



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 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:	19th February 2025
WEEKDAY MASS:	Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am Thursday 9.00am	Baptism:	24th 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/

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE 24 November 2024 • Year B



Let us Pray for the Sick

Rick Abadam, Florence Arinanan, Tricia Batongbacal, Rodney Bell, Lawrence Charles, Ben Dixon, Alma Caguimbal, Para Dias, Mary Camilleri, Aiden Chan, Lucia Fernando, Renuka Fernando, Chmouneh Hayek, Lynnnda Lim-Huynh, Mary Jordan, Paul Leong, Melissa Mead, Levi Manga, Bob & Therese Marini, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Carlos Mureno, Willy Ong, Maricar Poblete, Fresnido Ruales, Camy Ratnam, Eustace Ratnam, Sue Tipaldo, Christina Tsui, 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, Ann Byrne, Vivienne Cameron, Muriel Chary, Barrie Chamberlain, Blaise Costa, Padmini De Seram, Dulcie Duraisamy, Sandra Eichhorn, Lena Falzon, Henrieta Fernando, Jasmin Fernando, Ethan Garcia, Ricardo Garcia, Cynthia Lopez, Josephine Lord, Gerard Noval, Etelka Petkovic, Suranjith Rebera, Sria Shami, Michael Scott, Cerino Sorbello,

Anniversaries: Mary Alagiah, Michelle Azzopardi, Horace Baptist, Ronald Barley, Joseph Bartok, Carolina Borg, Elaine Bosen, Peter & Helen Bonnici, Denis Brophy, Catherine Chandra, Simone Commarond, 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, Mary Grech, Martha Joseph, Felicidad & Felina Maglaya, Ngoc Khuong Mai, Tao Ngoc Nguyen, Xavier Motha Jr, Cole Ngan, Sr Christina Morrissey, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kutty, Jason Muscat, Tony Muscat, Cordula Paiva, Adrian Pereira, John Portelli, Natalia Prahinog, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Michael Sant, Mary Silva, Rosary Silva, Loreta Laberinto Udán, Melchor Usman, Dionisio Udán, Alison & Jim Vella.

Remembrance: Fe & Jose Abadiano, Neil Amaratunga, France Angseeing, Carmen Attard, Annie Azucenas, Roy, Edna Bacud, Sam Borg, Fe Licup Carmen, Dennis Clarke, Myrna Cruz, Saviour Caruana, John Soo Choon, Tania McGove, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Launcer De Guire, Florencio Flores, Melvyn Fernandes, Nevis Fernando, Joseph & Carmena Formosa, Sammy Formosa, 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, Pauline Meilak, Mangion & Cini Family, Michael (Mike) McNamee, Maureen & John Mead, Emilia Mifsud, Mary Mifsud, Sashin Patrick Manampeñi, Anton & Lourda Motha, Louis, Stephen & Joseph Mula, Mary & Francis Muscat, Peter John & Carmelita, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jonathan Tek Kie, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Vinnie Zahra.



Funeral Notices Ann Byrne

Tuesday, 26th November 2024 at 11am
Our Lady of Lourdes Seven Hills Church

May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen

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.

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Daniel 7:13-14*

I gazed into the visions of the night. And I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven, one like a son of man. He came to the one of great age and was led into his presence.

On him was conferred sovereignty, glory and kingship, and men of all peoples, nations and languages became his servants. His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty which shall never pass away, nor will his empire be destroyed.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty.

1. The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed;
the Lord has robed himself with might,
he has girded himself with power. **(R.)**

3. Truly your decrees are to be trusted.
Holiness is fitting to your house,
O Lord, until the end of time. **(R.)**

2. The world you made firm, not to be moved;
your throne has stood firm from of old.
From all eternity, O Lord, you are. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the book of the Apocalypse 1:5-8*

Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the First-born from the dead, the Ruler of the kings of the earth. He loves us and has washed away our sins with his blood, and made us a line of kings, priests to serve his God and Father; to him, then, be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.

It is he who is coming on the clouds; everyone will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the races of the earth will mourn over him. This is the truth. Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega' says the Lord God, who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our Father;

blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 18:33-37*

'Are you the king of the Jews?' Pilate asked. Jesus replied, 'Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?' Pilate answered, 'Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?' Jesus replied, 'Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews.

But my kingdom is not of this kind.' 'So you are a king then?' said Pilate. 'It is you who say it' answered Jesus. 'Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.

