

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:	LOL 8869 6800
Parish Deacon:	Deacon Thong Nguyen	Principal:	Ms Keiran Byrnes
Parish Office Team:	Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Jane Nguyen, Laura Ilioski	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:	10th November 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/LOL7Hills/

31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 3 November 2024 • Year B



Let us Pray for the Sick

Rick Abadam, Florence Arinanan, Katie and Sara Bartolo, Tricia Batongbacal, Rodney Bell, Lawrence Charles, Ben Dixon, Alma Caguimbal, Para Dias, Mary Camilleri, Aiden Chan, Lucia Fernando, Renuka Fernando, Chmouneh Hayek, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Mary Jordan, Paul Leong, Bob & Therese Marini, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Carlos Mureno, Willy Ong, Maricar Poblete, 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: Paul Azzopardi, Emma Barriom, Vivienne Cameron, Murial Chary, Barrie Chamberlain, Blaise Costa, Dulcie Duraisamy, Sandra Eichhorn, Lena Falzon, Henrieta Fernando, Jasmin Fernando, Ethan Garcia, Ricardo Garcia, Rajan Gungse Kera, Cynthia Lopez, Josephine Lord, Marie Marchand, Etelka Petkovics, Sria Shami, Michael Scott, Viliami Kalosipani Siale, Marija Simic, Kilini Veamatahau.

Anniversaries: Mary Alagiah, Michelle Azzopardi, Horace Baptist, Ronald Barley, Joseph Bartok, Carolina Borg, Elaine Bosen, Peter & Helen Bonnici, Denis Brophy, Catherine Chandra, Simone Commarnond, Aloysean Corera, Ngan Siu Eng, John Fernando, Nevis Fernando, M.A. Fernando, Mr C Francis & Mrs J Francis, Anthony Garcia, Francisca Garcia, Teodoro Garcia, Zenaida Garcia, Christine Gomez, Josephine Gomez, Madaline Hughes, Martha Joseph, Luiz Lagare, Felicidad & Felina Maglaya, Ngoc Khuong Mai, Cole Ngan, Sr Christina Morrissey, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kutty, Tony Muscat, 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, Aloysius Welangoda.

Remembrance: Fe Abadiano, Neil Amaratunga, France Angseeing, Carmen Attard, Roy, Edna Bacud, Sam Borg, Fe Licup Carmen, Dennis Clarke, Myrna Cruz, Saviour Caruana, Tania McGove, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Launcer De Guire, Florencio Flores, Melvyn Fernandes, Nevis Fernando, Sammy Formosa, Francis Jr, Kevin, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Sam Gabo, Mary & Sam Galea, Evangeline Garcia, Leandro Snr Garcia, Jose Garcia, Selvam Irudayaraj, Sheena Landagan, A. Mansoor, Apolinario Maylaya, Laval Marooven, Pauline Meilak, Mangion & Cini Family, Michael (Mike) McNamee, Maureen & John Mead, Joe and Doris Mifsud, Emilia & William Mifsud, Mary Mifsud, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Anton & Lourda Motha, Louis, Stephen & Joseph Mula, Mary & Francis Muscat, Paolo Pineda, Peter John & Carmelita, John & Roseline Ratnam, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Vinnie Zahra.



Funeral Notices

Carmelina (Lena) Falzon

Thursday, 7th November 2024 at 1:30pm

Kemps Creek Pavilion, 230/260 Western Rd, Kemp's Creek

In lieu of flowers the family would like donations to the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

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.

FIRST READING *A reading from the book of Deuteronomy 6:2-6*

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.

'Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. **(R.)**

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be to the God that saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown love for his anointed. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 7:23-28*

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.'

The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 12:28-34*

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The Gospel of the Lord



Dear friends,

As we know, the scribes in Jesus' time were tasked with a very important job to copy onto parchments scrolls the Jewish Scriptures or the Torah, meaning the Law containing the laws God gave to Moses on Mt. Sinai, and Jewish people expected the scribes not only to know all the laws, but also to interpret them.

