

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 School:	LOL 8869 6800
Parish Deacon:	Deacon Thong Nguyen	Principal:	Ms Keiran Byrnes
Parish Office Team:	Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang Jane Nguyen	Reconciliation:	Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
Office Hours: Monday-Friday:	9am - 3.00pm	Baptismal Preparation:	17th July 2024
WEEKDAY MASS:	Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am Thursday 9.00am	Baptism:	28th July 2024
WEEKEND MASS:	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9.30am	Sacrament Co-Ordinator:	Mrs Artelle Lenthall
		Parish Website:	www.olol7hills.com.au
		Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD 12 MAY 2024 • Year B



Let us Pray for the Sick

Leonila Ahillon, Florence Arinanan, Mary Attard, Sarah Bartolo, Rosella Booth, Penny Briscoe, Para Dias, Ronald Fountain, Renuka Fernando, Ronald Gomez, Chmouneh Hayek, Anthony Janicska, Clare Kinsley, Odette James, Mary Jordan, Paul Leong, Damian & Roslyn McNally, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Carlos Moreno, Sharon O'Keefe, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Eustace Ratnam, Sue Tipaldo, 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@olol7hills.com.au
We can also arrange for Holy Communion or a visit if required.

Let us Pray for the Deceased

Recently Deceased: Emma Barriom, Barrie Chamberlain, Dulcie Duraisamy, Bonosa Enfesia, Jasmin Fernando, Sammy, Carmen & Joseph Formosa, Cynthia Lopez, Domenica Lucchese, Marie Marchand, Ariston Marabe, Emmanuel Melocoton, Agustin Ngalongalay, Bernalou Palmos Perl Perera, Harold Brian Routley, Magelende Sapinosa, Domingo Villarta Snr.

Anniversaries: Peter & Helen Bonnici, Rolily Burac, Elizabeth & James Daly, Catherine Chandra, Stella Cini, Aloysean Corera, Georgina Falzon, Mark Falzon, John Fernando, M.A Fernando, Patrick U. Fischer, Juliet Francis, Teodoro Garcia, Christine Gomez, Josephine Gomez, Charlie Grech, Helen Hili, Rita Hili, Cameron Jones, Oliver Jordan, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kutty, Jasmine McEveley, Gwyn & James McNally, Rita Leon, Gil Opina, John O'Sullivan, Thomas Morrissey, Thoai & Loi Nguyen, Nga Nguyen, Custodio Palmos Jnr, Emanuella Pozzolongu, Heliodore Paiva, Cordula Paiva, John Portelli, Jose Reyes, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Rosary Silva, Arsenio Laberinto Udán, Melchor Usman, Amalia Dominga M. Usman, Domingo Villarta Jnr, Pastora Villarta.

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Lisette & Joe Aristobil, France Angseeing, Gregorio Almodovar, Carmen Attard, Elezabeth & Emanuel Azzopardi, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Sam Borg, Saviour Caruana, Fe Licup Carmen, Myrna Cruz, Tania McGove, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Tony, Tania, Vivian, Joe & Launcer De Guire, Ngan Siu Eng, Nevis Fernando, Carmen & Joseph Formosa, Sammy Formosa, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Sam Gabo, Jeffrey Hunter, Maria & John, Melvyn Fernandes, Mary & Sam Galea, Constance Gaycroft, Frans Gutajar, Selvam Irudayaraj, Felina Maglaya, Maureen & John Mead, Pauline Meilak, Mangion Family, Maria Menezes, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Mary Mifsud, Joseph Mifsud, Emilia & William Mifsud, Maria Reyes, Anton & Lourda Motha, Louis, Stephen & Joseph Mula, Mary & Francis Muscat, Maria Palmira, Thiruchelvem Philomina, Connie Redman, John & Roseline Ratnam, Choling Sabale, Jose Sanchez, Cua Sing, Jonathan Tek Kie, Amalia M. Usman, Jim Vella, Shane Vaz, Vinnie Zahra.

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

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 Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. **(R.)**

3. God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **(R.)**

2. God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 1:17-23*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers.