The Gospel of the Lord



Dear friends,

In the years following the end of the WWI, the world began to witness the alarming rise of atheism, secularism and secular ultra-nationalism and the Church then felt the need to counter these threatening trends, consequently Pope Pius XI instituted the feast of Christ the King in his encyclical Quas Primas of 1925 to re-affirm the Kingship of Christ who was 'conferred with sovereignty, glory and kingship and all peoples, nations and languages were his servant' as Daniel recounted in the first reading today.

Initially, this feast was celebrated in October, and Pope Paul VI in his motu proprio *Mysterii Paschalis* of 1969 moved it to the end of the liturgical year as we know today with the intention to highlight its eschatological importance, emphasizing the point that Christ will come again as King to judge us at the End time on the Judgement Day.

Though Christ Jesus is professed as *Dominus Noster Iesu Christi Universorum Regis*, meaning Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe, he poses no threat to any royalty in all around the world, since his kingship is not of this world as he made it very clear in his response to Pilate's question about whether he was the king of the Jews in the Gospel this Sunday.

As King, he was sent by his Father into this world not to fight for a place in it, but rather to tell all people on earth this truth that their homeland is not here, but rather in heaven, and to help prepare them for the journey towards this eternal place by fulfilling their duties to love God and all peoples no matter who they are. Those who listen to his message and put it into practice are his authentic followers, and they are on the side of the truth.

Let us give praise and thanks to God for sending us his royal Son both to lead us to our heavenly homeland and teach us what to do for our survival in such a journey of our lives, let us also ask for the strength to help us remain his true disciples by carrying out the best we can what he expects from each of us, namely our love for God and our love for our brothers and sisters around us, especially the down-trodden and under-privileged.

Have a love-oriented week,

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

PARISH BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE AND NOVEMBER ENVELOPES

Throughout this month of remembrance our parishioners are invited to enter the names of the deceased in the Parish Book of Remembrance which can be found at the Baptismal Font before Mass and placed in front of the Altar during Mass. Please don't forget to write down the names of those you would like to pray for on the November envelopes and put them in the Intention bowl on the Altar.

REPORT FROM THE PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

We continued to reflect upon the various ways presented in the Pastoral Plan for a Synodal Church of the diocese and have lot of discussions about them. Our revised Welcoming group and Parish Family group are our concrete responses to the plan.

OVER 50'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Thank you to all those who attended this years Christmas lunch, an enjoyable time was had by all. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New year. The next meeting will be 13 February 2025, look forward to seeing new and current faces.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2025

Roster Forms to update your latest contact information and availability to serve in various ministries for the next 6 months are now available at the back Sacristy. Alternatively you can send or print a form from our OLOL Web Page under Parish Directory > Parish Forms.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE RETURNS IN 2025

Those interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar, the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2025. Enrolment forms can be found in front of the back sacristy.

PARISH THANK YOU DINNER

As a Parish tradition, all our ministers and volunteers are invited to join our Parish Thank You dinner at 6.30pm on Friday the 29th November 2024 in our Parish Hall. Please RSVP on the clipboard available at the rear of the church for catering purposes.

THANKSGIVING MASS FOR THE 1ST ANNIVERSARY OF MAXIMILIAN EPONDULAN 26 NOVEMBER 7:30PM

Ian & Michelle Epondulan invite all parishioners to join them in a special thanksgiving Mass celebrating the 1st Anniversary of Maximilian Elijah Epondulan. One year ago on this day, Max was born to eternal life. Tuesday, 26 November 2024 Thanksgiving Mass at 7:30pm here at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Main celebrants will graciously be Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran & Fr John Paul Escarlan

HOLY COMMUNION HOME VISITS

A gentle reminder to those who minister Holy Communion home visits, even to their own family members, to please fill out the register each time. This can be found in the Sacristy.

