

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: 18th September 2024
Baptism: 13th October 2024
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.com.au
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 September 2024 • Year B



Let us Pray for the Sick

Rico Abadam, Leonila Ahillon, Florence Arinanan, Mary Attard, Rodney Bell, Sarah Bartolo, Rosella Booth, Lawrence Charles, Ben Dixon, Alma Caguimbal, Mary Camilleri, Para Dias, Ronald Fountain, Renuka Fernando, Chmouneh Hayek, Anthony Janicska, Mary Jordan, Clare Kinsley, Paul Leong, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Maricar Poblete, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Eustace Ratnam, Sue Tipaldo, Vivian Tomines, 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, Vivienne Cameron, Barrie Chamberlain, Murial Chary, Dulcie Duraisamy, Sandra Eichhorn, Carmelo Galea, Henrieta Fernando, Jasmin Fernando, Ethan Garcia, Ricardo Garcia, Hector Lordi, Cynthia Lopez, Elaine Siu Ling Miu, Viliami Kalosipani Siale, Michael Scott, Marie Thomas, Jim Walker, David Waring, Kilini Veamatahau

Anniversaries: Maria Olympia Almodovar, Ronald Barley, Peter & Helen Bonnici, Catherine Chandra, Aloysean Corera, Josephine Cortis, Paula Simone Commarmond, Clive Diggelman, Joan Falzon, John Fernando, Nevis Fernando, M.A Fernando, Josefa Flores, Juliet Francis, Anthony Garcia, Teodoro Garcia, Zenaida Garcia, Christine Gomez, Josephine Gomez, John Johnson, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kutty, Soledad Leong, Laurence Morrissey, Lyn Morrissey, Joseph Mula, Tony Muscat, Rita Leon, Ignacio Nonato Snr, Sheena Landagan, Mary Moore, Cordula Paiva, Jose Reyes, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Michael Sant, Mary Silva, Rosary Silva, Caroline Susainathan, Bibiano Villanueva, Melchor Usman, Dionisio Udan, Members of the Falzon & Muscat families.

Remembrance: Fe Abadiano, Neil Amaratunga, France Angseeing, Carmen Attard, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Sam Borg, Myrna Cruz, Saviour Caruana, Fe Licup Carmen, Tania McGove, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonio, Tania, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Launcer De Guire, Nevis Fernando, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Sam Gabo, Mary & Sam Galea, Evangeline Garcia, Leandro Snr Garcia, Jose Garcia, Frans Gutajar, Selvam Irudayaraj, Melvyn Fernandes, Apolinario & Felina Maglaya, Pauline Meilak, Mangion & Cini Family, Michael (Mike) McNamee, Maureen & John Mead, Mary Mifsud, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Joseph Mifsud, Emilia & William Mifsud, Maria Reyes, Anton & Lourda Motha, Louis, Stephen & Joseph Mula, Charles Muscat, Mary & Francis Muscat, John & Roseline Ratnam, Benigno Rivaler Sr, Jonathan Tek Kie, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella, 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 EFTPOS Terminals are 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 with the Parish Office or contact Maryse Angseeing on 0467 701 010.



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 first book of Deuteronomy 4:1-2 6-8*

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding.

When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

1. Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?
He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart. **(R.)**

3. He who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan and
accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever. **(R.)**

2. He who does no wrong to his brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honours those who fear the Lord. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the second letter of St James 1:17-18, 21-22.27*

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure, unspoiled religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Father gave us birth by his message of truth,
that we might be as the first fruits of his creation.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23*

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations. You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions. He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.

The Gospel of the Lord



Dear friends,

As we know, the Ten Commandments were given to the people of Israel, God's Chosen people through Moses, and Moses even asked them to keep God's Commandments as they were. 'You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it,' Moses told the Israelites in the first reading this Sunday.

Despite such a strong warning from Moses, they managed to come up with 613 clauses known as the oral traditions to help interpret God's Commandments. Some of the scribes and Pharisees then considered these newly added oral traditions as important as the Commandments or the laws themselves, consequently

they taught that anyone who wanted to be holy had to observe both the oral traditions and the laws, and those who failed to follow them were regarded as sinners.

