

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 Office Team: Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Jane Nguyen
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: 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: 15th November 2023
Baptism: 22nd October 2023
Children's Liturgy Mass: 19th November 2023, 9.30am
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.com.au
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/LOL7Hills/>

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time 22 October 2023 • Year A



Let us Pray for the Sick

Leonila Ahillon, Mary Attard, Cynthia Avery, Barrie Chamberlain, Rosella Booth, Alfredo Fernandez, Anthony Janicska, Fiona Mahon, Carlos Moreno, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Sue Tipaldo, Natalie Woodward, Sr Colleen O'Sullivan.

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: Mansour Ahmad, Ronald Bailey, Brian Coates, John Soo Choon, Gladys Fernando, John Lionel, Joan Falzon, Vilma Flores, Alfredo Fernandez, Ranjan Fernando, Jonathan Tek Kie, Eugenia Kowalski, Anthony & Evangelista Micallef, Solomon Morias, Lyn Morrissey, Josephine Muscat, Mary Paz Novilla, John O'Rourke, Pacienza Piscopo, Gloria Reforma, Mercedes Yu, Maria Fely Sebastian, Jose Soriano, Joseph & Theresa Vella.

Anniversaries: Fredy Alphonse, Mary Alagiah, Joseph Bartok, Mervyn Costello, Conchita Deloso, Ngan Siu Eng, Antonia, Josephine Francis, Sheela Franklin, Francisca Garcia, Charlie Gravina, Francis Xavier Ignatious, Martha Joseph, Felina A. Maglaya, Felicidad A. Maglaya, Jason Muscat, Philippa & Jim Muscat, Adele Moroney, Denis Morrissey, Sr Christina Morrissey RSS, Romeo Magda Palmos, Alberto Nahoy, Ignacio Nonato Snr, Sam Silvia, Rohan Senanayke, Cordula Paiva, John Portelli, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Caroline Susainathan, Melchor Usman.

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, France Angseeing, Joseph Azzopardi, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Sam Borg, Lydia & Pascal Busac, Lina Cabaero, Cini-Mangion Family, Melvyn Fernandes, Christine Gomez, Harold, Rosine & Mark Laffeur, Sheena Landagan, Soledad M. Leong, Apolinario A. Maglaya, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Deidre Matthews, Maureen & John Mead, Pauline Meilak, Mary Mifsud, Emilia & William Mifsud, Marcel Mohsen, Anton & Lourda Motha, Louis & Stephen Mula, Felix & Adriana Muscat, Michelle Muscat, Mary & Francis Muscat, Adrian Pereira, Lakshman Pereira, Ngan Pin, John & Rosaline Ratnam, Barry, Paul & Marion Ryan, Tony Vassallo, Bibiano Villanueva, Shane Vaz, Domingo Villarta Jnr, Amalia Usman.

**Names are to be submitted to the Parish Office on or before a Thursday and will be published for 4 weeks at a time.*



THE PILGRIM STATUE OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

The Statue of Virgin Mary is available for home visitation and will reside with you for a week, being Sunday to Saturday. If you are wishing to participate, please leave your name and address with the Parish Office.

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

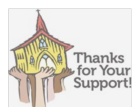
On behalf of the Parish Community, I would like to thank you very much for your ongoing support, which has been absolutely vital in keeping our Parish going strong. Projects completed include the Hall Kitchen renovation, Parish Meeting Room painting, Parish Office and Meeting Room Roof painted, Church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



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

FIRST READING A reading from the prophet Isaiah 45:1.4-6

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more: It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Give the Lord glory and honour.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. **(R.)**

3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts. **(R.)**

2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens **(R.)**

4. Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness. **(R.)**

SECOND READING A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 1:1-15

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 22:15-21

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you.

Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.'

They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

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



FROM FR. HENRY DUC

Dear Friends,

Throughout Jesus' public ministry, some powerful groups in Israel such as the Pharisees, the scribes, the elders known as the Temple authority often tried to make life difficult for him with all sorts of tricks and tactics, but Jesus always outsmarted them and came out on top. The more that happened the more they became determined to get rid of him, and they succeeded at the end as we know with his crucifixion, and again came out as a clear winner with his glorious resurrection from death.