The scribes then managed to create 613 new laws, known as the oral traditions to clarify the original laws given to Moses by God. In order to enrich their knowledge and skills, they challenged each other to sum up all of the laws at once as short as possible, and the scribe in Mark's account of the Gospel this Sunday appeared to challenge Jesus to do the test.

In response, Jesus put together two passages: (1) the first from the book of Deuteronomy (6.4) that we had the chance to listen to in the first reading today asking the Israelites to love God, the one and only wholeheartedly. Interestingly, Jewish people called this passage the SHEMA meaning hear in Hebrew, and considered it as a fundamental teaching of their faith, and (2) the second from the book of Leviticus (19.18) encouraging the people of Israel to love their neighbour as themselves.

More than just a response to the scribe, Jesus also meant to turn this combination into his signature commandments which have become the centre of his teachings. He literally emphasised that 'there is no commandment greater than these', and we his followers are expected to embrace them and put them into practice.

It's truly significant to keep in mind what Jesus told the scribe at the end of the story after he praised Jesus for his words of wisdom. 'You are not far from the kingdom of God,' said Jesus. This man in fact was close to God's kingdom, but hadn't quite entered the kingdom yet, for he knew exactly what to do to possess the kingdom and yet hadn't done the next step which was to carry out his commandments wholeheartedly.

Let us pray today for the grace to help us both to treasure this dual commandment of love Jesus taught to us in the Gospel and to try our best to bear witness to them through the way we live our everyday lives.

Have a love-oriented week,

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Members of the Council are invited to attend a meeting at 7.30pm on 13th November in the Parish Meeting room.

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. The interim groups are close to being finalised. A "Formation Day" for a meet-n-greet will be held in November. Details to follow. Last week, a few more families came forward. It's not too late to register your interest for this exciting new initiative in our parish. Please fill out the form and drop it into the Communication box at the rear of the church. Coordinated by Frank Paiva & Edward Pieris.

LOURDES OVER 50's

Next meeting will be held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 5th November Melbourne Cup Day from 10.30am. There will be sweeps for the horses. Please bring a plate to share. Tea and coffee will be provided.



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.

PARISH BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Our Book of Remembrance will be on display in front of the Altar at all Masses throughout November and rest at the Baptismal font before Mass, and all are welcomed to enter the names of the deceased.

NOVEMBER ENVELOPES

Are available for you to offer November Mass intentions.

LENA FALZON'S FUNERAL

The Funeral liturgy will take place at 1.30pm on Thursday 7th November at Kemps Creek cemetery.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2025

An information meeting will be held for parents who wish to have their child further initiated into the Catholic Church by celebrating the **Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion** next year. Important information will be provided at this meeting regarding the structure of the process. The meeting will be held twice so that parents are able to choose a time and date that best suits them to attend. These are as follows:

Wednesday 6th of November 2024 at 6:30pm

in the Parish Hall or

Saturday 9th of November 2024 at 4:30pm

in the Parish Meeting Room.

A Sacramental Program Flyer can be found at all entries of the church. For further enquiries contact parish office.

TONGAN MASS WITH CARDINAL SOANE PATITA PAINI MAFI, BISHOP OF TONGA

His Eminence Cardinal Soane Patita Paini Mafi will be celebrating a mass in Tongan here at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Church next Sunday the 10th of November 2024 from 2pm. Light refreshments with the Tongan Catholic Community will follow in the parish hall. All are welcome to join us.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant:

- Administration Assistant Holy Spirit Parish St Clair – **Applications close 31 October.**
- Accountant – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains.
- Facilitator, Catholic Youth Parramatta (CYP) -

