every time Jesus talks about love in the Gospels, his choice of word is the Greek word 'AGAPE', and AGAPE or Christian love is more than just the type of feeling and emotion we offer each other in our human relationships.
In Greek philosophy, AGAPE is the highest form of love, which is the love of God for man and of man for God. In the nutshell, AGAPE better translated as charity is a selfless and unconditional love, which expects no return, and this is the kind of love Jesus means to tell us in the Gospel today, which defines our relationship to him and his Father in heaven, and this is the kind of love the Holy Spirit, our Advocate shall kindle and help maintain in each of us.
In regard to our relationship with Him, our observation of his commandments is seen as the expression of our AGAPE or selfless and unconditional love for Him, and his commandments at the end of the day is this twofold love: firstly for God and secondly for others around us, and we in return shall receive this twofold reward: on the one hand Jesus will love us, and on the other hand, his Father shall love us as well.
This probably is what he means to say at the end of the Gospel account, that 'anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'
Let us pray today for the power of Jesus' Holy Spirit to reinforce our AGAPE for God and for each other, consequently we shall be kept immersed in the love Jesus and his Father.

Have AGAPE-filled week,
Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...



BISHOP'S GOOD SAMARITAN APPEAL FOR ABORIGINAL CATHOLIC CARE

OLOL is proud to support the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal raising funds for Aboriginal Catholic Care Emerton. The centre helps people seeking practical assistance, learning opportunities, and connection with others. This may be through healthcare, help with everyday family needs, or financial and legal counselling. There's also help for people impacted by domestic violence and those who are navigating the justice system or needing mentoring support. Your generosity will help Aboriginal Catholic Care to provide a welcoming place where people experiencing tough times can be supported with compassion. Please give generously via the giving envelopes for the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal next weekend. Thank you.

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.*

SOCIAL JUSTICE FOOD + COLLECTION

Black boxes will be out at back of the church from next week to collect items for Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS). *Items especially needed* Red kidney beans, lentils and toiletries (Nappies {large sizes}, toothpaste and Shampoo, toothbrushes, Sanitary pads and napkins, Razors and shaving foam, Deodorant {male & female} and soap). Other items needed Basmati rice, Cooking oil, Long life milk, Tinned tuna, Chickpeas, Fruit, Biscuits, Muesli bars, Oats and Cereal. Thank you for your support.

REPORT FROM OUR RECENT PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Members of our Parish Pastoral Council met last Wednesday 10 May with a prayer and spiritual reading as usual. Participants were invited to reflect upon the articles entitled Why Catholics Parents Are Struggling to Pass the Faith on to Their Children by Heloise de Neuville from La Croix International. Though the writer pens her articles based on her experience with the French Church, she, however, seems to reflect something quite similar to what we have experienced in Australia. Despite some setback, certain families have managed to overcome the difficulties and challenges to help their children to grow in faith through some simple practices, such as a Family prayer after dinner and leading by example in the area of Christian love. I would like to share this great article to all families in our parish this week, so please take a copy home to read and have a good discussion over this topic. By the way, as a response to the article, our school acting principle decided to introduce the idea of a Family prayer either before or after meal to the School community to encourage children and parents to pray together. May I ask all families in our Parish to show support to this initiative by introducing this Payer before Meals your place, just in case you haven't had this habit.
'Bless us, O Lord, And these your gifts, Which we are about to receive from your bounty, through Christ our Lord.'

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. 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 class-**



Diocesan Synod 2023 – The Time is Now!

Over the next six weeks, Bishop Vincent is travelling throughout the Diocese and listening directly to people's stories and suggestions about our Church. Join him at one of four locations to have your say. Events start at 6.30pm with light refreshments:

- Saturday 20 May at St Columba's Catholic College, Springwood.
- Saturday 3 June at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta.
- Saturday 17 June at St Andrew the Apostle Primary School, Marayong.
- Saturday 24 June at Holy Spirit Primary School, St Clair.

There will also be a youth-focussed consultation on Thursday 18 May from 7pm at at West HQ, Rooty Hill.