Well, the story of the Gospel this Sunday presents to us a typical example of how the Temple authority groups managed to ensnare Jesus into a trap by posing to him as deadly question, 'is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?'

It's worth to remember that the Jews in Jesus' time considered God as their king and their tax money should go for the upkeep of God's house, namely the Jerusalem Temple, but the Roman invaders also asked the Jews to pay tax to the emperor of the Roman empire. This demand of course had made the Jews angry, because they thought the emperor was trying to take God's place.

As a result, the Jews used two different currencies for different purposes: the Roman coin with the head of the emperor on it for business, and their own coin for religious purposes.

Unhappy with the Roman tax system for reasons mentioned above, and seeing the opportunity to embarrass Jesus and even cause him big trouble, the Pharisees grabbed the opportunity asking him the question about whether they should pay taxes to the Roman emperor or not. Here Jesus can't answer yes or no to them, because if he says yes, he would be condemned by the Jews seeing him as a Roman agent, on the other hand, if he says no, he surely is in trouble with the Roman occupiers, who regard it as an attempt to advocate a rise against the Roman empire.

Jesus, however, came up with a genius answer, which has become the world wisdom of all times. After asking the Pharisees to identify the face and the name of the emperor on the coin, he advised them to 'give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God,' in other words, he means to ask them in a smart way to fulfill their duties both civic and religious. He was cautious both with the Roman authority and the fanatic Jews, and upset neither of them through the solution.

Let us celebrate Jesus' inspiring wisdom shown in the Gospel today, and ask for the grace to help us fulfill what we are expected to do in the world, such as paying taxes, caring for nature, and also from the Lord, such as our charity towards God and others.

Have a charity-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

DISPLAY OF OUR RECENT SURVEY

From this weekend, we continue to display the Chat APT-based results of the survey dealing with the question about how to build a better and stronger community.

SCAM ALERT

Please be aware of a scam text message circulating throughout the Diocese referencing parish priest names asking for gift cards. Please delete and don't click on any links. If you need to verify the source call the Parish Office.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

At the meeting last Wednesday night, members of the Council spent a good time to study the Chat GPT-based results of our recent survey relating to question 2 about what we can do to make our faith community stronger and better. We agreed to make the Youth ministry our priority. We will invest our resources to help encourage children, young people and their parents to be more connected with their faith and the parish through various initiatives, such as the Play group, Children liturgy, funs & activities for children. We continue to work with the school and other related groups in the parish to build up the Youth ministry. Please support our Parish Council in this effort.

PARISH QUOTA FOR 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Diocese have advised our contribution Quota for the financial year 2023/24 is \$22,203. This is an annual quota, based on 10% of parish revenue. Past contributions were allocated to support works carried out by Catholic Care Western Sydney and Blue Mountains, the Ephpheta Centre and the Holy Spirit Seminary.

Our gratitude to OLOL parishioners for your generosity and support, without which our parish would not be able to meet these yearly quotas.

A PRAYER FOR GAZA AND UKRAINE

'Let our sons flourish like saplings grown tall and strong from their youth, Our daughters graceful as columns, adorned as though for a palace. Let our barns be filled to overflowing with crops of every kind; our sheep increasing by thousands, myriads of sheep in our fields, our cattle heavy with young, No ruined wall, no exile, no sound of weeping in our streets.' (Psalm 143)

2023 CATHOLIC MISSION SUNDAY

This week Catholic Mission will offer the opportunity to be part of a life-changing program which aims to address gaps in medical care, and provide families with essential health care and knowledge, equipping them with the confidence to act and autonomy over their health and well-being. Please give generously today to help continue this life giving program by using the appeal envelope, going online at catholicmission.org.au/timor, or scanning the QR code. Your gift will also help many other similar Church-run mission programs around the world.

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE CATECHIST GROUP

Due to circumstances, lot of our current catechists have to take a break and we therefore urgently need others to replace. If you can spare an hour per week plus a few hours of preparation for the class, please consider to join this ministry by contacting our Parish Office. You'll receive lot of support, such as training and materials for the ministry to nurture the faith of children at public schools.