PRESENTATION OF THE "CHRISTMAS STORY"

Dear Parents and Guardians, Thank you for allowing your children to participate in the presentation of the "Christmas Story" on Tuesday the 24th December at the 6pm Family Mass. Please note some changes to the practise schedule, we will practise on the following Sundays during the 9.30am mass: Sunday 24th Nov- Sunday 8th December - Sunday 22nd December (we may need an extra 10-15 minutes so we can practise in the Church). On Tuesday 24th December, please be at Church between 5 -5.30pm so we can organise the children in their costumes. In order 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 during Mass. If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office. Many thanks, Jem Demeterio Children's Liturgy Coordinator

Positions Vacant:

• Parish Team Employment 2025 – Greystanes – Faith Enrichment Role

For a suitably qualified and experienced person 16 hrs/wk onsite in faith enrichment:

- Facilitating/resourcing parents as they guide their children in sacraments/faith
 - Liaising with key faith enrichment ministries
 - Assisting opportunities for faith inquiry and for parishioners' enrichment
 - Sharing in relevant admin and tech tasks with the team
- For more information about the role and details for making application, please contact: parishoffice@olqp.org.au

Bishop's Christmas Appeal for Catholic Care's Houses to Homes

This Christmas, will you help homeless mothers and children find a safe place to call home and rebuild their lives? Your kind-hearted gift and prayers will help Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains provide homeless mothers and their children with practical and emotional support, and a safe haven to call home. Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal at parracatholic.org/appeal to give your gift of a new beginning today. Thank you.

ADVENT BIBLICAL STUDIES

Presented by Fr Joseph Lam, PhD STD.

Christmas: Folktale or Truth? Some people think that the nativity story is historically inaccurate.

Rather, it is an adaption of pagan myths. Is it so? How did the authors of the Four Gospels and Paul see the birth of Jesus? Come and explore the biblical-theological dimension of the Nativity Tuesdays the 3rd, 10th & 17th of December from 7.30PM at the Parish of Baulkham Hills, St Michael, 'Downey Room' Places are limited. Please pre-register your attendance via admin@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au

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.

LOLO SAFEGUARDING NEWS

Driving

Some volunteer positions at OLOL may involve the need for car transport. To donate the use of your private vehicle or to utilise any vehicle you must comply with the following:

- The vehicle must be roadworthy and registered
- You must have comprehensive car insurance
- You must have a current driver's licence
- You must adhere to all relevant road rules at all times, including those regarding alcohol and illegal drugs, and the use of mobile phones while driving
- You are liable for any fines or infringement notices while performing volunteer duties.

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>.

Diocesan Advent Week Scripture Reflection Evening: 26 November

In what way would you say I'm 'awaiting' God's presence this Advent? How do I see myself in Advent Scripture stories? Register for the Diocesan Advent Scripture Reflection Evening with Dr Michele Connolly RSJ on Tuesday 26th of November 2024 – 6:30PM to 8:30pm. RSVP via met@parracatholic.org

PJE Table Talk "Disability – Unemployment – Seeking Asylum: Navigating Multiple Challenges in Australia": 28 November

Please join us for our final diocesan table talk to hear and discuss powerful stories from people affected by overlapping challenges. Participate in small group conversations and learn how you can play a part in creating positive change: 28 November 2024, 6pm – 8:30pm, Bishop Bede Heather Centre in Blacktown. A light dinner will be served on arrival. Find our more and register at parracatholic.org/pjetabletalk

FREE Men's Retreat "A Path to Sexual Freedom": 30 November

Simon Carrington will facilitate a FREE Men's retreat, "A Path To Sexual Freedom" at St Patrick's Blacktown on November 30th from 9am to 4pm. This retreat is for men aged 16 years old and above. There will be two talks and an opportunity for adoration and confession. Free lunch will be provided. To register and for more information, please email admin@mqofblacktown.org.au

Epiphany Pilgrimage and Fiesta: 2-9 January 2025

Commit the first fruits of your new year to Christ with the 2025 Epiphany Pilgrimage. Enjoy 7 days of bushwalking, fellowship and prayer as we journey from Emu Plains to the top of the Blue Mountains, experiencing the hospitality of parish communities along the way. Day 1 is a family-friendly day, with the option for a children's pilgrimage finishing with the Finnies Fiesta at St Finbars, Glenbrook. For any further information and to register for all or part of the journey, visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org

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/>

Photography

Photos may be taken of you whilst volunteering, especially during Christmas. 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.

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.

Visiting Clergy to OLOL

Visiting clergy to our church all uphold the standards and processes we here at OLOL and the Diocese have put in place to ensure the safety of our community.

POPE FRANCIS' ANGELUS

Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday!

In the Gospel of today's liturgy, Jesus describes a great tribulation: "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light" (Mk 13:24). Faced with this suffering, many might think of the end of the world, but the Lord seizes the opportunity to offer a different interpretation, saying: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away" (Mk 13:31).