Applications close 11 November

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

PJE Sharing meets Mercy Futures Gathering: 6 November

The next quarterly *Peace, Justice & Ecology Sharing* coincides with a *Mercy Futures Gathering*. For anyone interested in attending either of the two series is warmly invited to learn more about the *Social Justice Statement 2024-25 "Truth & Peace"*, presented by Diocesan PJE Coordinator Sebastian Salaske-Lentern: 6 November 2024, 6:30pm – 8:00pm, Sisters of Mercy Parramatta. Find out more and register at tinyurl.com/pjesharing-nov24

Parramatta Street Feast: 13 November

On behalf of Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, you are warmly invited to the Parramatta Street Feast 2024. Come and share a free meal, entertainment and company in a spirit of friendship and solidarity: 13 November 2024, 10:30am – 1:00pm, St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. BE A VOLUNTEER: If you would also like to volunteer on the day (e.g., set-up, ushering, serving food), please fill out this registration form: parracatholic.org/streetfeast

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

St Hedwig Village Market Day: 16 November

Join the wonderful residents at St Hedwig Retirement Village for a fun-filled community event on Saturday, 16th November from 10am to 2pm. Explore a variety of market stalls with hand-made crafts and pre-loved treasures while enjoying a delicious sausage sizzle, tea or coffee, a range of baked sweet treats and other fun activities. St Hedwig Village 134-140 Reservoir Road, Blacktown. Call 1300 191 472 or visit sthedwigvillage.com.au

Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend: 9-10 November

How prepared are you for marriage? Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life. We give you a chance to spend time together to strengthen and enrich your relationship. The next Engaged Encounter Weekend will be held on 9-11 November, with future dates in February and May 2025. Further information and to register, visit www.engagedencounter.org.au/

Calix Society: 12 Step Recovery and Catholic Spirituality

Are you or a loved one troubled by addiction or alcoholism? The Calix Society is a way to recovery that incorporates 12 Step recovery and Catholic Spirituality. Sydney Unit meets Monthly at St Joseph, Enfield. Mass (5:30pm) and "About Calix" talk (6:30 - 7:30pm). We also meet weekly via zoom and have an annual retreat. Contact: Tim 0401 600 422 or Kevin 0435 668 382 or calixsydney@outlook.com. See: <https://www.calixsociety.org/>

Medjugorje Pilgrimage 2025

Join David and Angeline Wilkes from St Aiden's Parish on a spiritual journey to Medjugorje from April 1st to 9th, 2025. This is their third pilgrimage, and the group will be staying with visionary Mirjana Soldo, guided by her long-time English interpreter, Miki Musa. Fr Neil Bulathsinhala will also be accompanying the group as the Chaplain. Places are limited, so if you feel called to experience the peace and grace of Medjugorje, please contact Angeline Wilkes at 0410 665 306 or visit saintlytravel.com.au for more details.

St Nicholas of Myra Penrith Pavilion of Fellowship Raffle

St Nicholas of Myra Parish is holding a fundraising raffle to help construct our Pavilion of Fellowship. The prize is a 7-day holiday in a Bali Villa for 6 people (flights not included). For more information and to purchase tickets visit <https://www.raffletix.com.au/pavilionoffellowship>

LOLO SAFEGUARDING NEWS

What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding is a term used to describe the protection of the welfare and human rights of people who are, in some way, connected with our work, particularly people who may be at risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation. Safeguarding is part of our Parish and the Diocese of Parramatta's duty of care.

LOLO Volunteer Responsibilities

Volunteers here at OLOL have a responsibility to support the Diocese's goals and objectives. Ways we do this are by abiding by the Diocese's Code of Conduct; treating others with respect; behaving appropriately and courteously to all clergy, employees, volunteers, parishioners, contractors and the public in the course of your role; undertaking training as requested or necessary; treating confidential any personal information learned about in the course of duties; maintain professional relationships within acceptable boundaries; contributing to and maintaining workplace health and safety and being aware of the duty of care to yourselves, clergy, employees and other volunteers.

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities

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 the next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training vis the Diocese will be held on **Saturday 9 Nov** at St Margaret Mary's Parish, Merrylands for Modules 4-5. 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>.

