

The Kids' Bulletin

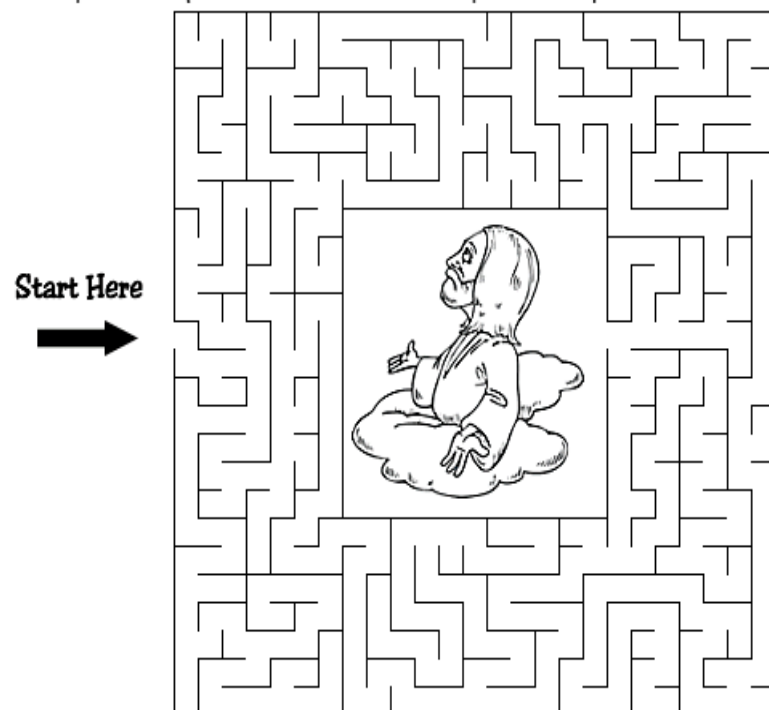
Feast of the Ascension
May 18th or May 21st, 2023

AGBOCDDMEOFUGNHTHSJHK
ILSMTNHORPOQNRSTTOUS
VHWOXUYTZSAOBFCJDOEYF



What does today's Psalm say about the Ascension?
Use every other letter from the box of letters above
to fill in the blanks below.

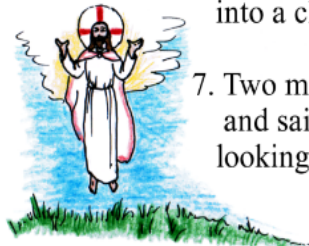
G _ _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _ _ !



True or False about... The Ascension

How well do you know the story of the Ascension?
See if you know which of these are true
and which are false:

1. Jesus appeared to His disciples for forty days after He rose from the dead. True or false?
2. When Jesus was with His disciples after He rose from the dead, they could only see Him but they couldn't touch Him. True or false?
3. Jesus didn't tell His friends that He was going to leave them. True or false?
4. Jesus promised that He would send the Holy Spirit. True or false?
5. The disciples had gathered together and asked Jesus if He was going to restore the earthly kingdom. True or false?
6. Nobody saw Jesus rise into the sky and disappear into a cloud. True or false?
7. Two men appeared to the disciples and said, "Men of Galilee, why are you looking at the sky?" True or false?

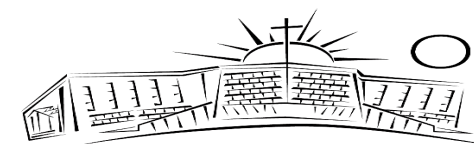


Luke 24:44-53

Word Search Puzzle

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

RISE	REPENT	PROPHETS	TAKEN
SUFFER	PSALMS	OPENED	FORGIVE
HEAVEN	SCRIPTURE	FULFILLED	MOSES
WORSHIPED	BLESSING	UNDERSTAND	MINDS



OUR LADY OF LOURDES

PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS

"Still a wonderful place to pray & stay."