We can take a closer look at this expression: *what will pass and what will remain*.

First of all, *what will pass*. In some circumstances in our life, when we are going through a crisis or experience some failure, as well as when we see around us the pain caused by wars, violence, natural disasters, we have the feeling that everything is coming to an end, and we feel that even the most beautiful things pass away. Crises and failures, however, though painful, are important, because they teach us to accord everything its due weight, not to attach our hearts to the realities of this world, because they will pass: they are destined to fade away.

At the same time, Jesus talks about *what will remain*. Everything passes away, but His words will not pass away: Jesus' words will remain for eternity. He thus invites us to trust in the Gospel, which contains a promise of salvation and eternity, and not to live under the anguish of death. For while everything passes away, Christ remains. In Him, in Christ, we shall one day find again the things and people who have passed away and who have accompanied us in our earthly existence. In the light of this promise of resurrection, every reality takes on a new meaning: everything dies and we too will one day die, but we will lose nothing of what we have built and loved, because death will be the beginning of a new life.

Brothers and sisters, even in tribulations, in crises, in failures, the Gospel invites us to look at life and history without fear of losing what ends, but with joy for what will remain. Let us not forget that God is preparing for us a future of life and joy.

And so, let us ask ourselves: are we attached to earthly things, which pass away, which pass quickly, or to the words of the Lord, which remain and guide us towards eternity? Let us ask ourselves this question, please. It will help us.

And let us pray to the Blessed Virgin, who entrusted herself totally to the Word of God, so that She may intercede for us.

After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters,

Yesterday in Shkodra, two martyrs were beatified: Luigi Palić, priest of the Order of Friars Minor, and Gjon Gazulli, diocesan priest, victims of the religious persecution of the twentieth century. And today, in Freiburg im Breisgau another martyr was beatified, the priest Max Josef Metzger, founder of the Secular Institute of Christ the King, opposed by Nazism for his religious commitment in favour of peace. May the example of these martyrs comfort so many Christians who are discriminated against for their faith in our time. Let us applaud the new Blesseds!

Today we celebrate World Day of the Poor, which has the theme: "The prayer of the poor rises up to God" (Sir 21:5). I thank those who, in the dioceses and parishes, have organized initiatives of solidarity with the most disadvantaged. And on this day, let us also remember all road victims: let us pray for them, for their relatives, and make an effort to prevent accidents.

I will ask a question; everyone can ask this question to themselves: do I go without something in order to give it to the poor? When I give alms, do I touch the hand of the poor person and look him or her in the eyes? Brothers and sisters, let us not forget that the poor cannot wait!

I join with the Church in Italy, which is repeating tomorrow's Day of Prayer for victims and survivors of abuse. Every abuse is a betrayal of trust, a betrayal of life! Prayer is indispensable for "rebuilding trust".

I would also like to remember all fishermen, on the occasion of World Fisheries Day, which will take place next Thursday: Mary, Star of the Sea, protect fishermen and their families.

And I affectionately greet you all, Romans and pilgrims. In particular, the faithful from Ponta Delgada and Zagabria; the *Escolanía del Monasterio de San Lorenzo de El Escorial* and the Ecuadorian community in Rome, which is celebrating the *Virgen del Quinche*. I greet the groups from Chioggia and Caorle; the fire brigade from Romeno, Trento, and the parish choir from Nesso, Como.

Brothers and sisters, let us pray for peace; in tormented Ukraine, in Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Myanmar, and Sudan. War dehumanizes us, it induces us to tolerate unacceptable crimes. May leaders listen to the cry of the people who are asking for peace.

A greeting to the young people of the *Immacolata*. I wish you all a good Sunday. And please, do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your lunch, and *arrivederci!*

POPE FRANCIS' CATECHESIS

Cycle of Catechesis. The Spirit and the Bride. The Holy Spirit guides the people of God towards Jesus our hope