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.

Dear brothers and sisters, good Sunday!

Today the Gospel of the liturgy (*Mk 10:46-52*) tells us about Jesus who cures a man from blindness. His name is Bartimaeus, but the crowd in the street ignore him: he is a poor beggar. Those people do not have eyes for the blind man; they leave him, they ignore him. No caring gaze, no feeling of compassion. Bartimaeus does not see either, but he hears and he makes himself heard. He shouts, he cries loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" (v. 48). Jesus, however, hears and sees him. He places himself at his disposal and asks, "What do you want me to do for you?" (v. 51).

"What do you want me to do for you?". This question, before a blind person, seems to be a provocation, and instead, it is a test. Jesus is asking Bartimaeus who he is truly looking for, and for what reason. Who is for you the "Son of David"? And thus the Lord starts to open the blind man's eyes. Let us consider three aspects of this encounter, which becomes a dialogue: the *cry*, *faith*, the *journey*.

First of all, the cry of Bartimaeus, which is not only a request for help. It is an affirmation of himself. The blind man is saying, "I exist, look at me. I do not see you, Jesus. Do you see me?". Yes, Jesus sees the beggar, and he listens to him, with the ears of the body and those of the heart. Think of ourselves, when we cross paths with a beggar on the street: how many times do we look away, how many times do we ignore him, as though he did not exist? And do we hear the cry of beggars?

Second point: *faith*. What does Jesus say? "Go your way; your faith has made you well" (v. 52). Bartimaeus sees because he believes; Christ is the light of his eyes. The Lord observes how Bartimaeus looks at him. How do I look at a beggar? Do I ignore him? Do I look at him like Jesus does? Am I capable of understanding his demands, his cry for help? When you give alms, do you look the beggar in the eye? Do you touch his hand to feel his flesh?

Finally, the *journey*. Bartimaeus, healed, "followed him on the way" (v. 52). But each one of us is Bartimaeus, blind within, who follows Jesus once he has approached Him. When you approach a poor person and make your proximity felt, it is Jesus who approaches you in the person of that poor man. Please, let us not be confused: alms are not the same as handouts. The person who receives the most grace from almsgiving is the one who gives, because he makes himself seen by the eyes of the Lord.

Let us pray together to Mary, the dawn of salvation, that she may guard our path in the light of Christ.

After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters!

Today we have concluded the Synod of Bishops. Let us pray that everything we have done in this month may go forward for the good of the Church.

This 22 October marks the fiftieth anniversary of the creation, by Saint Paul VI, of the Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, and tomorrow will be the sixtieth of the Declaration *Nostra aetate* of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council. Especially in these times of great sufferings and tensions, I encourage those who are engaged at local level in dialogue and for peace.

Tomorrow an important International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent will open in Geneva, seventy-five years after the Geneva Conventions. May this event awaken consciences so that, during armed conflicts, the life and dignity of people and peoples, as well as the integrity of civil structures and places of worship, are respected, in accordance with international humanitarian law. It is sad to see how hospitals and schools are destroyed in war in some places.

I join with the beloved Church of San Cristóbal de las Casas, in the Mexican state of Chiapas, which is mourning the priest Marcelo Pérez Pérez, murdered last Sunday. A zealous servant of the Gospel and of the faithful People of God, may his sacrifice, like that of other priests killed for their fidelity to the ministry, be a seed of peace and Christian life.

I am close to the population of the Philippines, struck by a powerful cyclone. May the Lord support that people, so full of faith.

I greet you all, Romans and pilgrims. In particular, I greet the Confraternity of the *Señor de los Milagros*, of the Peruvians in Rome, whom I thank for their witness and encourage to continue on the path of faith.

I greet the group of seniors from Loiri Porto San Paolo, the candidates for confirmation from Assemini, Cagliari, the "Pilgrims of health" from Piacenza, the Cistercian Secular Oblates of the Shrine of Cotrino, and the Confederation of the Poor Knights of Saint Bernard of Chiaravalle.

