

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS

"Still a wonderful place to pray & stay."

7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills. NSW. 2147

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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: 17th April 2024
Baptism: 28th April 2024
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall
Parish Website: www.lol7hills.com.au
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/LOL7Hills/>

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 10 March 2024 • Year B



Let us Pray for the Sick

Rico Valentine Abadam, Leonila Ahillon, Mary Attard, Marija & Family Barclay, Rosella Booth, Penny Briscoe, Para Dias, Florence & Roslyn, Ronald Gomez, Anthony Janicska, Paul Leong, Bob & Therese Marini, Blago Milicevic, Carlos Moreno, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Eustace Ratnam, Sue Tipaldo, Guza Schembri, Sr Colleen O'Sullivan, Wally Villanueva.

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: Mila Acosta, Emma Barriom, Barrie Chamberlain, Lila Bate, Dulcie Duraisamy, Michael Ellis, Jasmin Fernando, Alberto Fernandez, Charlie Gauci, Cathy Howard, Fr Tony Kelly, Marie Marchand, Jossie Marie Manalac, Angela Michael, Mario Mirador, Gloria Momblan, Joemar Noquera, Alaoma Okoro Ogbulachi, Antonio Solis Palomos, Perl Perera, Lorna Wettasinha, Vinnie Zahra

Anniversaries: Beena Abraham, Josephine Calleja, Audrey & Herman Chillia, Fe Licup Carmen, Conception, Dominic & Monica D'Souza, John Fernando, M.A Fernando, Mr C Francis & Mrs J Francis, Emily Galea, Francisca Garcia, Zoltan Gartner, Sr Gizella Gartner, Josephine Gomez, Harold Lafleur, Apolinario Maglaya, Irene Moroney, Jason Muscat, Joseph Nguyen, Gil Opina, Cordula Paiva, Maria Reyes, Jose Reyes, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Maria Trinh, Alison Vella, Melchor Usman, Pastora Villarta.

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, France Angseeing, Carmen Attard, Sydney Azie, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Frank & Fortunata Baiada, Sam Borg, Rolily Burac, Miriam Busutill, Saviour Caruana, Fe Licup Carmen, Tania McGove, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Tony, Tania, Vivian, Joe & Launcer De Guire, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Pru Farncomb, Melvyn Fernandes, Nevis Fernando, Mary & Sam Galea, Sam Gabo, Jean, Elsie, Karl & Gervais Garrick, Selvam Irudayaraj, Flordeliza Limguangco—Labancz, Mangion Family, Pauline Meilak, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Mary Mifsud, Emilia & William Mifsud, Anton & Lourda Motha, Mary Muscat, Mary & Francis Muscat, Ngan Pin, Elizabeth Pinter, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jonathan Tek Kie, Jim & Alison Vella, Shane Vaz. The Holy Souls in Purgatory.

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

Funeral Notices

Barrie Chamberlain

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Seven Hills

Tuesday 12th of March, 10.00am

May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen

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

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 Augseeings on 0467 701 010.

FIRST READING A reading from the second book of Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

1. By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there we hung
our harps. **(R.)**

3. O how could we sing
the song of the Lord
on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither! **(R.)**

2. For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
'Sing to us,' they said, 'one of Zion's songs. **(R.)**

4. O let my tongue
cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys! **(R.)**

SECOND READING A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 2:4-10

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Dear friends,

It took me three months get to Thailand from Vietnam many years ago and it seemed to be a long time to me, but it was nothing compared to the Israelites in the past who took forty years wandering around the wilderness before they could set foot on the Promised Land.

During those forty long years, many times they tested the Lord's patience by refusing to walk in his way and going astray instead. Once the Lord allowed snakes sneaking into their camps to attack them, so they were terrified and had to go see Moses and ask for his intercession. Moses then pleaded with God to

pardon His people and the Lord ordered him to make a bronze serpent and hang it on high, so every time people got bitten by a snake, they just looked up to the bronze serpent and they were saved from the snake's poison.

