

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 School:	LOLO 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:	20th November 2024
WEEKDAY MASS:	Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am Thursday 9.00am	Baptism:	13th October 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/LOLO7Hills/

26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 29 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

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, Etelka Petkovics Michael Scott, Viliami Kalosipani Siale, Kilini Veamatahau.

Anniversaries: 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, Juliet Francis, Charlie Galea, Anthony Garcia, Teodoro Garcia, Zenaida Garcia, Charlie Gauci, Christine Gomez, Josephine Gomez, Denis Morrissey, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kutty, Bertu Mula, Joseph Mula, Tony Muscat, Rita Leon, Sheena Landagan, Antonio Marra, Cordula Paiva, Serge Pasin, Adrian Pereira, Benigno Rivaler Sr, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Michael Sant, Mary Silva, Rosary Silva, Melchor Usman, Dionisio Udan, Mary Zammit.

Remembrance: Fe Abadiano, Neil Amaratunga, Julliana Anciga, 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 & Lancer De Guire, Nevis Fernando, Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Sam Gabo, Mary & Sam Galea, Evangeline Garcia, Leandro Snr Garcia, Jose Garcia, Jean, Elsie, Gervais Garrick, Constance Gaycroft, Frans Gutajar, Selvam Irudayaraj, 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, Vassula Rydel, Jim Vella, Jonathan Tek Kie, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Priscilla Villanueva, 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 book of Numbers 11:25-29*

The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again. Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were enrolled among the rest.

These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, 'Look', he said, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' Then said Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth, 'My Lord Moses, stop them!' Moses answered him, 'Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.) | 3. So in them your servant finds instructions;
great reward is in their keeping.
But who can detect all his errors?
From hidden faults acquit me. (R.) |
| 2. The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just. (R.) | 4. From presumption restrain your servant
and let it not rule me.
Then shall I be blameless,
clean from grave sin. (R.) |
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SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St James 5:1-6*

An answer for the rich. Start crying, weep for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting, your clothes are all eaten up by moths. All your gold and your silver are corroding away, and the same corrosion will be your own sentence, and eat into your body.

It was a burning fire that you stored up as your treasure for the last days. Labourers mowed your fields, and you cheated them – listen to the wages that you kept back, calling out; realise that the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth you have had a life of comfort and luxury; in the time of slaughter you went on eating to your heart's content. It was you who condemned the innocent and killed them; they offered you no resistance.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Your word, O Lord, is truth:
make us holy in the truth.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 9:38-43. 45. 47-48*

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.'

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord



Dear friends,

Karl Rahner, a the famous German theologian of Modern time, one of the key contributors at the Vatican II Council, once coined the term 'Anonymous Christians' to define good non-Christian people who live an exemplary life according to Jesus' Gospel values such as love and forgiveness.

Rahner's Anonymous Christians concept very much reflects the principle Jesus calls for in the Gospel this Sunday as a response to John's effort to stop an exorcist to use Jesus' name to cast out devils, simply because he did not belong to the group of the disciples. Jesus ordered John not to stop him and pointed out the reason and he then

issued his principle that 'anyone who is not against us is for us.'

In other words, Jesus meant to encourage John and other disciples to reach out to good people outside their own group and make them feel welcome and included, and long before Jesus, Moses in the first reading was very wise in asking the Israelites to leave Eldad and Medad alone to prophesize, though they did not belong to the group of seventy elders officially chosen to do the task. Moses, in fact, encouraged his people through the young reporter to be inclusive instead of making people feel excluded in the community.

From the starting point of inclusiveness, Jesus then moved to the next point asking his followers to carry out acts of charity even something simple such as offering someone a cup of water, and promised that such an act will not be forgotten by God, and ended with a series of serious warnings against attempts to corrupt others by the sins they committed.

Here Jesus used a very strong language, such as throwing into the sea with a great millstone round the neck, cutting of the hand and foot, or taking out the eye, to ask his followers staying away from opting for any wrong decision.