And please, let us continue to pray for peace, especially in Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, and Lebanon, so that the escalation may be stopped and respect for human life, which is sacred, be put in first place! The first victims are among the civilian population: we see this every day. Too many innocent victims! Every day we see images of slaughtered children.

Too many children! Let us pray for peace.

I wish you all a good Sunday. And please, do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your lunch, and *arrivederci!*

POPE FRANCIS' HOMILY AT THE MASS MARKING THE CONCLUSION OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS

Today's Gospel presents us with Bartimaeus, a blind man forced to beg at the side of the road, an outcast lacking hope. Yet, when he heard Jesus passing by, he began to shout after him. All Bartimaeus could do was to cry out in pain to Jesus and express his desire that he might regain his sight. While others were troubled by his cries and rebuked him, Jesus paused. For God always hears the cry of the poor, and no cry of pain goes unheard by him.

Today, at the conclusion of the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, with our hearts filled with gratitude for the moments we have shared, let us reflect on what happened to Bartimaeus. Initially he was "sitting by the roadside" (Mk 10:46), but by the end he was called by Jesus, recovered his sight and "followed him on the way" (v. 52).

The first thing that the Gospel tells us about Bartimaeus is that he was begging by the roadside. His position is typical of someone who sits by the side of a road, caught up in his own grief, as if there were nothing else to do but receive something from the many pilgrims passing through the city of Jericho as Passover drew near. Yet, as we know, if we are truly to live, we cannot remain seated. Life entails being on the move, setting out, dreaming, planning, opening up to the future. Blind Bartimaeus, then, represents that inner blindness which restrains us, keeps us stuck in one place, holds us back from the dynamism of life and destroys our hope.

This can help us reflect not only on our own lives, but also on what it means to be the Lord's Church. So many things along the way can make us blind, incapable of perceiving the presence of the Lord, unprepared to face the challenges of reality, sometimes unable to offer adequate responses to the questions of so many who cry out to us, as Bartimaeus did to Jesus. We cannot remain inert before the questions raised by the women and men of today, before the challenges of our time, the urgency of evangelization and the many wounds that afflict humanity. Sisters and brothers, we cannot afford to sit back. A sedentary Church, that inadvertently withdraws from life and confines itself to the margins of reality, is a Church that risks remaining blind and becoming comfortable with its own unease. If we remain stuck in our blindness, we will continuously fail to grasp the urgency of giving a pastoral response to the many problems of our world. Let us ask the Lord to send us the Holy Spirit, so that we do not sit in our blindness, which in other words can be a worldliness, complacency, or closed heart. We cannot stay sitting in our blindness.

Yet, we should remember that the Lord passes by every day. The Lord always passes by and pauses in order to attend to our blindness. We should ask ourselves, "Do I hear him passing by? Do I have the capacity to hear the Lord's footsteps? Do I have the capacity to discern when the Lord is passing by?" It is good if the Synod is urging us as a Church to be like Bartimaeus: a community of disciples who, hearing that the Lord is passing by, feel the joy of salvation, allow ourselves to be awakened by the power of the Gospel, and to cry out to him. The Church does this when it takes up the cry of all the women and men of the world, of those who wish to discover the joy of the Gospel, and of those who have turned away; the silent cry of those who are indifferent; the cry of those who suffer, of the poor and marginalized, of children who are enslaved in so many parts of the world for work; the broken voice of those who no longer have the strength to cry out to God, either because they have no voice or because they are in despair. We do not need a sedentary and defeatist Church, but a Church that hears the cry of the world – I wish to say this even if some might be scandalised – a Church that gets its hands dirty in serving.

Thus, we come to the second aspect. The Gospel tells us that if initially Bartimaeus was seated, at the end we see him *following Jesus along the road*. This is a typical expression in the Gospel, meaning that he has become the Lord's disciple and has followed in his footsteps. When the beggar cried out to him, Jesus stopped and called for him.