LOURDES PLAYGROUP IS BACK!

Every Friday during school term, 9.30am—11.30am in the Parish Meeting Room, children aged 0 to 5 years old and their carers are welcome to come along during that time for a play, chat and cuppa. ALL ARE WELCOME. If you would like further information, please contact the Parish Office or Maria Hosni 0432 174 056.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Bishop Vincent presents Christopher White: 9 November

Vatican correspondent and Pope Francis expert Christopher White is coming to the Diocese of Parramatta as part of the Diocese of Parramatta's 'Bishop Vincent Presents' series. His public lecture "Will our faith have children? Reflections on the health and dynamism of global Catholicism after the October 2023 Synod on Synodality" will be held in Parramatta on Thursday 9 November at Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta from 6pm. Places are strictly limited, so register today at <https://parracatholic.org/christopherwhite/>

Donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Appeal

Following a series of surprise attacks against Israel by Hamas in early October, Caritas Australia is supporting partner agencies on the ground to provide emergency cash, shelter, and psychosocial support to those affected by the violence. The efforts of these partner agencies are expected to support 17,000 displaced families, representing around 100,000 of the 1 million people displaced. To support Caritas Australia's Gaza Appeal, call 1800 024 413 toll free or visit www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/gaza-crisis/

Risen Lord Community Healing Service: 27 October

The Risen Lord Community is holding a healing service on Friday the 27 October from 7.30pm at St John XXIII Catholic College, Stanhope Gardens. The service will be led by Br Lalith Perera. For more information, please contact the community on 0425 840 362 or visit www.risenlordcommunity.com.au

Risen Lord Community Transform in Christ Retreat: 28 October

The Risen Lord Community Sydney presents the 'Transform in Christ' Spiritual Retreat on Saturday 28 October from 9.30am to 4.30pm at the Servants of Jesus Community, 15 Park Road, Seven Hills. Food trucks will be available to buy your lunch, with free tea and coffee during breaks.

To register, please visit <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1124910>. For more information, please contact the community on 0425 840 362 or visit www.risenlordcommunity.com.au

Campion College Festival: 28 October

Campion College invites the local community to attend its inaugural Campion College Festival, that will be held on Sunday 28 October from 10am to 4pm at the college grounds in Toongabbie. Entry is free with a range of activities including food trucks, children's rides, campus tours, showbags and a second-hand book sale. All proceeds will go towards the Campion College Scholarship Fund. For more information, please visit campion.edu.au/festival

Diocese of Parramatta Wedding Anniversary Mass: 29 October

The annual Diocese of Parramatta Wedding Anniversary Mass will be held on Sunday 29 October at 11am at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Bishop Vincent will celebrate Solemn Mass, followed by a light lunch at the Cathedral Hall. All couples celebrating a significant wedding anniversary will receive a certificate from Bishop Vincent. Please register your name, years of marriage and numbers attending at marriage@parracatholic.org or phone (02) 8838 3460 by 20 October. Family and friends are welcome.

Table Talk with People Seeking Asylum: 8 November

St Patrick Cathedral Parish, Parramatta, Jesuit Refugees Service and the Diocese of Parramatta are organising a Table Talk event with people seeking asylum on Wednesday 8 November from 7pm to 9pm at the Cathedral Hall. We will hear from people with lived experience, reflect on our own values and see how we can be part of a positive change. To register, visit <https://events.humanitix.com/talk-talk-with-people-seeking-asylum>

Parramatta Street Feast: 11 November

You are invited to the Parramatta Street Feast, Saturday 11 November 2023. Come and share a meal, company and entertainment with members of our community who are on the margins of society. This free event will be held in a spirit of solidarity and friendship at the Cloister Hall, St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, 10:30AM to 1:30PM. The Street Feast is a collaboration between the Diocese of Parramatta, PAYCE Foundation, Paynter Dixon and St. Merkorious Charity.