This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always, until the end of the world.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the first holy Gospel according to Mark 16:15-20*

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised is saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

The Gospel of the Lord

Dear friends,

In the Greco-Roman world, extraordinary figures such as heroes and emperors renowned for their great deeds were said to be taken to the heavens and exalted as deities and in the Old Testament, we see great men like Enoch, Moses, Elijah, Baruch and Ezra were either taken up or raised to heaven, in other words ascension to the heavens could be understood as to fulfil this expectation that it was a privilege given to holy and great men as divine approval for their greatness. In Jesus' case, his Ascension is the occasion to confirm his claim as the Son of God, something he had kept telling his disciples and followers throughout his ministry.

Different to the ascension of other historical figures who have gone and disappeared since they were taken up to the heavens, Jesus made it very clear that he continues to work with the disciples as he said in the Gospel, and will come again in glory on the Last Day to judge the living and the dead as we heard from the first reading and as we recite every Sunday in our Creed.

Theologically the Feast of the Ascension could be regarded as the day on which Jesus revealed his full nature both human and divine before the eyes of the disciples, and gloriously took his seat at the right hand of God as our Saviour and the Son of God. Metaphorically it could be seen as an expression of the enduring relationship between the transcendent Jesus and the community he started and has left behind, meaning the Church.

Just as the Resurrection expressed Jesus' triumph over death, so his Ascension appears to reveal his supremacy over the whole creation, and made way for the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Pentecost.

For our part, we simply can't afford to spend much of our time 'looking into the sky' as the angels reminded the onlookers of the event in the first reading and argue with each other about whether it was a real thing or about when he will come again as he promised, we, however, have a mission to carry out. The one Jesus instructed those present at such a significant moment that we have to be his witnesses to the ends of the world by making people his disciples and teaching them to observe his commandments through what we say and do.

Let us ask the Lord for his grace to help us lift our eyes to our home in heaven, and at the same time commit to carry out our mission to bear witness to Jesus in our calls.

Have a love-guided week,
Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...



LOURDES LUMINATE YOUNG ADULTS GROUP NIGHT

Friday 17 May 2024 6:30PM-9PM in the Parish Hall.
All are welcome to a special evening with guest speaker Mrs Artelle Lenthall, Sacramental Co-ordinator at our parish. Theme: Sancta Maria, Mater Dei. Please bring food and drink to share. Please RSVP to Ian Epondulan: youthlol@gmail.com or 0401161264.

ZUMBA CLASS TIME CHANGE

During these colder months, please note that Zumba will change from a 6pm start to 5.30pm start. Our instructor has asked for day flexibility some weeks due to her availability, messages will be sent out by the class organiser. Please register your contact details with her upon arrival of these free classes.

CONFIRMATION 2024

Please pray for the children as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next month on the 31/5. May God bless them on this sacred and special day and may the commitment they make continue to sustain and strengthen them on their personal Faith Journey. Amen.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

During our last meeting, Dennis Farrar, diocesan co-ordinator of the Family Group Movement came and gave a talk about what the Family Group Movement is about. This is the group members of our Parish Pastoral Council have considered to introduce to our Parish community with the hope it will help to bring families of ours together and since improve the sense of belonging. We will arrange a date for Dennis to return and talk to us at all Masses one weekend.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL DONATIONS NEEDED

Donations of long life milk, pasta sauces and biscuits are currently in need by St Vinnie's. If you could please place these in the basket located at the back of the church. Your kind generosity is much appreciated.

TEXTA MARKING ON PEWS

With all the excitement of doing the back page of the bulletin, a gentle reminder for parents to ensure children don't draw on the seats and are careful with Texta marking the wooden pews. Thank you for your co-operation.

SCAM ALERT

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

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.



Synod 2023 Update:

Local Think Tank Sessions from May-June

Parishes and other local faith communities across the diocese are holding local Think Tank Sessions, giving local leaders and anyone involved in ministry to offer feedback on the Draft of the Diocesan Plan for a Synodal Church, and contribute ideas for the practical implementation of our Diocesan Plan. To inquire about our local Think Tank session visit parracatholic.org/synod for more.

