



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: 21st February 2024
Baptism: 26th November 2023
Children's Liturgy Mass: 19th November 2023, 9.30am
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.com.au
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/LOL7Hills/>

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 19 November 2023 • Year A



Let us Pray for the Sick

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

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, Noel DCruz, Brian Coates, Gladys Fernando, John Lionel, Joan Falzon, Vilma Flores, Alfredo Fernandez, Ranjan Fernando, Mary Mifsud, Solomon Morias, Anthony & Evangelista Micallef, Lyn Morrissey, Mary Paz Novilla, Pacienza Piscopo, Mercedes Yu, Maria Fely Sebastian, Jose Soriano, Joseph & Theresa Vella, John-William Zaren.

Anniversaries: Fredy Alphonse, Michelle Azzopardi, Carolina Borg, Josephine & Family Calleja, Mervyn Costello, Conchita Deloso, Antonia, John Falzon, Josephine Francis, Charles Francis, Francis, Russell, Sheela Franklin, Paul Gauci, Charlie Gravina, Ngoc Khuong Mai, Lourda Motha, Xavier Jm Motha, Louis & Stephen Mula, Jason Muscat, Sr Christina Morrissey RSS, Romeo Magda Palmos, Alberto Nahoy, Joseph Thang Nguyen, Tao Ngoc Nguyen, Ignacio Nonato Snr, Sam Silvia, Cordula Paiva, Roseline Ratnam, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Caroline Susainathan, Jim & Alison Vella, Melchor Usman.

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, France Angseeing, Carmen Attard, Joseph Azzopardi, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Eveillino Bhundoo, Brian Carrebine, Lina Cabaero, Valentina Carlos, Mary Chircop, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Joe, Lonsan, Jimmy & Tony De Guarie, Melvyn Fernandes, Evangeline Garcia, Jose Garcia, Christine Gomez, Joshymon & Sophia, Harold, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Elenoa Matavesi, Pauline Meilak, Mary Mifsud, Emilia & William Mifsud, Marcel Mohsen, Anton Motha, Louis & Stephen Mula, Felix & Adriana Muscat, Michelle Muscat, Mary & Francis Muscat, Josephine Muscat, Charles Muscat, Philippa & Jim Muscat, Piu Muscat, Adrian Pereira, Lakshman Pereira, John Portelli, John Ratnam, Jose Sanchez, Joyce & John Sutari, Shane Vaz, Jonathan Tek Kie, Domingo Villarta Jnr, Stevenson Uplasi.

**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

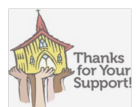
On behalf of the Parish Community, I would like to thank you very much for your ongoing support, which has been absolutely vital in keeping our Parish going strong. Projects completed include the Hall Kitchen renovation, Parish Meeting Room painting, Parish Office and Meeting Room Roof painted, Church 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 book of Proverbs 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31

A perfect wife – who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband's heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. **(R.)**

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life. **(R.)**

2. Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. **(R.)**

SECOND READING A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 5:1-6

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."

Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."

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,

A few days ago, I rang a friend of mine in Vietnam for a catch up and was told about the stress that one of our friends, a single man has to go through due to the mishandling of his savings. The problem began when he decided to entrust the extra cash put away for his retirement to a trusted friend, believing that his friend could do a good job in looking after it for him, instead of depositing the money to his bank account.

When he needed some money for an urgent medical treatment, his friend failed to give him it back with the excuse that he has lent the whole lot to somebody else. Both of us agreed that he could have avoided the problem if he had entrusted his savings to the bank from the start, and that there is not much we can do to help him from here. Depositing money to the bank is exactly what the master in the parable today said to the servant who was given only one talent and chose to bury it underground instead.

This servant together with his two fellow servants were entrusted by their master with different amounts of talents prior to his abroad trip. He received one, and his friends: five and two.