13. A letter written with the Spirit of the living God: Mary and the Holy Spirit

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Among the various means by which the Holy Spirit implements His work of sanctification in the Church – the Word of God, the Sacraments, prayer there is one in entirely particular, and it is *Marian piety*. In the Catholic tradition there is this motto, this saying: “*Ad Iesum per Mariam*”, that is, “to Jesus by means of Mary”. Our Lady lets us see Jesus. She opens the doors to us, always! Our Lady is the mother who leads us by the hand towards Jesus. Our Lady never points to herself, Our Lady points to Jesus. And this is Marian piety: to Jesus by the hands of Our Lady. The true and only mediator between us and Christ, indicated as such by Jesus Himself, is the Holy Spirit. Mary is one of the means the Holy Spirit uses to bring us to Jesus [1]. Saint Paul defines the Christian community as “a letter of Christ administered by us, written not in ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets that are hearts of flesh” (2 Cor 3:3). Mary, as the first disciple and figure of the Church, is also a letter written with the Spirit of the living God. Precisely for this reason, she can be “known and read by all” (2 Cor 3:2), even those who do not know how to read theology books, those “little ones” to whom Jesus says that the mysteries of the Kingdom, hidden to the wise, are revealed (cf. Mt 11:25). By saying her “Yes” when Mary accepts and says to the Angel, “Yes, let the Lord’s will be done” and accepts to be the mother of Jesus – it is as though Mary said to God: “Here I am, I am a tablet to be written on: let the Writer write what he wants, make of me what the Lord of all wishes” [2]. At that time, people wrote on waxed tablets; today we would say that Mary offers herself like a blank page on which the Lord can write whatever He wants. Mary’s “Yes” to the Angel – as a renowned exegete wrote represents “the apex of all religious behaviour before God, since she expresses, in the highest manner, passive availability combined with active readiness, the deepest emptiness that accompanies the greatest fullness” [3]. This, then, is how the Mother of God is an instrument of the Holy Spirit in His work of sanctification. In the midst of the endless profusion of words said and written about God, the Church and holiness (that very few, or no-one, is able to read and understand fully), she suggests a few words that everyone, even the simplest, can say on any occasion: “*behold*” and “*let it be done*”. Mary is the one who said “Yes” to the Lord, and with her example and by her intercession urges us to say our “Yes” to Him too, whenever we are faced with an act of obedience to perform or a trial to overcome. In every age of our history, but in particular at this time, the Church finds herself in the same situation as the Christian community in the aftermath of Jesus’ Ascension to heaven. It had to preach the Gospel to all nations, but was awaiting the “power from on high” in order to be able to do it. And let us not forget that, at that time, as we read in the Acts of the Apostles, the disciples were gathered around “Mary the mother of Jesus” (Acts 1:14). It is true that there were also other women together with her in the Upper Room, but her presence is different and unique among them all. Between her and the Holy Spirit there is a unique and eternally indestructible bond that is the very person of Christ Himself, “who was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary”, as we recite in the Creed. The evangelist Luke deliberately highlights the correlation between the coming of the Holy Spirit upon Mary in the Annunciation and His coming to the disciples at Pentecost, using some identical expressions in both cases. Saint Francis of Assisi, in one of his prayers, greets Our Lady as “daughter and handmaid of the heavenly Father, the almighty King, Mother of our most high Lord Jesus Christ, and Spouse of the Holy Spirit” [4]. Daughter of the Father, Spouse of the Holy Spirit! The unique relationship between Mary and the Trinity could not be illustrated in simpler words. Like all images, this one of the “Spouse of the Holy Spirit” must not be rendered absolute, but taken for that amount of truth it contains, and it is a very beautiful truth. She is the bride, but before that, she is the disciple of the Holy Spirit. Bride and disciple. Let us learn from her to be docile to the inspirations of the Spirit, especially when He suggests to us to “arise in haste” and go to help someone who needs us, as she did straight after the angel left her (cf. Lk 1:39). Thank you!

Summary of the Holy Father’s words:

Dear Brothers and Sisters: In our continuing catechesis on the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church, we now consider the Spirit’s unique relationship with the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the Spirit’s work of leading us to Jesus, Our Lady plays a privileged role. Saint Francis of Assisi once described Mary as the Spouse of the Holy Spirit, since by her fiat her “yes” to the Father’s plan – she became the Mother of the incarnate Son of God. Filled with the Spirit, Our Lady became the first disciple of the Lord and the model of all Christian discipleship. Through her maternal presence and intercession, may she teach us to be docile like her to the promptings of the Spirit, to seek God’s will in prayer and to go forth in charity to meet the needs of our brothers and sisters.