7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills. NSW. 2147

Ph. 9622 2920

Email: secretary@olol7hills.com.au

Parish Priest: Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran
Parish Office Team: Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang Jane Nguyen
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall
Office Hours: Monday-Friday: 9am - 3.00pm
WEEKDAY MASS: Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am Thursday 9.00am
WEEKEND MASS: Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9.30am

Parish School: OLOL 8869 6800
Principal: Ms Keiran Byrnes
Reconciliation: Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
Baptismal Preparation: 19th July 2023
Baptism: 23rd July 2023
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.com.au
Catechist Coordinator : Sandy Manamperi 0480 266 339
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

The Ascension of the Lord 21 MAY 2023 • Year A



Let us Pray for the Sick

Leonila Ahillon, George Alagiah, Ingrid Ball, 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@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, Desmond Grogan, Helen Hill, Inocencia Datuin, Rita Leon, Dot McLandsborough, Debbie Mifsud, Jessica Neodama, Margie Silva, Myrna Pomperada, Emanuella Pozzolongu, Eddie Tabone

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

Remembrance: France Angseeing, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Sam Borg, Lina Cabaero, Lim Cho, Dennis Clarke, Myrna Cruz, Emerenciana Dizon, Anacleto Dizon, 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, Josefina Lim, Adrian Pereira, Jude Ranasinghe, John & Rosaline Ratnam, Jose Reyes, Laureano Reyes, Maria Reyes, Yolanda Reyes, Karen Reyes, Rodrigues Family, Sem Serna, 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.

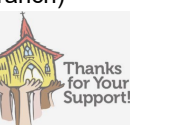
ON-LINE BANK DONATIONS

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/OLOL7Hills/>

FIRST READING *A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. ‘It is’ he had said, ‘what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.’ Now having met together, they asked him, ‘Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.’ As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, ‘Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.’

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. **(R.)**

2. God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R.)**
3. God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 1:17-23*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always, until the end of the world.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the first holy Gospel according to Matthew 28:16-20*

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.’

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		
24	Confirmation Practice	6.30pm
25	Over 50's Australia's Biggest Morning Tea	9.45am
26	Confirmation Mass & Presentation of Certificates	7.00pm
28	Children's Liturgy	9.30am
29	Over 50's Bus Trip	8.45am
JUNE		
1	Fr Henry Annual Leave	
8	Over 50's Meeting	10.30am
9	Lourdes Luminate YAG	6.45pm

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

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, A.Punch 8am: E.Miu, M.Santos 9.30am C. Diaz, K. Huihui	
Altar Servers	Vigil: S.Thoms, VOLUNTEERS 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	

27/28 MAY 2023		
Acolytes	Vigil: John Jordan 8am: Ernie Gartner 9.30am Ramzee Michael	
Ministers	Vigil: M.Mifsud, B.Motha 8am: E. Gartner, S. Nemorin 9.30am: B.Chandler, M.Michael	
Readers	Vigil: A.Punch, C.Rodrigues 8am: E.Hien, K.Walker 9.30am I.Epondulan, F.Kennedy	
Altar Servers	Vigil: VOLUNTEERS 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am S.Culili, F.Wanandy J.Kingston	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Flowers	Fenty, Gaby, Flo & Liz	
Church cleaning	1 June	Beth Paiva Lourdes Spiteri
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: Maria Michael	

POPE FRANCIS' AUDIENCE *By Deborah Castellano Lubov*

"The love of Christ was the strength that drove him to the furthest frontiers, with constant toil and danger, overcoming setbacks, disappointments and discouragement, indeed, giving him consolation and joy in following and serving him to the end." With these words, Pope Francis described St. Francis Xavier, "rightly considered the greatest missionary of modern times" at his weekly General Audience on Wednesday morning in St. Peter's Square, as he continued reflecting on figures who personified apostolic zeal. Reflecting on the patron saint of Catholic missions to the faithful in the Square, the Pope praised the saint's prolific care for the sick, poor, and children, wherever he found himself. *"His intense activity was always united with prayer, with union with God."*

Gratitude to today's misisonaries

"We can learn from St. Francis Xavier," the Pope said, praising him as an example for missionaries and also for young people. With poverty and courage, the Pope said, the saint's "strength was consumed in his service to the mission" and he accomplished incredible endeavours. While celebrating St. Francis Xavier's achievements, the Pope praised all missionaries, who continue to dedicate themselves to helping others, inspired by the faith and love of Christ. "We see this courage in missionaries today, who do not go on ships, but on airplanes, but they have the strength to go out," the Pope applauded.