While those with more talents made the effort to trade with what was given to them and proudly showed the profits they made, when asked by the master at his return. Both of them were highly praised by the master and rewarded with the inheritance of the master's happiness, the servant with one talent, on the other hand, was named and shamed for blaming the master for not giving him more, and doing absolutely nothing with what he had. The master ordered him to be thrown into the dark with weeping and grinding of teeth.

This Gospel account, according to the evangelist Matthew, is part of the body of parables Jesus taught the disciples aimed to tell them what the Kingdom of God is about. Symbolically, various characters of the story such as the master, and the servants symbolise God and all members of God's people; the talents symbolise the gifts and grace God has given to each of us, and the happy place and the dark stand for heaven and hell.

Here Jesus means to remind us his disciples of all the gifts, talents, and opportunities God has given us to work with, to gain credits for us in heaven, and to make God proud as our Creator. We are expected to perform, and shall receive the heavenly reward, otherwise we shall be harshly judged and dealt with.

Let us pray for the wisdom to recognize the gifts we have received from above, and for the commitment to make our gifts profitable for us before our ultimate Master, so that we deserve a place in His heavenly House.

Have a spiritually profitable week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

DISPLAY OF OUR RECENT SURVEY

From this weekend, we continue to display the Chat GPT-based results of the survey dealing with the question 6 about the problems our Faith community has to face with these days.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

At the meeting last Wednesday night, members of the Council spent some time to reflect upon the Chat GPT-based results of our recent survey relating to question 4 about how we can help each other to grow in faith.

After the monthly reports from various Parish groups, the Council had a discussion about our Parish Feast Day on Sunday 11 February, 2024.

PARISH WINDOWS

We all know that our church has been more 60 years old, and so its windows. Unfortunately some of them have been broken and waiting to be fixed at the moment, so please be gentle to our aging windows when you need to open them. Thank you for not pushing them all the way out, as you might damage them.

NOVEMBER BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

As our Parish tradition, the Book of Remembrance will be available at the baptismal font for our parishioners to enter the names of the deceased, and placed in front of the altar during all Masses throughout November. Please feel free to do so.

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.

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)

PARISH THANK YOU DINNER

As a Parish tradition, all our ministers and volunteers are invited to join our Parish Thank You dinner at 6.30pm on Friday the 24th November 2023 in our Parish Meeting Room. Please sign the clipboard available at the rear of the church for catering purposes.

LOURDES LUMINATE YOUNG ADULTS GROUP NIGHT

The next meeting will be on Saturday 25th of November at 7pm in the Parish Meeting Room. All are welcome.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY FORMATION COURSES 2024

Enrolment Forms are now available at the back of the church. Please refer to Diocesan News for more information.

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Next weekend our Parish is proud to support the Bishop's Christmas Appeal raising funds for our Catholic Care chaplaincy services.

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 OLOL Web Page.

LOURDES PLAYGROUP

Please note that Lourdes Playgroup has ended for the year and would like to thank the families that have supported it's return and wish a Blessed & Joyous Christmas to All. Playgroup will resume in 2024, school term 1.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Celebrating Catholic Unity: Inside the Diocese of Parramatta's Historic First Synod!

Our Diocese concluded its first-ever Synod over the weekend of 13 – 15 October 2023. It was a momentous event that brought together 280 faithful from across Western Sydney, the Blue Mountains, and beyond to discuss the future of the local Church. Experience the historic culmination of our Diocese's inaugural Synod in this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PltRCgSPLng>. To stay updated visit parracatholic.org/synod2023

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 please visit www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/gaza-crisis/

Local World Youth Day and Leaders Commissioning Mass: 26 November

Catholic Youth Parramatta invites all youth leaders, new school leaders and young people to the annual Local World Youth Day & Leaders Commissioning Mass, which will be held on Sunday 26 November (Feast of Christ the King) at 3.30pm at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes. The Youth Mass will give thanks for the Youth ministry year so far and bless all leaders for their 2024 ministry year. Family, friends and community members are all invited to join in this celebration. For catering purposes, please RSVP to met@parracatholic.org.

