



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 Deacon: Deacon Thong Nguyen
Parish Office Team: Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang Jane Nguyen
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
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.com.au
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/LOL7Hills/>

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE 26 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, Zeferino Jayson Morales, 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, Connie Busuttill, Noel DCruz, Brian Coates, Gladys Fernando, John Lionel, Joan Falzon, Mary Ann Farugia, Vilma Flores, Alfredo Fernandez, Ranjan Fernando, Mary Mifsud, Solomon Morias, Anthony & Evangelista Micallef, Lyn Morrissey, Mary Paz Novilla, Pacienza Piscopo, Mercedes Yu, Epifania Cruz Samaniego, Maria Fely Sebastian, Jose Soriano, Joseph & Theresa Vella, John-William Zaren.

Anniversaries: Fredy Alphonse, Michelle Azzopardi, Carolina Borg, Josephine & Family Calleja, Fe Licup Carmen, Mary Carmenzuli, Mervyn Costello, Conchita Deloso, Antonia, John Falzon, Josephine Francis, Charles Francis, Francis, Russell, Sheela Franklin, Paul Gauci, Charlie Gravina, Martha Joseph, Ngoc Khuong Mai, Lourda Motha, Xavier Jm Motha, Louis & Stephen Mula, Paul Mula, Jason Muscat, Sr Christina Morrissey RSS, Romeo Magda Palamos, Alberto Nahoy, Joseph Thang Nguyen, Ignacio Nonato Snr, Sam Silvia, Cordula Paiva, Roseline Ratnam, Lorraine Rigney, 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, 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 at the Parish Office or contact Maryse Augseesing on 0467 701 010.

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

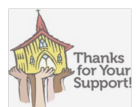
On behalf of the Parish Community, I would like to thank you very much for your ongoing support, which has been absolutely vital in keeping our Parish going strong. Projects completed include the Hall Kitchen renovation, Parish Meeting Room painting, Parish Office and Meeting Room Roof painted, Church 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 Ezekiel 34:11-12. 15-17

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them. As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose. **(R.)**

3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **(R.)**

2. Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.
He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name. **(R.)**

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow
me all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **(R.)**

SECOND READING A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 15:20-26. 28

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!

Alleluia!

GOSPEL A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me."

Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

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,

When waiting for the surgeon to come and start the procedure in the hospital, I thought of this feast of Christ, the King this Sunday, and to calm me down prior to the big moment I kept repeating this prayer, 'Lord, I entrust my soul into your hand, protect me and keep me safe today.' Then I felt so calm and ready for whatever to come, fortunately it wasn't too bad. I was able to wake up, go home and get ready for the feast marking the end of this liturgical year, also reminding us of the world end.

Compare to other feasts in the Church, Christ the King is rather new, since it was introduced by Pius XI in 1925 to counter the rise of nationalism and fascism. With the institution of this feast the Church aimed to reassert Christ's sovereignty over all kings and queens and forms of political governance throughout the world.

From the perspective of the Gospel this year, Christ is presented as the Judge, who will come again to judge all the dwellers on earth. To prepare us for such an important moment, Jesus gives away the secret about how the judgement will be like, that we are going to ask about how we relate to the poor, the sick, and the underprivileged in whatever forms. If we give them a helping hand, we shall be on the right side of the Judge King and receive the reward of eternal life, if not we shall be placed on his left side and condemned to an eternal punishment.

Interestingly Jesus used the images of the shepherd, the sheep and the goat to make his point, since they probably were popular with the disciples who might have often seen how shepherds in their time keep their sheep and their goats together and separate when required.

Setting the scene of the Last Judgement as such, Jesus perhaps means to highlight once again the second part of his dual commandment, namely the love of humanity, and encourage the disciples of old and us today to make the right choice, which is to respond according to the needs of the unfortunate around us, otherwise we shall be in trouble, not just for a certain amount of time, but eternity.