In his conversation with Nicodemus today, Jesus recalled the Serpent story in the Old Testament and turned it into the symbolic occasion foretelling the way he was going to die. He meant to tell Nicodemus that he was going to be crucified on the cross like a serpent of old, but his crucifixion will help to save not just a few, but all peoples who look upon and believe in him will be saved from sins and receive eternal life. It would be a perfect match if we could have a first reading from the book of Numbers recounting the story of the bronze serpent (cf. Num 21.6), that in no doubt will help us appreciate Jesus' message in the Gospel better.

More significantly Jesus went on to talk about his mission aimed not to deliver the doomed message of condemnation, but rather to bring salvation to the world, in other words, his mission is all about mercy and love, something that Pope Francis is right, as he has committed to put emphasis on such a dimension of our beloved Jesus.

Let us pray today for the grace to help us follow Jesus' example in our call to bear witness to Him in the world, so that we will become messengers of His love and mercy in all what we do and say.

Let us also ask Jesus to strengthen our faith in him who has made us God's work of art and be proud of His Cross and embrace the way of the Cross through our acceptance of whatever trouble and hardship we might encounter on our life journey.

Have a lovely week filled with mercy and compassion for others around us.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

DRIVING CONCERNS

One of our neighbours has sent to our Parish Office an email reminding our parishioners of two important matters as following: 1/ Please put the indicators on to indicate which way to go when we exit the carpark, 2/ Elizabeth Lane is a NO STOPPING area, so we should never stop there. Thank you all for your co-operation. Fr Henry

FUNERAL MASS

Funeral Mass for Barrie Chamberlain will be on Tuesday the 12th of March, 2024 at 10am. We offer our most sincere condolences to Kathy and the family.

LOURDES LUMINATE YOUNG ADULTS GROUP NIGHT

All are welcome to join us on Thursday 21 March 2024 6:30pm-9pm in the Parish Meeting Room. Featuring guest speaker: Christine Woodward sharing with our young adults about forgiveness and penance. We will also join the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth (CSFN) via Zoom in the Stations of the Cross at 7:30pm.

LOURDES OVER 50s GROUP

Over 50s meeting Thursday 14th March, 10.30am-1pm in the hall. Please bring a plate to share.

SERVING AS PARISH MINISTERS

In response to popular requests from the community to serve as lectors, Extraordinary ministers of Communion, Acolytes and so on, I would like to invite you to pick up the form available in our Parish Directory, tick your preferred ministry, write down your name and contact number, and place it in the collection plate or return it to Fr Henry, and the Parish office will contact you.

WORLD ORAL HEALTH DAY DENTAL INFORMATION SESSION

Our Lady of Lourdes Seven Hills invites all parishioners to participate in learning about looking after your oral health during a dental health information Session on Sunday the 17 March 2024 10:45am-12pm, in the Parish Hall (after the 9:30am Mass) - Free toothbrushes and toothpastes from Colgate Australia. All are welcome to join.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday during lent at 7.30pm.

ALTAR SERVERS INSTALLATION MASS

Let us remember and pray for our new Altar servers who are going to be installed during the 9.30am Mass on Sunday 17th March, 2024.

PARISH FIRST RECONCILIATION

Congratulation to the 29 children in our parish who are going to make their First Reconciliation on Wednesday night 13th of March. Please remember them in your prayers this week.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Members of the PPC spent some time to discuss the needs of our parish based on the data gathered from our last survey. Amongst your many suggestions, the wish for more Adult Faith Education seems to stand out. In response to the issue, we have made various attempts to provide support to the community via our annual retreats, the Young Adult meetings, Prayer Group meetings, Lenten book club meetings, especially our occasional hand-outs and weekly bulletins. Please pay more attention to these initiatives. The Council also dedicated time to study the Family Group Movement.