Br Barry Donaghue Preparing for Advent Series: Starting 29 November

Br Barry Donaghue cfc is offering 90-minute Advent presentations held on Wednesday evenings, 7:30pm to 9pm for 4 weeks, beginning 29 November until 20 December. Each presentation will be scripture based and have time for questions, reflection and small group conversation. The presentation will be held at Mary Rooms at Edmund Rice Retreat Centre Winbourne, 1315 Mulgoa Road, Mulgoa. Please contact 0478 408 337 or bgdonaghue@edmundrice.org for enquiries.

'Eugene Stockton: Blue Mountains Hermit' Book Launch: 3 December

The Blue Mountain Education & Research Trust cordially invite you to our Book Launch of 'Eugene Stockton: Blue Mountains Hermit' on 2pm Sunday 3 December at Mid Mountains Community Centre, 9 New St Lawson. Additional books at \$20 for contributors can be ordered in advance and picked up on the day or posted. Please direct any enquiries to contact@bmert.com.au. We hope to see you at the launch.

60th Year of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy Commemorative Mass: 4 December

Bishop Vincent invites all to join him in a commemorative Mass to mark the 60th Anniversary of *Sacrosanctum Concilium* (The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy) to be held at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta on Monday 4 December at 7.30pm. Please RSVP for catering purposes to 0460 037 795 or Hannah Portelli hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org

Australian Brandenburg Orchestra St Patrick's Cathedral Concert: 12 December

Reel in the festive season with the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra and Choir on Tuesday 12 December, 7:30PM at St Patrick's Cathedral for their annual Christmas concert, *Noë!! Noë!!*. Gather your loved ones and join us for this beloved festive tradition, as the Brandenburg perform stunning choral works and Christmas classics, conducted by Artistic Director Paul Dyer. SPECIAL OFFER: Get four tickets for just \$149! There are less than 200 tickets remaining, so head to brandenburg.com.au or call 1300 782 856 to book your tickets now.

Epiphany Pilgrimage and Fiesta 2024

Commit the first fruits of your new year to Christ with the 2024 Epiphany Pilgrimage (2 - 9 Jan 2024). Enjoy 7 days of bushwalking, fellowship and prayer as we journey from Emu Plains to the top of the Blue Mountains, experiencing the wonderful hospitality of parish communities along the way. Day 1 is a family-friendly day, with the option for a children's pilgrimage finishing with the Fannies Fiesta at St Finbar's Glenbrook. For more information and to register for all or part of the journey, visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org.

Are you interested in becoming a pastoral and professional supervisor?

Transforming Practices offers a rich formation in Pastoral Supervision. Supervision Formation comprises of 5 two day Modules, held over 7 months. The next Portfolio of Learning Day will be held on Friday 3 February 2024 (with sufficient applicants). For those proceeding – an Introductory Day will be held on Friday 5 April 2024. All training days may be held on Zoom, face to face or in dual mode depending on successful applicant's location. For program prerequisites, please visit www.transformingpractices.org. For further information, please contact the Registrar, Mary Pearson via email marypearson@gmail.com

Sydney Summer School of Evangelisation: 7 – 14 January 2024

Summer School is a week-long, live-in, life-changing retreat at the Mt Carmel Retreat Centre in Varroville NSW, featuring praise and worship, inspiring talks, engaging liturgy, time to chill & learn and more in the midst of a community of 150+ young people aged 16-35. Registrations open 31 October. Register by 30 November to receive early bird rates (concession \$525/adult \$625). More info: contact@summerschool.org.au. Bookings: summerschool.org.au

Marriage Preparation Courses in 2024

Getting married in 2024? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit www.parracatholic.org/pmp to view course dates in the New Year, to book and pay. An online preparation called *SmartLoving* can also be booked via the website. For more information, email met@parracatholic.org or phone Karin on 0419 242 435 or Marisa on 0412 280 017.