Let us acknowledge Christ as the King of our lives, and give him praise and thanks for his sovereignty. Pray that we shall be seated on his right side on the Day of Judgement for our generosity to look after those in need near and afar. Have a charity-empowered week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

We would like to welcome Rev Deacon Thong Nguyen who was appointed recently to serve in our Parish community. Deacon Thong is my compatriot and we have known each other for a long time, five years before the end of the Vietnam War. We wish him all the best and look forward to his companionship with us.

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.

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.

CHURCH CLEANING

We urgently need extra people to do the church cleaning once a month for about an hour. If you can help please phone the Parish Office or put your name and number on the A3 roster located at the back of the church under the weeks of your availability.

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.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Due to Fr Henry's annual retreat, Deacon Thong will conduct the liturgies of the Word from Tuesday 28th November till the 1st of December.

PARISH DINNER THANK YOU

We would like to thank our Parish staff for helping to prepare our Parish Thank You dinner and all ministers who joined our Dinner Thank You night. Many thanks to those who were unable to attend the event for the generosity to serve in various ministries of ours.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY FORMATION COURSES 2024

Enrolment Forms are now available at the back of the church for the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses that will recommence in February 2024. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar.

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Our Parish is proud to support the Bishop's Christmas Appeal raising funds for our Catholic Care chaplaincy services. Your kind generosity will help our 15 chaplains to provide pastoral, spiritual, and sacramental support to ill, lonely, and distraught people this Christmas.

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.

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/

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.

Young Adult Faith Formation: 3 December

Young Adult Faith Formation sessions continue on Sunday 3 December at The Hustle, 4-6 Purdy Rd, Minchinbury, at 7pm. Fr Tom Green will talk about and lead discussion on Religion and Politics. We encourage all adults 18-35 to come along and enjoy some faith formation and fellowship! Call Mark on 0477 004 678 for more information.

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

Glenbrook Parish Christmas concert: 10 December

St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, invite you to their annual Christmas concert event on Sunday 10 December at 7.30pm in the parish church. The evening will include choir and musical performances alongside themed readings for Christmas. Suggested donations for entry are \$15 for individuals and \$35 for families. For enquiries, please contact 0421 105 017.

Liturgical Ministry Course returns in 2024

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2024. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or mary.gale@parracatholic.org or visit our website to download an enrolment form at <https://officeforworship.org.au/>

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 Finnies 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 maryepearson@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:

- 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, *buongiorno!*

Today's Gospel presents us the parable of the talents (cf. *Mt* 25:14-30). A master departs on a journey and entrusts his talents, or rather his possessions, his "capital", to his servants: talents were a monetary unit. He distributes them according to the abilities of each one. On his return, he asks for an account of what they have done. Two of them have doubled what they received, and the lord praises them, while the third, out of fear, buried his talent and can only return it, the reason for which he receives a severe rebuke. Looking at this parable, we can learn *two different ways* of approaching God.

The first way is that of the one who buries the talent he has received, who cannot see the riches God has given him: he trusts neither his master nor himself. In fact, he says to his master: "Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow" (v. 24). He is afraid of him. He does not see the esteem, he does not see the trust that the lord places in him, but sees only the actions of a master who demands more than he gives, of a judge. This is his image of God: he cannot believe in His goodness; he cannot believe in the Lord's goodness towards him. That is why he gets stuck and does not allow himself to be involved in the mission he has received.

We then see this second way, in the other two protagonists, who repay their lord's trust by in turn trusting in him.

These two invest everything they have received, even though they do not know at the outset if everything will go well: they study, they see the possibilities, and prudently seek out the best; they accept the risk and put themselves on the line. They trust, they study and they risk. Thus, they have the courage to act freely, creatively, generating new wealth (cf. vv. 20-23).