Celebrate *Laudato Si'* Week: Seeds of Hope

16-24 May

Are you ready to sow "Seeds of Hope"? Join the Catholic Church around Australia and worldwide in celebrating *Laudato Si'* Week: 16 to 24 May 2024. This annual commemoration of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* encourages us to care more deeply for God's creation. You can find useful resources at linktr.ee/met.pje

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL NSW CELEBRATING PENTECOST EVE "ANOINTING"

Please join the Catholic Charismatic Renewal NSW in celebrating Pentecost Eve "Anointing" on Saturday 18th May at Servants of Jesus Centre 15 Park Road Seven Hills for an afternoon of Praise & Worship, Testimonies and Prayer Ministry from 4-7pm hosted by youth from different streams. Booking is essential, register with link. <https://www.trybooking.com/CPMXQ?qr=true>. Any inquires email: email@ccrnsw.org.au

CCD Formation Opportunities: May and June 2024

SRE catechists and all members of our faith communities are invited to participate in a series of formation opportunities organised by the Diocesan Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD). Delve into St John's Gospel with a scripture expert, Dr Laurie Woods, over 5 weeks on 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 May. Continue your Journey of Faith for 5 weeks with Marilyn Hancock (Head, CCD) on 7, 14, 21, 28 June and 5 July. All sessions will be held at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown, from 9.30am to 1.30pm. For SRE Catechists to be accredited with Level 3 training, they must attend both sessions. Morning Tea will be provided. Enrol for one or both sessions via parracatholic.org/events or email ccd.training@parracatholic.org



Caritas Australia Sudan Crisis Appeal

Following the outbreak of conflict in Sudan a year ago, 25 million people - including 14 million children - now need humanitarian assistance and support, according to the [United Nations](https://www.un.org/). Caritas partners in Sudan have distributed food, as well as delivering cash assistance, water and hygiene services and gender-based violence protection. Please donate to Caritas Australia's Sudan Crisis Appeal.

You can donate online www.caritas.org.au/sudan or phone 1800 024 413.



SUDAN CRISIS APPEAL

25 million people including 14 million children are in dire need of humanitarian assistance.



DONATE NOW

www.caritas.org.au/sudan
1800 024 413

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities

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>
For more information, please email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR HOLY SPIRIT SEMINARIANS

Bishop Vincent, Parramatta Catholic Foundation and our Holy Spirit Seminarians thank you for your generous support in the formation of our future priests. If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal or scan this QR code. Thank you.



Expression of Interest: Ministry to the Sick in Hospitals

Are you interested in bringing Communion to the Sick in the Hospitals of the Diocese? You will receive formation and information necessary for this ministry. Note you will not be required to do this every week but will be placed on a roster. For more information, please contact Bernard Ellis via email bernard.ellis@catholiccarewsbm.org.au by 15 June 2024. "The Eucharist is essential for us: it is Christ who wishes to enter our lives and fill us with his grace." - Pope Francis

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.

St Patrick's Cathedral Mozart Concert: 17 May

Let the full force of River City Voices carry you through Mozart's Requiem in D Minor – a testament of power, faith, awe and hope as the choir joins for the first time with the dynamic young Western Sydney Philharmonic at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, on Friday 17 May from 7.30pm. Tickets are \$60 for general admission and \$45 for concessions. To purchase ticket, please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/mozart-s-requiem/tickets>



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.

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' REGINA CAELI LAST WEEK



Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Today the Gospel tells us about Jesus who says to the Apostles: “I do not call you servants any longer, but friends” (cf. *Jn* 15:15). What does this mean?

In the Bible the “servants” of God are special people, to whom He entrusts important missions, such as, for example, Moses (cf. *Ex* 14:31), King David (cf. *2 Sam* 7:8), the prophet Elijah (cf. *1 Re* 18:36), up to the Virgin Mary (cf. *Lk* 1:38). They are people in whose hands God places His treasures (cf. *Mt* 25:21).

But all of this is not enough, according to Jesus, to say who we are for Him, it is not enough: He wants more, something greater, that goes beyond goods and plans themselves: it takes *friendship*.

Since childhood we learn how beautiful this experience is: we offer friends our toys and the most beautiful gifts; then, growing up, as teenagers, we confide our first secrets to them; as young people we offer loyalty; as adults we share satisfactions and worries; as seniors we share the memories, considerations and silences of long days. The Word of God, in the Book of Proverbs, tells us that “Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel” (27:9). Let us think a moment of our friends, and thank the Lord for them! A space for thinking about them...