According to their oral traditions, Jewish people were required to wash their hands before having a meal, and point their fingers to certain direction as they poured water over their hands. Their oral traditions also instructed them about the type of container for water storing and how much water to be used for the purification rite. Based on these man-made traditions, they came to the claim that anyone who did not observe these requirements was ritually unclean, and so the unclean had to go through even more rituals to be cleansed of the impurity.

This ritual background helps us understand why the Pharisees and the scribes questioned Jesus for allowing the disciples to violate the oral traditions by failing to wash their hands before eating. In response to their charge, Jesus quoted the teaching of the prophet Isaiah to make these points that their traditions were nothing but human regulations and that their worship was worthless before God because they failed to put their heart into it and try to cling on to nothing but human regulations (cf. Isaiah 29.13).

Jesus then went on to make this important point about what we should do to keep ourselves clean before God, that we need to keep guard of bad thoughts and intentions, such as fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride and folly that come from within us, instead of paying too much attention on the purifying process.

Let us pray today for the grace from this Holy Eucharist to free us from all wicked thoughts and ill intentions, and make our worship pleasing to God and bearing good fruits in all what we do and say in our witnessing lives.

Have a Christocentric weekend,

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 2024

This weekend begins National Child Protection Week. In today's Mass we are reminded that all of God's creation is good. We are challenged to do all we can to help and nurture all He has created. In our prayer, in our conversations and in our actions, let us always show our commitment to actively promote the dignity and rights of all persons and, most particularly in this week, let our ministry and service actively support the voices and wellbeing of children in our Parish and local community.

THE PILGRIM STATUE OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Thank you to Silvia & Dumas Morales, for donating a carry box for our pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Lourdes. Dumas has meticulously handcrafted the wooden casing himself. We thank them both for their thoughtfulness and generosity towards our parish.

SERVING AS PARISH MINISTERS

Our Diocesan Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses 2024 including Extra-ordinary ministers of Communion, Ministers of Communion to the Sick and Dying, and ministers at the Altar (or Acolytes) will commence from Monday 9 September 2024, our parishioners are encouraged to enrol in your preferred ministries by completing an Enrolment form and returning it to Fr Henry. For those who wish to become Readers or ministers of the Word, please fill out the Parish Groups form and return to Fr Henry. A Formation course shall be conducted shortly in our parish.

BISHOP'S FATHER'S DAY APPEAL SUPPORTING OUR RETIRED PRIESTS

This Father's Day, let us show our thanks and appreciation for our priests' lifelong gifts of faithful service. They have dedicated their lives to guiding us spiritually and emotionally, often at great personal sacrifice. Your donation cares for our clergy's health and wellbeing during sickness and retirement. Please give generously to the Bishop's Father's Day Appeal.

NEW MINISTERS CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulation to all our new ministers who completed their liturgical courses recently and had their presentation last Sunday.

NEW SMART DEVICES

As you may have noticed at the side entrance of the church, we have 2 new Smart Device machines that have replaced the obsolete 3G Matt's Point Quest devices. All donations made via these new machines are shared 50/50 with our Diocese. Thank you for your continued support.

NEW CATECHISTS ORIENTATION

A gentle reminder of the upcoming orientation meeting for our new catechists on Tuesday 3rd September 10am in the Parish Meeting Room. If you require further information please contact Deacon Thong or Anne McNally.

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.

PARISH BIN ROSTER - VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

We are seeking volunteers to assist 4 times a year to place the Parish bins on the kerbside (Grantham Road) once a week on Tuesday. Please contact the Parish Office if you are able to help out. *Thank you.*

Happy
Father's
Day

Vote now for our Kids' Art Competition People's Choice Awards

Vote now for People's Choice in our 2024 Kids' Voices art competition! The [2024 Kids' Voices art competition](#) underpins our commitment to zero tolerance for any form of abuse or harm to children or any person. The competition aims to engage children and young people in our community about safeguarding by giving them a voice. Voting closes 1 Sept. Find out more at www.parracatholic.org/peoples-choice

ACBC 2024-2025 Social Justice Statement

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has formally launched its 2024-2025 Social Justice Statement, 'Truth & Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World'. In the statement, Australia's Bishops scrutinise the signs of our own troubled times, observe the violence around us, and ask why it is so. Download your copy of the Statement and a range of resources by visiting <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/>

