



OUR LADY OF LOURDES

PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS

"Still a wonderful place to pray & stay."

7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills. NSW. 2147

Ph. 9622 2920

Email: secretary@olol7hills.com.au

Parish Priest: Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran
Parish 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.olol7hills.com.au
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

PALM SUNDAY 24 March 2024 • Year B



Let us Pray for the Sick

Leonila Ahillon, Mary Attard, Marija & Family Barclay, Rosella Booth, Penny Briscoe, Para Dias, Florence & Roslyn, Ronald Fountain, Julian Gasperini, Ronald Gomez, Anthony Janicska, Paul Leong, Blago Milicevic, Carlos Moreno, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Eustace Ratnam, Sue Tipaldo, Sr Colleen O'Sullivan.

If you would like to add to our Sick List or know of any Parishioner who is unwell please contact Father Henry or email the Parish Office: secretary@olol7hills.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, Ben Benjabutr, Dulcie Duraisamy, Jasmin Fernando, Alberto Fernandez, Mally S. Hatch, Fr Tony Kelly, Marie Marchand, Jossie Marie Manalac, Angela Michael, Mario Mirador, Gloria Momblan, Vinh Hoa Nguyen, Joemar Noquera, Alaoma Okoro Ogbulachi, Perl Perera, Antonio Solis Pamos, Loma Wettasinha.

Anniversaries: Fe Licup Carmen, Catherine Chandra, Rosario Cabasa, John Fernando, M.A Fernando, Mr C Francis & Mrs J Francis, Francisca Garcia, Zoltan Gartner, Sr Gizella Gartner, Josephine Gomez, Rita Leon, Irene Moroney, Thomas Morrissey, Gil Opina, Cordula Paiva, John Francis Ratnam, Jose Reyes, Comelio & Iluminada Rondario, Maria Trinh, Alison Vella, Arsenio Laberinto Udan, Melchor Usman, Pastora Villarta.

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, France Angseeing, Carmen Attard, Roy, Mary & Des Bamey, Frank & Fortunata Baiada, Sam Borg, Saviour Caruana, Fe Licup Carmen, Tania McGove, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Tony, Tania, Vivian, Joe & Lancer De Guire, Nevis Fernando, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Pru Famcomb, Melvyn Fernandes, Mary & Sam Galea, Sam Gabo, Constance Gaycroft, Selvam Irudayaraj, Pauline Meilak, Mangion Family, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Maureen & John Mead, Mary Mifsud, Emilia & William Mifsud, Anton & Lourda Motha, Louis & Stephen Mula, Mary Muscat, Mary & Francis Muscat, John & Roseline Ratnam, Eamon & John O'Sullivan, Jonathan Tek Kie, Shane Vaz, Aloysius Welangoala, Vinnie Zahra, 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

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



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 Augeseesing 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 Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord has given to me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied, he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him:
let him release him if this is his friend.' (R.) | 3. They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me! (R.) |
| 2. Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet,
I can count every one of my bones. (R.) | 4. I will tell of your name to my brethren and
praise you where they are assembled;
'You who fear the Lord, give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory;
Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.) |
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SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Philippians 2:6-11

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

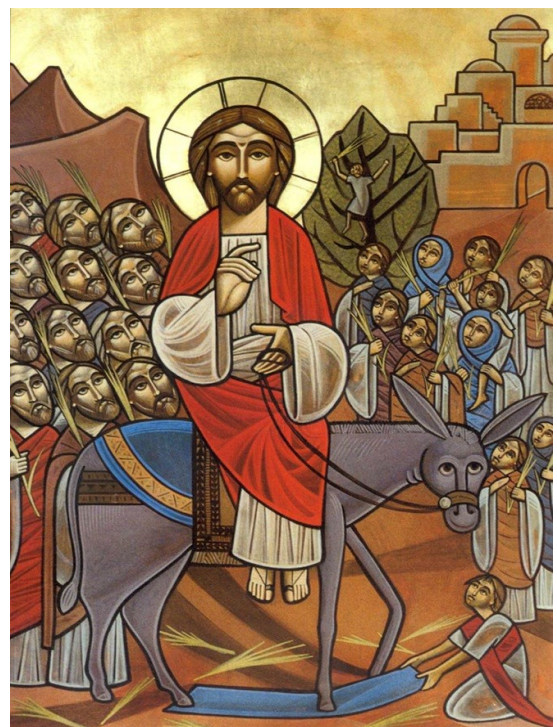
The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!
Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross.
Therefore God raised him on high
and gave him a name above all other names.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!