125th Anniversary Cathedral Organ Concert: 12 November

St. Patrick's Cathedral Organists, Choir and Guest Performers will present an array of performances at a Gala Concert to celebrate the 125th anniversary of St. Patrick's Cathedral Organ. The Concert will be held on Sunday 12 November, 2023 from 3pm at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Tickets can be purchased via this link <https://www.trybooking.com/CLUFN> or at the door. For more information contact Hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org

Mass and prayers for deceased clergy: 17 November

The Diocese of Parramatta invites you to its second annual Mass for our deceased clergy on Friday 17 November at 10.30am at St Aidan's Parish, Rooty Hill, followed by prayers at the gravesites of clergy buried in Pinegrove Cemetery. All are welcome to attend and give your gift of prayer to those whose lives were dedicated to bringing us all closer to Christ. We encourage each parish to offer a Mass for the deceased priests who have served in your own parish on the same day, to unite in prayer for this special intention.

El Roi - The God Who Sees Me Women's Retreat: 17 – 19 November 2023

Prepare for Advent through this women's retreat with the MGL Sisters, as we spend time together listening to God's unique heart of love for each one of us. This retreat is supported by the Catholic Women's Network in the Archdiocese of Sydney.

Venue: Carmel House, 345 St Andrews Rd, Varroville NSW

Bookings: <http://www.trybooking.com/CFBRE> (by 3 November)

Contact: Berna - mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com

Positions Vacant:

- Communications Manager – Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 10pm on Wednesday 1 November 2023.**

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment



POPE FRANCIS' ANGELUS

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

Today's Gospel passage tells us about a king who prepares a wedding banquet for his son (cf. *Mt* 22:1-14). He is a powerful man, but he is above all a generous father, who invites others to share in his joy. In particular, he reveals the goodness of his heart in the fact that he does not compel anyone, but invites everyone, even though this way of his exposes him to the possibility of refusal. Take note: he prepares a banquet, *freely* offering an

opportunity to meet, an opportunity for a feast. This is what God prepares for us: a banquet, to be in communion with him and among ourselves. And we, all of us, are therefore *invited by God*. But a wedding banquet requires time and commitment on our part: it requires a "yes": to go, to go to the Lord's invitation. He invites, but he leaves us free.

This is type of relationship that the Father offers us: he calls us to stay with him, leaving us the possibility to accept, or not accept, the invitation. He does not propose to us a relationship of subjection, but rather of fatherhood and sonship, which is necessarily conditioned by our free assent. God is respectful regarding freedom; very respectful. Saint Augustine uses a very beautiful expression in this regard, saying: "He who created us without our help will not save us without our consent" (Sermon CLXIX, 13). And certainly not because he does not have the capacity to do so – God is omnipotent! – but because, being love, he respects our freedom fully. God proposes: he does not impose, never.

Let us return, then, to the parable: the king – says the text – "sent his servants to call those who were invited to the marriage feast; but they *would not come*" (v.3). Here is the drama of the story: the "no" to God. But why do men refuse his invitation? Was it perhaps an unpleasant invitation? No, and yet – the Gospel says – "they made light of it and went off, one to his farm, another to his business" (v.5). They did not care, because they were thinking of their own affairs. And that king, who is a father, God, what does he do? He does not give up, he continues to invite; indeed, he extends the invitation, until he finds those who accept, among the poor. Among those who know they have little else, many come, until they fill the hall (cf. vv. 8-10).

Brothers and sisters, how many times do we fail to heed God's invitation, because we are intent on our own affairs! Often, we struggle to have *free* time, but today Jesus invites us to find the time that *frees*: the time to dedicate to God, that lightens and heals our hearts, that increases peace, confidence and joy in us, that saves us from evil, loneliness and loss of meaning. It is worth it, because it is good to be with the Lord, to make space for him. Where? In the Mass, in listening to the Word, in prayer and also in charity, because by helping those who are weak or poor, by keeping company with those who are lonely, by listening to those who ask for attention, by consoling those who suffer, one is with the Lord, who is present in those in need. Many, however, think that these things are a "waste of time", and so they lock themselves away in their private world; and it is sad. And this generates sadness. How many sad hearts there are! For this reason: because they are closed.

