



# OUR LADY OF LOURDES

PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS

*"Still a wonderful place to pray & stay."*

7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills. NSW. 2147

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**Parish Priest:** Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran  
**Parish Deacon:** Deacon Thong Nguyen  
**Parish Office Team:** Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Jane Nguyen  
**Office Hours: Monday-Friday:** 9am - 3.00pm  
**WEEKDAY MASS:** Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am  
 Thursday 9.00am  
**WEEKEND MASS:** Saturday Vigil 6pm  
 Sunday 8am & 9.30am

**Parish School:** OLOL 8869 6800  
**Principal:** Ms Keiran Byrnes  
**Reconciliation:** Saturday 4:30-5:30pm  
**Baptismal Preparation:** 20th November 2024  
**Baptism:** 13th October 2024  
**Sacrament Co-Ordinator:** Mrs Artelle Lenthall  
**Parish Website:** [www.olol7hills.com.au](http://www.olol7hills.com.au)  
**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

## 25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### 22 September 2024 • Year B



#### Let us Pray for the Sick

Rico Abadam, Leonila Ahillon, Florence Arinanan, Mary Attard, Rodney Bell, Sarah Bartolo, Rosella Booth, Aiden Chan, Esther Caputo, Lawrence Charles, Ben Dixon, Alma Caguimbal, Mary Camilleri, Para Dias, Ronald Fountain, Renuka Fernando, Chmouneh Hayek, Anthony Janicska, Mary Jordan, Clare Kinsley, Paul Leong, Elizabeth Livio, Josephine Lord, Bob & Therese Marini, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Carlos Mureno, Maricar Poblete, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Eustace Ratnam, Sue Tipaldo, Evelyn Villanueva, 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](mailto:secretary@olol7hills.com.au)

We can also arrange for Holy Communion or a visit if required.

#### Let us Pray for the Deceased

**Recently Deceased:** Joggy Almodovar, Scott Angley, Emma Barriom, John Bartolo, Vivienne Cameron, Barrie Chamberlain, Murial Chary, Dulcie Duraisamy, Sandra Eichhorn, Henrieta Fernando, Jasmin Fernando, Ethan Garcia, Ricardo Garcia, Cynthia Lopez, Edley Neveu, Paolo Pineda, Michael Scott, Viliami Kalosipani Siale, Jim Walker, Kilini Veamatahau.

**Anniversaries:** Maria Olympia Almodovar, Sydney Azie, Horace Baptist, Ronald Barley, Peter & Helen Bonnici, Joseph Camenzuli, Kristylen Cayabyab, Catherine Chandra, John Soo Choon, Aloysean Corera, Emmanuel Falzon, John Fernando, Nevis Fernando, M.A Fernando, Josefa Flores, Juliet Francis, Charlie Galea, Anthony Garcia, Teodoro Garcia, Zenaida Garcia, Charlie Gauci, Christine Gomez, Josephine Gomez, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kutty, Soledad Leong, Bertu Mula, Joseph Mula, Tony Muscat, Rita Leon, Sheena Landagan, Antonio Marra, Cordula Paiva, Serge Pasin, Adrian Pereira, Benigno Riveral Sr, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Michael Sant, Mary Silva, Rosary Silva, Caroline Susainathan, Bibiano Villanueva, Melchor Usman, Dionisio Udan, Mary Zammit.

**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, Joe Gat Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Sam Gabo, Mary & Sam Galea, Evangeline Garcia, Leandro Snr Garcia, Jose Garcia, Constance Gaycroft, Frans Gutajar, Selvam Irudayaraj, Apolinario & Felina Maglaya, Pauline Meilak, Mangion & Cini Family, Salvatore Loria, Rosa Mancina, Michael (Mike) McNamee, Maureen & John Mead, Mary Mifsud, Joseph Mifsud, Emilia & William Mifsud, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Anton & Lourda Motha, Louis, Stephen & Joseph Mula, Charles Muscat, Mary & Francis Muscat, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jim Vella Jonathan Tek Kie, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Priscilla Villanueva, Vinnie Zahra.