Diocesan Season of Creation Gathering: 14 September

You are invited to a Diocesan Season of Creation gathering on Saturday 14 September from 10am to 4pm at Winbourne Retreat Centre, Mulgoa. This event is part of Catholic Earthcare's national Season of Creation Convocation from 12-14 September. Cost is \$50 for the Diocesan gathering only, or \$100 for the full Convocation (with days 1 and 2 online). For program details, please visit tinyurl.com/soc-gathering24. Register for the Convocation by 12 August at caritas.org.au/soc-convocation.

Glenmore Park St Padre Pio Feast Day Celebrations

Everyone is invited to join Glenmore Park Parish for the parochial feast of St Padre Pio.

The parish will be celebrating a three day Triduum:

- Thursday 19 September – 7.00pm Novena to St Padre Pio and Mass
- Friday 20 September – 7.00pm Novena to St Padre Pio and Mass
- Saturday 21 September – 5.30pm Novena to St Padre Pio and Vigil Mass

With the feast day celebrations on Sunday 22 September from 10am with a solemn procession with the relic, Mass, veneration and blessing of the relic. For enquiries, contact the parish office on (02) 4789 2232 or glenmorepark@parracatholic.org

Holy Hour for Vocations: 20 September

Please join us across the Diocese to pray for more vocations to the priesthood. Join us at Mary Immaculate Parish, Quakers Hill-Schofields on Friday 20 September 7pm to 8pm. Deacon Menard Gaspi will be leading adoration and giving a short talk about vocations to the priesthood. Confessions will be heard during Adoration. Join us afterwards for refreshments. For more information, contact the parish office on (02)96263326 or email parishoffice@maryimmac.org.au

Winbourne The Aramaic Lord's Prayer Reflection Day: 28 September

The Winbourne Edmund Rice Retreat Centre, Mulgoa, is holding a reflection day on 'The Aramaic Lord's Prayer' on Saturday 28 September 9.30am to 12.30pm. Returning to what Jesus actually said is a truly enlightening and prayerful experience. Cost is \$15 per person. For more information or to book, contact 4773 5555 or email info@winbourne.org

Divine Retreat Centre offerings in 2024

The Divine Retreat Centre in Somersby, NSW is hosting a variety of single-day and weekend residential retreats throughout 2024. For more information and bookings, contact (02) 43721598 or email drcretreatego@gmail.com to confirm attendance. www.divineretreatcentre.org

Bishop's Father's Day Appeal supporting our retired priests

This Father's Day, let us show our thanks and appreciation for our priests' lifelong gifts of faithful service. They have dedicated their lives to guiding us spiritually and emotionally, often at great personal sacrifice. Your compassionate donation cares for our clergy's health and wellbeing during sickness and retirement. Please give generously to the Bishop's Father's Day Appeal at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or scan this QR code.



Launch of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan for a Synodal Church

On Saturday 10 August, the Diocese of Parramatta launched the Diocesan Pastoral Plan for a Synodal Church. Our pastoral plan represents the culmination of our Synod journey, where we have come together to listen, discern, and envision a path forward for our diocese over the past 16 months. To download a copy of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, visit parracatholic.org/synodality.

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held on Monday 2 September at Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Rouse Hill for Module 2. More training opportunities will be available throughout September. Please register directly for this training or for other dates and locations by clicking on the training event at: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>. For more information, email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

The FaithFeed: 6 September

Looking for great conversations + live atmosphere + storytelling from those in their 20s, 30s 40s? Sign up for The FaithFeed, Friday 6 Sept 2024 – Doors open 7PM w/ live music for 7:30PM start. Downstairs @ Bishop Bede Heather Centre: 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown NSW 2148. RSVP via QR or get in touch with the team via met@parracatholic.org



From Darkness to Light – An exploration of domestic violence: 8 September

The Marist Family Justice, Peace and Integrity in Creation Committee are hosting an event, "From darkness to light: an exploration of domestic violence" at Holy Name of Mary Church Hall, Hunters Hill, on Sunday 8 September from 1.30pm to 4pm. Guest speakers include Livia La Rocca, a psychologist with 20 years' experience and Nicole Yade, CEO of the Women and Girls Emergency Centre. RSVP by 1 September via www.maristlaityaustralia.com/dark-to-light