Brothers and sisters, this is the crossroads we face with God: fear or trust. Either you are afraid before God, or you trust in the Lord. And we, like the protagonists of the parable – all of us – have received talents, all of us, far more precious than money. But much of how we invest them depends on our trust in the Lord, which frees our hearts, makes us active and creative in goodness. Do not forget this: trust frees, always; fear paralyses. Remember: fear paralyses, trust liberates. This also applies to the education of children. And let us ask ourselves: do I believe that God is the Father and entrusts gifts to me because He trusts me? And do I trust in Him to the point of putting myself on the line, even when the results are neither certain nor to be taken for granted? Am I able to say every day in prayer, "Lord, I trust in You, give me the strength to keep going; I trust in You, in the things You have given me: let me know how to carry them forward".

Finally, also as Church: do we cultivate a climate of trust, of mutual esteem in our environments, that helps us to move forward together, that unlocks people and stimulates the creativity of love in everyone? Let us think about it.

And may the Virgin Mary help us to overcome fear – never be afraid of God! Awe, yes; fear, no – and to trust the Lord.

After praying the Angelus, the Pope continued:

Dear brothers and sisters!

Manuel González-Serna, diocesan priest, and nineteen companions, priests and laypeople, killed in 1936 in the climate of religious persecution of the Spanish Civil War, were beatified yesterday in Seville. These martyrs bore witness to Christ up to the end. May their example comfort the many Christians who are discriminated against because of their faith in our times. A round of applause for the new Blessed!

I reiterate my closeness to the dear people of Myanmar, who unfortunately continue to suffer from violence and abuse. I pray that they are not discouraged and trust always in the help of the Lord.

And, brothers and sisters, let us continue to pray for tormented Ukraine – I can see the flags here – and for the populations of Palestine and Israel. Peace is possible. It takes good will. Peace is possible. Let us not resign ourselves to war! And let us not forget that war is always, always, always a defeat. The only ones to gain are arms manufacturers.

Today we celebrate the Seventh World Day of the Poor, whose theme this year is: "Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor" (*Tob* 4:7). I thank those in the dioceses and parishes who have organized solidarity initiatives with people and families who struggle to make ends meet.

And today we also remember all the victims of road accidents: let us pray for them, for their relatives, and let us make efforts to prevent accidents.

I would also like to mention World Fisheries Day, which will be held the day after tomorrow.

I affectionately greet you all, pilgrims from Italy and other parts of the world. I greet the faithful of Madrid, Ibiza and Warsaw, and the members of the Council of the World Union of Catholic Teachers. I greet the groups from Aprilia, San Ferdinando di Puglia and Sant'Antimo; the FIDAS Association of Orta Nova, and the participants in the "Day of Sharing" of the Apostolic Movement of the Blind. A special greeting goes to the Ecuadorian community in Rome, which is celebrating the *Virgen del Quinche*. And a greeting to the young people of the *Immacolata*.

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

Enjoy your lunch, and *arrivederci!*

POPE FRANCIS HOMILY FOR THE MASS OF THE WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

Three men find themselves given an enormous sum of money, thanks to the generosity of their master, who is departing on a long journey. That master will come back one day and summon those servants, trusting that he might rejoice with them on how they had made his wealth increase and bear fruit. The parable that we have just listened to (cf. *Mt 25:14-30*) invites us to reflect on two journeys: *the journey of Jesus* and *the journey of our lives*.

The journey of Jesus. At the beginning of the parable, the Lord speaks of “a man going on a journey, [who] summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them” (v. 14). This “journey” reminds us of Christ’s own journey, in his incarnation, resurrection and ascension into heaven. Christ, who came down from the Father to dwell among us, by his death destroyed death and after rising from the dead, returned to the Father. At the conclusion of his earthly mission, then, Jesus made a “return journey” to the Father. Yet before departing, he left us his wealth, a genuine “capital”. He left us himself in the Eucharist. He left us his words of life, he gave us his holy Mother to be our Mother, and he distributed the gifts of the Holy Spirit so that we might continue his work on earth. These “talents” are given, the Gospel tell us, “according to the ability of each” (v. 15) and thus for a personal mission that the Lord entrusts to us in our daily lives, in society and in the Church. The apostle Paul says the same thing: “each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift”. Therefore it is said, “When he ascended on high, he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people” (*Eph 4:7-8*).

