

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS

"Still a wonderful place to pray & stay."

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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: 19th February 2025
Baptism: 8th December 2024
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.com.au
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

1st December 2024 • Year C



Let us Pray for the Sick

Rick Abadam, Florence Arinanan, 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, Melissa Mead, Levi Manga, Bob & Therese Marini, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Jennifer Morrissey, 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, Murial Chary, Barrie Chamberlain, Blaise Costa, Padmini De Seram, Dulcie Duraisamy, Sandra Eichhorn, Henrieta Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Jasmin Fernando, Ethan Garcia, Ricardo Garcia, Zac Jordan, Cynthia Lopez, Josephine Lord, Richard Monreal, Teresita Ngalongalay, Gerard Noval, Etelka Petkovics, Suranjith Rebera, Sria Shami, Michael Scott, Cerino Sorbello,

Anniversaries: Mary Alagiah, Horace Baptist, Ronald Barley, Joseph Bartok, Elaine Bosen, Peter & Helen Bonnici, Denis Brophy, Catherine Chandra, Aloysean Corera, Mary Camenzuli, Ngan Siu Eng, John Fernando, Nevis Fernando, M.A Fernando, Anthony Garcia, Francisca Garcia, Teodoro Garcia, Zenaida Garcia, Christine Gomez, Josephine Gomez, Mary Grech, Felicidad & Felina Maglaya, Xavier Motha Jr, Cole Ngan, Sr Christina Morrissey, Paul Mula, 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, Loretta Laberinto Udan, Melchor Usman, Dionisio Udan, 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 & Camena Fomosa, 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, Felina Mayuyo, Michael (Mike) McNamee, Maureen & John Mead, William & Emilia Mifsud, Joseph & Doris Mifsud, Mary Mifsud, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Anton & Lourda Motha, Louis, Stephen & Joseph Mula, Mary & Francis Muscat, Aurora Nonato, Peter John & Carmelita, John & Roseline Ratnam, Sem Sema, Jonathan Tek Kie, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, 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.

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 Jeremiah 33:14-16*

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah: ‘In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.’

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**
 2. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**
 3. His ways are faithfulness and love
for those who keep his covenant and will.
The Lord’s friendship is for those who revere
him; to them he reveals his covenant. **(R.)**
-

SECOND READING *A reading from first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians*

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 21:25-28 34-36*

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.

The Gospel of the Lord



Dear friends,

Today we begin this brand new Liturgical Year known as Year C in the Church with the celebration of the First Sunday of Advent and as we know the word Advent comes from the Latin Adventus meaning 'coming.' This four-week long season of Advent is aimed to help us prepare for a three-fold coming of Jesus, namely his nativity, his Second Coming and his time to call us to leave this world.

So how do we prepare ourselves for this three-fold coming of the Lord? To help answer this question, the evangelist advises us to stay awake and pray constantly, meaning to keep ourselves vigilant and not to fall in the trap of the flesh pleasures, gluttony, other life temptations, and ask God for the grace to keep us ever strong in faith no matter what we go through and to be included in the book of God's Chosen ones when our time comes.

Historically speaking, the Gospel of Luke probably was written after the fall of Jerusalem Temple in 70AD, the deadly event was predicted by Jesus around 40 years before, and the apocalyptic language we find in the first part of the Gospel account, such as the cosmic signs, the turmoils amongst nations and other natural phenomena, obviously reflects such an earth-shaking destruction and on top of that was the great persecution that the Early Church had to undergo. All these things perhaps had made Christians then, felt like the Second Coming that the Lord has promised was right at the corner, consequently they were advised to stand erect with their heads high and stay ready for the Lord at all times.

As we celebrate this First Sunday of Advent today preparing for the three-fold coming of Jesus, let us ask the Lord to grant us the strength to live the life we are meant to live as Christians as St Paul reminds us in the second reading today, the kind of life God wants us to live, the one filled with prayers and good works.