Campion College Early Christianity Symposium: 27 – 28 September

Campion College is delighted to announce an upcoming symposium, "Shepherd at the Crossroads: Converging Traditions in Early Christianity," to be held on September 27-28, 2024, at the college campus in Toongabbie. This event offers a unique opportunity to delve into the multicultural and multi-traditional character of Early Christianity and its enduring influence. Two-day tickets are available for \$120 per person while a one-day ticket will cost \$70 per person. Concession pricing is available. To purchase tickets and learn more about the event, visit www.campion.edu.au/event/early-christianitysymposium

Mount Druitt South Parish Fete: 15 September

The Sacred Heart Parish South Mount Druitt fete will be held on Sunday 15 September at Sacred Heart Primary School, Mt Druitt, from 10am to 3pm. Activities include a While Elephant stall, jumping castle, chocolate wheel and showbags. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9832 3896.

POPE FRANCIS' ANGELUS



Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday!

Today the Gospel of the liturgy (*Jn* 6:60-69) relates to us the famous response of Saint Peter, who says to Jesus: "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life." (*Jn* 6:68). It is a very beautiful expression that gives witness to the friendship and manifests the trust that bind him to Christ, along with the other disciples. "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life." Beautiful. Peter speaks these words at a critical moment. Jesus has just finished a discourse in which he said he was the "bread come down from heaven" .

It is a difficult language for people to understand and many, even disciples who were following Him, abandon Him because they did not understand. The Twelve, however, remained with Him. They stayed because in Him they found "words of eternal life." They heard Him preach, they saw the miracles He performed, and they continue to share with Him public moments and the intimacy of daily life (*cf. Mk* 3:7-19). The disciples do not always understand what the Master says and does. At times they struggle to accept the paradoxes of His love (*cf. Mt* 5:38-48), the extreme demands of His mercy (*cf. Mt* 18:21-22), the radical nature of His way of giving Himself to all. It is not easy for them to understand, but they are faithful. Jesus' choices often go beyond common thinking, beyond the very canons of institutional religion and traditions to the point of creating provocative and embarrassing situations (*cf. Mt* 15:12). It is not easy to follow Him. Yet, among the many teachers of that time, Peter and the other apostles found only in Him the answer to the thirst for life, for joy, for love that animates them. Only thanks to Him did they experience the fullness of life they seek, beyond the limits of sin and even death. Therefore, they do not leave. Indeed, all but one, even amidst many falls and times of repentance will remain with Him to the end (*cf. Jn* 17:12). And, brothers and sisters, this also concerns us. Even for us it is not easy to follow the Lord, to understand His way of acting, to make His criteria and His example our own. It is not easy for us. However, the closer we are to Him the more we adhere to His Gospel, receive His grace in the Sacraments, stay in His company in prayer, imitate Him in humility and charity - the more we experience the beauty of having Him as our Friend and realise that He alone has the "words of eternal life." Then we can ask ourselves: how much is Jesus present in my life? How much do I let myself be touched and moved by His words? Can I say that they are also "words of eternal life" for me? To you, my brother, my sister, I ask: Are the words of Jesus, for you - also for me - words of eternal life? May Mary, who received Jesus, the Word of God, in her flesh, help us to listen to Him and never leave Him.

After praying the Angelus the Holy Father continued:

Dear brothers and sisters! I wish to express my solidarity with the thousands of people affected by Mpox (monkeypox), which is now a global health emergency. I pray for all those infected, especially the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo suffering greatly. I express my sympathy to the local Churches in the countries most affected by this disease and I encourage governments and private industries to share available technology and treatments so that no one lacks adequate medical care. To the beloved people of Nicaragua: I encourage you to renew your hope in Jesus. Remember that the Holy Spirit always guides history towards higher projects. May the Immaculate Virgin protect you in times of trial and help you feel her motherly tenderness.

May Our Lady accompany the beloved people of Nicaragua. I continue to follow with sorrow the fighting in Ukraine and the Russian Federation. And in thinking about the laws recently adopted in Ukraine, I fear for the freedom of those who pray, because those who truly pray always pray for all.