Let us look once more to Jesus, who received everything from the hands of the Father, yet did not keep this treasure for himself: “He did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave” (*Phil 2:7*). He clothed himself in our frail humanity. As a good Samaritan, he poured oil on our wounds. He became poor in order to make us rich (*2 Cor 8:9*), and was lifted up on the cross. “For our sake God made him to be sin who knew no sin” (*2 Cor 5:21*). *For our sake.* Jesus lived for us, for our sake. That was the purpose of his journey in the world, before his return to the Father.

Today’s parable also tells us that “the master of those slaves returned and settled accounts with them” (*Mt 25:19*). Jesus’ first journey to the Father will be followed by another journey, at the end of time, when he will return in glory and meet us once more, in order to “settle the accounts” of history and bring us into the joy of eternal life. We need, then, to ask ourselves: In what state will the Lord find us when he returns? How will I appear before him at the appointed time?

This question brings us to our second reflection: *the journey of our lives*. What path will we take in our lives: the path of Jesus, whose very life was gift, or the path of selfishness? The path with hands open towards others in order to give, give of ourselves, or that of closed hands so that we have more things and only care about ourselves? The parable tells us that, according to our own abilities and possibilities, each of us has received certain “talents”. Lest we be led astray by common parlance, we need to realize that those “talents” are not our own abilities, but as we said, the Lord’s gifts which Christ left to us when he returned to the Father. Together with those gifts, he has given us his Spirit, in whom we became God’s children and thanks to which we can spend our lives in bearing witness to the Gospel and working for the coming of God’s kingdom. The immense “capital” that was placed in our keeping is the love of the Lord, the foundation of our lives and our source of strength on our journey.

Consequently, we have to ask ourselves: What am I doing with this “talent” on the journey of my life? The parable tells us that the first two servants increased the value of the gift they had received, while the third, instead of trusting his master who had given him the talent, was afraid, paralyzed by fear. Refusing to take a risk, not putting himself on the line, he ended up burying his talent. This holds true for us as well. We can multiply the wealth we have been given, and make our lives an offering of love for the sake of others. Or we can live our lives blocked by a false image of God, and out of fear bury the treasure we received, thinking only of ourselves, unconcerned about anything but our own convenience and interests, remaining uncommitted and disengaged. The question is very clear: the first two take a risk through their transactions. And the question we must ask is: “Do I take a risk in my life? Do I take a risk through the power of my faith? As a Christian, do I know how to take a risk or do I close myself off out of fear or cowardice?”

Brothers and sisters, on this World Day of the Poor the parable of the talents is a summons to examine the spirit with which we confront the journey of our lives. We have received from the Lord the gift of his love and we are called to become a gift for others. The love with which Jesus cared for us, the balm of his mercy, the compassion with which he tended our wounds, the flame of the Spirit by which he filled our hearts with joy and hope – all these are treasures that we cannot simply keep to ourselves, use for our own purposes or bury beneath the soil. Showered with gifts, we are called in turn to make ourselves a gift. Those of us who have received many gifts must make ourselves a gift for others. The images used by the parable are very eloquent: if we do not spread love all around us, our lives recede into the darkness; if we do not make good use of the talents we have received, our lives end up buried in the ground, as if we were already dead (cf. vv. 25-30). Brothers and sisters, so many Christians are “buried underground”! Many Christians live their faith as if they lived underground!

Let us think, then, of all those material, cultural and spiritual forms of poverty that exist in our world, of the great suffering present in our cities, of the forgotten poor whose cry of pain goes unheard in the generalized indifference of a bustling and distracted society. When we think of poverty, we must not forget about its discretion: poverty is discrete; it hides itself. We must courageously go and look for it. Let us think of all those who are oppressed, weary or marginalized, the victims of war and those forced to leave their homelands at the risk of their lives, those who go hungry and those without work and without hope. So much poverty on a daily basis: not one, two or three but a multitude. The poor are a multitude. When we think of the immense numbers of the poor in our midst, the message of today’s Gospel is clear: let us not bury the wealth of the Lord! Let us spread the wealth of charity, share our bread and multiply love! Poverty is a scandal. When the Lord returns, he will settle accounts with us and – in the words of Saint Ambrose – he will say to us: “Why did you allow so many of the poor to die of hunger when you possessed gold to buy food for them? Why were so many slaves sold and mistreated by the enemy, without anyone making an effort to ransom them?” (*De Officiis*: PL 16, 148-149).