Positions Vacant:

- Liturgy Administration Support – Mission Enhancement Team, Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 24 November 2023.**
- Youth Coordinator (part-time) - St Bernadette's Parish, Castle Hill – **Applications close Thursday 30 November 2023.**

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment



POPE FRANCIS' ANGELUS

Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday!

Today's Gospel offers us a story regarding the meaning of life of each person. It is the parable of the ten virgins, called to go out to meet the bridegroom (cf. *Mt* 25:1-13). Living is this: a grand preparation for the day when we will be called to go to Jesus! However, in the parable of the ten virgins, five are wise and five foolish. Let us see what constitutes wisdom and foolishness. Wisdom in life, and foolishness in life.

All those bridesmaids are there to welcome the bridegroom, that is, they want to meet him, just as we too desire a happy fulfilment of life: the difference between wisdom and foolishness is therefore not in goodwill. Nor does it lie in the punctuality with which they arrive at the meeting: they were all there. The difference between the wise and the foolish is another: preparation. The text says: the wise "*took flasks of oil with their lamps*" (v. 4); the foolish, on the other hand, did not. Here is the difference: the oil. And what is one of the characteristics of the oil? That it cannot be seen: it is inside the lamps, it is not conspicuous, but without it the lamps have no light.

Let us look at ourselves, and we will see that our life runs the same risk: many times, we are very careful about our appearance – the important thing is to take good care of one's image, to make a good impression in front of others. But Jesus says that the wisdom of life lies elsewhere: in taking care of what cannot be seen, but which is more important, taking care of the heart. *Nurturing the inner life*. This means knowing how to stop and listen to one's heart, to keep watch over one's own thoughts and feelings. How many times are we unaware of what has happened in our heart in that day? What happens within each one of us? Wisdom means knowing how to make room for silence, so as to be capable of listening to ourselves and others. It means knowing how to give up some of the time passed in front of the telephone screen to look at the light in the eyes of others, in one's own heart, in God's gaze upon us. It means not falling into the trap of activism, but devoting time to the Lord, to listening to His Word.

And the Gospel gives us the right advice so not to neglect the oil of inner life, the "oil of the soul": it tells us that it is important to *prepare it*. And in the account, we see, in fact, that the virgins already possess the lamps, but they must prepare the oil: they must go to the sellers, buy it, put it in the lamps... (cf. vv. 7-9). It is the same for us: the inner life cannot be improvised, it is not a matter of a moment, of once in a while, of once and for all; the inner life must be prepared by dedicating a little time every day, with constancy, as one does for every important thing.

So, we can ask ourselves: what am I preparing at this moment in life? Within myself, what am I preparing? Perhaps I am trying to put aside some savings, I am thinking about a house or a new car, concrete plans... They are good things; they are not bad things. They are good things. But am I also thinking about dedicating time to the care of the heart, to prayer, to service to others, to the Lord who is the destination of life? In short, how is the oil of my soul? Each one of us, let us ask ourselves this: how is the oil of my soul? Do I nourish it, do I keep it well?

After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters!

