

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, Laura Ilioski
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: 27th October 2024
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.com.au
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

20 October 2024 • Year B



Let us Pray for the Sick

Rick Abadam, Leonila Ahillon, Florence Arinanan, Mary Attard, Katie and Sara Bartolo, Rodney Bell, Rosella Booth, Lawrence Charles, Ben Dixon, Alma Caguimbal, Mary Camilleri, Aiden Chan, Para Dias, Lucia Fernando, Ronald Fountain, Renuka Fernando, Chmouneh Hayek, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Anthony Janicska, Mary Jordan, Paul Leong, Bob & Therese Marini, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Carlos Mureno, Willy Ong, Maricar Poblete, Debra Price, Fresnido Ruales, Camy Ratnam, Eustace Ratnam, Sue Tipaldo, Natalie Woodward.

If you would like to add to our Sick List or know of any Parishioner who is unwell please contact Father Henry or email the Parish Office: secretary@olol7hills.com.au

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

Let us Pray for the Deceased

Recently Deceased: Emma Barriom, Vivienne Cameron, Murial Chary, Barrie Chamberlain, Dulcie Duraisamy, Sandra Eichhom, Henrieta Fernando, Jasmin Fernando, Ethan Garcia, Ricardo Garcia, Rajan Gungse Kera, Cynthia Lopez, Josephine Lord, Etelka Petkovics, Sria Shami, Michael Scott, Viliami Kalosipani Siale, Marija Simic, Kilini Veamatahau.

Anniversaries: Mary Alagiah, Dominique Alfred, Emmanuel and Alizabeth Azzopardi, Horace Baptist, Ronald Barley, Joseph Bartok, Elaine Bosen, Peter & Helen Bonnici, Denis Brophy, Luz 'Bhing' Cayabyab, Catherine Chandra, Aloysean Corera, Ngan Siu Eng, John Fernando, Nevis Fernando, M.A Fernando, Juliet Francis, Anthony Garcia, Francisca Garcia, Teodoro Garcia, Zenaida Garcia, Christine Gomez, Josephine Gomez, Madaline Hughes, Danilo Lagare, Luiz Lagare, Felicidad & Felina Maglaya, Rita Leon, Sr Christina Morrissey, Denis Morrissey, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kutty, Tony Muscat, Cole Ngan, Cordula Paiva, Romeo Magada Palmos, Adrian Pereira, John Portelli, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Michael Sant, Mary Silva, Rosary Silva, Loreta Laberinto Udan, Melchor Usman, Dionisio Udan.

Remembrance: Fe Abadiano, Neil Amaratunga, Julliana Anciga, France Angseeing, Carmen Attard, Roy, Edna Bacud, Mary & Des Barney, Sam Borg, Myrna Cruz, Saviour Caruana, Thuy Thi Bich Dong, Tania McGove, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Camen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Lancer De Guire, Florencio Flores, Nevis Fernando, Francis Jr, Kevin, Mario & 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, Sheena Landagan, Apolinario Maylaya, Laval Marooven, Pauline Meilak, Mangion & Cini Family, Michael (Mike) McNamee, Maureen & John Mead, Mary Mifsud, Joseph Mifsud, Emilia & William Mifsud, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Anton & Lourda Motha, Louis, Stephen & Joseph Mula, Mary & Francis Muscat, Mile Perak, Peter John & Carmelita, John & Roseline Ratnam, Vassula Rydel, Jonathan Tek Kie, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Suong Thi Nguyet Vo, 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 is for the support of Priests throughout the Diocese.

ON-LINE BANK DONATIONS

Account name: Parramatta Diocesan Clergy
BSB: 067 950
ACC: 00 00 4265
Reference: Seven Hills - 6035

SECOND COLLECTION or Planned Giving Program

On behalf of the Parish Community, I would like to thank you very much for your ongoing support, which has been absolutely vital in keeping our Parish going strong. Projects completed include the Hall Kitchen renovation, Parish Meeting Room painting, Parish Office and Meeting Room Roof painted, Church roof cleaned and ceiling repaired and painted.

ON-LINE BANK DONATIONS

Account Name: Seven Hills Catholic Church.
BSB: 067 950
ACC: 000552
 Reference: (Your Planned Giving envelope number or for a one off donation, 'DONATION')

IN-PERSON BANK DEPOSIT (at a Bank Inst / Branch)

Account Name: Seven Hills Catholic Church
BSB: 062 315
ACC ID # 00901486
AGENT # 660

SMART DEVICE TERMINALS

All donations made via these new machines are shared 50/50 with our Diocese.