CANDLE WAX ON THE CHURCH CARPET

Please do not try to remove candle wax on the church carpet by yourselves, for you might make it worse. Instead let our staff know and we ask our carpet cleaners to treat it.

BECOME A CATECHIST AN SRE VOLUNTEER!

SRE's are parish volunteers who: Teach and share their faith with children who attend government schools; Have an hour per week to prepare and share their time with young people. OLOL SRE's go into Seven Hills, Seven Hills North, Bert Oldfield, Vardys Road State primary schools & The Hills Sports High School. New volunteer SRE's will be given support, training and teaching materials. For further enquiries please contact Deacon Thong in the parish office.

Pontifical Holy Land Good Friday Collection: 29 March

Every year on Good Friday, a collection is taken up in every Catholic church to support the people and places of the Holy Land. The Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land have the unique responsibility of caring for the Holy Places as well as caring for the Christians living in the Holy Land. Your donation is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of people who are keeping alive the Christian presence in the land of Jesus, often in the face of great difficulty in recent years. Make your donation this Holy Week via the envelopes in your parish or donate directly via Commissariat of the Holy Land, 47 Victoria St. Waverley NSW 2024 or holyland@franciscans.org.au.

Synod 2023 Update:

Decree issued and Development of Diocesan Plan Begins

In January, the Synodal Decree from our inaugural Diocesan Synod was issued, enabling us to move forward in the development of a Diocesan Plan. Join us in the next phase of our journey, as we discern a new path forward for our local Church in Western Sydney and Blue Mountains. The Diocesan Plan for a Synodal Church will launch at the Diocesan Gathering Saturday 10 August. Learn more at parracatholic.org/synod

Filipino Chaplaincy Feast of St Joseph Celebrations: 16 March

The Filipino Chaplaincy of the Diocese of Parramatta invites you to join Holy Mass to celebrate the Feast of St Joseph, the Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday 16 March at 10:30AM at St Patrick's Church, Blacktown. There will be Novena Masses in preparation for the Feast from March 6 to 14 at 7:30PM (except on March 6 and 13 at 8:00PM) at St Michael's Church, Blacktown South.

Penrith Parish Stations of the Cross for Cancer Patients, Families and Survivors: 22 March

St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith, warmly invites cancer patients, survivors and families who have lost loved ones to cancer to participate in an Outdoor Stations of the Cross on Friday 22 March at 7pm at the Parish. You can bring along a small cross / candle along with their names to be prayed for or join us to carry the big wooden cross. For further details, contact the parish office on (02) 4721 2509.



Fourth Sunday of Lent 9th & 10th March Please donate to Project Compassion

As the eldest child in a low-income farming family in rural Malawi, **Memory** faced many barriers to her education. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, she enrolled in a technical school and became the first female carpenter in her village.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations**.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE: BLACKTOWN NETWORK OF FAITH COMMUNITIES (BNOFC) HARMONY DAY CONCERT: Saturday 16th March 2024 5:00pm-7:30pm

At Sant Nirankari Mission - Centre for Oneness Sydney (Nirankari Bhawan), 166 Glendenning Road, Glendenning. Cultural performances from various faith groups including Our Lady of Lourdes Seven Hills. Vegetarian dinner will be provided. All are welcome to join. Please RSVP to Ian Epondulan: ian_ube@hotmail.com / 0401 161 264

Glenbrook Parish Lenten Biblical Studies:

12 and 19 March

St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, is hosting two Biblical Studies sessions on the Passion of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark on Tuesday 12 and 19 March at the parish hall from 7.30pm. Parish Priest Fr Joseph Lam OSA will lead the sessions. To RSVP and for more information, please contact secretary@stfinbars.org.au

CATHOLIC YOUTH PARRAMATTA (CYP): GOOD FRIDAY NIGHT WALK STATIONS OF THE CROSS FRIDAY: 28 MARCH 11:30pm

At Our Lady of Lourdes Seven Hills 1000+ young pilgrims across the Diocese are due to arrive and walk 21km passing through other parishes ending at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta (expected finish 6am Holy Saturday). All are welcome to join at Seven Hills and volunteers are needed for various roles like roleplay re-enactment of the Stations, ushering, holding candles, musicians and singers. Please contact Ian Epondulan: 0401161264 / ian_ube@hotmail.com

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunity for Cycle 1

Have you had a chance to complete your first three Mandatory Safeguarding Modules as yet?