GOSPEL

*A reading from the first holy gospel according to
Mark 14:1-15:47*





Dear friends,

Thanks to the travel diary of Egeria, a pilgrim from Europe who made the trip to Jerusalem in the fourth century, we have some idea about how the Holy Week was celebrated there and I guess she wasn't the only European pilgrim present at the time. According to her account, the Holy Week started with the Palm Sunday celebration in which a passage of the Gospel was read followed by a procession from on top of the Mount of Olives down through the entire city. All participants including toddlers carried on their parents' shoulders hold in their hands olive branches and palms, while others joined the bishop and distinguished guests in the procession and kept on responding with 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord' to the hymns and antiphons.

On the other hand, the Passion Sunday was celebrated in Rome and the highlights of the liturgy were the reading of the Passion story according to Matthew and the giving of the Creed to the catechumens. It wasn't until the ninth century that the Jerusalem-like procession with palms was introduced to the Roman Church, perhaps due to the influence of pilgrims like Egeria.

Despite the extra Gospel reading according to John, allowed to be used for the procession in this year B, our parish chooses the Gospel of Mark, since it is the main Gospel for the year. In Mark's account, the evangelist presents Jesus as the one who is in total control of the situation by sending the disciples to find a particular colt, anticipating what the people asked and the disciples had to answer, and knowing what was awaiting him in Jerusalem.

In the account of the Passion, Mark shows us the human side of Jesus as he was agonised in the garden of Gethsemane, unrelieved by the presence of the angel, troubled and distressed. Though he was betrayed and abandoned by his disciples, a group of women kept following from a distance and Joseph of Arimathea had no fear to come forward asking the Temple authority to release his body.

Unconsciously Mark seems to challenge us, his listeners today to identify where we stand in the Passion of Jesus: either the side of those who ran away and abandoned him or those who followed him till the end.

Let us pray for the grace to help us remain faithful to Jesus through everything we do and say. Let both our words and deeds always be filled with Christian charity as a verification of Jesus' authentic discipleship.

Have a grace-filled Holy Week,

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ALTAR SERVERS INSTALLATION MASS

Congratulations and thanks to our new Altar servers who were installed to serve in the Altar Serving ministry last Sunday 17th March, 2024.

CATHOLIC YOUTH PARRAMATTA (CYP): GOOD FRIDAY NIGHT WALK STATIONS OF THE CROSS FRIDAY

On the 28 March, 11.30pm 1000+ young pilgrims across the Diocese are due to arrive at our parish 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

EASTER VIGIL MASS CHOIR

Any choir members or parishioners are welcome to come and join the Easter Saturday Vigil choir please.

New parishioners are most welcome to join in the singing. Christine Clarke has kindly made herself available for any cantors or choir to practice for that mass on the Saturday 30th of March in the church 10.30am—12noon.

PARISH FIRST RECONCILIATION

Congratulation to the 29 children in our parish who made their First Reconciliation on Wednesday. Please remember them in your prayers this week.

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.

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, place it in the collection plate or return it to Fr Henry, and the Parish office will contact you.

PARISH LENTEN RECONCILIATION

Please spare your time to join the community for the Second Rite of Reconciliation at 7.30pm on Tuesday March 26.

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

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.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER PROGRAM MARCH		
26	Parish Reconciliation 2 nd Rite	7.30pm
27	Individual Confession	8.30-9.30am
28	Individual Confession Practice for Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers Holy Thursday Mass	8.30-9.30am 3.00pm 7.30pm
29	Good Friday Stations Practice for Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers Celebration of the Lord's Passion	10.00am 11.30am 3.00pm
30	Individual Confession Practice for Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers Holy Saturday Mass	9.30-10.30am 2.00pm 6.00pm
31	Easter Sunday Masses	8.00am, 9.30am

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

Exploring Music for the Solemnities following Easter: 30 April and 2 May

All are invited to the next music workshop organised by the Office for Worship and presented by Eric Grella. This workshop is perfect for all parish musicians and also for anyone who wishes to learn more about music for the Solemnities after Easter. As there has been a large interest in these workshops there will be 2 locations!!