Bartimaeus, from where he was sitting, jumped up on his feet and immediately afterwards regained his sight. Now he can see the Lord; he can recognize God's action in his life and finally set out to follow him. Let us do likewise. Whenever we are seated and settled, when as a Church we cannot find the strength, the courage or the boldness to arise and continue along the way, let us always remember to return to the Lord and his Gospel. We always need to return to the Lord and the Gospel. As he passes by again and again, we need to listen to his call so that we can get back on our feet and he can heal our blindness; and then we can follow him once more, and walk with him along the way.

I would like to reiterate that the Gospel says of Bartimaeus that he "followed him on the way". This is an image of the synodal Church. The Lord is calling us, lifting us up when we are seated or fallen down, restoring our sight so that we can perceive the anxieties and sufferings of the world in the light of the Gospel. And when the Lord puts us back on our feet, we experience the joy of following him on the way. We follow the Lord along the way, we do not follow him enclosed in our comforts or we do not follow him in the mazes of our minds. We follow him only along the way. Let us remember never to walk alone or according to worldly criteria, but to walk on the way alongside him.

Brothers and sisters, not a seated Church, but a Church on her feet. Not a silent Church, but a Church that embraces the cry of humanity. Not a blind Church, but a Church, enlightened by Christ, that brings the light of the Gospel to others. Not a static Church, but a missionary Church that walks with her Lord through the streets of the world.

Today, as we give thanks to the Lord for the journey we have made together, we will be able to see and venerate the relic of the carefully restored ancient Chair of Saint Peter. As we contemplate it with the wonder of faith, let us remember that this is the Chair of love, unity and mercy, according to Jesus' command to the Apostle Peter not to lord it over others, but to serve them in charity. And, as we admire the majestic Bernini Baldachin, more sublime than ever, we can rediscover that it frames the true focal point of the entire basilica, namely the glory of the Holy Spirit. This is the synodal Church: a community whose primacy lies in the gift of the Spirit, who makes us all brothers and sisters in Christ and raises us up to him.

Sisters and brothers, let us therefore continue our journey together with confidence. Today, the word of God speaks to us, as to Bartimaeus: "Take heart; get up, he is calling you". Do I feel called? Do I feel weak and cannot get up? Do I call for help? Let us throw off the cloak of resignation; let us entrust our blindness to the Lord; let us stand once more and carry the joy of the Gospel through the streets of the world.

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: Luminare 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

November

5	Over 50's Meeting - Melbourne Cup Special	10.30am
6	Sacramental Program 2025 Info Session	6.30pm
9	Sacramental Program 2025 Info Session (RPT)	4.30pm
13	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	7.30pm
21	Over 50's Christmas Party	11.30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

2/3 November

Acolytes	Vigil: James Dinning 8am: Eugene Miu 9.30am: Ramzee Michael	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Simic, M. Mifsud 8am: S. Manamperi, M. Santos 9.30am: M. Michael, Georgina Basili	
Readers	Vigil: J. Irudayaraj, J. Sarmiento 8am: P. Ferriols, K. Walker 9.30am: N. Arambulo, A. Han	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Saoirse, Sebastian & Leonardo Costello 8am: H. Winter, C. Bellamin 9.30am: M. Gluvic, J. Martinez, O. Martinez	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Tongan Choir	
Musicians	Vigil: Christine Clarke & Christine Woodward 8am: Fr. Henry 9.30am: Christine Woodward	
Flowers	Fenty & Liz	
Church Cleaning	21 Nov	Cathy Hutchings Annette Peatman Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