For some months Sudan has been in the throes of a civil war that shows no sign of abating, and which is causing numerous victims, millions of internally displaced people and refugees in neighbouring countries, and a very grave humanitarian situation. I am close to the sufferings of those dear populations of Sudan, and I address a heartfelt appeal to local leaders to facilitate access to humanitarian aid and, with the contribution of the international community, to work in search of peaceful solutions. Let us not forget these brothers and sisters of ours who are in distress! And our thoughts turn every day to the very serious situation in Israel and in Palestine. I am close to all those who are suffering, Palestinians and Israelis. I embrace them in this dark moment. And I pray for them a lot. May the weapons be stopped: they will never lead to peace, and may the conflict not widen! Enough! Enough, brothers! In Gaza, let the wounded be rescued immediately, let civilians be protected, let far more humanitarian aid be allowed to reach that stricken population. May the hostages be freed, including the elderly and children. Every human being, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, of any people or religion, every human being is sacred, is precious in the eyes of God and has the right to live in peace. Let us not lose hope: let us pray and work tirelessly so that the sense of humanity may prevail over hardness of heart. Two years ago, the *Laudato si'* Action Platform was launched. I thank those who have joined in this initiative and encourage them to continue on the path of ecological conversion. In this regard, let us pray for the Dubai Climate Change Conference, COP28, which is now close at hand. Today the Italian Church celebrates Thanksgiving Day, on the theme "The cooperative approach to agricultural development". I greet you all affectionately, pilgrims from Italy and other parts of the world, especially the priests from the archdiocese of Szczecin-Kamień, Poland, and the parish groups from Augsburg, Zara, Poreč, Pola, Porto and Paris. I greet the members of the Sant'Egidio Community from countries in Asia, and I encourage them in their commitment to evangelization and promotion. Keep going forward, bravely! And you also help make peace too.

I greet the faithful of Volargne, Ozieri and Cremona. I greet with affection the pilgrimage of Ukrainian faithful and Basilian monks – I can see the Ukrainian flags there – from various countries to celebrate the fourth centenary of the martyrdom of Saint Josaphat. I pray with you for peace in your beleaguered country. Brothers and sisters, let us not forget tormented Ukraine, let us not forget her.

And I wish you all a happy Sunday. Please, do not forget to pray for me.

Enjoy your lunch, and *arrivederci!*

POPE FRANCIS REAFFIRMS RIGHTS OF PARENTS TO EDUCATE THEIR CHILDREN IN FREEDOM

By Lisa Zengarini

Pope Francis has reiterated the need to protect the right of parents to raise and educate their children consistent with their convictions. They should not be constrained “in any sphere, particularly in that of schooling, to accept educational programmes contrary to their beliefs and values,” he said.

On Saturday, the Pope addressed participants in the General Assembly and Conference of the European Parents’ Association taking place in Rome on 10-11 November. He stressed that “the fundamental role of parents in the social order” must “be acknowledged at every level.”

A demanding task, especially in present cultural context

Pope Francis noted that the educational mission of parents is a demanding task, especially in today’s “cultural context, at least in Europe, marked as it is by ethical subjectivism and practical materialism.”

“Parents thus find themselves constantly having to show their children the goodness and reasonableness of choices and values that can no longer be taken for granted, such as the importance of marriage and the family, or the decision to accept children as a gift from God.”

Faced with these difficulties, Pope Francis highlighted the importance of “mutual support and encouragement, so that parents can be helped to develop a ‘passion’ for their educational mission”, which essentially amounts to teaching their children “what it means to be fully human.”

A vital contribution to building a "healthy society"

This mission “can be said to be successful when children come to realize the beauty of life” and “grow confident and enthused about the prospect of embarking on the adventure of life,” which, said the Pope, “presupposes the deeper realization of God’s immense love for us.”

Indeed, “when we realize that at the root of our being is the unconditional love of God our Father, then we see clearly that life is good, that being born is good, and that loving is good.”

“This is the lofty educational mission of parents: to form free and generous persons who have come to know God’s love, and to bestow freely on others what they themselves have received as a gift.”

These are also the foundations of a “healthy society”. Hence the crucial role of parents in transmitting values, thus forming “solid citizens capable of contributing to the workplace, civic affairs, and social solidarity.”

“Raising a child represents a genuine contribution to society,” he said, “because it means training a young person in sound and respectful relationships with others, a readiness to cooperate in view of a shared goal, responsibility, a sense of duty and the value of sacrifice for sake of the common good.”

“Lacking this”, Pope Francis remarked, “children grow up as ‘islands,’ disconnected from others, incapable of a common vision, and accustomed to considering their own desires as absolute values. As a result, society ‘deconstructs’, grows impoverished, and is progressively weakened and dehumanized.”