Interestingly, Jesus mentioned the place called Gehenna in Hebrew meaning 'valley of Hinnom', a ravine located southwest of Jerusalem, served as a sacrificial place and later a dumping ground, smelly and filthy, and Gehenna somehow became the symbol of divine punishment awaiting those who led wicked lives. In the Gospel today, the word Gehenna was translated as 'hell' by Biblical scholars.

Let us ask Jesus to help us in our efforts (1) to make each other feel most welcome as members of one big family in this parish, (2) to reach out to those in need here and away, and (3) try our best to lead others by good examples in all we do and say.

Have an inclusiveness-oriented week,

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

THE PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT:

We welcome Dennis Farrar, speaking to us at all Masses this weekend about The *Passionist Family Group Movement (PFGM)* that began in Australia over 50 years ago to meet a very evident need for parishioners to get to know one another and so to build a strong community sense and also a commitment to each other. The idea is that you meet with other parishioners occasionally for a low cost or no cost outing. 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. OLOL Parish Pastoral Council has decided to start this initiative as an important strategy in connecting parishioners with the broader parish family.

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.

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.

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 'Lourdes Play Group'.

DAY LIGHT SAVINGS START 6TH OCTOBER

Please ensure you place your clocks forward 1 hour next Sunday at 2am.



CALLING ALL YEAR 12 STUDENTS!

With your HSC exams just around the corner, we invite you to attend our HSC Mass on Saturday 5th of October 6pm mass. During the Mass, you will receive a special blessing along with a small gift.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CONGRATULATIONS

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

SEASON OF CREATION 1ST SEPTEMBER - 4TH OCTOBER

Caring for our Common Home. Pope Francis, in *Laudato Si*, wrote "Humanity is called to recognise the need for a change of lifestyle." (23) This change begins at home. This week take a look at your buying habits and consider how much is really necessary. Since everything you buy needs energy for the materials, the production and transport, they add to the use of fossil fuels. Every purchase is potentially contributing to Climate Change. As a family, discuss your consumer actions. Find helpful advice such as in these websites: <https://www.un.org/en/actnow/ten-actions> and <https://www.climatechange.environment.nsw.gov.au/households/reducing-household-impact>

SEASON OF CREATION

Come join the Social Justice group for our last zoom chat for on Tuesday night 7:30pm for the season. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77961144291> [pwd=uuA7kg3VVtA9SVQBpoQNvp5o4Jso9Y.1](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77961144291) 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:

• Lead Facilitator of Diocesan Plan Implementation – Diocese of Parramatta

• Marriage Facilitator – Diocese of Parramatta

Applications close 3 October

• Manager, Catholic Youth Parramatta (CYP) – Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 12 October**

• Finance Administrator – Diocese of Parramatta –

Applications close 18 October.

More details at: 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 or visit the website

<https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=office-for-worship>

Missionaries of God's Love Springtime Creative Retreat: 11 – 13 October

The Missionaries of God's Love are organising a weekend retreat for men and women from Friday 11 to Sunday 13 October at Carmel House, 345 St Andrews Rd, Varroville. Come and experience the healing power of creativity as we step into the blossoming wonders of Spring. Nurture your inner self and watch the boundless possibilities that emerge from spending time co-creating with God. For enquiries, contact Judy - mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com



Catholic Theological College

Sign up for one or more online presentations.

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October 2024

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For more information and to register:

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World Day of Migrants & Refugees: 29 September

This Sunday, Catholics around the world celebrate the annual World Day of Migrants & Refugees (WDMR). The theme chosen by Pope Francis this year is "God Walks with His People". The Church throughout the world walks with the most vulnerable, with those in whom she encounters the Risen One. You can access inspiring resources coming from the Vatican and the "Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office", including a message from Pope Francis and a beautiful WDMR song, at linktr.ee/met.pje

From the Pastoral Plan 2024-2028: Behold, I Am With You Always

As the baptised People of God, we each have a personal responsibility to contribute positively to building a culture of welcome, hospitality and meaningful connection within the Church community. What are some concrete actions our faith community can take to better welcome and include all individuals, especially those who may feel marginalised or unwelcome? (Pg. 31-32, Pastoral Plan). Help shape a welcoming Church for all: www.parracatholic.org/synodality.