Let us ask ourselves, then: how do I respond to God's invitations? What space do I give him in my days? Does the quality of my life depend on my affairs and my free time, or on love for the Lord and for my brethren, especially those most in need? Let us ask ourselves this.

May Mary, who with her "yes" made room for God, help us not to be deaf to his invitations.

After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters!

I continue to follow with great sorrow what is happening in Israel and Palestine. I think again of the many... in particular of the children and the elderly. I renew my appeal for the freeing of the hostages and I strongly ask that children, the sick, the elderly, women, and all civilians not be made victims of the conflict. Humanitarian law is to be respected, especially in Gaza, where it is urgent and necessary to ensure humanitarian corridors and to come to the aid of the entire population. Brothers and sisters, already many have died. Please, let no more innocent blood be shed, neither in the Holy Land nor in Ukraine, nor in any other place! Enough! Wars are always a defeat, always!

Prayer is the meek and holy force to oppose the diabolical force of hatred, terrorism and war. I invite all believers to join with the Church in the Holy Land and to dedicate next Tuesday, 17 October, to prayer and fasting. And now let us pray to Our Lady. [Hail Mary].

My concern for the crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh has not waned. In addition to the humanitarian situation of the displaced people - which is serious - I would also like to make a special appeal for the protection of the monasteries and places of worship in the region. I hope that, starting with the Authorities and all the inhabitants, they can be respected and protected as part of the local culture, expressions of faith and a sign of a fraternity that makes it possible to live together despite differences. Today the Apostolic Exhortation on Saint Therese of the Child Jesus and of the Holy Face is published, entitled "*C'est la confiance*": indeed, as this great Saint and Doctor of the Church testified, trust in God's merciful love is the way that leads us to the heart of the Lord and his Gospel. I express my closeness to the Jewish community of Rome, which tomorrow commemorates the eightieth anniversary of the Nazi deportations.

I greet you all, Romans and pilgrims from Italy and many parts of the world, in particular the Gonfalone Archfraternity of Subiaco and the "Fiat 500" Club of Rome.

I greet the more than 400 young missionaries of New Horizons and other associations and communities, who from yesterday until next Sunday are engaged in the "Street Mission" here in Rome, going to places where young people gather, in schools, hospitals, prisons and on the streets to proclaim the joy of the Gospel. They are good! Let us support them with prayer in their commitment to listening to the cry of many young people and many people in need of love.

I am looking at the Ukrainian flags: let us not forget tormented Ukraine. I wish you all a good Sunday. And please, do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your lunch, and *arrivederci!*

POPE FRANCIS' RESPONSE TO DUBIA (DOUBTS) SUBMITTED BY A GROUP OF CARDINALS

Dear brothers,

Although I believe it is not always prudent to respond to questions directly addressed to me, and it would be impossible to answer all of them, in this case, given the proximity of the Synod, I have deemed it appropriate to do so.

1. Dubium regarding the assertion that the Divine Revelation should be reinterpreted based on current cultural and anthropological changes.

Following the statements of some bishops, which have neither been corrected nor retracted, we ask whether the Divine Revelation should be reinterpreted in the Church according to the cultural changes of our time, and the new anthropological vision promoted by these changes. Or if, on the contrary, the Divine Revelation is binding forever, immutable, and therefore not to be contradicted, in accordance with the dictum of the Second Vatican Council, which states that "the obedience of faith" must be given to God who reveals, (*Dei Verbum* 5); that what is revealed for the salvation of all nations must remain "forever whole and alive", and be "handed on to all generations" (7), and that progress in understanding does not imply any change in the truth of things and words because faith is "handed on once and for all" (8), and the Church's Magisterium is not above the Word of God, but only teaches what has been handed on (10).