A person does not commit evil because of praying. If someone commits evil against his people, he will be guilty for it, but he cannot have committed evil because he prayed. So let those who want to pray be allowed to pray in what they consider their Church. Please, let no Christian Church be abolished directly or indirectly. Churches are not to be touched! And let us continue to pray for an end to wars, in Palestine, in Israel, in Myanmar and in every other region. The people are asking for peace! Let us pray that the Lord will give us all peace. I greet all of you, Romans and pilgrims from Italy and from many countries. In particular, I greet the new seminarians of the North American College and wish them a good formative journey; and I also wish them to live their priesthood with joy, because true prayer gives us joy. I greet the young people with motor and cognitive disabilities, who are taking part in the "relay of inclusion" to affirm that barriers can be overcome.

I greet my friends, the young people of the Immacolata. And I wish everyone a good Sunday. Please do not forget to pray for me. Have a good lunch and arrivederci!

BULL OF INDICTION OF THE ORDINARY JUBILEE OF THE YEAR 2025 - FRANCIS BISHOP OF ROME SERVANT OF THE SERVANTS OF GOD TO ALL WHO READ THIS LETTER MAY HOPE FILL YOUR HEARTS

19. "I believe in *life everlasting*". So our faith professes. Christian hope finds in these words an essential foundation. For hope is "that theological virtue by which we desire... eternal life as our happiness". The Second Vatican Council says of hope that, "when people are deprived of this divine support, and lack hope in eternal life, their dignity is deeply impaired, as may so often be seen today. The problems of life and death, of guilt and suffering, remain unsolved, so that people are frequently thrown into despair". We, however, by virtue of the hope in which we were saved, can view the passage of time with the certainty that the history of humanity and our own individual history are not doomed to a dead end or a dark abyss, but directed to an encounter with the Lord of glory. As a result, we live our lives in expectation of his return and in the hope of living forever in him. In this spirit, we make our own the heartfelt prayer of the first Christians with which sacred Scripture ends: "Come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev 22:20). 20. The death and resurrection of Jesus is the heart of our faith and the basis of our hope. Saint Paul states this succinctly by the use of four verbs: "I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas and then to the twelve" (1Cor 15:3-5). Christ *died, was buried, was raised and appeared*. For our sake, Jesus experienced the drama of death. The Father's love raised him in the power of the Spirit, and made of his humanity the first fruits of our eternal salvation. Christian hope consists precisely in this: that in facing death, which appears to be the end of everything, we have the certainty that, thanks to the grace of Christ imparted to us in Baptism, "life is changed, not ended", forever. Buried with Christ in Baptism, we receive in his resurrection the gift of a new life that breaks down the walls of death, making it a passage to eternity. The reality of *death*, as a painful separation from those dearest to us, cannot be mitigated by empty rhetoric. The Jubilee, however, offers us the opportunity to appreciate anew, and with immense gratitude, the gift of the new life that we have received in Baptism, a life capable of transfiguring death's drama. It is worth reflecting, in the context of the Jubilee, on how that mystery has been understood from the earliest centuries of the Church's life. An example would be the tradition of building baptismal fonts in the shape of an octagon, as seen in many ancient baptisteries, like that of Saint John Lateran in Rome. This was intended to symbolize that Baptism is the dawn of the "eighth day", the day of the resurrection, a day that transcends the normal, weekly passage of time, opening it to the dimension of eternity and to life everlasting: the goal to which we tend on our earthly pilgrimage (cf. Rom 6:22). The most convincing testimony to this hope is provided by the *martyrs*. Steadfast in their faith in the risen Christ, they renounced life itself here below, rather than betray their Lord. Martyrs, as confessors of the life that knows no end, are present and numerous in every age, and perhaps even more so in our own day. We need to treasure their testimony, in order to confirm our hope and allow it to bear good fruit. The martyrs, coming as they do from different Christian traditions, are also seeds of unity, expressions of the ecumenism of blood. I greatly hope that the Jubilee will also include ecumenical celebrations as a way of highlighting the richness of the testimony of these martyrs. 21. What, then, will become of us after death? With Jesus, beyond this threshold we will find eternal life, consisting in full communion with God as we forever contemplate and share in his infinite love. All that we now experience in hope, we shall then see in reality. We are reminded of the words of Saint Augustine: "When I am one with you in all my being, there will be no more pain and toil; my life shall be true life, a life wholly filled by you". What will characterize this fullness of communion? Being happy. *Happiness* is our human vocation, a goal to which all aspire. But what is happiness? What is the happiness that we await and desire? Not some fleeting pleasure, a momentary satisfaction that, once experienced, keeps us longing for more, in a desperate quest that leaves our hearts unsated and increasingly empty. We aspire to a happiness that is definitively found in the one thing that can bring us fulfillment, which is love. Thus, we will be able to say even now: I am loved, therefore I exist; and I will live forever in the love that does not disappoint, the love from which nothing can ever separate me. Let us listen once more to the words of the Apostle: "I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom 8:38-39). (*to be continued*)