- 30 April at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown from 7pm
 - 2 May at St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith from 7pm
- RSVP by 28 April to lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795.

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.



Palm Sunday 23 & 24 March Please donate to Project Compassion

As Project Compassion 2024 comes to an end, we want to thank you for your incredibly generous support throughout Lent. This year, we shared with you the story of three inspiring women from across the globe, who overcame challenges to complete their education, access water and find secure employment. With the support of compassionate people like you, they are now forging a path to a better future for their families and their communities. There is still time to donate!



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.

2024 Diocese of Parramatta Holy Week Mass Times

Holy Week Mass and Reconciliation Times from parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are available now on our Diocesan website (www.parracatholic.org) and on Catholic Outlook (www.catholicoutlook.org). Let us embrace the hope, love and joy that this season brings.

Easter | Autumn 2024 Catholic Outlook Magazine out now!

The Easter | Autumn 2024 edition of the Catholic Outlook Magazine is out now! This edition invites us to practise silence, deepen our interior lives and pray for a Gospel change of heart, how our communities celebrate Easter, seminarians preparing to 'go out into the deep', a handy Holy Week Mass Times guide, plus so much more. Pick up your free copy from parishes and offices across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains today or read it online via catholicoutlook.org/magazine

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held on Saturday 27 April at Our Lady of the Way Parish, Emu Plains, for Modules 4 and 5. More training opportunities will be available throughout May. Please register directly for this training or for other convenient dates and locations by clicking on the training event at:

<https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>

NEW Diocesan website launched

The new parracatholic.org website is now here with exciting new features and functionality including a comprehensive 'Find a Mass' function which includes Daily and Weekend Masses, Reconciliation and Adoration times; a centralised event calendar; Daily Mass readings and different ways you can contribute to the Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Check

Central Europe Pilgrimage with Fr Joseph Lam OSA: May 2025

Cosmos Tour Operators are organising a Central Europe tour for 17 days from 8 to 24 May 2025, travelling through Germany, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Austria and Czechia, accompanied by Fr Joseph Lam OSA from St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook. Prices start from \$5,076 per person, excluding flights. For more information, or to register your interest, please contact the parish office on secretary@stfinbars.org.au.

Free Online Formation on Synodal Spirituality

Dive into 'Synodal Spirituality' with this FREE online short formation course, taught by Sr Patty Andrew OSU. Part of the FaithLIFE series hosted by the Mission Enhancement Team, the course discusses communal discernment, active engagement, and creative faith responses to challenges in the mission of the Church today. Enrol now and take part in Pope Francis's vision for a synodal Church:

<https://pfparra.thinkific.com/courses/synodal-spirituality/>

Christ the King Primary Jubilee Celebrations

Staff, students, families and parishioners past and present are invited to celebrate the golden jubilee of Christ the King Primary School, North Rocks.

- A Jubilee Family Picnic will be held on Sunday 19 May at Don Moore Reserve, NorthRocks, from 11.30am. You can RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/k6hua7LiwZKBMP3o6>
- A Jubilee Dinner (over 18s) will be held on 29 June at The Epping Club, Epping, from 6pm. Cost is \$99 per person and includes food and beverages. Tables are of 10-12 attendees. You can RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/hmeBwoEM9qusMhG87>

For any further information, please contact Erin Wynne, at ewynne@parra.catholic.edu.au or the school office on (02) 8846 2700 or email northrocks@parra.catholic.edu.au



POPE FRANCIS' HOMILY FOR PALM SUNDAY MASS 2021

Every year this liturgy leaves us amazed: we pass from the joy of welcoming Jesus as he enters Jerusalem to the sorrow of watching him condemned to death and then crucified. That sense of interior amazement will remain with us throughout Holy Week. Let us reflect more deeply on it.