Church’s commitment to support parents in their work

While insisting on the need to protect the right of parents to raise and educate their children according to their beliefs and values, Pope Francis reiterated the Church’s commitment to accompany and support families in their work and the importance of a closer collaboration with all institutions involved in education.

In this regard, he recalled the “Global Compact on Education” which he launched in 2019 in order to consolidate a shared commitment on the part of all institutions that deal with young people and “Compact on the Family” with cultural, academic, institutional and pastoral actors, in order to focus on the family and its various relationships.

Global Compacts on Education and on the Family

The intent of these initiatives, the Pope explained, “is to overcome a number of ‘breakdowns’ that are presently weakening the world of education: the breakdown between education and transcendence, the breakdown in interpersonal relationships, and the breakdown that distances society from the family, creating inequalities and new forms of poverty.”

Bringing his address to a close, Pope Francis encouraged the European Parents Association “to move forward with hope” in its commitment, “drawing constant inspiration and support from the Gospel’s witness to the holy parents Mary and Joseph.”

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 Thursday 8th February 2024, 10.30am– 1pm. Please bring a plate to share. Look forward to seeing you there.

Lourdes: Luminate Young Adults Group

The next group night is Saturday, 25th of November, 2023 7.00pm in the Parish Meeting Room. 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://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

NOVEMBER

20	St Vincent de Paul Meeting	7.00pm
24	Parish Volunteers Dinner	6.30pm
25	Lourdes: Luminate Young Adults Group Meeting	7.00pm

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

18/19 November 2023

Acolytes	Vigil: Daniel La Guidara 8am: Jane Seaman 9.30am Ramzee Michael
Ministers	Vigil: H. Gonzales & L. La Guidara 8am: J. Irudayaraj & E. Miu 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui & M. Michael
Readers	Vigil: B. Motha & J. Sarmiento 8am: A. McNally & K. Walker 9.30am: K. Huihui & A. Walker
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. La Guidara, C. La Guidara & S. Thoms. 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am: L. Culili & A. Melki.
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Office
Musicians	Vigil: K. Thoms & C. W 8am: Maximilian's Chorale 9.30am: Maximilian's Chorale
Flowers	Fennie & Angela
Church Cleaning	16 November Cathy Hutchings & Annette Peatman
Welcomers	Vigil: Chisha Gonzales 8am: Suzy Nemorin 9.30am: Kathy Chamberlain

25/26 November 2023

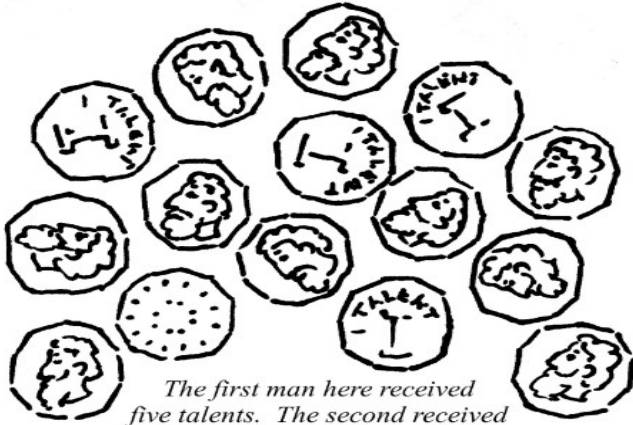
Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am Sandy Manamperi
Ministers	Vigil: L. Bellissimo, A. Bellissimo 8am: F. Balatbat, L. Fernandes 9.30am: M. Aquino, G. Basili
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, C. Rodrigues 8am: A. Joseph, M. Santos 9.30am: F. Kennedy, I. Epondulan
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. Laus, E. Reardon 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am: S. Culili, J. Kingston
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Fr. Henry 9.30am: Nina's Group
Flowers	Annette & Mary B.
Church Cleaning	22 November Jessie Borg & Anne McMally
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: Volunteers

The Kids' Bulletin The Parable of the Talents

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 19th, 2023

But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Matthew 25:18

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



The first man here received five talents. The second received two and the third man one. When the master returned, how many did each man have? Colour them this way to find out:



Colour the coins with faces gold.