Dedication unreservedly to God

St. Francis Xavier, the Pope recalled, was born into a noble but impoverished family in Navarre, northern Spain, in 1506, who would later study at the University of Paris "in order to obtain a well-paid ecclesiastical position that will secure his future." The Pope recalled his reputation as a likeable and brilliant young man, excelling in sport and study. In college, he would meet an older "and somewhat special companion," St. Ignatius of Loyola. "They become great friends, and Ignatius helps Francis to live a new and profound spiritual experience," the Jesuit Pope highlighted. This friendship, he observed, resulted in "a true conversion to free himself from all ambition" and him "dedicate himself unreservedly to the service of God, loving and following Jesus Christ." After finishing his studies, the Holy Father explained, Xavier and some friends went to Rome, and made themselves available to the Pope for the "most urgent needs" of the Church in the world. "At the beginning there were about ten of them and they decided to call themselves the 'Society of Jesus.'" At this time, the Pope noted, horizons were expanding from Christian Europe towards the then-"unknown ends" of the world. "New continents, discovery of peoples who had not yet heard of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The King of Portugal," he recalled, "asked the Pope to send some Jesuits to the East Indies; among them is Francis Xavier."

Making Jesus Christ known

Here, he said, began the first of a numerous band of passionate missionaries, ready to endure immense hardships and dangers, to reach lands and meet peoples of completely unknown cultures and languages. What they had in common, he said, is that they were "driven only by the very strong desire to make Jesus Christ and his Gospel known, and thus 'save', lead so many people to God and their true good." Later, he noted, Xavier was appointed Apostolic Nuncio, Pope Paul III's representative to the rulers of the so-called Indies, and in little more than eleven years, he accomplished an extraordinary work. Even if ship voyages at that time were very hard and dangerous, with many dying *en route* from shipwrecks or illnesses, the Pope highlighted, Xavier spent over three and a half years on ships, a third of the entire duration of his mission.

All out of love for God

Having arrived in Goa, India, the capital of the Portuguese Orient, Xavier set up his base there, but did not stop there, the Pope said. Rather, he goes out to evangelise the poor fishermen of India's southern coast, teaching catechism and prayers to children, baptising and healing the sick. Then, during a night prayer at the tomb of the Apostle St Bartholomew, he feels he must go beyond India, and therefore, leaves for Moluccas, the most distant islands of the Indonesian archipelago, where he founded several Christian communities in two years. The Saint put the Catechism into verse in the local language and taught how to sing it. The Pope invited faithful to read his letters, to understand better his emotion.

"He writes: 'Dangers and sufferings, accepted voluntarily and solely for the love and service of God our Lord, are treasures rich in great spiritual consolations. Here in a few years one could lose one's eyes from too many tears of joy!'" (20 January 1548)."

Great fruits in Asia

One day, in India, the Pope continued, Francis Xavier met a Japanese man, who told him about his distant country, where no European missionary had ever gone before, and decided to travel there after enduring an adventurous journey. "The three years in Japan are very hard, due to the climate, opposition and ignorance of the language," the Pope said, "but even here the seeds planted will bear great fruit." In Japan, the Pope pointed out, "Xavier understands that the decisive country for the mission in Asia was another: China." "With its culture, its history, its greatness," the Pope said, "it exercised *de facto* dominance over that part of the world."