Module 2: Tuesday 12 March (10.00am – 11.30am)

Module 3: Tuesday 19 March (10.00am – 11.30am)

To register, please visit <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?topic=safeguarding>

Peace Justice Ecology Table Talk – “Harmony Week: Everyone Belongs”: 21 March

This Table Talk is an opportunity to hear inspiring stories, engage in meaningful conversations, ask questions, and play a vital role in creating positive social change. Thursday 21 March, 6.30pm - 9pm at Catholic Care Mamre House & Farm, 181 Mamre Rd, Orchard Hills. Register by 14 March. Information at www.tinyurl.com/harmony-week-table-talk

Missionaries of God's Love Emmaus Silent Retreat: 19 – 21 April

Men and women are invited to embark on the sacred journey of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, where the victorious love of God is revealed through the abiding presence of Jesus. Be renewed in spending time alone with the Lord, and watch as He slowly sets your heart ablaze. This retreat will be held from 19 to 21 April at the Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, and is run by the MGL Sisters. To book your place, visit trybooking.com/CNSXK

Marriage Preparation Courses in 2024

Getting married in 2024? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit www.parracatholic.org/celebrate/marriage/marriage-preparation to view weekend 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 marriage@parracatholic.org or Marisa on 0412 280 017.

Positions Vacant:

- Administration Assistant (part-time) - Sacred Heart Parish, Mt Druitt South and Permanent Diaconate community – Applications close 10pm Monday 11 March

More details at: parracatholic.org/about/jobs/



POPE FRANCIS' ANGELUS

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

Today the Gospel shows us a harsh scene: Jesus drives the merchants out of the temple (cf. *Jn* 2:13-25), Jesus who expels the sellers, overturns the money changers' tables, and admonishes everyone, saying, "Stop making my Father's house a marketplace" (v. 16). Let us focus a little on the contrast between *house* and *market*: indeed, these are two different ways of approaching the Lord.

In the temple conceived as a *market*, in order to be right with God, all one had to do was to buy a lamb, to pay for it, and to consume it on the altar coals. One *bought, paid, consumed*, and then everyone went home. In the temple understood as a *house*, on the other hand, the opposite happens: we go there to encounter the Lord, to be close to Him, to be close to our brothers and sisters, to share joys and sorrows. Moreover: in a market, all prices are negotiated, whereas at home, there is no calculating; in the market, one seeks one's own interests, at home, one gives freely. And Jesus is harsh today because He does not accept that the *market-temple* replaces the *house-temple*, He does not accept that our relationship with God is distant and commercial instead of intimate and trusting, He does not accept that selling stalls take the place of the family table, that prices take the place of hugs, and coins replace caresses. And why does Jesus not accept this? Because in this way, a barrier is created between God and man and between brother and brother, whereas Christ came to bring communion, to bring mercy, that is, forgiveness, and to bring closeness.

The invitation today, also for our Lenten journey, is to build a *greater sense of home* and less of a *sense of the market* in ourselves and around us. First of all, towards God, by praying a lot, like children who knock confidently at the Father's door without getting tired, and not like greedy and distrustful merchants. So, firstly, by praying. And then by spreading fraternity: there is great need for fraternity!

So, let us ask ourselves: first of all, what is my prayer like? Is it a price to be paid, or is it a moment of trusting abandonment, without looking at the clock? And how are my relationships with others? Am I capable of giving without expecting anything in return? Can I take the first step to break down the walls of silence and the voids of distance? We must ask ourselves these questions.