#### 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](http://www.olol7hills.org.au)



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**FIRST READING** *A reading from the book of Wisdom 2:12, 17-20*

The godless say to themselves, 'Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us and opposes our way of life, reproaches us for our breaches of the law and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing. Let us see if what he says is true, let us observe what kind of end he himself will have.

If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies. Let us test him with cruelty and with torture, and thus explore this gentleness of his and put his endurance to the proof. Let us condemn him to a shameful death since he will be looked after – we have his word for it.'

The word of the Lord.

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**RESPONSORIAL PSALM****(R) The Lord upholds my life.**

1. O God, save me by your name;  
by your power, uphold my cause.  
O God, hear my prayers;  
listen to the words of my mouth. **(R.)**

2. For proud men have risen against me,  
ruthless men seek my life.  
They have no regard for God. **(R.)**

3. But I have God for my help.  
The Lord upholds my life.  
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart  
and praise your name for it is good. **(R.)**

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**SECOND READING** *A reading from the letter of St James 3:16 - 4:3*

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don't have what you want is because you don't pray for it; when you do pray and don't get it, it is because you have not prayed properly, you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires.

The word of the Lord.

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**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

God has called us with the gospel  
to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 9:30 - 37*

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

The Gospel of the Lord



Dear friends,

Careerism has been one of the issues Pope Francis has defined as a serious problem the Catholic Church needs to combat against and get rid of. Careerism means to say of a clergy who constantly looks for opportunities to climb higher and higher in the hierarchical order, and one word that would well describe this person is ambition.

I used to observe the ways a clergy younger than me made his careerist move and began to warn him against that. He ignored me for the first time and barked at me the second time 'there's nothing wrong with ambition, if you don't like it (meaning the episcopacy) let someone else do it.' Obviously he was unaware of St James' warning against the threat of ambition to Church members as we heard from the Second reading this Sunday that jealousy and ambition could bring disharmony and wicked things of every kind to a Church community.

A typical example of ambition could be seen in the Gospel account as the evangelist recounted the topic that the disciples of Jesus kept arguing on their mission journey of who was the greatest amongst them. Jesus overheard their ambition-related discussion and of course was unimpressed with that, since it was completely out of touch with the image of the Suffering Messiah he just told them of before. Jesus was quick to counter the disciples' misconception of their call by presenting what we call the Humble Service model of leadership asking the disciples to opt for the humble service as the standard criteria to measure their greatness in the community. They should be prepared to serve even a child with humility, Jesus seemed to send out to the disciples this message when he brought a child before them, telling 'anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

Let us pray for the grace from this Sunday Eucharist we celebrate today to take away from us, especially our ordained ministers, any temptation to dominate others in the community, and fill us with the desire to serve each other with humility.

Have a humility-oriented week,  
Fr Henry

## PARISH NEWS...

### REPORT FROM THE LAST PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting started with a reflection upon the Settlers and Pioneers theologies highlighting the differences between Church members in the ways we look at the Church and this article is made available for our parishioners to read this weekend. As usual, there were reports from various groups in the parish and a good amount of time was given to talk about the Family Group movement we are going to introduce to this community.

### THE PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT:

The *Passionist Family Group Movement (PFGM)* began in Australia over 50 years ago to meet a very evident need for parishioners and to get to know one another and so build a strong community sense and commitment to each other. The idea is that you meet with other parishioners occasionally for low cost or no cost outings. These gatherings, in turn, enrich your experience of the Parish formal celebrations and services. The motto of the Family Group Movement is "a family for all". You don't have to be a Catholic, a parent, old or young, married, or single - you just have to be yourself! If you do have kids, they really enjoy it, and you are able to share life's adventures and trials with the support of a caring community. Your Parish Pastoral Council has decided to start this initiative as an important strategy in connecting parishioners with the broader parish family. Dennis Farrar, a promoter of the *Passionist Family Group Movement*, will be speaking to us at all Masses on the weekend of the September 28/29 and extending an invitation to join. If you're interested in joining or want to know more, simply contact the parish office (secretary@lol7hills.com.au) or check out the PFGM website [www.pfgm.org](http://www.pfgm.org).

### AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please show your deepest respect for our House of God at Seven Hills by not bringing any food into the church, that includes the crying room. Parents are always encouraged to bring soft toys and crayons for children to work with our weekly bulletin.

### 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.

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to all the children in our parish who made their First Holy Communion over the last 2 weeks. May the Lord they receive fill their heart with joy and happiness, and keep them always in his love and under his protection.

### SERVING AS MINISTERS OF THE WORD

All our parishioners who enrolled in our Parish course for the Ministers of the Word, please attend the Formation session on Tuesday 24 September at 7pm in our church.

### LOURDES PLAYGROUP

Please note that playgroup has ended for term 3 and will resume for term 4 on Friday 18 October 9am in the Parish Meeting room. Please be sure to register for attendance via the Facebook group 'Our Lady Play Group'.

### TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

FAITHS 4 CLIMATE ACTION. Today at Mass we can participate in Global Day of action for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. Details are at the doors of the church with a QR code to sign up. People with tablets are available to assist those who wish to sign the treaty. For more details checkout <https://fossilfuel treaty.org/faith-letter> "We call on our political leaders to come up with a plan to phase out coal and gas for domestic use and exports, starting with an end to approvals for new coal and gas projects and include a clear date when Australia will not be in the coal and gas business. There is a simpler, cheaper solution wind, solar and battery storage."

### SEASON OF CREATION

Come join the Social Justice group for a zoom chat on Tuesday nights 7:30pm for the season. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77961144291> [pwd=uuA7kg3VVtA9SVQBpoQNvp5o4Jso9Y.1](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77961144291?pwd=uuA7kg3VVtA9SVQBpoQNvp5o4Jso9Y.1) or Meeting ID: 779 6114 4291 Passcode: francis

### 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.

## DIOCESAN NEWS

### Positions Vacant:

- Development Manager – Property Services, Diocese of Parramatta.
- Lead Facilitator of Diocesan Plan Implementation – Diocese of Parramatta **Applications close 25 September**
- Marriage Facilitator – Diocese of Parramatta **Applications close 3 October**
- Manager, Catholic Youth Parramatta (CYP) – Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 12 October**

More details at: [parracatholic.org/about/jobs/](http://parracatholic.org/about/jobs/)

### MET Worship Ministry to the Sick and Dying Formation: 19 October

Are you currently taking Communion to the Sick and Dying in the Diocese of Parramatta? If so, please join the Office for Worship for a day of ongoing formation to further your knowledge and understanding of this important topic.

Saturday 19 October from 9.30am - 2pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Morning tea and Lunch provided. For more information and to register before 14 October, please contact Hannah on 0488 000 211 or email [hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org](mailto:hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org) or visit the website <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=office-for-worship>

### Diocese of Parramatta Wedding Anniversary Mass: 27 October

The annual Diocese of Parramatta Wedding Anniversary Mass will be held on Sunday 27 October at 11am at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Bishop Vincent will celebrate Mass, followed by a light lunch at the Cathedral Hall. All couples celebrating a significant wedding anniversary will receive a certificate from Bishop Vincent. Please register your name, years of marriage and numbers attending by visiting [parracatholic.org/weddingmass](http://parracatholic.org/weddingmass) or phone 0488 000 211 by 20 October. Family and friends are welcome.