Faced with failure

For this reason, Xavier returned to Goa, and shortly afterwards embarked again, hoping to enter China, even though it was closed to foreigners; however, he did not succeed. Xavier died at age 46 in 1552, in total abandonment to the Lord, on the small island of Sancian, waiting in vain to land on the mainland near Canton. "Thus ends the earthly journey of Francis Xavier," the Pope said. Pope Francis concluded by praising St Francis Xavier's exemplary prayer life, and closeness to Christ, until the very end.

Summary of the Holy Father's words

Dear brothers and sisters: In my recent Apostolic Journey to Hungary, I encountered a courageous people, conscious of its deep Christian roots and open to a future of hope. The nation's long history of sanctity was crowned in the twentieth century by the witness of many believers during the Nazi and Communist persecutions. Budapest, a city of bridges, symbolizes the challenge facing Hungary, and indeed all of Europe, to continue to build bridges of solidarity and peace between peoples. There I witnessed at first hand the "humanitarian bridge" created to welcome the numerous refugees from Ukraine, as well as the efforts of the Hungarian people to build a "bridge to the future" through care for the natural and human environment and efforts to ensure a sustainable future. At the impressive Mass that concluded my visit, I witnessed the vitality of the Church in Hungary and its commitment to strengthening the bridges of fraternity that unite Christians of different rites and confessions. As we begin this month of May, dedicated to Our Lady, I ask her, the Queen of Hungary, to intercede for the beloved Hungarian people and for all of us, so that, rooted in faith, we may build bridges of unity and concord in our communities and in our world. And brothers and sisters, let us not forget to pray for battered Ukraine. I offer my blessing to all of you.



FROM FR. HENRY DUC

Dear Friends,

Though all the four Gospels give us no detail about the length of time Jesus stayed on earth after his Resurrection, the book of the Acts of the Apostles we listen to today gives us the clue that for forty days after rising from the dead, Jesus kept appearing again and again to the disciples and 'was lifted up' to heaven before their eyes.

Based on this account, the Church for many years did celebrate the feast of the Lord's Ascension on the fortieth day after Easter, which fell on the Thursday of the seventh week of Easter. However, this feast was recently moved to Sunday to give more people a chance to celebrate such an important feast

day in the Church calendar. Similar to the Gospels of Luke and Mark, the Gospel of Matthew recounts the same message Jesus entrusted to those present to witness his Ascension with the mission to proclaim his Good News globally. Matthew and Mark, however, add the element of baptism on to Jesus' final instruction to their accounts, though Matthew is very specific about what the disciples were asked to say when baptising people. Jesus left them the formula to follow that they baptise people 'in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit', a Trinitarian formula if you like. Matthew even includes this important requirement following the sacrament of Baptism, that disciples were expected to teach those baptised to observe Jesus' commandments.

At almost all baptisms here in this parish, I love to remind parents and godparents of our shared responsibility with Infant baptisms: I am responsible to baptise children and parents and godparents are responsible to teach them to follow the path of Jesus' commandments summed up in the love of God and the love of people.

As we celebrate the feast of Ascension this week, let us give praise and thanks to Jesus for the gift of baptism each of us did receive and bestow on us the honour to be his chosen people, and we ask for the grace to help us remain faithful to loving God and loving others around us in our everyday lives.

Have heaven-oriented week,

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

BISHOP'S GOOD SAMARITAN APPEAL FOR ABORIGINAL CATHOLIC CARE

LOL 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. 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.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to Don and Sherryl for their 50th anniversary of marriage, and Ronald and Crystal D'Silva for their 40th anniversary of marriage. May the Lord continue to pour his blessing upon their relationship and keep them under his loving protection. For other couples in our parish with significant Wedding anniversaries coming up, please contact the Parish office for a place in our Parish bulletins.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE:

A friendly reminder to submit your roster update details for the next 6 months. Roster Forms are available in front of the back Sacristy, alternatively you can send or print a form from our LOL Web Page.