From the start, Jesus leaves us amazed. His people give him a solemn welcome, yet he enters Jerusalem on a lowly colt. His people expect a powerful liberator at Passover, yet he comes to bring the Passover to fulfillment by sacrificing himself. His people are hoping to triumph over the Romans by the sword, but Jesus comes to celebrate God's triumph through the cross. What happened to those people who in a few days' time went from shouting "Hosanna" to crying out "Crucify him"? What happened? They were following an *idea* of the Messiah rather than *the* Messiah. They *admired* Jesus, but they did not let themselves be *amazed* by him. Amazement is not the same as admiration. Admiration can be worldly, since it follows its own tastes and expectations. Amazement, on the other hand, remains open to others and to the newness they bring. Even today, there are many people who admire Jesus: he said beautiful things; he was filled with love and forgiveness; his example changed history...and so on. They admire him, but their lives are not changed. To admire Jesus is not enough. We have to follow in his footsteps, to let ourselves be challenged by him; to pass from admiration to amazement.

What is most amazing about the Lord and his Passover? It is the fact that he achieves glory through humiliation. He triumphs by accepting suffering and death, things that we, in our quest for admiration and success, would rather avoid. Jesus – as Saint Paul tells us – “emptied himself... he humbled himself” (*Phil 2:7.8*). This is the amazing thing: to see the Almighty reduced to nothing. To see the Word who knows all things teach us in silence from the height of the cross. To see the king of kings enthroned on a gibbet. Seeing the God of the universe stripped of everything and crowned with thorns instead of glory. To see the One who is goodness personified, insulted and beaten. Why all this humiliation? Why, Lord, did you wish to endure all this?

Jesus did it for us, to plumb the depths of our human experience, our entire existence, all our evil. To draw near to us and not abandon us in our suffering and our death. To redeem us, to save us. Jesus was lifted high on the cross in order to descend to the abyss of our suffering. He experienced our deepest sorrows: failure, loss of everything, betrayal by a friend, even abandonment by God. By experiencing in the flesh our deepest struggles and conflicts, he redeemed and transformed them. His love draws close to our frailty; it touches the very things of which we are most ashamed. Yet now we know that we are not alone: God is at our side in every affliction, in every fear; no evil, no sin will ever have the final word. God triumphs, but the palm of victory passes through the wood of the cross. For the palm and the cross are inseparable.

Let us ask for the grace to be amazed. A Christian life without amazement becomes drab and dreary. How can we talk about the joy of meeting Jesus, unless we are daily astonished and amazed by his love, which brings us forgiveness and the possibility of a new beginning? When faith no longer experiences amazement, it grows dull: it becomes blind to the wonders of grace; it can no longer taste the Bread of life and hear the Word; it can no longer perceive the beauty of our brothers and sisters and the gift of creation. It has no other course than to take refuge in legalisms, in clericalisms and in all these things that Jesus condemns in chapter 23 of the Gospel of Matthew.

During this Holy Week, let us lift our eyes to the cross, in order to receive the grace of amazement. As Saint Francis of Assisi contemplated the crucified Lord, he was amazed that his friars did not weep. What about us? Can we still be moved by God's love? Have we lost the ability to be amazed by him? Why? Maybe our faith has grown dull from habit. Maybe we remain trapped in our regrets and allow ourselves to be crippled by our disappointments. Maybe we have lost all our trust or even feel worthless. But perhaps, behind all these “maybes”, lies the fact that we are not open to the gift of the Spirit who gives us the grace of amazement.

Let us start over from amazement. Let us gaze upon Jesus on the cross and say to him: “Lord, how much you love me! How precious I am to you!” Let us be amazed by Jesus so that we can start living again, for the grandeur of life lies not in possessions and promotions, but in realizing that we are loved. This is the grandeur of life: discovering that we are loved. And the grandeur of life lies precisely in the beauty of love. In the crucified Jesus, we see God humiliated, the Almighty dismissed and discarded. And with the grace of amazement we come to realize that in welcoming the dismissed and discarded, in drawing close to those ill-treated by life, we are loving Jesus. For that is where he is: in the least of our brothers and sisters, in the rejected and discarded, in those whom our self-righteous culture condemns.