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[ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/](http://ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/)

### Catholic Schools Bishop Manning Support Fund

Would you like your child to receive a Catholic education but are worried that your family cannot afford it? Please consider applying for a bursary that will cover the school fees, the cost of uniforms and equipment for primary or secondary school students for up to four years of enrolment. The fund, named in honour of the recently deceased Bishop Kevin Manning, is a Diocesan charity that seeks to ensure all families who want a Catholic education for their child can receive one. Please scan this code

**Applications close 18 October**



### Calling all Year 12 Students!

The annual HSC exams are just around the corner! We invite you to attend your local HSC Mass, where you'll join countless other students from across the Diocese in prayer for those undertaking their final exams. Masses will be held during the weekend of 5-6 October 2024. During the Mass, you will receive a blessing along with a small gift. Keep an eye on your parish bulletin in the coming weeks for more details.

### St Marys St Clair Parish menALIVE Retreat Weekend: 12 – 13 October

The Men's ministry groups of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, St Marys and Holy Spirit Parish, St Clair-Erskine Park, invite men of all ages to attend the upcoming menALIVE weekend on 12-13 October at the Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Hall, St Marys. The weekend will feature talks, personal testimonies, opportunities for discussion, and space to reflect. Cost is \$50. To register, please visit <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1265196>. For enquiries, please contact Steve Buhagiar (St Marys) on 0415 600 290 or Vasco Gil (St Clair) 0414 396 643.

### Catholic Care Pregnancy and Infant Loss Day commemoration: 15 October

To commemorate Pregnancy & Infant Loss Memorial Day, Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains and White Lady Funerals are holding a memorial service on Tuesday 15 October from 11am at Mamre House, Orchard Hills. There will be an opportunity to place a plant in memory of your loved one in the Garden of Remembrance. Please RSVP to Lisa on 0439 917 129 or Christy at White Lady Funerals 02 4731 4385.

## OLOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

### Face to Face Renewal Safeguarding Training at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.

If missed any of the face to face training held at our parish, you can complete these modules independently at times convenient to you via <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au> or view below the details of the next training opportunity run by the Diocese.

### Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held on Saturday 28 September at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, St Marys for Modules 1-3. More training opportunities will be available throughout September and October. 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, please email: [safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org)

### Supporting the Safety of Our Community

We all have a role to play in safeguarding those who are vulnerable. Concerns about safeguarding may be referred to Fr Henry, our Parish Priest, or directly to the: Office for Safeguarding and Professional Standards Ph (02) 8838 3419 or via Email: [safeguarding@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguarding@parracatholic.org).

### Working With Children Check Reminder

Here at OLOL Parish all our volunteers and staff have had a WWCC. It is important that your current WWCC number is renewed rather than applying for a new Check. If your WWCC is due to expire and you have not received an email from the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian, please contact the OCG for further information. NB: If you have forgotten your WWCC number or are unsure which email address your WWCC number is registered to, please contact the OCG on (02) 92867219.

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## POPE FRANCIS' ANGELUS



Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday!

The Gospel of today's Liturgy tells us that Jesus, after asking the disciples what the people thought of Him, directly asks them: "But who do you say that I am?" (Mk 8:29). Peter answers on behalf of all the group, saying, "You are the Christ" (v. 30), that is, you are the Messiah. However, when Jesus starts to talk about the suffering and death that await Him, the same Peter objects, and Jesus harshly rebukes him: "Get behind me, Satan!" – He says Satan – For you are not on the side of God, but of men" (v. 33).

Looking at the attitude of the apostle Peter, we too can ask ourselves what it means to truly *know Jesus*. What does it mean to know Jesus? In fact, on the one hand Peter answers perfectly, saying to Jesus that He is the Christ. However, behind these correct words there is still a way of thinking that is "of men", a mentality that imagines a strong Messiah, a victorious Messiah, who cannot suffer or die. So, the words with which Peter responds are "right", but his way of thinking has not changed. He still has to change his mindset, he still has to convert. And this is a message, an important message for us too. Indeed, we too have learned something about God, we know the doctrine, we recite the prayers correctly and, perhaps, we respond well to the question "Who is Jesus for you?", with some formula we learned at catechism. But are we sure that this means really knowing Jesus? In reality, to know the Lord, it is not enough to know something about Him, but rather to follow Him, to let oneself be touched and changed by His Gospel. It is a matter of having a relationship with Him, an encounter. I can know many things about Jesus, but if I have not encountered Him, I still do not know who Jesus is. It takes this encounter that changes life: it changes the way of being, it changes the way of thinking, it changes the relationships you have with your brothers and sisters, the willingness to accept and forgive, it changes the choices you make in life.