Rouse Hill Parish Deposition of Relics Mass: 5 October

On Saturday 5 October 5:30pm, all are welcome to attend a special Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv for the Depositing of the Relics of St Anthony of Padua, St Padre Pio, St Thérèse of Lisieux and Blessed Carlo Acutis in the St Francis Chapel within the Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Rouse Hill. For more information, contact the parish office on 8883 4063 or email rousehill@parracatholic.org

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.

Rouse Hill Parish Car Book Sale: 19 October

Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Rouse Hill, is having a Car Boot Sale on Saturday, 19 October between 10am to 3pm on the church grounds. All are welcome to join in with our Parish community, sell items that you no longer want, or you may even pick up a bargain! Spaces to hire are limited. Cost is \$100 for a double car space. If you wish to reserve a space, email parishoffice@ourladyoftheangels.org.au

LOLO SAFEGUARDING NEWS

The service of Church Workers has its origins in the Gospel and in particular in Jesus' statement that he had come that all might have life, 'life in all its fullness.' (John 10:10). OLOL follows the five basic principles for Church Workers in which they:

1. are committed to justice and equity
2. uphold the dignity of all people and their right to respect
3. are committed to safe and supportive relationships
4. reach out to those who are poor, alienated or marginalised
5. strive for excellence in all their work.

Service, given according to these principles, is life-enriching for both providers and recipients. We pray for the grace to fulfill these standards.

LOLO Vulnerable People's Participation

We are a Catholic community that champions the practice of supporting & engaging, listening and communicating with those who are most vulnerable such as children and young people. This in return encourages their participation.

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.

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.

"The Church wishes to listen to your voice, even your doubts and your criticism, make your voice heard, let it resonate in communities..."

- Pope Francis at Krakow opening speech for World Youth Day 2016

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.

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 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*.

Catechesis. The Apostolic Journey to Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and Singapore

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Today I would like to begin with some good news: I would like to present two suicidal people to you: these two are getting married next Saturday! A round of applause for them!

It is beautiful to see when love leads us on to form a new family: this is why I wanted to present these two to you, to give thanks to the Lord.

And today I will talk about the Apostolic Journey I made in Asia and Oceania: it is called an Apostolic Journey because it is not a tourist trip, it is a journey to bring the Word of the Lord, to make the Lord known, and also to get to know the souls of the peoples. And this is very good.

Paul VI, in 1970, was the first Pope to fly towards the rising sun, with long visits to the Philippines and Australia, but pausing also in various Asian countries and in the Samoan Islands. And that was a memorable journey, wasn't it?

Because the first to leave the Vatican was Saint John XXIII, who went to Assisi by train; then, Saint Paul VI did that: a memorable journey! In this one too I tried to follow his example but, being a few years older than he was, I limited myself to four countries: Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and Singapore. I thank the Lord who allowed me to do as an elderly Pope what I would have liked to do as a young Jesuit, because I wanted to go there as a missionary! A first reflection that comes naturally after this journey is that in thinking of the Church, we are still too Eurocentric, or as they say, "western". But in reality, *the Church is much bigger*, much bigger than Rome and Europe, much bigger! And also, if I may say so, much *more alive*, in those countries. I experienced this in an exciting way by meeting those communities, listening to the testimonies of priests, religious sisters, laypeople, and especially catechists – catechists are those who drive evangelization. Churches that do not proselytize, but grow "by attraction", as Benedict XVI wisely said.