Today's Gospel shows us, immediately after the death of Jesus, a splendid icon of amazement. It is the scene of the centurion who, upon seeing that Jesus had died, said: “Truly this man was the Son of God!” (*Mk 15:39*). He was amazed by love. How did he see Jesus die? He saw him die in love, and this amazed him. Jesus suffered immensely, but he never stopped loving. This is what it is to be amazed before God, who can fill even death with love. In that gratuitous and unprecedented love, the pagan centurion found God. His words – *Truly this man was the Son of God!* – “seal” the Passion narrative. The Gospels tell us that many others before him had admired Jesus for his miracles and prodigious works, and had acknowledged that he was the Son of God. Yet Christ silenced them, because they risked remaining purely on the level of worldly admiration at the idea of a God to be adored and feared for his power and might. Now it can no longer be so, for at the foot of the cross there can be no mistake: God has revealed himself and reigns only with the disarmed and disarming power of love.

Brothers and sisters, today God continues to fill our minds and hearts with amazement. Let us be filled with that amazement as we gaze upon the crucified Lord. May we too say: “You are truly the Son of God. You are my God”.

POPE FRANCIS AT AUDIENCE Cycle of Catechesis. Vices and Virtues. 7. Sorrow

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

In our itinerary of catechesis on vices and virtues, today we will look at a rather ugly vice, sadness, understood as a despondency of the soul, a constant affliction that prevents people from feeling joy at their own existence. First and foremost, it must be noted that, with regard to sadness, the Fathers had made an important distinction: There is, in fact, a sadness that befits Christian life, and that by God's grace, can be changed into joy. Obviously, this should not be rejected and is part of the journey of conversion. But there is a second kind of sadness that *creeps into the soul and prostrates it into a state of despondency*: it is this second kind of sadness that must be resolutely and assiduously fought, because it comes from the evil one. This distinction can also be seen in [the letter of] Saint Paul, who wrote to the Corinthians: "godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation and brings no regret, but worldly grief produces death" (2 Cor 7:10). There is, therefore, a friendly sadness that leads us to salvation. Think of the prodigal son from the parable: when he reaches the depths of his degeneracy, he feels great bitterness, and this prompts him to come to his senses and to decide to return home to his father (cf. Lk 15:11-20). It is a grace to lament over one's own sins, to remember the state of grace from which we have fallen, to weep because we have lost the purity in which God dreamed of us. But there is a second sadness, which is instead an *ailment of the soul*. It arises in the human heart when a desire or hope vanishes. Here we can refer to the account of the disciples of Emmaus. Those two disciples leave Jerusalem with a disappointed heart, and they confide to the stranger who at one point accompanies them: "We had hoped that he — Jesus — was the one to redeem Israel" (Lk 24:21). The dynamic of sadness is linked to the *experience of loss*. Hopes arise in the heart of man, which are sometimes dashed. It can be the desire to possess something that instead we are unable to obtain, but it can also be something important, such as an emotional loss. When this happens, it is as if man's heart falls from a precipice, and the emotions he feels are discouragement, weakness of spirit, depression and anguish. We all go through ordeals that generate sadness in us, because life makes us conceive dreams that are then shattered. In this situation, after a time of turmoil, some cling to hope, but others wallow in melancholy, allowing it to fester in their hearts. Does one take pleasure in this? See: sadness is like *the pleasure of non-pleasure*; it is like taking a bitter candy, without sugar, unpleasant, and sucking on that candy. Sadness is taking pleasure in non-pleasure. The monk Evagrius recounts that all vices aim at pleasure, however ephemeral it may be, whereas sadness enjoys the opposite: *lulling oneself into endless sadness*. Some prolonged griefs, in which a person continues to expand the void of one who is no longer there, are not proper to life in the Spirit. Certain bitter resentments, where a person always has a claim in mind that makes them take on the guise of the victim, do not produce a healthy life in us, let alone a Christian one. There is something in everyone's past that needs to be healed. Sadness can turn from being a natural emotion into an evil state of mind. Sadness is a cunning demon. The Desert Fathers described it as a worm of the heart, which erodes and hollows out its host. This is a good image: it helps us understand. A worm in the heart that consumes and hollows out its host. So what should I do when I feel sad? Stop and look: is this a good sadness? Is it a sadness that is not so good? And react according to the nature of the sadness. Do not forget that sadness can be a very bad thing that leads us to pessimism, that leads us to a selfishness that is difficult to cure. Brothers and sisters, we must beware of this sadness and think that Jesus brings us the joy of resurrection. As much as life may be filled with contradictions, defeated desires, unrealized dreams, lost friendships, thanks to Jesus' resurrection we can believe that *all will be saved*. Jesus rose again not only for himself, but also for us, to *redeem all the happiness* that has remained unfulfilled in our lives. Faith casts out fear, and the resurrection of Christ removes sadness like the stone from the tomb. For a Christian every day is an exercise in resurrection. In his famous novel, "The Diary of a Country Priest", Georges Bernanos, has the parish priest of Torcy say this: "Joy is in the gift of the Church, whatever joy is possible for this sad world to share. Whatever you did against the Church, has been done against joy". And another French writer, León Bloy, left us this wonderful phrase: "The only real sadness [...] is not to become a saint." May the Spirit of the Risen Jesus help us to defeat sorrow with holiness.