Everything changes if you have truly come to know Jesus! Everything changes. Brothers and sisters, the Lutheran theologian and pastor Bonhoeffer, victim of Nazism, wrote: "What is bothering me incessantly is the question of what Christianity really is, or indeed who Christ really is, for us today" (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Letters and papers from prison*). Unfortunately, many people no longer pose themselves this question and remain "unbothered", slumbering, even far from God. Instead, it is important to ask ourselves: do I let myself be bothered, do I ask who Jesus is for me, and what place He occupies in my life? Do I follow Jesus only in word, continuing to have a worldly mentality, or do I set out to follow Him, allowing the encounter with Him to transform my life? May our mother Mary, who knew Jesus well, help us on this question.

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### After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters,

I express my closeness to the populations of Vietnam and Myanmar, who are suffering as a result of the floods caused by a violent typhoon. I pray for the deceased, the injured and the displaced. May God sustain those who have lost their loved ones and their home, and bless those who are coming to their aid. Yesterday, Moisés Lira Seraphin was beatified in Mexico City. A priest and founder of the Congregation of the Missionaries of Charity of Mary Immaculate, he died in 1950, after a life spent helping people to advance in faith and in love of the Lord. May his apostolic zeal encourage priests to give themselves unreservedly, for the spiritual good of the holy people of God. A round of applause for the new Blessed! I can see the Mexican flags over there. Today marks World Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Day in Italy. I assure remembrance in prayer for sufferers and their families;

I encourage research work on this pathology, and volunteer associations. And let us not forget the wars that are causing bloodshed in the world. I think of tormented Ukraine, Myanmar, I think of the Middle East. How many are innocent victims. I think of the mothers who have lost their sons in war. How many young lives cut short! I think of Hersh Goldberg-Polin, found dead in September, along with five other hostages in Gaza. In November last year, I met his mother, Rachel, who impressed me with her humanity. I accompany her in this moment. May the conflict in Palestine and Israel cease! May the violence cease! May hatred cease! Let the hostages be released, let the negotiations continue, and let peaceful solutions be found! I greet you all, Romans and pilgrims from Italy and many countries. In particular, the faithful of the parish of Saint Queen Jadwiga in Radom, Poland; the group of Jesuit priests who have come to Rome to study; the students of Stade, Germany, and participants in the relay walk from Rome to Assisi. And I greet the young people of the *Immacolata*, who have had three ordinations in these days: congratulations! I wish you all a good Sunday. And please, do not forget to pray for me.

Enjoy your lunch, and *arrivederci*.

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## POPE FRANCIS' HOMILY IN SINGAPORE: LOVE IS THE CENTRE OF THE GOSPEL

"Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up" (1 Cor 8:1). Saint Paul addresses these words to the brothers and sisters of the Christian community at Corinth. In his letters to this community, which was rich in many charisms (cf. 1 Cor 1:4-5), the Apostle often recommends that it cultivate communion in charity.

Let us listen to those words of Paul as together we thank the Lord for the Church in Singapore, which is also rich in gifts, a Church that is vibrant, growing and engaged in constructive dialogue with the various other Confessions and Religions with which it shares this wonderful land.

For this reason, then, I would like to reflect on Paul's words, taking as a starting point the beauty of this city and its great and bold architecture, especially this impressive National Stadium complex, which contribute to making Singapore so famous and fascinating. First, let us remember that, in the end, at the origins of these imposing buildings, as with any other undertaking that leaves a positive mark on our world, while people may think that they are primarily about money, techniques or even engineering ability, which are certainly useful, very useful, what we really find is *love*, precisely the "love that builds up".