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 prophet Isaiah 53:10-11*

The Lord has been pleased to crush his servant with suffering. If he offers his life in atonement, he shall see his heirs, he shall have a long life and through him what the Lord wishes will be done. His soul's anguish over he shall see the light and be content.

By his sufferings shall my servant justify many, taking their faults on himself.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

1. The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**

3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. **(R.)**

2. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love.
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 4:14-16*

Since in Jesus, the Son of God, we have the supreme high priest who has gone through to the highest heaven, we must never let go of the faith that we have professed.

For it is not as if we had a high priest who was incapable of feeling our weaknesses with us; but we have one who has been tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin. Let us be confident, then, in approaching the throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from him and find grace when we are in need of help.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Son of Man came to serve
and to give his life as a ransom for all.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 10:35-45*

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached Jesus. 'Master,' they said to him, 'we want you to do us a favour.' He said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' They said to him, 'Allow us to sit one at your right hand and the other at your left in your glory.' 'You do not know what you are asking' Jesus said to them. 'Can you drink the cup that I must drink, or be baptised with the baptism with which I must be baptised?' They replied, 'We can.' Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I must drink you shall drink, and with the baptism with which I must be baptised you shall be baptised, but as for seats at my right hand or my left, these are not mine to grant; they belong to those to whom they have been allotted.'

When the other ten heard this they began to feel indignant with James and John, so Jesus called them to him and said to them: 'You know that among the pagans their so-called rulers lord it over them, and their great men make their authority felt. This is not to happen among you. No; anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all. For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

The Gospel of the Lord



Dear friends,

Humanly speaking, Jesus had to be frustrated many times with the Apostles throughout his ministry for they failed to understand his mission and teachings. For instance, just a few weeks ago, he had to throw the word Satan at Peter for his effort to steer him away from going through his Passion, though Peter was able to tell Jesus of his identity as the Christ, the One chosen and anointed by God.

The Gospel account this Sunday shows us another example of such a misunderstanding pattern involving James and John this time, who made a bold move lobbying Jesus to reserve the two most powerful positions in his court for them, once his attempt to overthrow the Roman completed and the kingdom of Israel was restored.

It's interesting to remember that the seats on either side of the throne in the old days were places of power and glory the king reserved for the prince successor and the prime minister, and their occupants could have the king's ear at any time, while the rest had to put in a request for an audience with him and probably had to wait days or weeks for the opportunity to see him. Here it could be safe to say that James and John were ambitious and their intention of this pair of brothers was nothing less than to secure the top positions in the cabinet.

In his response, Jesus made them realize their ignorance and invited the two brothers to share the cup he was going to drink and go through the baptism he was going to be baptised. Though they accepted the invitation Jesus offered them, I doubt that they knew it was the cup of bitterness and the baptism of fire that Jesus was going to endure in his Passion. Such a self-centric move by James and John, of course, caused unnecessary unrest amongst the group of Twelves, and Jesus assured them that such a practice had no place in his kingdom. The disciples were asked to distance themselves from the power-seeking leadership on the one hand and on the other hand put into practice the humble service model. 'Anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant and anyone wants to be the first among you must be slave to all,' said Jesus.

Let us pray this week for the grace to support us in our effort to drink the cup of troubles and hardships the Lord calls us to share at times in our lives, and we also pray for the strength to assist us, especially our Church leaders to humbly serve those we are called to serve the way Jesus expects us to do.

Have a humility-oriented week,

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Members of the Council spent some time to listen, reflect upon and discuss the ideas about how to build up an inclusive and welcoming Church found in the Pastoral Plan of the Diocese and agreed to pay extra attention to the Welcoming group and the Parish Family Group. We would like to thank Daniel La Guidara, Frank Paiva and Edward Vinoth Pieris for their generosity to help co-ordinate these two groups.

WELCOMERS OF ALL AGES NEEDED

We are seeking your services in providing a welcoming experience to our fellow parishioners and visitors that join us for mass. If you are an adult, child of youth age, or a child (accompanied by an adult) and you notice that any one of the three doors don't have a welcomer, please feel free to welcome and hand out parish bulletins to those that arrive. A warm smile and a simple gesture such as 'Hello' or 'Welcome' is all that's needed.

FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT (FGM) AT OLOL

Thank you to those parishioners who have submitted the Passionist FGM form. We are excited to announce that interim groups are currently being formed and a "Formation Day" for a meet-n-greet will be held in November. Details to follow. It's not too late to register your interest for this great initiative. To do so, please fill out the form and drop it into the Communication box at the rear of the church. Coordinated by Frank Paiva and Edward Pieris.

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.

STEP ONE ZUMBA

Tuesday nights at 7pm in the Parish Hall, all are welcome to join our young adults for Zumba with teacher JM.

CATHOLIC MISSION CHURCH APPEAL WEEKEND

You're invited to partner with the Church in Mongolia to help deliver essential services to people who need it most. The House of Mercy will provide a haven for people, including those affected by homelessness and domestic violence. Without your partnership, people in need will go without the assistance they require. During World Mission Sunday, we are called to "Invite others to the banquet", and we invite you to share the warmth of God's love with our brothers and sisters who need it most in Mongolia. You can support this work by using the appeal envelope, going online at catholicmission.org.au/mongolia, or scanning this QR code. Your gift will also assist other Church programs around the world.



THE CHRISTMAS STORY PRESENTATION

Dear Parents and Guardians, Your children are invited to participate in the presentation of the "Christmas Story" on **Tuesday 24th December at the 6pm Family Mass**. Your child will be given a role to perform. To participate children must be 5-12 years of age. We will practise on the following Sundays during the **9.30am mass**: Sunday 20th October, Sunday 3rd November, Sunday 10th November, Sunday 1st December, Sunday 15th December and Sunday 22nd December (**we may need an extra 10-15 minutes so we can practice in the Church**).

On the **Tuesday 24th December, please be at Church at 5.00-5.30pm so we can organise the children in their final costumes**. If your child is interested, please scan the QR code below and enter details for your child, please fill out one form per child. For your children to feel confident when performing, we ask they commit to the above practice dates. Practice will go for about 20-25 minutes. If you have any questions, please contact our Parish Office.

Many thanks,
Jem Demeterio Children's Liturgy Coordinator



DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant:

- It Support Engineer

Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 16 October**

- Finance Administrator

Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 18 October**

- Administrative Support, Risk, Governance & Compliance

Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 30 October**

- Administration Assistant Holy Spirit Parish

St Clair – **Applications close 31 October.**

- Accountant – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains.

More details at: parracatholic.org/about/jobs/

Diocese of Parramatta Wedding Anniversary Mass: 27 October

The annual Diocese of Parramatta Wedding Anniversary Mass will be held on Sunday the 27th of October at 11am, St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Bishop Vincent will celebrate Solemn 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 or phone 0488 000 211 by 20 October. Family and friends are welcome.

MET Annual Bishop Vincent Vatican II Lecture: 20 November

You are invited to Bishop Vincent's annual lecture on Vatican II on Wednesday 20 November, 6:30pm – 8:30pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion Street Blacktown, cnr Flushcombe Road. Register for limited seating via <https://parracatholic.org/events/vatican-ii-lecture/> for more information contact met@parracatholic.org

Mount Schoenstatt Shrine Time Holy Hour for Youth and Young Adults

The Mount Schoenstatt community invite young and young adults for Holy Hour every fourth Sunday of the month from 7pm to 8pm at the Mt Schoenstatt Shrine, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa, followed by a social gathering afterwards. There will be opportunities for praise and worship, prayer, reflection, confession and benediction. For information, contact Sr M Rita on 0493 02 6628 or smita@schoenstatt.org.au

LOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

Privacy and Confidentiality

In your role here at LOL, you may have access to private and confidential information about our Parish, the Diocese, clergy, employees and parishioners. You are expected to keep this information entirely confidential. This is a legal requirement and also applies to the use of social media and email. Discussing information, you have received during your volunteer role with staff, family, friends or any other volunteers – inside or outside the Parish or Diocese – is not acceptable. From time to time, photos may be taken of you whilst volunteering. If you do not wish your photo to be used, please inform the person taking the photo or through the Parish Office. Permission from a child's parent/guardian must be sought before taking any photographs of children.