SAFE GUARD TRAINING

In keeping with Government regulations, the Diocese requires all volunteers, including our music ministry and choir members to complete a "Safe Guarding Training". This must be done by the end of the year. It can be done online with many modules, however our Parish has organised with Maria from the Diocese to conduct a one day training on Saturday 8th July 2023 10.00am-3.00pm, which will fulfill the requirement.

To register please contact the Parish office.

OVER 50'S AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA

Over 50's members attending Guardian Funeral's Cancer Council Australia's Biggest Morning Tea on Thursday, the 25th of May, please meet outside the parish hall at 9.45am for the courtesy bus to depart at 10am.

REPORT FROM OUR RECENT PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Members of our Parish Pastoral Council met 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 Principal 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.'

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.



May 28th
June 18th
July 16th



Diocesan Synod 2023 – Join Bishop Vincent at a listening event!

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 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.

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

Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal for Aboriginal Catholic Care at Emerton

Will you be the face of Christ for our First Nations people in need? Your compassionate generosity and prayers will support a welcoming place where Aboriginal people can express their identity, share their culture and knowledge within our community, access practical support and development opportunities, and make social connections.

Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal or scan this QR code. Thank you for being a Good Samaritan to our First Nations people.



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

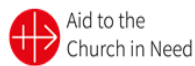
Applied Research Centre. The course runs for 2.5 hours and will be presented at:

- 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.

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.



SAVE THE DATE – Diocesan Liturgical Conference: 15 July

The Diocesan Liturgy Conference is on again in 2023! Save the date for Saturday 15 July at St Andrew the Apostle Parish, Marayong. Fr Peter Williams AM VG will be the Keynote speaker as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Constitution on Sacred Liturgy. The conference will include a variety of workshops. More information to come soon.

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. On our website you can 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/>

MET Worship RCIA Teams Formation Seminars: Beginning 3 August

MET Worship's Formation Seminar for RCIA Teams will be commencing on Thursday 3 August throughout August from 7pm to 9pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. New topics will be covered each week throughout the Seminar including Using Rituals, Mystagogia and more! To RSVP and to learn more about the seminar topics, please contact hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org or call 0460 037 795.

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 for today, the Sixth Sunday of Easter, speaks to us about the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus calls the *Paraclete* (cf. *Jn* 14:15-17). *Paraclete* is a word that comes from Greek, which means both *consoler* and *advocate* [editor's note: the word also means 'lawyer' in Italian] at the same time. This means that the Holy Spirit never leaves us alone, he is near to us, like an advocate who assists the accused person, standing by his or her side. And he suggests to us how to defend ourselves from those who accuses

us. Let us recall that the great accuser is always the devil, who puts sin inside of you, the desire to sin, wickedness. Let us reflect on these two aspects: his closeness to us, and his assistance against those who accuse us.

His *closeness*: the Holy Spirit, Jesus says, "dwells with you and will be in you" (cf. v. 17). He never abandons us. The Holy Spirit wants to stay with us: he is not a passing guest who comes to pay us a courtesy visit. He is a companion for life, a stable presence. He is Spirit and desires to dwell in our spirits. He is patient and stays with us even when we fall.

He remains because he truly loves us; he does not pretend to love us, and then leave us alone when things get difficult. No. He is faithful, he is transparent, he is authentic. On the contrary! If we find ourselves in a moment of trial, the Holy Spirit consoles us, bringing us God's pardon and strength. And when he places our errors before us and corrects us, he does so gently – there is always the timbre of tenderness and the warmth of love in his voice that speaks to the heart. Certainly, the Spirit, the Paraclete, is demanding, because he is a true, faithful friend, who does not hide anything, who suggests what needs to change and where growth needs to take place. But when he corrects us, he never humiliates us, and never instills distrust. Rather, he conveys the certainty that with God, we can always make it. This is his closeness. This is a beautiful certainty.