While some may think this is a naive statement, by reflecting on it we see that this is not the case. Indeed, while good works may have brilliant, strong, rich and creative people behind them, there are always fragile women and men, like us, for whom without love there is no life, no impetus, no reason to act, no strength to build.

Dear brothers and sisters, if there is anything good that exists and endures in this world, it is only because, in innumerable situations, love has prevailed over hate, solidarity over indifference, generosity over selfishness. Without this, no one here would have been able to give rise to such a great metropolis, for the architects would not have designed it, the workers would not have worked on it and nothing would have been achieved.

So what we see is a sign, and behind each of the works in front of us there are many stories of love to be discovered: of men and women united with one another in a community, of citizens dedicated to their country, of mothers and fathers concerned for their families, of professionals and workers of all kinds sincerely engaged in their various roles and tasks. It is good for us, then, to learn to read these stories, written on the front of our homes and on the paths of our streets, and to pass on their memory, in order to remind us that nothing lasting is born or grows without love.

Sometimes it happens that the greatness and grandeur of our projects can make us forget this, and fool us into thinking that we can be the sole authors of our lives, of our wealth, our wellbeing, our happiness. Yet, ultimately, life always brings us back to one reality: *without love we are nothing*.

Faith, then, confirms and enlightens us even more deeply regarding this conviction, because it tells us that at the root of our capacity to love and be loved is God himself, who with a Father's heart has willed and desired to bring us into existence in an utterly gratuitous way (cf. 1 Cor 8:6) and who in an equally gratuitous way has redeemed us and freed us from sin and death, through the death and resurrection of his only Son. It is in Jesus that all that we are and can become have their origin and fulfilment.

Thus, in our love we see a reflection of God's love, as Saint John Paul II said during his visit to this land (cf. *Homily at Holy Mass at the National Stadium, Singapore*, 20 November 1986). He went on to add the important point that, "love is characterized by a deep respect for all people, regardless of their race, belief or whatever makes them different from ourselves" (*ibid.*).

Brothers and sisters, these are important words for us because, beyond the astonishment we feel in front of human works, they remind us that there is an even greater wonder to be embraced with even greater admiration and respect: namely, the brothers and sisters we meet, without discrimination, every day on our path, as we see in Singaporean society and the Church, which are ethnically diverse and yet united and in solidarity!

The most beautiful building, the most precious treasure, the most profitable investment in God's eyes, what is it? It is ourselves, all of us, for we are beloved children of the same Father (cf. Lk 6:35), called in turn to spread love. The readings of this Mass speak to us of this in various ways. From different points of view, they describe the same charity, which is gentle in respecting the vulnerability of the weak (cf. 1 Cor 8:13), provident in knowing and accompanying those who are uncertain on life's journey (cf. Ps 138), and generous, kind in forgiving beyond all calculation and measure (cf. Lk 6:27-38). The love that God shows us, and that he invites us to share with others, "responds generously to the needs of the poor... is marked by compassion for those in sorrow... is quick to offer hospitality and is persevering in times of trial. It is always ready to forgive, to hope", to forgive and hope even to the point of returning "a blessing for a curse... love is the very centre of the Gospel" (SAINT JOHN PAUL II, *Homily at Holy Mass at the National Stadium, Singapore*, 20 November 1986).

Indeed, we can see this in a great many of the saints, those men and women who were so conquered by the God of mercy that they became a reflection of that mercy, an echo, a living image. Here, to conclude, I would like to call to mind just two of them.

The first is Mary, whose Most Holy Name we celebrate today. She has given hope to so many people by her support and presence, which she continues to do! On how many lips has her Name appeared, and continues to appear in moments of joy and sorrow! This is because in her, in Mary, we see the Father's love manifested in one of the most beautiful and fulsome of ways, for in her we see the tenderness – let us not forget tenderness! – of a mother, who understands and forgives everything and who never abandons us. This is why we turn to her!