To register for your local consultation and to learn more about the Diocesan synod, visit parracatholic.org/synod2023

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: 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:

- 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

The Catholic Charity Aid to the Church in Need has launched their "Nigeria: Young. Faithful. Crucified" global campaign. Did you know that in 2022 a total of 5,014 Christians were killed for their faith in Nigeria? These were not Nigerians who happened to be Christian, but rather, their allegiance to the Lord saw them face a brutal death. This is a Church being crucified with Christ. To watch testimonies and to make an offering visit www.aidtochurch.org/nigeriaglobal or scan the QR code.



'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 web-site 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



Social Event: Come see "13-Suitcases" at Lennox Riverside Theatre, Parramatta Wed 7th June Noon or 7:30pm. Cost \$35 or concession \$25. Through the power of storytelling, young, courageous refugees who have recently arrived in Australia, will unpack their true-life stories of treasured memories, and of loved ones and homelands lost to the devastating effects of war and violence. If interested contact Terry on 0409 373 715 or email socialjustice@olol7hills.com.au For more details see website <https://riversideparramatta.com.au/show/13-suitcases/>

Free English and Citizenship Classes

Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are offering English and Citizenship classes at its All Saints of Africa Centre, 63 Allawah St, Blacktown. Courses are subsidized by the New South Wales Government. Please register to participate in the program by contacting 0477 952 024. You can also contact Nepean Community College on (02) 47249000.

St Bernadette's Lalor Park Wednesday Evening Devotions

St Bernadette's Parish, Lalor Park, is hosting weekly devotions to Our Lady of Lourdes and St Bernadette every Wednesday evening at 6.30pm with Adoration and Rosary and special prayers, followed by Mass at 7.30pm. All are welcome.



POPE FRANCIS' REGINA CAELI

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

The Gospel of today's Liturgy (*Jn* 14:1-12) is taken from Jesus' last discourse before his death. The disciples' hearts are troubled, but the Lord speaks reassuring words to them, inviting them *not to be afraid*, do not be afraid. He is not abandoning them, but is going to prepare a place for them and to guide them towards that destination. The Lord today thus shows us all the wonderful place *to go*, and, at the same time, tells us *how to get there*, shows us the way. He tells us *where to go and how to get there*. First of all, *where to go*. Jesus sees

the disciples' distress, he sees their fear of being abandoned, just as it happens to us when we are forced to be separated from someone we care for. And so, he says: "I go to prepare a place for you ... that where I am you may be also" (vv. 2-3). Jesus uses the familiar image of home, the place of relationships and intimacy. In the Fathers' house – he says to his friends, and to each one of us – there is space for you, you are welcome, you will always be received with the warmth of an embrace, and I am in Heaven to prepare a place for you! He prepares for us that embrace with the Father, the place for all eternity. Brothers and sisters, this Word is a source of consolation, and it is a source of hope for us. Jesus does not separate from us, but has opened the way for us, anticipating our final destination: the encounter with God the Father, in whose heart there is a place for each one of us. So, when we experience fatigue, bewilderment and even failure, let us remember where our life is headed. We must not lose sight of the destination, even if we run the risk of overlooking it, of forgetting the final questions, the important ones: where I am going? Where I am I walking towards? What is it worth living for? Without these questions, we compress our life into the present, we think we must enjoy it as much as possible and end up living day by day, without purpose, without a goal. Our homeland, instead, is in heaven (cf. *Phil* 3:20); let us not forget the greatness and the beauty of our destination! Once we have discovered the target, we too, like the apostle Thomas in today's Gospel, wonder: *how can we get there*, what is the way? At times, especially when there are major problems to face and there is the sensation that evil is stronger, we ask ourselves: what should I do, what path should I follow? Let us listen to Jesus' answer: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (*Jn* 14:6). "I am the way". Jesus himself is *the way* to follow to live in *truth* and to have *life* in abundance. He is the way and therefore faith in him is not a "package of ideas" in which to believe, but rather a road to be travelled, a journey to undertake, a path with him. It is following Jesus, because he is the way that leads to unfailing happiness. Following Jesus and imitating him, especially with deeds of closeness and mercy towards others. This is the compass for reaching Heaven: loving Jesus, the way, becoming signs of his love on earth. Brothers and sisters, let us live the present, let us take the present in hand, but let us not be overwhelmed; let us look up, let us look to Heaven, let us remember the goal, let us think that we are called to eternity, to the encounter with God. And, from Heaven to the heart, let us renew today the choice of Jesus, the choice to love him and to walk behind him. May the Virgin Mary, who following Jesus has already arrived at the goal, sustain our hope.