Friendship is not the fruit of calculation, nor of compulsion: it is born spontaneously when we recognize something of ourselves in the other. And, if it is true, a friendship is so strong that it does not fail even in the face of betrayal. “A friend loves at all times” (*Pr* 17:17) – states the Book of Proverbs again – as Jesus shows us when He says to Judas, who

betrays Him with a kiss: “Friend, why are you here?” (*Mt* 26:50). A true friend does not abandon you, even when you make mistakes: he corrects you, perhaps he reproaches you, but he forgives you and does not abandon you.

And today Jesus, in the Bible, tells us that for Him we are precisely this, friends: dear people beyond all merit and expectation, to whom He extends His hand and offers His love, His Grace, His Word; with whom with us, friends – He shares what is dearest to Him, all that He has heard from the Father (cf. *Jn* 15:15). Even to the point of making himself fragile for us, of placing Himself in our hands without defense or pretense, because He loves us. The Lord loves us, as a friend He wants our good and He wants us to share in his.

And so let us ask ourselves: what face does the Lord have for me? The face of a friend or of a stranger? Do I feel loved by Him as a dear person? And what is the face of Jesus that I show to others, especially to those who err and need forgiveness?

May Mary help us to grow in friendship with Her Son and to spread it around us.

After the Regina Caeli

Dear brothers and sisters!

I send with great affection my best wishes to the brothers and sisters of the Orthodox Churches and some of the Eastern Catholic Churches who today, according to the Julian Calendar, celebrate Holy Easter. May the Risen Lord fill all the communities with joy and peace, and comfort those who are facing adversity. To them, happy Easter!

I assure my prayer for the populations of the State of Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil, stuck by major floods. May the Lord receive the deceased and comfort their relatives and those who have had to leave their homes.

I greet the faithful of Rome and various parts of Italy and the world, in particular the pilgrims from Texas, from the archdiocese of Chicago and from Berlin; students from the *Saint-Jean de Passy* School of Paris and the Human Life International group. I greet the young people of Certaldo and Lainate; the faithful of Ancona and Rossano Cariati; candidates for confirmation from Cassano D’Adda, the pastoral unit of Tesino and the parish of *Santa Maria del Rosario* in Rome. And I greet and thank warmly the musical bands from various parts of Italy: thanks to you, who have played so well, and I hope that you will continue to play a little. Thank you! I greet the “Francigeni Monteviale” group, as well as the citizens of Livorno and Collesalveti, who have been waiting long for the reclamation of some of the most polluted areas. Let us pray for them.

I send a warm greeting to the new Swiss Guards and their families, on the occasion of the feast of this historic and praiseworthy Corps. A round of applause to the Swiss Guards!

I welcome with pleasure the “Meter” Association, engaged in combating every form of abuse of minors. Thank you, thank you for your commitment! And continue your important work with courage.

And please, continue to pray for tormented Ukraine – it suffers a great deal! – and also for Palestine and Israel, that they may be peace, that dialogue may be strengthened and bear good fruit. No to war, yes to dialogue!

I wish everyone a good Sunday. Please do not forget to pray for me. I greet the young people of the Immacolata, who are so good. Enjoy your lunch, and *arrivederci!*

POPE FRANCIS' CATECHESIS

Cycle of Catechesis. Vices and Virtues. 18. Hope

Dear brothers and sisters!

In the last catechesis we began to reflect on the theological virtues. There are three of them: faith, hope and charity. Last time, we reflected on faith. Now it is the turn of hope. "Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1817). These words confirm to us that hope is the answer offered to our heart, when the absolute question arises in us: "What will become of me? What is the purpose of the journey? What is the destiny of the world?"

We all realize that a negative answer to these questions produces sadness. If there is no meaning to the journey of life, if at the beginning and the end there is nothing, then we ask ourselves why we should walk: hence man's desperation, the sensation of the pointlessness of everything, is born. And many may rebel: "I have striven to be virtuous, to be prudent, just, strong, temperate. I have also been a man or woman of faith.... What was the use of my fight, if it all ends here?". If hope is missing, all the other virtues risk crumbling and ending up as ashes. If no reliable tomorrow, no bright horizon, were to exist, one would only have to conclude that virtue is a futile effort. "Only when the future is certain as a positive reality does it become possible to live the present as well" said Benedict XVI (Encyclical Letter *Spe salvi*, 2).