POPE FRANCIS: YOUNG PEOPLE DON'T NEED US, THEY NEED GOD! By Deborah Castellano Lubov

"The young people do not need us, they need God!" stressed Pope Francis to participants in the XVIII General Chapter of the Congregation of the Oblates of St. Joseph on Monday in the Vatican. Addressing the religious congregation founded by St. Joseph Marelli in 1878, the Pope recalled, "As you know, my family also has roots in Asti." "We share common origins in that land of Piedmont, which gave birth to your founder, St. Joseph Marelli," he reminded. Remembering their Chapter's theme is the phrase from St. Paul to Timothy: "I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you" (2 Tim 1:6), the Pope said, "these are demanding words." In them, he pondered, you "recognize yourselves as beneficiaries of a gift," namely, "the holiness of your founder," and "commit yourselves to the responsibilities that come with it, to safeguard and make fruitful the talents received by placing them at the service of others today." **St. Joseph, guardian of the Holy Family** These two attitudes of gratitude and responsibility, the Pope said, are well reflected in the figure of St. Joseph, "the guardian of the Holy Family," who, he highlighted, "is the model, he who inspires, and the intercessor, of your Congregation." Reflecting on the beloved Saint, the Pope reminded them he himself keeps a 'sleeping St. Joseph' statue in his room. "One of the striking things about the Holy Spouse of Mary is the generous faith with which he welcomed into his home and life, a God who, contrary to all expectations," the Pope marveled, "presented Himself at his door in the son of a fragile girl, lacking any possibility of making claims." Keeping this in mind, the Pope urged each of them to root their lives of faith and their religious consecration in "a daily 'being' with Jesus." "**Root your life of faith and religious consecration in a daily 'being' with Jesus.**" **Sustains us amid our fragility** This, the Pope who had declared a Year of St. Joseph observed, "is primarily how St. Joseph responded to the immense gift of having the Son of God made man in his home: by being with Him, listening to Him, speaking to Him, and sharing daily life with Him." Each of us, with our own fragility, Pope Francis recognized, cannot stay standing without the Lord who sustains us. Therefore, he encouraged them always to cultivate a good life of prayer, through participation in the Sacraments, listening to and meditating on the Word of God, and Eucharistic Adoration, both personally and as a community. As he called on those before him to reflect on their own sins, the Pope suggested that we all need to stay so close to the Lord, that, when we start to slip into sin, we can cling to Him and are able to stay afloat. Their prayerfulness and closeness to God, the Pope encouraged, "will positively reflect on your apostolate, especially on that mission that characterizes you as 'apostles of the youth.'" **Young people need God** "The young people do not need us; they need God!" Pope Francis underscored, saying, "The more we live in His presence, the more we are capable of helping them encounter Him." The youth, the Pope reminded, have a great potential for good, and "just waiting to bloom and bear fruit if supported and accompanied by wise, patient, and generous guides." "*Young people do not need us; they need God! The more we live in His presence, the more we are capable of helping them encounter Him.*" While it "is a great task that takes a lot of work," he said that especially in our times it remains "indispensable. Pope Francis concluded by thanking the Oblates of St. Joseph for their service and generosity to the Church and society.

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 12th September 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 12th September, 6.30pm. If you would like more information please 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.