After the Regina Caeli

Dear brothers and sisters!

Yesterday two Beatifications were celebrated. In Montevideo, in Uruguay, Bishop Jacinto Vera, who lived in the nineteenth century, was beatified. A pastor who took care of his people, he bore witness to the Gospel with generous missionary zeal, promoting social reconciliation in the tense atmosphere of the civil war. In Granada, in Spain, the young Maria de la Concepción Barrechegurn y García was beatified. Confined to bed by a serious illness, she bore her sufferings with great spiritual fortitude, inspiring admiration and consolation in all. She died in 1927 at the age of 22. A round of applause to the two Blessed! I heartily greet you all, Romans and pilgrims from Italy and many countries, in particular the faithful from Australia, Spain, England and students from Saint Thomas College in Lisbon. I greet the *Meter* Association and its founder Don Fortunato Di Noto, who continue their commitment to preventing and combating violence against minors; today they celebrate the 27th Day of Child Victims; for 30 years they have been defending childhood from abuse and violence. I am close to you, brothers and sisters, and I accompany you with my prayers and affection. Never tire of being on the side of the victim, there is the Christ Child waiting for you, thank you! I greet the group of fibromyalgia patients of the Medical Area of the Vicariate of Rome; the Sisters of Saint Joseph Benedict Cottolengo; the Lay Association of Mercy; the Lay Camillian Family; the faithful of Pozzuoli, Caraglio and Valle Grana; and the choirs of Empoli and Ponte Buggianese. A special greeting goes to the new Swiss Guards, their families and friends, and the Swiss authorities who took part in celebrating this distinguished Corps. A round of applause for the Guards, everyone! Tomorrow in Pompeii the traditional Supplication to Our Lady of the Rosary will be raised, in the Shrine which Blessed Bartolo Longo wished to dedicate to peace. In this month of May let us pray the Rosary, asking the Blessed Virgin for the gift of peace, especially for beleaguered Ukraine. May the leaders of nations listen to the desire of the people who suffer and who want peace!

I wish everyone a good Sunday. Please do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your meal, and *arrivederci!*

POPE FRANCIS' LATEST INTERVIEW By Vatican News

Pope Francis speaks to journalists traveling with him on the return flight to Rome from his Apostolic Journey to Hungary, and discusses the Holy See's efforts to facilitate a truce in Ukraine and the return of Ukrainian children from Russia, as well as his recent hospitalization and recovery. In his traditional press conference aboard the return flight to Rome from Budapest, Pope Francis spoke to reporters about a range of issues. These included the Holy See's efforts to facilitate the return to Ukraine of Ukrainian children taken to Russia during the war, hopes for peace, and contacts with the Kremlin, along with ecumenical dialogue. He also mentioned his health following his hospitalization at Rome's Gemelli Hospital the week before Palm Sunday. The Pope also spoke about the return of the Parthenon artifacts to Greece, calling it an example for similar gestures in the future.

The following is a working translation of the Pope's inflight press conference from the original Italian.

[Antal Hubai (Rtl Klub)] - What is your personal experience of your encounters in Hungary?

I enjoyed a first experience of encounters [with Hungarians] in the 1960s, at a time when many Hungarian Jesuits had been kicked out of their country. Then, several schools came... there was a school twenty kilometers from Buenos Aires, and I would visit it twice a month. Then I also had a relationship with a society of Hungarian lay people working in Buenos Aires. I did not understand their language. But there were two words I understood well: *Gulash* and *Tokai* (laughs). It was a good experience. I was so affected by their pain of being refugees and not being able to go home. The Mary Ward sisters stayed there [in Hungary], hiding in apartments so that the regime would not kick them out. Later, I learned more about the whole affair to convince Cardinal Mindszenty to come to Rome. And I also experienced the brief enthusiasm of 1956 and then the subsequent disappointment.