May Mary help us to "build a home" with God, among us, and around us.

After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters!

I carry daily in my heart, with sorrow, the suffering of the populations in Palestine and in Israel, due to the ongoing hostilities. The thousands of dead, wounded, displaced, and the immense destruction cause suffering, and this has tremendous consequences on the small and the defenceless, who see their future compromised. I ask myself: do we really think we can build a better world in this way? Do we really think we can achieve peace? Enough, please! Let us all say it: enough, please! Stop! I encourage the continuation of negotiations for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and in the entire region, so that the hostages may be freed immediately and return to their anxiously awaiting loved ones, and the civilian population can have safe access to urgently needed humanitarian aid. And please let us not forget tormented Ukraine, where so many die every day. There is so much pain there.

The 5th of March marks the second International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness. How many resources are wasted on military spending that, as a result of the current situation, sadly continues to increase!

I sincerely hope that the international community understands that disarmament is first and foremost a duty: disarmament is a moral duty. Let us keep this clearly in our minds. And this requires the courage of all members of the great family of nations to move from an equilibrium of fear to an equilibrium of trust.

I greet you all, Romans and pilgrims from various countries. In particular, I greet the students of the *Universidade Sénior* of Vila Pouca de Aguiar in Portugal, the students of the "Rodríguez Moñino" Institute of Badajoz, and the parish groups from Poland.

I greet the confirmands from Rosolina, in the diocese of Chioggia, with their family members; the faithful from Padua, Azzano Mella, Capriano and Fenili, Taranto, and the parish of *Sant'Alberto Magno* in Rome.

I affectionately greet the young Ukrainians brought together by the *Sant'Egidio* Community on the theme "Conquer evil with good. Prayer, the poor, peace". Dear young people, thank you for your commitment towards those who suffer most as a result of war. Thank you!

And I wish you all a good Sunday. Please, do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your lunch, and *arrivederci!*

APPEALS

March 1 will mark the 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines, which continue to target innocent civilians, particularly children, even many years after the end of hostilities.

I express my closeness to the many victims of these insidious devices that remind us of the dramatic cruelty of wars, and the price civilian populations are forced to bear. In this regard, I thank all those who offer their contributions to assist the victims and clean up the contaminated areas. Their work is a concrete response to the universal call to be peacemakers, taking care of our brothers and sisters.

* * *

Dear brothers and sisters, let us not forget the peoples suffering because of war: Ukraine, Palestine, Israel and so many others. And let us pray for the victims of the recent attacks on places of worship in Burkina Faso; as well as for the people of Haiti, where crimes and kidnappings by armed gangs continue.

POPE FRANCIS AT AUDIENCE *Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!*