POPE FRANCIS RECALLS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HOLY WEEK IN LEAVING LASTING MARK ON OUR LIVES

By Adriana Masotti

Mérida is one of Spain's most renowned cities for its ancient Roman monuments, so much so that it is called the "Spanish Rome." Founded as a colony by soldiers of Augustus in 25 B.C., its historic center boasts the Arch of Trajan, the Roman Bridge, the Temple of Diana, and a Roman Amphitheater, among others sites. And it is around these places that religious processions, parades and the Stations of the Cross are held during Holy Week.

Spiritual closeness with Mérida In the video message addressed to the many local Confraternities that promote the religious events, the Pope observed that very few cities can experience the days that changed the history of humanity in settings with more than two thousand years of antiquity, contemporary with the time of the Lord's Passion.

Assuring all in Mérida of his spiritual closeness, the Pope said he will remember them in a special way when he leads the Way of the Cross at Rome's Colosseum as they participate in it at the Roman Amphitheater of Mérida with faithful from around the world.

Holy Week's indelible mark The Pope recalled how the Archdiocese of Mérida-Badajoz is celebrating a special year, the Eulalian Jubilee Year, which honors St. Eulalia, the young martyr who helped make Mérida the cradle of Christianity in Spain and the destination of pilgrimages throughout history.

Addressing the Confraternities who prepare the Holy Week celebrations, he encouraged them to ensure that the experience of Holy Week "leaves an indelible and permanent mark" on those who participate, reminding them that the re-enactment of Jesus' Passion "is not a spectacle, but a proclamation of our salvation" and "for this reason it must leave its mark."

Love of God and neighbour It is especially important during Holy Week to spend time devoted to prayer, listening to the Word of God, following the example of the Good Samaritan caring for our wounded sisters and brothers. Quoting from his Lenten Message for this year, the Pope said, "Love of God and love of neighbour are one love...In the presence of God, we become brothers and sisters, more sensitive to one another."

Opening our hearts to others Holy Week marks "a time of grace that the Lord gives us so that we may open the doors of our hearts" and our communities, the Pope recalls, and going out to meet Jesus and others, also to bring the light and joy of our faith. He encouraged everyone to go forth with love and with God's tenderness, respect and patience, "knowing that we offer our hands, our feet, our hearts, but that it is God who guides us and shows us the way."