BLACKTOWN NETWORK OF FAITH COMMUNITIES

Monday the 21st October, 7:30pm- 8:30pm via Zoom, there will be a Interreligious Dialogue Meeting between people of different faiths across Blacktown Local Government Area. Please contact Ian Epondulan for the details: 0401161264 or youtholol7h@gmail.com

Campion College Festival: 26 October

Mark your calendars for Saturday, 26 October, and bring the whole family for a day of fun and community spirit at the Campion College Festival. Discover Australia's first liberal arts college and enjoy market stalls, children's rides, a muscle car show, a second-hand book sale and campus tours. 10am-4pm | FREE entry | All welcome | Austin Woodbury Place, Toongabbie www.campion.edu.au/festival

MET FaithLIFE Ministry Leaders Short Course: Starting 29 October

Wanting to refresh your skills in ministry? Looking or currently involved in ministry with your faith community? Curious about learning from the experience of an international Catholic movement? Sign up for the 2-session FaithLIFE Ministry short course with Young Christian Workers (YCW) on Tuesdays 29 OCT + 5 NOV! For more information and to registration visit <https://parracatholic.org/events/faithlife-ministry> or contact met@parracatholic.org

Diocesan Delegation for Sydney Alliance Convention: 30 October

As a member of the Sydney Alliance, the Parramatta Diocese invites you to be part of our delegation at the 2024 Sydney Alliance Convention. It will be an opportunity to come together from across faith-, community- and union-based organisations that reflect the diversity of Greater Sydney. The Convention will build momentum for affordable housing, clean energy, and action on climate ahead of the 2025 Federal Election: 30 October 2024, 6pm-8:45pm, Bowman Hall in Blacktown. Find out more and register online at tinyurl.com/sa-convention24

MET Worship Serving at the Altar Workshop: 2 November

Back by popular demand! We have decided to repeat the 'Back to Basics' Seminar for Acolytes and Ministers of the Altar (Senior Servers) who missed the last session and those who would like to attend again. This seminar will occur on Saturday 2 November from 9:30am to 3pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Refreshments and lunch will be provided. RSVP by 26 October to the below email hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org or 0488 000 211.

LOL 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>.

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.

POPE FRANCIS' ANGELUS

Dear brothers and sisters, good Sunday!

The Gospel of today's liturgy (*Mk 10, 17:30*) tells us about a rich man who encounters Jesus and asks Him: "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" (v. 17). Jesus invites him to leave everything and follow Him, but the man, sorrowful, goes away because, as the text says, "he had great possessions" (v. 23). It costs to leave everything.

We can see the two movements of this man: at the beginning he *runs*, to go to Jesus; at the end, though, *he goes away sorrowful*, he goes away sad. First, he runs towards, and then he goes away. Let us dwell on this.

First of all, this man goes to Jesus running. It is as if something in his heart urges him on: in fact, although he has many riches, he is dissatisfied, he feels restlessness inside, he is searching for a fuller life. As the sick and the possessed often do (cf. *Mk 3:10; 5:6*), we see this in the Gospel, he throws himself at the Master's feet; he is rich, yet in need of healing. He is rich but needs to be healed. Jesus looks at him with love (v. 21); then, He proposes a "therapy": to sell everything he has, give it to the poor and follow Him. But, at this point, comes an unexpected conclusion: this man's face falls and he goes away! So great and impetuous was his desire to meet Jesus; how cold and swift was his farewell.

We, too, carry in our hearts an irrepressible need for happiness and for a life full of meaning; however, we can fall into the illusion of thinking that the answer is found in the possession of material things and earthly securities.

Instead, Jesus wants to bring us back to the truth of our desires and to make us discover that, in reality, the goodness we yearn for is God Himself, His love for us and the eternal life that He and He only can give us. The true wealth is to be looked upon with love by the Lord – this is a great wealth – and, as Jesus does with that man, to love each other by making our life a gift for others. Brothers and sisters, therefore, Jesus invites us to risk, to "risk love": to sell everything to give it to the poor, which means divesting ourselves of the self and our false securities, making ourselves attentive to those who are in need and sharing our possessions, not just things, but what we are: our talents, our friendship, our time, and so on.

Brothers and sisters, that rich man did not want to risk, to risk what? He did not want to risk love, and he went away with a sad face. And us? Let us ask ourselves: what is our heart attached to? How do we satiate our hunger for life and happiness? Do we know how to share with those who are poor, with those who are in difficulty or in need of listening, of a smile, of a word to help them regain hope? Or who need to be listened to. Let us remember this: the true wealth is not the goods of this world, the true wealth is being loved by God, and learning to love like Him.