Today we examine two deadly vices that we find in the great lists that the spiritual tradition has left us: *envy* and *vainglory*. Let us start with *envy*. If we read Holy Scripture (cf. *Gen 4*), it appears to us as one of the oldest vices: Cain's hatred of Abel is unleashed when he realizes that his brother's sacrifices are pleasing to God. Cain was the firstborn of Adam and Eve, he had taken the largest share of his father's inheritance; yet, it is enough for Abel, the younger brother, to succeed in a small feat, for Cain to become enraged. The face of the envious man is always sad: he's always looking down, he seems to be continually investigating the ground; but in reality, he sees nothing, because his mind is wrapped up in thoughts full of wickedness. Envy, if unchecked, leads to hatred of the other. Abel would be killed at the hands of Cain, who could not bear his brother's happiness. Envy is an evil that has been investigated not only in the Christian sphere: it has attracted the attention of philosophers and wise men of every culture. At its core is a relationship of hate and love: one desires the evil for the other, but secretly desires to be like him. The other is the epiphany of what we would like to be, and what we actually are not. Their good fortune seems to us an injustice: surely, we think to ourselves, we would be much more deserving of their successes or good fortune! At the root of this vice is a false idea of God: we do not accept that God has his own "math", different from ours. For example, in Jesus' parable about the workers called by the master to go into the vineyard at different times of the day, those in the first hour believe they are entitled to a higher wage than those who arrived last; but the master gives everyone the same pay, and says, "Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or *do you begrudge my generosity?*" (Mt 20:15). We would like to impose our own selfish logic on God; instead, the logic of God is love. The good things he gives us are meant to be shared. This is why Saint Paul exhorts Christians, "Love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor" (Rm 12:10). Here is the remedy for envy! And now we come to the second vice we are examining today: *vainglory*. It goes hand-in-hand with the demon of envy, and together these two vices are characteristic of a person who aspires to be the centre of the world, free to exploit everything and everyone, the object of all praise and love. Vainglory is an inflated and baseless self-esteem. The vainglorious person possesses an unwieldy "I": they have no empathy and take no notice of the fact that there are other people in the world besides them. Their relationships are always a means to an end, characterized by dominating the other. Their person, their accomplishments, their achievements must be put on display for everyone: they are perpetual beggars for attention. And if at times their qualities are not recognized, they become fiercely angry. Others are unfair, they do not understand, they are not up to it. In his writings, Evagrius Ponticus describes the bitter story of a certain monk struck by vainglory. It happened that, after his first successes in the spiritual life, he already felt that he had made it, so he rushed into the world to receive its praise. But he did not realize that he was only at the beginning of the spiritual path, and that a temptation was lurking that would soon bring him down. To heal the vainglorious, spiritual teachers do not suggest many remedies. For in the end, the evil of vanity has its remedy in itself: the praise the vainglorious person hoped to reap from the world will soon turn against him or her. And how many people, deluded by a false self-image, have then fallen into sins of which they would soon be ashamed! The finest instruction for overcoming vainglory can be found in Saint Paul's testimony. The Apostle always reckoned with a defect that he could never overcome. Three times he asked the Lord to deliver him from that torment, but finally Jesus answered him, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness". From that day Paul was set free. And his conclusion should also become ours: "I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me"

POPE FRANCIS TO CHILDREN: CHANGING THE WORLD STARTS WITH 'PLEASE' AND 'THANK YOU' *By Francesca Merlo*

Pope Francis sends a message to all the children of the world ahead of the first "World Children's Day" to encourage them to be united and listen to advice from grown-ups because, he says, their "pleases" and "thank yous" are the first step towards a better world. Pope Francis has sent a message to all the children of the world, ahead of the very first World Day dedicated to them. World Children's Day, which will be held in Rome on 25-26 May this year "is fast approaching" he tells them.

A message to each and all In his message, Pope Francis writes that he wants to speak to "each" of them because each individual is precious. At the same time, he continues, the message is addressed to "all" of them, because all children, everywhere, "are a sign of every person's desire to grow and flourish". The Holy Father goes on to remind the children they are a source of joy for their parents and families "but also for our human family and for the Church" in which we are all connected. For this reason, the Pope encourages the children to pay attention to the stories grown-ups tell them.

Be close to the children who suffer The next encouragement is never to forget all the children who are suffering or going through a difficult time. Amongst these are people battling illnesses, at the hospital or at home, and some are being "cruelly robbed of their childhood". Pope Francis explains that he is referring to children who are "victims of war and violence, those experiencing hunger and thirst, those living on the streets, those forced to be soldiers or to flee as refugees, separated from their parents, those prevented from going to school, and those who fall prey to criminal gangs, drugs or other forms of slavery and abuse". We must listen to their voices, stresses the Pope.