Colour the coins with letters silver.



Colour the coin with dots bronze.

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

- 12-21-25-1-17
- 16-25-13-14-21-16-19-8
- 21-13-15-17
- 5-9-2-17-24
- 23-9-9-15
- 12-17-1-20-25-2-14
- 3-9-19-1-2-17-24
- 25-16-1-25-13-15
- 8-25-4-24
- 21-25-18-18-13-2-17-12-12

FAITHFUL
LAZY

GOOD
JOURNEY

HAPPINESS
SERVANT

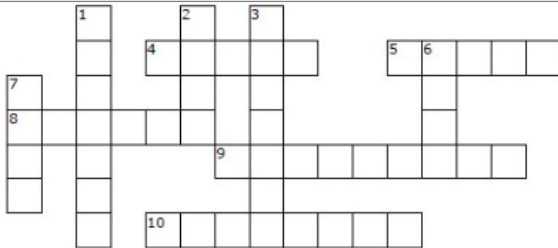
SHARE
MONEY

AFRAID
HIDE

WORD SEARCH

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

TALENT
MASTER
RETURN
BURIED
ONE
THREE
FIVE
JOURNEY
SERVANT
FAITHFUL



ACROSS

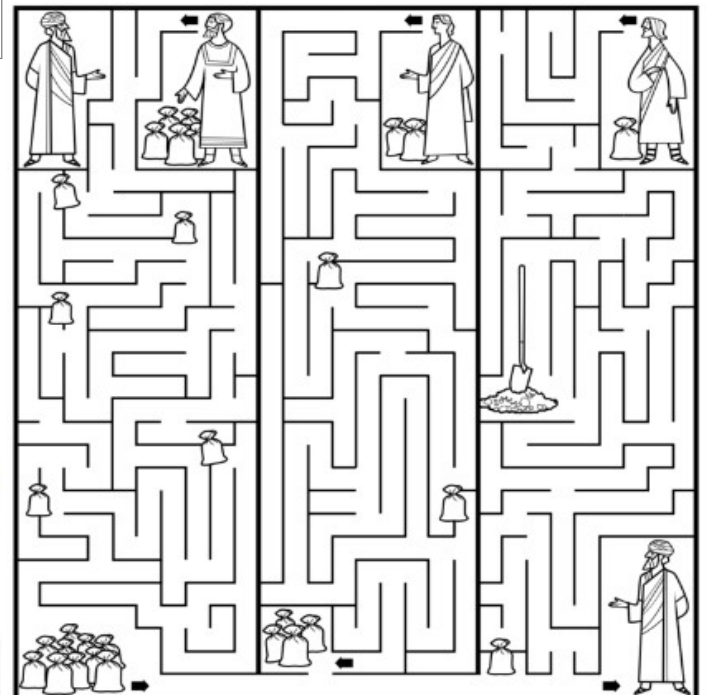
- The coins and bills that are used to buy things
- To divide or use something with others
- To be filled with fear
- A feeling of pleasure, satisfaction, or joy
- To be trusted or loyal

DOWN

- A trip, especially one over a great distance
- The opposite of bad
- A person who is employed to do work for another person
- Put something in a place where it cannot be found
- Not willing to work



Jesus told the **parable (story) of the talents** about a master who gave talents (money) to his servants. The first two servants worked hard and made more money. But one servant buried his talent in the ground. The master wasn't happy with the servant who buried his talent. Follow each servant's path back to the master.



AFRAID	HAPPINESS	LAZY	JOURNEY	FAITHFUL
GOOD	HIDE	SHARE	MONEY	SERVANT