Have a prayer-filled week,

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ADVENT WREATH

It is usually constructed around a circular base. This circular base is traditionally taken to symbolise the ever-renewing cycle of the seasons, and the four candles, represent the four Sundays of Advent. The first candle known as the Prophets' candle symbolises hope. Know that the prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the coming, the Adventus, of the Messiah.



FR HENRY'S RETREAT

As required, Fr Henry will be away for an annual retreat this week and Fr Thomas is so kind to provide the all Mass supplies. Please make him welcome in the parish.

MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church from this weekend for Ministers of the Eucharist, Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers and Welcomers who would like to serve at one of our Christmas Masses.

ADVENT THANK YOU

Thank you to all our volunteers who helped set up the crib, the Christmas Trees, the Advent Wreath, and the banners.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AT THE PIETY SHOP

The Piety Shop has a lovely range of ideas for Christmas, come have a browse at the back of the Church.

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 at the back sacristy.

CANDLE WAX ON THE CHURCH CARPET

Please do not try to remove candle wax on the church carpet by yourselves, for you might make it worse. Instead let our staff know and we ask our carpet cleaners to treat it.

PARISH DINNER THANK YOU

We would like to thank our Parish staff for helping to prepare our Parish Thank You dinner and all our volunteers who joined the Dinner Thank You night. Many thanks to those who were unable to attend the event for the generosity to serve in various ministries within our parish.

THE LITTLE BOOK FOR ADVENT

Pope Francis has declared the theme entering into the Jubilee Year beginning on Christmas Eve, 24th of December, to be "Pilgrims of Hope". This year's Advent resource, *Hope Reigns*, seeks to help prepare you for the birth of Emmanuel, God with us.



PRESENTATION OF THE "CHRISTMAS STORY"

Thank you to the children who have volunteered to act out the Christmas Story this year. This will take place on the 24th December at 6pm mass. On Sunday the 8th December we ask if the children participating please remain in the church after the 9.30am mass for 10-15 minutes so we can do a quick practice in the Church. Thanks for your support, Jem Demeterio Children's Liturgy Coordinator

FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT (FGM) AT OLOL

More families have joined the movement over the past 2 weeks. We welcome families to join by filling out the forms available at the rear of the church. The "Divine Rainbow" group had a social gathering on 23-November at the local RSL. It was a delightful evening where we got to know each other and enjoyed a laugh or two. This group has agreed to gather again on Saturday 18-January. The "Joyful Journey" group will host a meet-n-greet session on Sunday 1- December between 10:30-11:30am in the parish hall. We look forward to seeing you all on the day. Coordinated by Frank Paiva and Edward Pieris.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2025

Thank you to those who submitted their updated roster forms. Preparation of rosters for the various ministries for February-July 2025 is currently underway and they will be available for distribution next weekend.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant:

Faith Enrichment Role Vacancy – Our Lady Queen of Peace, Greystanes

Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish is seeking a suitably qualified and experienced person for a Faith Enrichment role, working 16 hours per week onsite. Key responsibilities include:

- Facilitating and resourcing parents as they guide their children in sacraments and faith.
- Liaising with key faith enrichment ministries.
- Assisting in opportunities for faith inquiry and parishioners' spiritual enrichment.
- Sharing relevant administrative and technical tasks with the parish team.

For more information and details on how to apply, please contact parishoffice@olqp.org.au.

Immaculate Conception Marian Procession: 7 December

Join the parish community at Our Lady of the Rosary Kellyville as they host their 2nd annual Marian Procession for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. It begins with the 6pm Vigil Mass at the Parish Church on Saturday, December 7, followed by a candlelight procession to the Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents. Join us as we come together to pray through the intercession of Our Lady and experience a beautiful slice of Lourdes and Fatima right here in Sydney. All are welcome!

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.

Christmas Gifts from Palms!

Are you looking to give something really special this year? Something that makes a tangible difference? Palms has the shop for you! Whether it be a GIFT directly supporting our overseas development program, or some unique Timorese GIFTS for your loved one's home, you'll find that perfect GIFT here! Just scan the QR or go to palms.org.au/donate/palms-gift-shop



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.

Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate of Mr Charles Hyson: 7 December

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta invites you to the Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate of Mr Charles Philip Hyson Saturday 7 December at 10.30am at St Patrick's Cathedral on the Memorial of Saint Ambrose. Please RSVP to Hannah Portelli via email at Hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org if you wish to attend.

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

Mount Schoenstatt Advent and Christmas Carols: 14 December

Let us prepare our hearts together this year with the Advent and Christmas Carols at Mount Schoenstatt (Family Hall 230 Fairlight Road Mulgoa 2745) on Saturday 14 December at 7pm. All children are encouraged to arrive by 6.50pm dressed as angels and shepherds. Flyer and more details can be found on the website: <https://schoenstatt.org.au/>

St Paul Feast Day Celebration: 18 January

Come Join the Celebrations at St Paul's Feast. Saturday, 18 January 2025, 5.30pm at St Monica's, Richmond. Followed by procession. Other details Lady Queen of Peace band, BBQ, food, drinks, rides and chocolate wheel.

LOLO SAFEGUARDING NEWS

Supporting the Safety of Our Community

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Seven Hills and The Diocese of Parramatta take the safeguarding of children and vulnerable persons seriously. This includes past or present forms of abuse. Safeguarding those who are vulnerable is part of the mission that Jesus Christ entrusts to our Church. 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.

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.

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>.

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.

POPE FRANCIS' ANGELUS

Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday!

Today the Gospel of the liturgy (*Jn 18:33-37*) shows us Jesus before Pontius Pilate. He has been handed over to the Roman procurator to be condemned to death. However, a brief dialogue begins between the two, between Jesus and Pilate. Through Pilate's questions and the Lord's answers, two words in particular are transformed, acquiring new meaning. Two words: the word "*king*" and the word "*world*."

At first Pilate asks Jesus, "Are you the *king* of the Jews?" (v. 33). Thinking as an official of the empire does, he wants to understand whether the man in front of him is potentially threatening. For him, a king is the authority that rules over all his subjects. And this would be a menace for him, would it not? Jesus claims to be king, yes, but in quite another way! Jesus is a king insofar as he is a witness: he is the One who speaks the truth (cf. v. 37). The kingly power of Jesus, the Word incarnate, lies in his true word, in his effective word, that transforms the world.

The World: this is the second word. Pontius Pilate's "world" is one where the strong triumph over the weak, the rich over the poor, the violent over the meek. A world, in other words, which we know well, unfortunately. Jesus is King, but his kingdom is not of Pilate's world, and not of this world either (v. 36). Jesus' world, indeed, is the new world, the eternal world, which God prepares for all by giving his life for our salvation. It is the kingdom of heaven, which Christ brings to this earth by pouring out grace and truth (cf. *Jn. 1:17*). The world, of which Jesus is King, redeems creation ruined by evil with the power proper to divine love. Jesus saves creation, because Jesus liberates, Jesus forgives, Jesus brings peace and justice. "But is this true Father?" – "Yes". How is your soul? Is there something heaving it down? Some old sin? Jesus always forgives. This is the kingdom of Jesus. If there is something ugly within you, ask for forgiveness. And He always forgives.

Brothers and sisters, Jesus speaks to Pilate from up close, but the latter remains distant from him because he lives in a different world. Pilate does not open himself to the truth, even though it is right in front of him. He will let Jesus be crucified. He will order "The King of the Jews" (*Jn 19:19*) to be written above the cross, but without understanding the meaning of this word: "King of the Jews", of these words. Yet Christ came into the world, into this world. The one who is from the truth, listens to his voice (cf. *Jn 18:37*). It is the voice of the King of the universe, who saves us.

Brothers and sisters, listening to the Lord brings light into our hearts and into our lives. So, let us try to ask ourselves – everyone ask themselves in their own heart: can I say that Jesus is my "king"? Or do I have other "kings" in my heart? In what sense? Is His Word my guide, my certainty? Do I see in Him the merciful face of God who always forgives, always forgives, who is waiting for us to give us his forgiveness?