Unity above all However, the Pope continues, if we want our world to flourish, being close to each other is not enough. "We need, above all else, to be united with Jesus", he says, explaining that with Jesus we can dream of the renewal of our human family and work for a more fraternal society that cares for our common home. Pope Francis explains that creating a caring and fraternal society starts with little things "like saying hello to others, asking permission, begging pardon, and saying thank you". If we are not ashamed to take small steps, one at a time, our world will change, he says. Then, the Pope highlights the importance of friendship. Everything is always better "when we are together!" stresses the Pope, inviting the children to share their joys. "Gifts are nice" he says, "but only if they help us to be together".

The secret of prayer Pope Francis then discloses what he describes as a "secret" to the children: the secret of prayer. He says that "prayer fills our hearts with light and warmth" and invites the children to pray to the Father just as Jesus did. "In his language, Jesus called the Father 'Abba', which means 'Daddy'". Let's do the same thing!", says the Pope, adding that in this way we will always feel Jesus close to us. Bringing his message to a close, Pope Francis invites the children to prepare for the moment, in May, in which many of them will be together in Rome, by praying the Our Father. He invites the children not only to say the words but to listen to them, too. "He is calling us and he wants us to join actively with him, on this World Children's Day, to become builders of a new, more humane, just and peaceful world". Finally, Pope Francis reminds all the children that "God has loved us from all eternity" and invites them to join him in this prayer:

"Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty, reflected in the faces of children all over the world. Come, Jesus, you who make all things new, who are the way that leads us to the Father, come and remain with us always. Amen."

GENERAL NOTICES...

NEW TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES? HOW CAN WE SERVE YOU?

Welcome. Wherever you are in your faith journey, it is great to have you. Please visit our website or call the parish office. We're here to serve you. www.olol7hills.org.au

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

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 14th March 2024, 10.30am– 1pm in the Parish Hall. Please bring a plate to share. Look forward to seeing you there.

Lourdes: Luminate Young Adults Group

The next group night will be the 21st of March. If you would like more information please kindly contact Ian Epondulan: youtholol7h@gmail.com or search 'Lourdes 7Hills Young Adults' on Facebook.

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-11.00am 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

March

	March	
13	First Reconciliation	7.00pm
14	Over 50's Meeting	10.30am
17	New Altar Servers Installation Mass	9.30am
21	Lourdes: Luminate Young Adults Group Meeting	6.30pm

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

9/10 March 2024

Acolytes	Vigil: James Dinning 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am: Ryan Epondulan
Ministers	Vigil: L. Bellissimo, A. Bellissimo 8am: F. Balatbat, L. Fernandes 9.30am: G. Basili, C. Brooks
Readers	Vigil: M. Simic, A. Punch 8am: J. Cabassa, K. Walker 9.30am: C. Diaz, E. V. Pieris
Altar Servers	Vigil: D. Sant, J. Sant, SUB RQD 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: M. Pieris, J. Pieris, F. Wanandy
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Young Adults Group
Musicians	Vigil: Shaun's Group 8am: Fr. Henry 9.30am: Tongan Choir
Flowers	Claudette & Judith
Church Cleaning	21 March Cathy Hutchings Annette Peatman
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Sastina Pieris

16/17 March 2024

Acolytes	Vigil: Frank Paiva 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Ramzee Michael
Ministers	Vigil: A. Do Rosario, N. Shami 8am: A. McNally, J. Irudayaraj 9.30am: B. Chandler, M. Michael
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, J. Samiento 8am: Pepito Ferriols, M. Santos 9.30am: R. Epondulan, A. Han
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. Bagatella, A. Laus, S. Thoms 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: C. Attard, Leo Culili, SUB RQD
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council
Musicians	Vigil: K. Thoms & C.W 8am: Fr. Henry 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale
Flowers	Fennie & Angela
Church Cleaning	27 March Jessie Borg Anne McNally
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Ugre 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Volunteer