PIETY SHOP

Located at the back of the church. Please come have a browse after mass.

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

September

3	New Catechist Orientation Meeting	10.00am
4	First Holy Communion Group 1 Practice	6.30pm
8	First Holy Communion Group 1	11.30am
11	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	7.30pm

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

31 Aug/1 September

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am: Fayelene Kennedy	
Ministers	Vigil: C. Gonzales, T. Perak 8am: L. Fernandes, F. Paiva 9.30am: K. Huihui, C. Brooks	
Readers	Vigil: B. Motha, N. Do Rosario 8am: P. Ferriols, A. McNally 9.30am: K. Huihui, E. Pieris	
Altar Servers	Vigil: M. Gluvic, SUB RQD 8am: Chris Bellamin, Volunteer 9.30am: J. Pieris, M. Pieris	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Tongan Choir	
Musicians	Vigil: Shaun's Group 8am: Fr. Henry 9.30am: Couples for Christ	
Flowers	Fenty & Liz	
Church Cleaning	5 September	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Helen Gonzales 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Sastina Pieris	

7/8 September

Acolytes	Vigil: Daniel La Guidara 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: L. La Guidara, M. Mifsud 8am: B. Motha, F. Paiva 9.30am: G. Basili, A. Walker	
Readers	Vigil: J. Sarmiento. A. Punch 8am: S. Manamperi, K. Walker 9.30am: R. Nigli, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: E. Reardon, A. Bagatella, A. Laus 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: A. Melki, C. Attard	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Young Adults Group	
Musicians	Vigil: OFS 8am: Fr. Henry 9.30am: Tongan Choir	
Flowers	Claudette & Judith	
Church Cleaning	14 Sept	Tongan Community Edgardo Barcelon Edgar Cabrera
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Ugre 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Kathy Chamberlain	

The Kids' Bulletin

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 1st, 2024

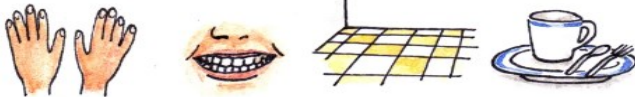


Mark 7:1-8,
14-15, 21-23

The Jews knew that it was important to keep their bodies and their dishes clean. But Jesus told them that something else was more important. What was it?

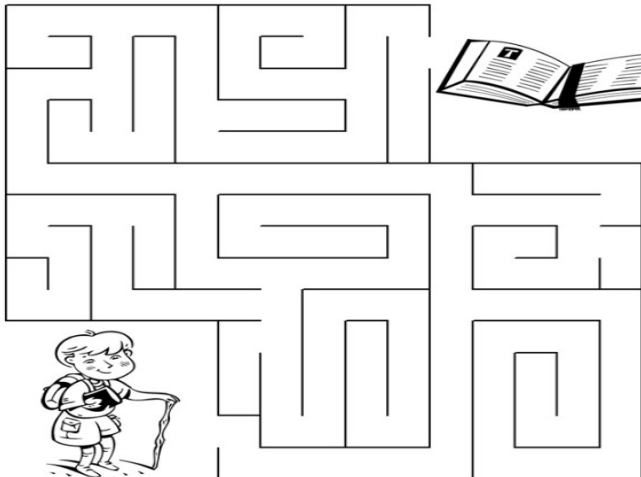
Match the letters from the top pictures with the things they clean at the bottom of the page to find out what is the most important thing to keep clean!

Your _____ !



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

LAW	WORSHIP	UNCLEAN	FOOD	TEACHERS
HANDS	HEARTS	PHARISEES	HYPOCRITES	DISCIPLES
RULES	EATING	LIPS	HONOR	WASH



Clean or Unclean?

So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with 'unclean' hands?" Mark 7:5 (NIV)

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



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

- 16-18-17-18-5 _____
- 16-10-17-15-19 _____
- 24-10-19-16 _____
- 2-10-13-3-17-22 _____
- 16-2-10-5-13 _____
- 24-18-5-19-16-3-4 _____
- 1-8-2-10-17 _____
- 5-21-8-2-19 _____

HEART HONOR	CLEAN RULES	HANDS WASH	WORSHIP EATING
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