Christians have hope not through their own merit. If they believe in the future, it is because Christ died and rose again and gave us His Spirit. "Redemption is offered to us in the sense that we have been given hope, trustworthy hope, by virtue of which we can face our present" (*ibid.*, 1). In this sense, once again, we say that hope is a theological virtue: it does not emanate from us, it is not an obstinacy we want to convince ourselves of, but it is a gift that comes directly from God.

To many doubting Christians, who had not been completely born again to hope, the Apostle Paul sets before them the new logic of the Christian experience, and he says: "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all men most to be pitied" (1 Cor 15:17-19). It is as if he said: if you believe in the resurrection of Christ, then you know with certainty that no defeat and no death is forever. But if you do not believe in the resurrection of Christ, then everything becomes hollow, even the preaching of the Apostles.

Hope is a virtue against which we sin often: in our bad nostalgia, in our melancholy, when we think that the happiness of the past is buried forever. We sin against hope when we become despondent over our sins, forgetting that God is merciful and greater than our heart. And let us not forget this, brothers and sisters: God forgives everything, God forgives always. We are the ones who tire of asking for forgiveness. But let us not forget this truth: God forgives everything, God forgives always. We sin against hope when we become despondent over our sins; we sin against hope when the autumn in us cancels out the spring; when God's love ceases to be an eternal fire and we do not have the courage to make decisions that commit us for a lifetime.

The world today is in great need of this Christian virtue! The world needs hope, just as it needs patience, a virtue that walks in close contact with hope. Patient men are weavers of goodness. They stubbornly desire peace, and even if some of them are hasty and would like everything, and straight away, patience is capable of waiting. Even when around us many have succumbed to disillusionment, those who are inspired by hope and are patient are able to get through the darkest of nights. Hope and patience go together.

Hope is the virtue of those who are young at heart; and here age does not count. Because there are also the elderly with eyes full of light, who live permanently striving towards the future. Think of the two great elderly people of the Gospel, Simeon and Anna: they never tired of waiting and they saw the last stretch of their earthly journey blessed by the encounter with the Messiah, whom they recognized in Jesus, brought to the Temple by His parents. What grace if it were like that for all of us! If after a long pilgrimage, setting down our saddlebags and staff, our heart were filled with a joy never before felt, and we too could exclaim: "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace / according to thy word; / for mine eyes have seen thy salvation / which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, / a light for revelation to the Gentiles, / and for glory to thy people Israel" (Lk 2:29-32).

Brothers and sisters, let us go ahead and ask for the grace to have hope, hope with patience. Always look towards that definitive encounter; always look to see that the Lord is always near us, that death will never, never be victorious. Let us go ahead and ask the Lord to give us this great virtue of hope, accompanied by patience. Thank you.

POPE FRANCIS: PRAY ROSARIE FOR OUR LADY'S INTERCESSION IN WARS LASHING OUR WORLD

By Deborah Castellano Lubov

Pope Francis entrusted to the Blessed Mother people suffering from wars and conflicts around the world, and invited the faithful to rediscover the great value of praying the Rosary.

He made the appeal at his Wednesday General Audience in St. Peter's Square.

The Pope recalled that Wednesday, 8 May, marks the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary and falls in the month of May, which is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Today, he noted, the Church raises the prayer of supplication to Our Lady of the Rosary of Pompeii.

"I invite everyone," he insisted, "to invoke Mary's intercession, so that the Lord may grant peace to the whole world, especially to the dear and martyred Ukraine, and to Palestine, Israel, and Myanmar."

"I invite everyone to invoke Mary's intercession, so that the Lord may grant peace to the whole world, especially to the dear and martyred Ukraine, and to Palestine, Israel, and Myanmar."

The Holy Father went on to entrust young people, the sick, the elderly, and newlyweds to Our Lady.

"I urge everyone to value praying the Holy Rosary this May."

Before imparting upon everyone his Apostolic Blessing, Pope Francis made a request: "I urge everyone to value praying the Holy Rosary this May."

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 9622 2920

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 13th May 2024, 10.30am– 1pm in the Parish Hall. Please bring a plate to share. Look forward to seeing you there.