And now let us ask for the intercession of the Virgin Mary, so that she may help us discover in Jesus the treasure of life.

After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters!

I continue to follow with concern what is happening in the Middle East, and I ask once again for an immediate ceasefire on all fronts. Let us pursue the paths of diplomacy and dialogue to achieve peace.

I am close to all the populations involved, in Palestine, Israel and Lebanon, where I ask the United Nations peace-keeping forces to be respected. I pray for all the victims, for the displaced, for the hostages whom I hope will soon be released, and I hope that this great pointless suffering, engendered by hatred and revenge, will end soon.

Brothers and sisters, war is an illusion, it is a defeat: it will never lead to peace, it will never lead to security, it is a defeat for all, especially for those who believe themselves invincible. Stop, please!

I appeal for the Ukrainians not to be left to freeze to death; stop the air strikes against the civilian population, always the most affected. Stop the killing of innocent people!

I am following the dramatic situation in Haiti, where violence continues against the population, forced to flee from their own homes in search of safety elsewhere, inside and outside the country. Let us never forget our Haitian brothers and sisters. I ask everyone to pray for an end to all forms of violence and, with the commitment of the international community, to continue working to build peace and reconciliation in the country, always defending the dignity and rights of all.

I greet you, Romans and pilgrims from Italy and many countries, in particular the Militia of the Immaculate founded by Saint Maximilian Kolbe, the parishes of Resuttano, Caltanissetta, the Italian Paralympic athletes with their guides and assistants, and the *Pax Christi International* group.

I greet once more the new students of the Urban College, whom I met this morning.

Next Friday, 18 October, the "Aid to the Suffering Church" Foundation is organizing the initiative "One million children praying the Rosary for peace in the world". Thank you to all the boys and girls who are participating!

Let us join with them and entrust to the intercession of Our Lady – today is the anniversary of her final apparition in Fatima – let us entrust to the intercession of Our Lady tormented Ukraine, Myanmar, Sudan and the other populations who suffer because of war and any form of violence and misery.

I greet the young people of the *Immacolata*, and I see Polish, Brazilian, Argentine, Ecuadorian and French flags... I greet you all!

I wish everyone a good Sunday. Please, do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your lunch, and *arrivederci!*

POPE FRANCIS TO JESUITS: ROLES FOR WOMEN IN THE VATICAN ARE CHANGING

Cycle of Catechesis. The Spirit and the Bride. The Holy Spirit guides the people of God towards Jesus our hope. 8. «They were all filled with the Holy Spirit» The Holy Spirit in the Acts of the Apostles

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

In our itinerary of catechesis on the Holy Spirit and the Church, today we will refer to the Book of the Acts of the Apostles. The account of the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost begins with a description of some preparatory signs – the rush of wind and the tongues of fire – but finds its conclusion in the affirmation that “*they were all filled with the Holy Spirit*” (Acts 2:4). Saint Luke – who wrote the Acts of the Apostles – emphasizes that the Holy Spirit is He who ensures the *universality* and *unity* of the Church. The immediate effect of being “filled with the Holy Spirit” is that the Apostles “began to speak in other tongues”, and came out of the Upper Room to proclaim Jesus Christ to the crowd (cf. Acts 2:4 et seq.).

In so doing, Luke wished to highlight the universal mission of the Church, as a sign of a new unity between all peoples. We see the Spirit work for unity in two ways. On the one hand, He drives the Church outwards, so that she can welcome an ever-greater number of people and peoples; on the other hand, she gathers them within to consolidate the unity achieved. He teaches her to expand in universality, and consolidate in unity. Universal and one: this is the mystery of the Church.

We see the first of the two movements – universality in process in Chapter 10 of the *Acts*, in the episode of the conversion of Cornelius. On the day of Pentecost, the Apostles had proclaimed Christ to all the Jews and observers of the Mosaic law, whatever people they belonged to. It takes another “Pentecost”, very similar to the first, in the house of the centurion Cornelius, to induce the Apostles to expand their horizon and break down the last barrier, the one between Jews and pagans (cf. Acts 10-11).

This ethnical expansion is accompanied by a geographical one. Paul we read again in the *Acts of the Apostles* (cf. 16:6-10) – wanted to proclaim the Gospel in a new region of Asia Minor; but it is written that they had been “forbidden by the Holy Spirit”; he attempted to enter Bithyn’ia, “but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them”. We immediately discover the reason for these surprising prohibitions of the Spirit: the following night the Apostle received in a dream the order to pass into Macedonia. The Gospel thus left its native Asia and entered into Europe.