The second is a saint dear to this land, who found hospitality here many times during his missionary journeys. I am speaking of Saint Francis Xavier, who was received in this land on numerous occasions, the last on 21 July 1552.

We still have a beautiful letter that he addressed to Saint Ignatius and his first companions, in which he expresses his desire to go to all the universities of his time in order to cry out "like a madman [to] those with more learning than charity" so that they might feel compelled to become missionaries for the love of their brothers and sisters, and to "cry out with all their heart: 'Lord, I am here! What do you want me to do?'" (*Letter, Cochin, January 1544*).

We too could make these words our own, following his and Mary's example: "Lord, here I am; what do you want me to do?", so that they may accompany us not only in these days, but always, as a constant commitment to listening and responding readily to the invitations to love and live justly that continue to come to us today from the infinite love of God.

## 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](http://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 10th October 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 in October. If you would like more information please contact Ian Epondulan: [youtholol7h@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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

22	First Holy Communion Presentation & Morning Tea	9.30am
26	Last Day School Term 3	
26	Parish Formation Course	7.00pm

## OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

### 21/22 September

Acolytes	Vigil: Frank Paiva 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: H. Gonzales, C. Gonzales 8am: L. Fernandes, B. Motha 9.30am: C. Brooks, K. Huihui	
Readers	Vigil: J. Sarmiento, T. Perak 8am: A. McNally, S. Manamperi 9.30am: C. Diaz. E. Miu	
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. Monteiro, C. Bellamin, J. Hoang 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Volunteer	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Fr. Henry 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary B.	
Church Cleaning	25 Sept	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Chrisa Gonzales 8am: Anne McNally 9.30am: Georgina Basili	

### 28/29 September

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Sandy Manamperi	
Ministers	Vigil: L. Bellissimo, A. Bellissimo 8am: M. Santos, F. Paiva 9.30am: M. Aquino, A. Walker	
Readers	Vigil: A. Punch, N. Do Rosario 8am: J. Irudayaraj, K. Walker 9.30am: R. Epondulan, F. Kennedy	
Altar Servers	Vigil: L. Sadipoor, J. Martinez, O. Martinez 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: C. Bellamin, C. Attard	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Shaun's Group 8am: Fr. Henry 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Team	
Church Cleaning	3 October	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Ugre 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Kathy Chamberlain	

# The Kids' Bulletin

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 22nd, 2024

What did Jesus say to the apostles after He told them that anyone who wanted to be great must be the servant?  
Look at this page in the mirror to find out!



Mark 9:30-37

## Multiple Choice

Choose the word that best matches the definition.

1. Someone who is employed to perform services for others  
A. servant B. little C. greatest D. house
2. A public way for the travel of vehicles, people, and animals  
A. first B. servant C. last D. road
3. The one coming before all others  
A. road B. first C. child D. little
4. A person or thing of the highest quality or character  
A. greatest B. last C. child D. servant
5. The one coming after all others  
A. little B. last C. house D. greatest
6. A building where people live, especially a family  
A. first B. last C. house D. child
7. A very young person  
A. house B. child C. road D. greatest
8. Small in size  
A. child B. servant C. little D. first

Unscramble the names of the twelve disciples.

- |                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. dujas _____   | 7. lipphi _____       |
| 2. eetrp _____   | 8. tsamho _____       |
| 3. nosim _____   | 9. udadhtsea _____    |
| 4. weadnr _____  | 10. semaj _____       |
| 5. htmtwea _____ | 11. owmeotbarhl _____ |
| 6. ajesm _____   | 12. ohnj _____        |



## Who Is the Greatest?

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all." Mark 9:35 (NIV)

Enter the correct words in the boxes based on the shape of the letters.



- |    |    |
|----|----|
| 1. | 5. |
| 2. | 6. |
| 3. | 7. |
| 4. | 8. |



first	road	child	great
last	little	house	servant