Prayer for families and those in need Pope Francis concludes his message to the Fraternities of the ancient Spanish city with a special thought for families "who have a loved one who is ill," for those who are alone, for those experiencing economic hardship, and finally for young people who can offer their talents now and in the future for the Fraternities of Mérida

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 11th April 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 12th of April. 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>

HOLY THURSDAY & GOOD FRIDAY

Acolytes	Holy Thursday: Ramzee Michael, Jerome Irudayaraj Good Friday: Frank Paiva, Louis Fernandes, Abel Do-Rosario, Sandy Manamperi
Ministers	Holy Thursday: Volunteers Good Friday: L.Fernandes, G.Basili
Readers	Holy Thursday: Kathy Walker, Anne McNally Good Friday: Jemma Sarmiento, Edward Vinoth Pieris
Altar Servers	Holy Thursday: Alina Monteiro Good Friday: M.Pieris, J.Pieris, L.Sadipoor, A. Monterio, A.La Guidara, C.La Guidara

PRACTICE for Altar Servers and Acolytes rostered on the masses below.

Holy Thursday 28th March at 3pm / **Good Friday** 29th March at 11.30am-12.30pm

Holy Saturday 30th March 2pm-3pm. **You must attend to serve**

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

23/24 March 2024

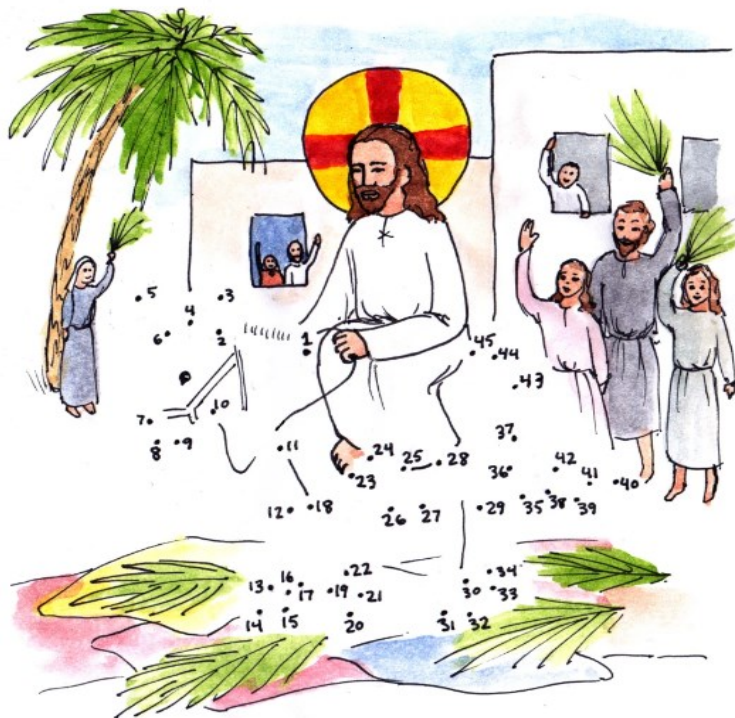
Acolytes	Vigil: Derick Soares 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am Ramzee Michael
Ministers	Vigil: H. Gonzales, R. Soares 8am: F. Paiva, S. Nemorin 9.30am: P. Gow, E.Miu
Readers	Vigil: B. Motha, N.Do-Rosario 8am: J.Casaba, A.McNally 9.30am: F.Kennedy, M.Acquino
Altar Servers	Vigil: M. Gluvic, E. Reardon, SUB RQD 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: L.Sadipoor, M.Pieris, J.Pieris, H.Winter
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Fr.Henry, C.Clarke & C.Woodward 9.30am: Nina's Group
Flowers	Annette & Mary
Church Cleaning	27 March Jessie Borg Anne McNally
Welcomers	Vigil: Chrisha Gonzales 8am: Suzy Nemorin 9.30am: Volunteer

EASTER 30/31 March 2024

Acolytes	Vigil: D.Soures, D.La Guidara, F.Kennedy 8am: Ernie Gartner 9.30am Sandy Manamperi
Ministers	Vigil: L.Guidara, R.Soures 8am: E.Gartner, J.Irudayaraj 9.30am: C.Brooks, G.Basili
Readers	Vigil: P.Ferriols, J.Nonato, C.Diaz, C.Rodrigues 8am: J.Cabasa, A.McNally 9.30am: B.Motha, A.Walker
Altar Servers	Vigil: A.LaGuidara, C.LaGuidara, O.Martinez, J.Martinez 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: L.Sadipoor, K.Cassaniti
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Volunteer
Musicians	Vigil: Christine Clarke 8am: Nina Arambulo & Chris Woodward 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale
Flowers	Team
Church Cleaning	4 April Lourdes Spiteri
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Volunteer