POPE FRANCIS ON WORLD DAY OF THE POOR: EVERY ACT OF COMPASSION IS A SIGN OF HOPE

By Francesca Merlo

Reflecting on the apocalyptic imagery from the Gospeal reading of the day, taken from Mark’s Gospel, Pope Francis opened his homily on the World Day of the Poor on Sunday 17 November by acknowledging the deep feelings of anguish that resonate today. The text reads: “The sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven”. This, to Pope Francis, reflects the pains of our world famine, war, inequality, and the indifference that follows. The Pope warned that in a world in which social media amplifies fears and insecurities it is easy to succumb to despair. Resigning in this way can, in turn, lead to us being robbed of the ability to see God’s hand at work, which can transform our faith into what Pope Francis described as “a harmless devotion”, that neither moves nor inspires meaningful charity. However, the Pope continued, it is precisely in darkness that God draws near as “just when everything seems to collapse, God comes, God gathers us together to save us.” Jesus, through his death and resurrection, turned the darkest moment of human history into the dawn of salvation, explained the Pope.

Signs of hope amid despair: Pope Francis then referred to the image of the fig tree budding in the springtime. With this in mind he urged the faithful to look for signs of hope, even in the harshest realities. The Lord’s presence among the poor and suffering, he continued, reminds us that “where there seems to be only injustice, pain, and poverty, the Lord draws near to free us.” The job of Christ’s disciples, Pope Francis explained, is to make this hope visible. Through acts of justice, solidarity, and charity, we each can become “signs of the Lord’s presence,” showing that he is close to all those who suffer.

An invitation to act: Bringing his homily to a close, Pope Francis reminded the faithful that change begins with small, daily actions. Whether in how we live, how we care for our environment, or how we share our resources, each act of compassion can become a sign of hope. “And I say this to the Church, I say it to the Governments, I say it to the International Organisations, I say it to each and every one: please”, concluded the Pope, “let us not forget the poor”.

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 13th February 2025, 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

November

24	Children's 'Christmas Story' Practice	9.30am
26	Thanksgiving Mass 1st Anniversary of Maximilian Epondulan	7.30pm
29	Parish Volunteers Dinner	6.30pm
30	Floral Team Meeting	11.00am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

23/24 November

Acolytes	Vigil: James Dinning 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am: Ian Epondulan	
Ministers	Vigil: A. Do Rosario, M. Mifsud 8am: L. Fernandes, Edith Gartner 9.30am: Paul Gow, Sub Req.	
Readers	Vigil: C. Rodrigues, N. Do Rosario 8am: F. Paiva, A. McNally 9.30am: E. Miu, A. Han	
Altar Servers	Vigil: D. Sant, J. Sant, E. Reardon 8am: H. Winter, K. Cassaniti, 9.30am: J. Martinez, O. Martinez	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Fr. Henry & Eugene 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary B.	
Church Cleaning	5 Dec	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

30 Nov/1 Dec

Acolytes	Vigil: Frank Paiva 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Ramzee Michael	
Ministers	Vigil: H. Gonzales, C. Gonzales 8am: J. Irudayaraj, S. Manamperi 9.30am: G. Basili, M. Michael	
Readers	Vigil: J. Sarmiento, B. Motha 8am: K. Walker, P. Ferriols 9.30am: A. Walker, N. Arambulo	
Altar Servers	Vigil: E. Reardon, M. Gluovic, J. Hoang 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: Chris Bellamin	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Tongan Choir	
Musicians	Vigil: Christine Clarke 8am: Fr. Henry 9.30am: Couples for Christ	
Flowers	Fenty & Liz	
Church Cleaning	14 Dec	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Chrisha Gonzales 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Volunteer	

The Kids' Bulletin

*Feast of Christ the King
Sunday, November 24th, 2024*

Born to Be King

Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth." John 18:37 (NIV)

Based on John 18:33-37



Jesus is Our King!

Today we celebrate Jesus as the great Lord and King of Heaven and earth.

The crown is a symbol of Jesus' kingship.

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

IDEA	PLACE	RIGHT	WORLD	SERVANTS
TESTIFY	KINGDOM	TRUTH	ARREST	LISTENS
FACT	PEOPLE	REASON	BORN	FIGHT
SAYING	PALACE	PRIEST	KING	EVERYONE



Christ The King

SaintAnnesHelper.com

P O E B L E T H E L W L O R D I A R E P O W

P O E I N W O M A J E S T Y H

The Lord is
king; He is
robed in
majesty.

B P T H I S K W K I N G O P E

B O W K H E K O I S O W R O B E D K I W A L E

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

-
-
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crucified	paradise	king	Christ
kingdom	forgive	criminals	saved