Response to the first Dubium

- a) The answer depends on the meaning you give to the word "reinterpret." If it is understood as "interpret better," the expression is valid. In this sense, the Second Vatican Council affirmed that it is necessary that with the work of exegetes - and I would add of theologians - "the judgment of the Church may mature" (*Second Vatican Council, Dogmatic Constitution Dei Verbum*, 12).
 - b) Therefore, while it is true that the Divine Revelation is immutable and always binding, the Church must be humble and recognize that she never exhausts its unfathomable richness and needs to grow in her understanding.
 - c) Consequently, she also matures in her understanding of what she has herself affirmed in her Magisterium.
 - d) Cultural changes and new challenges in history do not modify Revelation but can stimulate us to express certain aspects of its overflowing richness better, which always offers more.
 - e) It is inevitable that this can lead to a better expression of some past statements of the Magisterium, and indeed, this has been the case throughout history.
 - f) On the one hand, it is true that the Magisterium is not superior to the Word of God, but it is also true that both the texts of the Scripture and the testimonies of Tradition require interpretation in order to distinguish their perennial substance from cultural conditioning. This is evident, for example, in biblical texts (*such as Exodus 21:20-21*) and in some magisterial interventions that tolerated slavery (Cf. *Pope Nicholas V, Bull Dum diversas*, 1452). This is not a minor issue given its intimate connection with the perennial truth of the inalienable dignity of the human person. These texts need interpretation. The same applies to certain considerations in the New Testament regarding women (*1 Corinthians 11:3-10; 1 Timothy 2:11-14*) and other texts of Scripture and testimonies of Tradition that cannot be materially repeated today.
 - g) It is important to emphasize that what cannot change is what has been revealed "for the salvation of all" (*Second Vatican Council, Dogmatic Constitution Dei Verbum*, 7). Therefore, the Church must constantly discern between what is essential for salvation and what is secondary or less directly connected with this goal.
- In this regard, I would like to recall what St. Thomas Aquinas affirmed: "The more one descends to matters of detail, the more frequently we encounter defects" (*Summa Theologiae* I/II q. 94, art. 4).
- h) Finally, a single formulation of a truth can never be adequately understood if it is presented in isolation, detached from the rich and harmonious context of the entire Revelation. The "hierarchy of truths" also implies placing each of them in proper connection with the central truths and with the entirety of the Church's teaching. This can ultimately lead to different ways of presenting the same doctrine, even though "for those who long for a monolithic body of doctrine guarded by all and leaving no room for nuance, this might appear as undesirable and leading to confusion. But in fact such variety serves to bring out and develop different facets of the inexhaustible riches of the Gospel" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 40). Every theological current has its risks, but also its opportunities.



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/>

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 the parish office to organise a meeting with Fr Henry. 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. Names will be published for 4 weeks at a time.



LOURDES OVER 50s GROUP

Over 50s Meeting Tuesday 7th November, 10.30am—1pm. Please bring a plate for a shared lunch. Look forward to seeing you there.

Lourdes: Luminate Young Adults Group

The next group night is Friday, 10th of November, 2023 6:45-9:30pm in the Parish Hall. If you would like more information please contact Ian Epondulan: youtholol7h@gmail.com

LOURDES PLAYGROUP

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish playgroup is a fun playtime for children aged 0 to 5 years old and their carers. It is held every Friday morning during school terms 9.30am-11.30am in the Parish Meeting Room. For further information please contact Maria Hosni 0432 174 056 or the Parish Office.

FREE ZUMBA CLASSES

Every Tuesday and Thursday 6.00pm-7.00pm in the Hall. Everyone Welcome!

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://binnies.org.au/covidsupportnsw>

<http://binnies.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

NOVEMBER

1	All Saints Day Mass	9.15am
4/5	Aid to the Church Mass Presentation	All Masses
7	Over 50's Meeting 'Melbourne Cup Special'	10.30am
10	Lourdes: Luminate Young Adults Group Night	6.45pm
19	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.