The second movement of the Holy Spirit – that which creates unity – is seen in action in Chapter 15 of the *Acts*, in the proceedings of the so-called Council of Jerusalem. The problem is how to ensure that the universality achieved does not compromise the unity of the Church. The Holy Spirit does not always create unity suddenly, with miraculous and decisive actions, as at Pentecost. He also does so – and in the majority of cases – with discreet work, respecting human time and differences, passing through people and institutions, prayer and confrontation. In, we would say today, a synodal manner. Indeed, this is what happens at the Council of Jerusalem, regarding the matter of the obligations of the Mosaic Law to be imposed on those who converted from paganism. The solution was announced to the entire Church, with the well-known words: “For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us...” (Acts 15:28).

Saint Augustine explains the unity achieved by the Holy Spirit with an image, which has become classic: “How the soul is of the body of man is the holy Spirit of the body of Christ, which is the Church” The image helps us to understand something important. The Holy Spirit does not create the unity of the Church from the outside; He does not limit Himself to commanding us to be united. He Himself is the “bond of unity”. It is He who creates the unity of the Church.

As always, we will conclude with a thought that helps us to pass from the Church as a whole to each one of us. The unity of the Church is the unity between people and is not achieved on the drawing board, but in life. It is implemented in life. We all want unity, we all desire it from the depths of our heart; and yet it is so difficult to attain that, even within marriage and the family, union and concord are among the most difficult things to achieve and even harder to maintain.

The reason why unity among us is difficult is that, yes, everyone wants unity, but based on one’s own point of view, without considering that the other person in front of him thinks exactly the same thing about his “own” point of view. In this way, unity becomes even more elusive. The unity life, the unity of Pentecost, according to the Spirit, is achieved when one makes the effort to put God, not oneself, at the centre. Christian unity is built in this way too: not waiting for others to reach us where we are, but moving together towards Christ.

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to help us be instruments of unity and peace.

POPE FRANCIS’ LETTER TO CARDINALS- ELECT

By Christopher Wells

Pope Francis has written a personal **letter** to the 21 men – bishops and priests from around the world – whom he will raise to the Cardinalate at a consistory set for December 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Noting that their elevation to the College of Cardinals will associate them with the Roman Clergy, the Bishop of Rome reminds them that membership in the College “is an expression of the Church’s unity and of the bond that unites all the Churches with this Church of Rome.”

‘Eyes raised, hands joined, feet bare’

In his letter, the Pope Francis invites the Cardinals-elect “to embody the three attitudes with which an Argentinian poet (Francisco Luis Bernárdez) once characterized Saint John of the Cross, and which are also applicable to us: ‘eyes raised, hands joined, feet bare.’”

Explaining these three attitudes, the Holy Father tells the soon-to-be Cardinals that their new service within the Church will require them to “lengthen your gaze and broaden your heart” to see further and love more fervently.

They must keep their hands joined in prayer to enable them “to shepherd well the flock of Christ,” the Pope said, adding that prayer is “the realm of discernment” that helps discern God’s will and follow it.

Finally, the Pope said, they must keep their feet bare “because they touch the harsh realities of all those parts of the world overwhelmed by pain and suffering,” which will demand from the new Cardinals “great compassion and mercy.”

Concluding his letter, Pope Francis thanked the Cardinals-elect for their generosity and assured them of his prayers “that the title of ‘servant’ (deacon) will increasingly eclipse that of ‘eminence.’”

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 Tuesday 5th November 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 November. 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 9.00am-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

19 & 20	Catholic Missions Appeal	All Masses
21	Interreligious Dialogue Zoom Meeting	7.30pm