The Kids' Bulletin

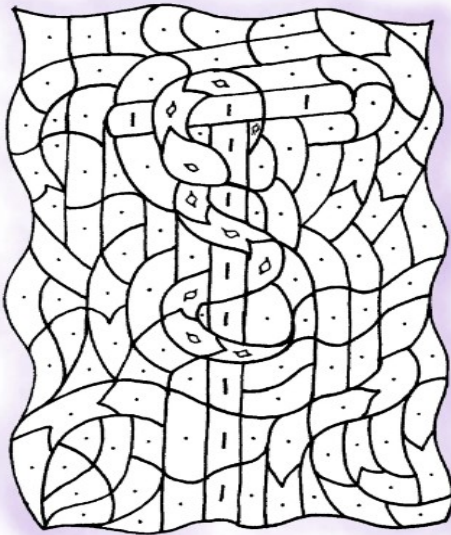
Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 10th, 2024

God So Loved the World

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NIV)

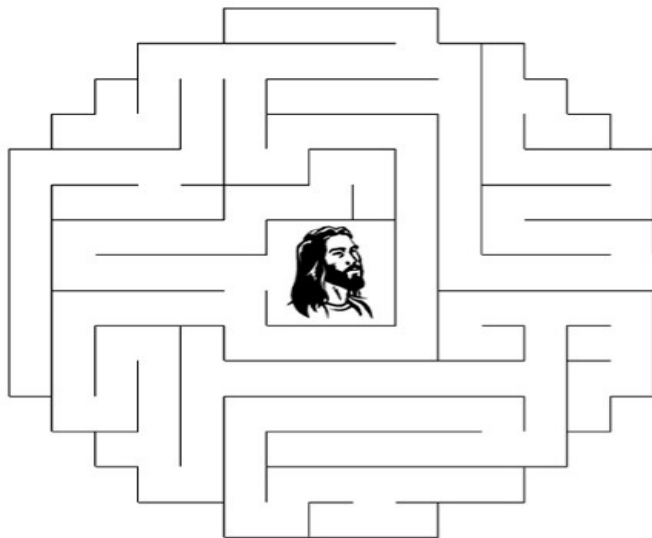


The puzzle is based on John 3:16-17



Jesus died on the cross so that our sins could be forgiven and we could go to Heaven. When God's people in the desert were bitten by snakes, Moses held up something he made from bronze that the people could look at and live. What was it? Use the colour code to find out!

• blue | brown ~ green



The words below have been written in code. Use the hints in the decoder at the top of the page to help break the code (the letters on top are the correct answers, the letters on the bottom are the code). Write the correct word on the line provided beside each code word.

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

- 19-15-14 _____
- 23-15-18-12-4 _____
- 12-15-22-5-4 _____
- 7-15-4 _____
- 12-9-6-5 _____
- 7-1-22-5 _____
- 5-20-5-18-14-1-12 _____
- 16-5-18-9-19-8 _____

SON WORLD	ETERNAL PERISH	GAVE LIFE	LOVED GOD
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MLIZDQXPTTHROUGH
VDJPQWTWVLR CIDA
CYULIFEOKDDEDBV
ITSHBNRWLZKOHMV
SHZNDGGJLGBSEND
JGODBMAMRYFNILLO
SZENKDLVMRAWON
RAJMC PKVEFQH XVO
YIVLGCSP LHEOJEU
BWEEBOMEYIVEODU
POJSUNRRKMPVRWZ
XRCVTDP I P PERSH
SLSGCEXSZNIRZDT
VDBQGMFHETERNAL
UGYWP NVBELIEVES

LOVED THROUGH PERISH	GOD SEND ETERNAL	SON WHOEVER GAVE	CONDEMN LIFE HIM	BELIEVES SAVE WORLD
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PWALETPTMYPTONGUEPBEOB

PWALFYOUKCNXIE

Let my tongue
be silenced,
if I ever
forget you!

BPSILENCEDPWIFOI

PEVERPWOFORGETPWKSIZHEOSK

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.