21/22 October 2023

Acolytes	Vigil: James Dinning 8am: Jane Seaman 9.30am: Ian Epondulan
Ministers	Vigil: B. Motha, VOLUNTEER 8am: H. Gonzales, C. Gonzales 9.30am: C. Brooks, P. Gow
Readers	Vigil: J. Sarmiento, M. Simic 8am: N. Arambulo, P. Ferriols 9.30am: A. Hye R. Han, A. Walker
Altar Servers	Vigil: M. Gluvic, L. Sadipoor, SUB RQD 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am: L. Culili, A. Melki
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Fr Henry 9.30am: Nina's Group
Flowers	Fennie & Rani
Church Cleaning	25 October Jessie Borg Anne McNally
Welcomers	Vigil: VOLUNTEER 8am: Suzy Nemorin 9.30am: Kathy Chamberlain

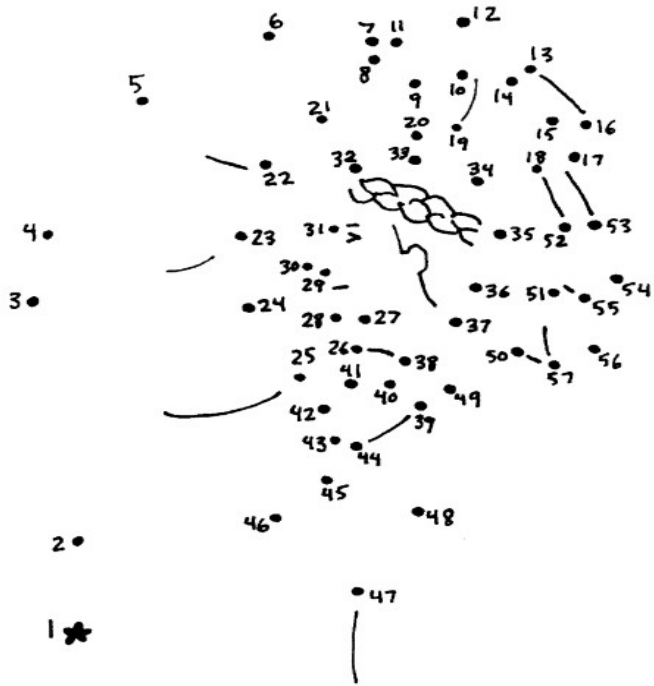
28/29 October 2023

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am: Sandy Manamperi
Ministers	Vigil: L. Bellissimo, A. Bellissimo 8am: F. Balatbat, L. Fernandes 9.30am: M. Aquino, S. Lenthall
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, J. Irudayaraj 8am: A. Joseph, M. Santos 9.30am: C. Diaz, R. Epondulan
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. Laus, L. Laus, J. Martinez 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am: Sofia Culili, Jake Kingston
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	VOLUNTEER
Musicians	Vigil: Shaun's Group 8am: Fr Henry 9.30am: Christine Clarke
Flowers	Annette & Mary B.
Church Cleaning	2 November Beth Paiva Lourdes Spiteri
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: VOLUNTEER

The Kids' Bulletin

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 22nd, 2023

Paying Taxes to Caesar



PAYING TAXES


MATTHEW 22:15-22

NPASL 

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The Pharisees asked Jesus if it was right to pay taxes to whom?

ANSWER:

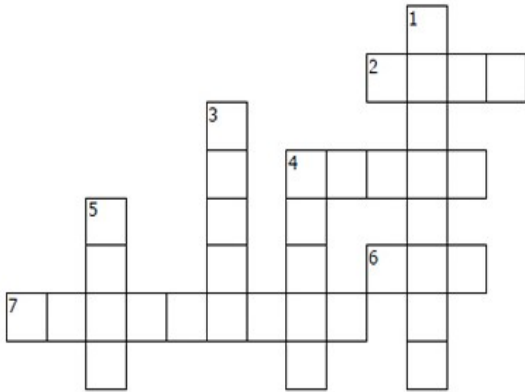
1	2	3	4	5	6

Words used: taxes, amazed, plans, words, teach

In today's Gospel reading, some men asked Jesus if it was right to pay tax. What did Jesus ask them to show Him? Connect the dots to find out!

belongs

Draw something that belongs to God.



ACROSS

2. A usually flat piece of metal used for money.
4. A statement that agrees with fact or reality.
6. To give someone money in return for something.
7. A religious group who were strict followers of the law.

DOWN

1. A picture of a person -- usually showing the face.
3. The details of how something is going to be accomplished.
4. Money paid to the government.
5. A situation from which it is difficult or impossible to escape.

TAXES
TRUTH

TRAP
PAY

PORTRAIT PHARISEES

PLANS
COIN