Lourdes: Luminare Young Adults Group

The next group night will be in May. 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 Available To Those In Need

The St Vincent de Paul Society has members and community-focused Vinnies Support Centres right across NSW. They provide people in immediate crisis with assistance. If you need assistance, call 131812 (option 3) to be redirected to your nearest Vinnies Support Centre. To find out more about the support that is available, visit <https://www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/find-help>. If you'd like to contribute to helping those in need in the local community through the St Vincent de Paul Society, please email Reno Abela at rabel24@gmail.com.

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 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 baptisms, birthdays, wedding anniversaries, or death anniversaries. Please see Fr Henry or Ernie before Mass to arrange it.

OLOL PARISH CALENDAR

MAY

15	Confirmation Meeting	6.30pm
17	Lourdes Luminare: Young Adults Group Meeting	6.30pm
18	Conformation Meeting RPT	4.30pm
29	Catechist Meeting	2.00pm

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

11/12 May

Acolytes	Vigil: Daniel La Guidara 8am: Ernie Gartner 9.30am Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: A. Do Rosario, L. La Guidara 8am: Edith Gartner, SUB RQD 9.30am: G. Basili, H. Gonzales	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, M. Simic 8am: P. Ferriols, SUB RQD 9.30am: A. Walker, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. & C. La Guidara, A. Spadaro 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: F. Wanandy, Volunteer	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Young Adults Group	
Musicians	Vigil: Christine Clarke 8am: Fr Henry 9.30am: Tongan Choir Christine Clarke	
Flowers	Claudette & Judith	
Church Cleaning	11 May	Tongan Community & Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Kathy Chamberlain Edgardo Barcelon	

18/19 May

Acolytes	Vigil: Derick Soares 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Sandy Manamperi	
Ministers	Vigil: M.Mifsud, R.Soare 8am: F.Balatbat, C.Gonzales 9.30am: B.Chandler, M.Michael	
Readers	Vigil: B.Motha, C.Rodrigues 8am: J.Irudayara, Jo Cabasa 9.30am: R.Epondulan, F.Kennedy	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Saoirse Costello, Sebastian Costello 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: C.Attard, L.Culili, L.Sadipoor	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Office	
Musicians	Vigil: K.Thoms & C.Woodward 8am: Fr Henry 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	16 May	Cathy Hutchings Annette Peatman Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Urge 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

The Kids' Bulletin

Feast of the Ascension

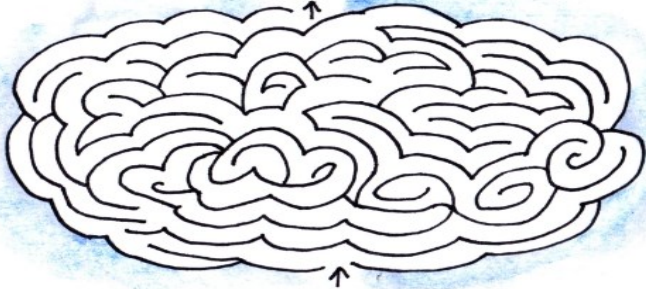
May 9th or Sunday May 12th, 2024

Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead he went up a hill with His followers and disappeared through the clouds and went up into Heaven.



Jesus had promised to send a Comforter to them after He left them.

Can you find your way through the cloud maze?



JESUS

Word Decoder—use the number to find the letter

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

- 25-14-20-25-8-20-13-4 _____
- 11-16-13-18-13-4 _____
- 22-8-18-4-10 _____
- 10-15-7-8-16-26-14-7-13 _____
- 7-8-10-13 _____
- 7-13-16-13-18-26 _____
- 9-20-13-10-10-8-18-21 _____
- 26-12-17-13-18 _____
- 19-13-12-3-13-18 _____
- 2-11-7-10-19-8-16-13-4 _____

SCRIPTURE	RISE	REPENT	HEAVEN	BLESSING
MINDS	TAKEN	OPENED	WORSHIPED	FULFILLED

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

RISE	REPENT	PROPHETS	TAKEN
SUFFER	PSALMS	OPENED	FORGIVE
HEAVEN	SCRIPTURE	FULFILLED	MOSES
WORSHIPED	BLESSING	UNDERSTAND	MINDS

W O G O D W P M O U N T S O W H I S P

B P F O R T P H E L O R D

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

T H R O N E T O P S H O U T S

P O F W J O Y B A L B L A R E O F T R U M P E T S



2nd Glorious Mystery: The Ascension - © 2016 TheCatholicKid.com All rights reserved.