In *Indonesia*, about ten per cent of people are Christians, and three per cent Catholics a minority. But what I encountered was a lively, dynamic Church, capable of living and transmitting the Gospel in a country which has a very noble culture, inclined to harmonize diversity, and at the same time has the largest Muslim presence in the world. In that context, I received confirmation that *compassion* is the path that Christians can and must walk to bear witness to Christ the Saviour, and at the same time to encounter the great religious and cultural traditions. On the subject of compassion, let us not forget the three characteristics of the Lord: closeness, mercy and compassion. God is close, God is merciful and God is compassionate. If a Christian does not have compassion, he is of no use. "Faith, fraternity, compassion" was the motto of the visit to Indonesia: on the basis of these words, the Gospel enters every day into the life of the people in a concrete way, welcoming it and giving it the grace of Jesus who died and rose again. These words are like a bridge, like the underpass that connects the Cathedral of Jakarta to the largest Mosque in Asia. There, I saw that fraternity is the future, it is the answer to anti-civilization, to the diabolical plots of hatred and war – also sectarianism. There is brotherhood, fraternity.

I rediscovered the beauty of an outbound missionary Church in Papua New Guinea, an archipelago stretching out towards the immensity of the Pacific Ocean. There, the diverse ethnic groups speak over eight hundred languages – eight hundred languages are spoken there – an ideal environment for the Holy Spirit, who loves to make the message of love resonate in the symphony of languages. What the Holy Spirit makes is not uniformity, it is symphony, harmony; He is the patron, He is the master of harmony. There, in a particular way, the protagonists have been and still are the missionaries and catechists. I rejoiced to be able to stay a while with the missionaries and catechists of today; and I was moved to listen to the young people's songs and music: in them, I saw a new future, without tribal violence, without dependency, without ideological and economic colonialism; a future of fraternity and care for the wondrous natural environment. Papua New Guinea can be a "laboratory" for this model of integral development, inspired by the "leaven" of the Gospel. Because there is no new humanity without new men and new women, and only the Lord makes these. And I would also like to mention the visit to Vanimu, where the missionaries are between the forest and the sea. They enter the forest in search of the most hidden tribes, there... that is a beautiful memory.

The power of the Christian message of human and social promotion is particularly evident in the history of Timor-Leste. There, the Church has shared the independence process with the entire population, always guiding it towards peace and reconciliation. It is not a matter of the ideologization of faith, no; it is faith that becomes culture and at the same time enlightens it, purifies it, elevates it. This is why I relaunched the fruitful relationship between faith and culture, to which Saint John Paul II had pointed in his visit. Faith must be inculturated and cultures must be evangelized. Faith and culture. But above all, I was struck by the beauty of the people: a people who have endured much but are joyful, a people wise in suffering. A population that not only bears a lot of children – there was a sea of children, so many, eh? – but also teaches them how to smile. I will never forget the smile of the children of that land, of that region. The children there smile all the time, and there are many of them. That faith teaches them to smile, and this is a guarantee for the future. In short, in Timor-Leste I saw the youthfulness of the Church: families, children, young people, many seminarians and aspirants to consecrated life. I would like to say, without exaggeration, that I breathed the "air of springtime" there!

The last stop on this journey was *Singapore*. A country very different to the other three: a city-State, ultra-modern, an economic and financial hub for Asia and beyond. There, Christians are a minority, but they nonetheless form a lively Church, engaged in fostering harmony and fraternity between the various ethnicities, cultures and religions. Even in wealthy Singapore there are the "little ones", who follow the Gospel and become salt and light, witnesses to a *hope greater* than what economic gains can guarantee.

I would like to thank these peoples who listened to me with such warmth, with such love, and to thank their governors who helped a great deal with this visit, so that it could be conducted in an orderly manner, without problems. I thank all those who also collaborated in this, and I give thanks to God for the gift of this journey! And I reiterate my gratitude to everyone, to all of them. May God bless the peoples I encountered, and guide them on the way to peace and fraternity! Greetings to all!