9/10 November

Acolytes	Vigil: Derick Soares 8am: Ernie Gartner 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: R. Soares, A. Bellissimo 8am: E. Gartner, A. McNally 9.30am: H. Gonzales, C. Gonzales	
Readers	Vigil: C. Rodrigues, L. Bellissimo 8am: F. Paiva, B. Motha 9.30am: A. Walker, K. Huihui	
Altar Servers	Vigil: B. Spadaro, J Spadaro 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: Volunteers	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Young Adults Group	
Musicians	Vigil: OFS 8am: Fr. Henry 9.30am: Tongan Choir & Christine Clarke	
Flowers	Claudette & Judith	
Church Cleaning	27 Nov	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Georgina Basili	

The Kids' Bulletin

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 3rd, 2024

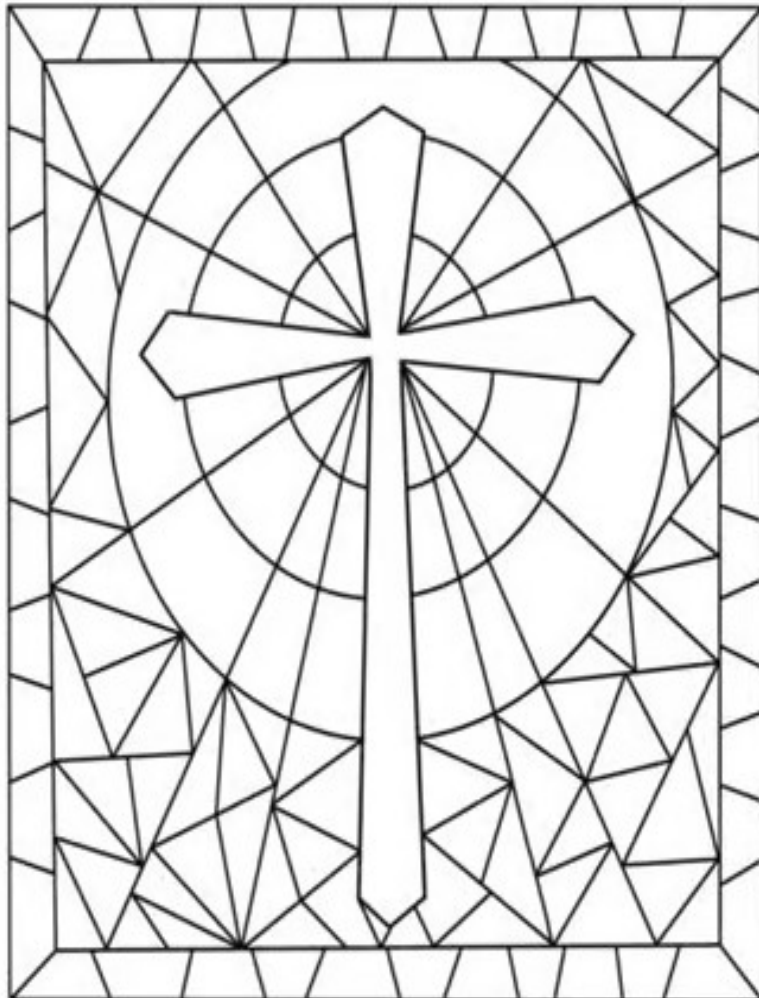
AYBOCUDSEHFA
GLHLILJOKVL
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Mark 12:28-34

In today's Gospel reading, one of the scribes asks Jesus what the greatest commandment is. What does Jesus say?

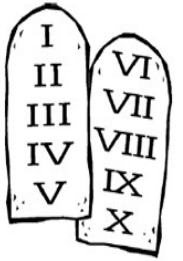
Use every second letter to fill in the blanks to find out!



The Greatest Commandment

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Mark 12:30-31 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Mark 12:28-34



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

MIND	SOUL	YOURSELF	ANSWER	QUESTIONS
NEIGHBOR	IMPORTANT	STRENGTH	TEACHER	KINGDOM
GREATEST	LOVE	LAW	SECOND	HEART

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i
d Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Mark 12:30 (NIV) n
c o
b p
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All Saints

All Souls