The Spirit as Paraclete is the second aspect. He is our *advocate* and he defends us. He defends us from those who accuse us: from ourselves when we do not appreciate and forgive ourselves, when we go so far as perhaps saying to ourselves that we have failed, that we are good for nothing; from the world who discards those who do not fit into to its dictates and patterns; from the devil who is the "accuser" *par excellence* and the divider (cf. *Rev* 12:10), and does everything to make us feel incapable and unhappy.

In the face of all these accusing thoughts, the Holy Spirit suggests to us how to respond. How? The Paraclete, Jesus says, is the One who "reminds us of everything Jesus told us" (cf. *Jn* 14:26). He *reminds* us, therefore, of the words of the Gospel, and thus enables us to respond to the accusing devil, not with our own words, but with the Lord's own words. He reminds us, above all, that Jesus always spoke of the Father who is in heaven, he made the Father known to us, and revealed the Father's love for us, that we are his children. If we call on the Spirit, we will learn to embrace and recall the most important truth of life that protects us from the accusations of the evil one. And what is the most important truth in life? That we are beloved children of God. We are God's beloved children: this is the most important truth, and the Spirit reminds us of this. Brothers and sisters, let us ask ourselves today: Do we call on the Holy Spirit? Do we pray to him often? Let us not forget about the one who is close to us, or rather, is within us! Then: Do we listen to his voice, both when he encourages us and when he corrects us? Do we respond with Jesus's words to the accusations from the evil one, to the "tribunals" of life? Do we remember that we are beloved children of God? May Mary make us docile to the voice of the Holy Spirit and sensitive to his presence.

POPE FRANCIS' PREFACE TO ITALIAN BOOK BY GAEL GIRAUD AND CARLO PETRINI ENTITLED 'THE TASTE OF CHANGE'

The good that appears as beautiful carries with it the reason why it must be done. This is the first thought that arose for me after reading this beautiful dialogue between Carlo Petrini, whom I have known and esteemed for years, a gastronome and activist known all over the world, and Gaël Giraud, a Jesuit economist whose contributions I have recently appreciated in *La Civiltà Cattolica*, where he writes qualified articles on economics, finance and climate change.

Why this connection? Because reading this text generated in me a real 'taste' of the beautiful and the good, that is, a taste of hope, of authenticity, of the future. What the two authors bring forward in this exchange is a sort of 'critical narration' with respect to the global situation: on the one hand, they elaborate a reasoned and compelling analysis of the economic-food model in which we are immersed, which, to borrow a writer's famous definition, 'knows the price of everything and the value of nothing'; on the other hand, they propose several constructive examples, established experiences, singular stories of care for the common good and the commons that open the reader to a look of goodness and trust on our time. Criticism of what is wrong, stories of positive situations: one with the other, not one without the other.

I would like to highlight a significant fact: the fact that in these pages Petrini and Giraud, one a 70-year-old activist, the other a 50-year-old economics professor, i.e. two adults, find in the new generations established reasons for trust and hope.

Usually we adults complain about young people, indeed we repeat that the 'past' times were certainly better than this troubled present, and that those who come after us are squandering our achievements. Instead, we must admit with sincerity that it is the young people who embody the change we all objectively need. It is they who are asking us, in various parts of the world, to change. Change our lifestyle, so predatory towards the environment. Change our relationship with the Earth's resources, which are not infinite. Change our attitude towards them, the new generations, from whom we are stealing the future. And they are not only asking us, they are doing it: taking to the streets, demonstrating their dissent from an economic system that is unfair to the poor and an enemy of the environment, seeking new ways forward. And they are doing it starting from the everyday: making responsible choices about food, transport, consumption.

Young people are educating us on this! They are choosing to consume less and experience interpersonal relationships more; they are careful to buy objects produced following strict rules of environmental and social respect; they are imaginative in using collective or less polluting means of transport. For me, seeing that these behaviours are spreading to become common practice is cause for consolation and confidence. Petrini and Giraud often refer to youth movements that, in different parts of the world, advance the demands of climate justice and social justice: the two aspects must be kept together, always. (*To be continued*)