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 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 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

October

5	HSC Mass	6.00pm
6	Daylight Savings Starts	2.00am
10	Over 50's Group Meeting	10.30am
10	Lourdes: Luminate Young Adults Group Night	6.30pm

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

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	

5/6 October

Acolytes	Vigil: Daniel La Guidara 8am: Frank Paiva 9.30am: Ramzee Michael	
Ministers	Vigil: L. La Guidara, M. Mifsud 8am: C. Gonzales, H. Gonzales 9.30am: C. Brooks, M. Michael	
Readers	Vigil: C. Rodrigues, M. Simic 8am: A. McNally, S. Manamperi 9.30am: E. Pieris, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. La Guidara, C. La Guidara, M. Gluvic 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: J. Pieris, M. Pieris	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Tongan Choir	
Musicians	Vigil: Youth for Christ 8am: Fr. Henry 9.30am: Couples for Christ	
Flowers	Fenty & Liz	
Church Cleaning	12 October	Tongan Community Edgardo Barcelon Edgar Cabrera
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Sastina Pieris	

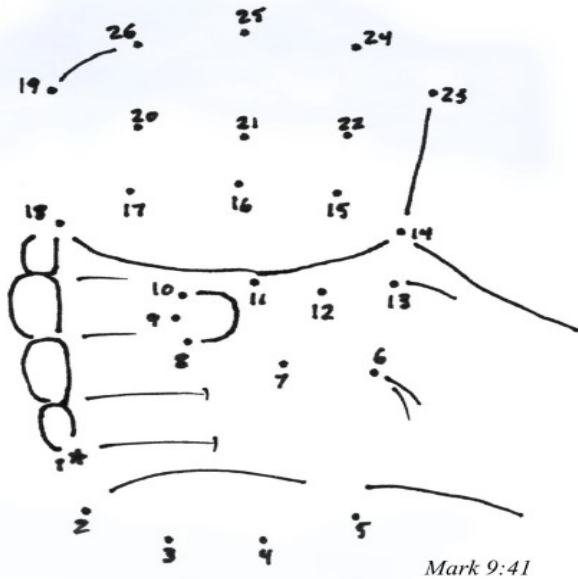
The Kids' Bulletin

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 29th, 2024

Jesus in Our Midst

Look for and circle these 14 things in the picture.

1. Apple
2. Balloon
3. Baseball
4. Bird
5. Bow
6. Cat
7. Cell phone
8. Feather
9. Guitar
10. Hamburger
11. Scissors
12. Skateboard
13. Strawberry
14. Teddy bear

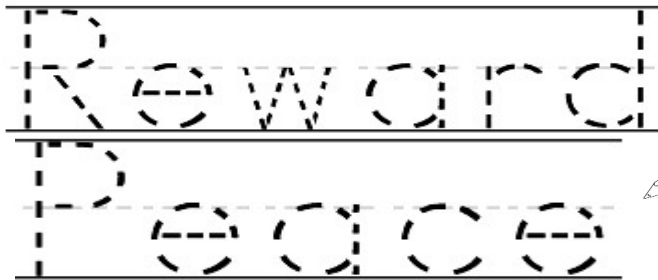


Mark 9:41

What is it?

Connect the dots to find out!

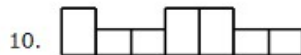
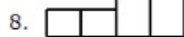
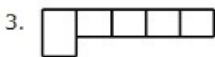
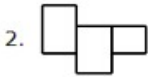
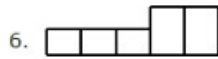
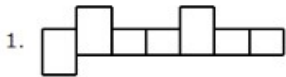
Jesus says in today's Gospel reading that anyone who gives one to someone for His sake will receive their just reward.



Pass the Salt, Please!

Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again?" Mark 9:50a (NIV)

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



WORD SEARCH

S	T	S	N	I	A	G	A	S	S
L	A	W	O	R	L	A	E	L	E
I	I	S	B	A	E	M	L	L	S
V	N	V	M	R	T	T	C	E	E
E	S	E	E	A	E	A	A	H	R
D	R	A	W	E	R	T	T	W	T
E	K	E	N	I	V	I	S	I	S
I	C	E	M	M	A	L	B	A	A
V	E	R	I	F	A	W	O	R	M
E	N	O	T	S	L	L	I	M	E

- MASTER
- DEVILS
- WATER
- REWARD
- MIRACLE
- NECK
- HELL
- OBSTACLE
- MILLSTONE
- LAME
- FAITH
- WORM

world	dye	plastic	peace	lose
salt	taste	leather	flavor	food