The Kids' Bulletin

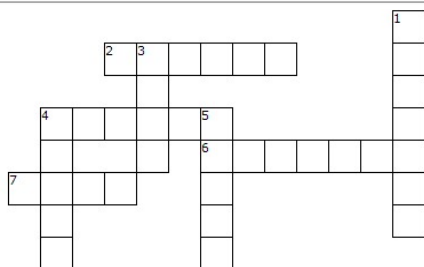
*Palm Sunday / Passion Sunday
March 24th, 2024*



*A few days before He died on the Cross,
Jesus came into Jerusalem while the people waved
palm branches and shouted, "Hosanna!"
He was riding on something that was a sign of peaceful times.
What was it? Connect the dots to find out!*



Palm Sunday



ACROSS

2. The part of a tree that grows out from the main trunk and has leaves
4. Loose outer garments without sleeves worn instead of a coat
6. What the people shouted as Jesus rode into Jerusalem
7. A young male horse (or donkey)

DOWN

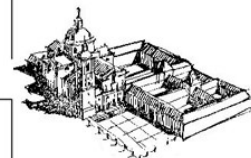
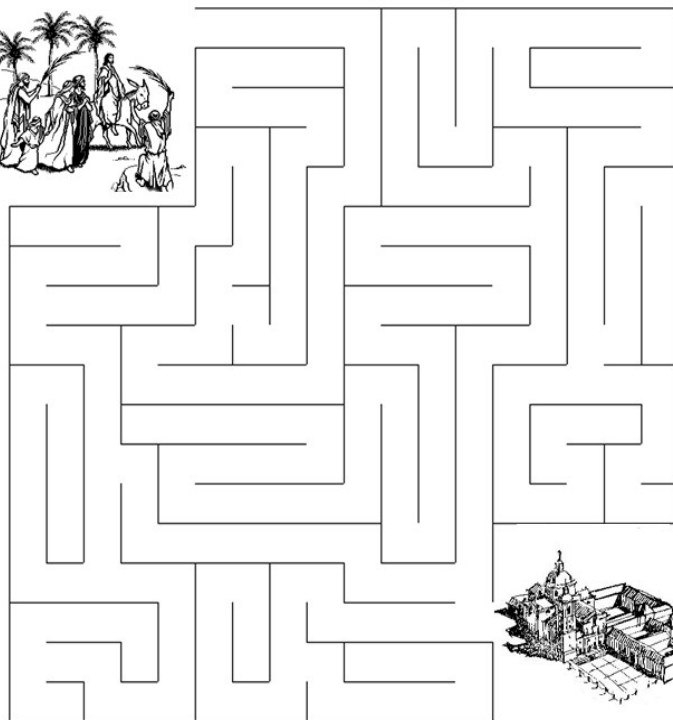
1. A community which is smaller than a town, usually in the countryside
3. A pathway for vehicles, persons, and animals
4. A large group of people who have gathered together
5. To speak with a very loud voice

BRANCH
COLT

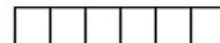
SHOUT
ROAD

CROWD
HOSANNA

VILLAGE
CLOAKS



DOYNKE



6

TLOC



2

STUOH



3 1

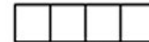
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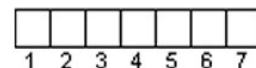
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KNIG



5

The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted "_____ to the Son of David!" Matthew 21:9a (NIV)



1

2

3

4

5

6

7

The Triumphal Entry

Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" Mark 11:9 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Mark 11:1-11

*Hosanna
in the
Highest!*



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

SPREAD
HIGHEST
HEAVEN

VILLAGE
SHOUTED
CLOAKS

BLESSED
DISCIPLES
NAME

BRANCHES
LORD
ROAD

HOSANNA
JESUS
COLT