Let us pray that each of us, according to the gift we received and the mission entrusted to us, may strive “to make charity bear fruit” and draw near to some poor person. Let us pray that at the end of our journey, having welcomed Christ in our brothers and sisters with whom he identified himself (cf. *Mt 25:40*), we too may hear it said to us: “Well done, good and trustworthy servant... Enter into the joy of your master” (*Mt 25:21*).

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://bunnies.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

December		
3	First Sunday of Advent	
8	Lourdes Luminate: Young Adults Group Meeting	6.45pm
15	Last Day of School Term	

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

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	30 November Beth Paiva & Lourdes Spiteri
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: Volunteers

2/3 December 2023

Acolytes	Vigil: Frank Paiva 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Ramzee Michael
Ministers	Vigil: M. Mifsud, B. Motha 8am: J. Irudayaraj, A. McNally 9.30am: B. Chandler, M. Michael
Readers	Vigil: A. Punch, J. Sarmiento 8am: P. Ferriols, K. Walker 9.30am: C. Diaz, R. Epondulan
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. Bagatella, D. Sant, J. Sant 8am: K. Maruthanayagam, S. Park, P. Park 9.30am: C. Attard, M. Gluvic, F. Wanandy
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Tongan Choir
Musicians	Vigil: Youth for Christ 8am: Fr. Henry 9.30am: Couples for Christ
Flowers	Fenty & Liz
Church Cleaning	9 December Tongan Community
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Urge 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: Volunteers

The Kids' Bulletin

Feast of Christ the King
November 26th, 2023



A E F H I L M P R S T U W Y
△ □ > ■ | - ▲ ○ ● < + U N X

What does God say about His people in the first reading?
Use the code to find out some of what He said.

I ▲ x < □ - > n i - -
o △ < + u ● □ + ■ □ ▲



Gospel Match-Up

In today's Gospel reading, Our Lord tells the people how they will be judged. What did the righteous people do when they found people in need?

See if you can match up the needs on the left with the help on the right!

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. I was hungry and • | • you welcomed me, |
| 2. I was thirsty and • | • you clothed me, |
| 3. a stranger and • | • you gave me drink, |
| 4. naked and • | • you cared for me, |
| 5. ill and • | • you visited me. |
| 6. in prison and • | • you gave me food, |



Jesus is Our King!

WORD JUMBLE



"Whatever you did for one of the least of these _____ of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:40 (RSV)

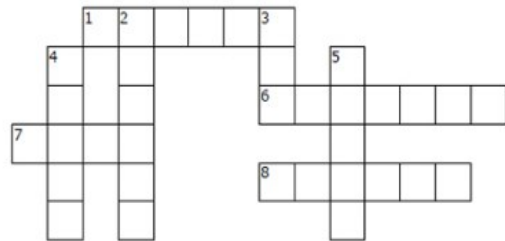
Answers: thirsty, blessed, brothers, stranger, hungry, prison

DELSESB	<input type="text"/>
1	
HGRUNY	<input type="text"/>
5	7
YHRTSIT	<input type="text"/>
4	
SGATRENR	<input type="text"/>
8	6
PORISN	<input type="text"/>
2	3

SOLUTION:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.



ACROSS

- A special chair used by a king or queen
- The need or desire to drink something, especially water
- A man who rules a country
- A place where people are kept as a punishment

DOWN

- To feel a desire or need for food
- To put food into the mouth, chew it, and swallow it
- To take in and swallow liquid through the mouth
- To go to spend time with someone

EAT	THIRSTY	HUNGRY	PRISON
VISIT	KING	THRONE	DRINK