November

1	Feast of All Saints Masses	8am & 9.15am
---	----------------------------	--------------

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

19/20 October

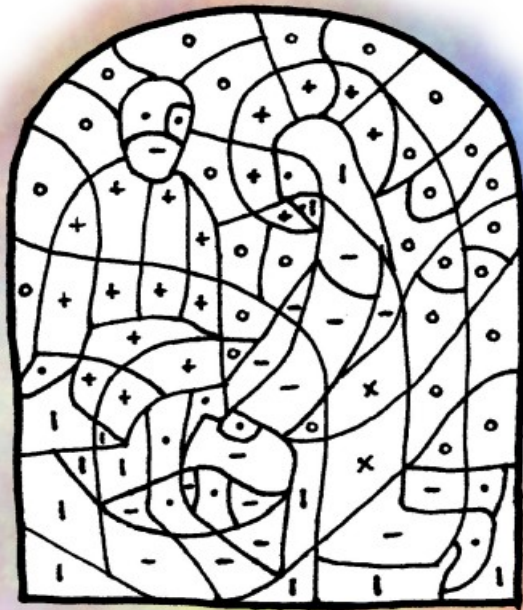
Acolytes	Vigil: Frank Paiva 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am: Ryan Epondulan	
Ministers	Vigil: C.Gonzales, H. Gonzales 8am: L. Fernandes, A.McNally 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui, Kamela Huihui	
Readers	Vigil: M.Simic, B.Moitha 8am: J.Irudayaraj, E.Miu 9.30am: M.Aquino, A.Walker	
Altar Servers	Vigil: S.Thoms, E. Reardon, CP Bellamin 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: L.Sadipoor, SUB RQD	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: K.Thoms, Christine Woodward & Shaun's Group 8am: Fr. Henry & Christine Clarke & CW 9.30am: Fr Henry & Christine Woodward	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	23 October	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Anne McNally 9.30am: Volunteer	

26/27 October

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Sandy Manamperi	
Ministers	Vigil: T. Perak, N. Shami 8am: E. Gartner, A. McNally 9.30am: M. Aquino, C. Brooks	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, A. Punch 8am: M. Santos, B. Moitha 9.30am: R. Nigli, F. Kennedy	
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. Bagatella, A. Laus, J. Hoang 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: C. Attard, A. Melki	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Maximilian Chorale 8am: Fr. Henry 9.30am: OFS	
Flowers	Annette & Mary B.	
Church Cleaning	9 November	Tongan Community Edgardo Barcelon Edgar Cabrera
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Ugre 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Kathy Chamberlain	

The Kids' Bulletin

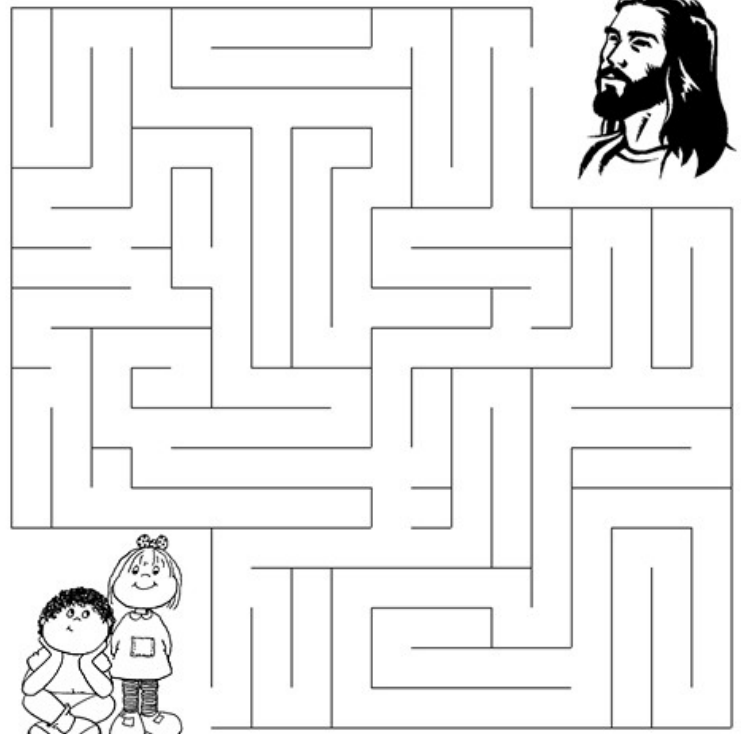
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 20th, 2024



Mark 10:35-45

Jesus said that whoever wishes to be the greatest must be the servant of all. Colour in the picture to see who shows us how to serve best.

- Blue
- Skin Colour
- + Yellow
- ! Brown
- White
- × Red



Winning the Prize

"And whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:44-45 (NLT)

Based on Mark 10:35-45



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

JOHN	LEFT	RULER	FIRST	ZEBEDEE
HONOR	SERVANT	JAMES	LEADER	PLACE
SUFFER	RIGHT	THRONE	REQUEST	FAVOR
AUTHORITY	SLAVE	SIT	WORLD	SONS