Let us pray together to Mary, the handmaid of the Lord, as we await the Kingdom of God with hope.

After the Angelus

Today these two young Koreans have taken the Cross used during World Youth Day, which will be in Seoul. They will take it to Korea to prepare for the World Youth Day. A round of applause for the Koreans! And also a round of applause to the Portuguese youth who have returned the Cross.

Yesterday, in Barcelona, priest Cayetano Clausellas Ballvé and the faithful layman Antonio Tort Reixachs were beatified. They were killed, in hatred of the faith, in Spain, in 1936. Let us give thanks to God for the great gift of these exemplary witnesses to Christ and the Gospel. Let us applaud the new Blessed!

Today the 39th World Youth Day is being celebrated in specific Churches, with the theme: "*They that hope in the Lord will walk and not grow faint*" (cf. *Is 40:31*). Even young people get tired at times, if they do not hope in the Lord! I greet the delegations from Portugal and South Korea, who "passed on the torch" of preparations, for the WYD in Seoul in 2027. A round of applause for the two delegations.

As I have already announced, on the next 27th of April, during the Jubilee of Adolescents, I will proclaim Blessed Carlo Acutis a Saint. Also, having been informed by the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints that the process of study of the Cause of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati is about to be successfully concluded, I plan to canonize him on the next 3rd of August, during the Jubilee of Young People, after having received an opinion from the Cardinals. A round of applause for the soon to be new saints.

Tomorrow Myanmar celebrates its National Feast Day, in remembrance of the first student protest that set the country on its way to independence, and in the prospect of a peaceful and democratic season that it is still struggling to achieve today. I express my closeness to the entire population of Myanmar, particularly to those who are suffering for the ongoing fights, especially my closeness to the most vulnerable: to the children, the elderly, the sick and all refugees, including the Rohingya. To all parties involved, I make a heartfelt appeal: may all weapons be silenced and may a sincere and inclusive dialogue be opened, that may ensure a lasting peace.

And I warmly greet all of you, Roman faithful and pilgrims. In particular, I greet the groups of the faithful coming from Malta, Israel, Slovenia and Spain, as well as from the dioceses of Mostar-Duvno and Trebinje-Mrkan and from the territory of the Abbey of Fossanova.

And let us continue to pray for martyred Ukraine, that is suffering so much, let us pray for Palestine, for Israel, for Lebanon, for Sudan. Let us ask for peace.

And to everyone, I wish everyone a happy Sunday. Please don't forget to pray for me.

Have a good 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 14. The Bride's gifts. The charisms, gifts of the Spirit for common use

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

In the last three catecheses, we talked about the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit which is implemented in the sacraments, in prayer and by following the example of the Mother of God. But let us listen to what a famous text from Vatican II says: "It is not only through the sacraments and the ministries of the Church that the Holy Spirit sanctifies and leads the people of God and enriches it with virtues, but, 'allotting his gifts to everyone according as He wills'" (cf. *1 Cor 12:11*) (*Lumen gentium*, 12). We too have personal gifts that the Spirit gives to each one of us.

Therefore, the moment has arrived to talk also about this second way the Holy Spirit works, which is charismatic action. Two elements contribute to defining what charism is. A somewhat difficult word, I will explain it. First, the charism is the gift given "for the common good" (*1 Cor 12:7*), to be useful to everyone. It is not, in other words, destined principally and ordinarily for the sanctification of the person, but for the "service" of the community (cf. *1 Pt 4:10*). This is the first aspect. Secondly, the charism is the gift given "to one", or "to some" in particular, not to everyone in the same way, and this is what distinguishes it from sanctifying grace, from the theological virtues and from the sacraments, which instead are the same and common to all. The charism is given to a specific person or community. It is a gift that God gives you.

The Council explains this too. The Holy Spirit, it says, "distributes special graces among the faithful of every rank. By these gifts He makes them fit and ready to undertake the various tasks and offices which contribute toward the renewal and building up of the Church, according to the words of the Apostle: 'The manifestation of the Spirit is given to everyone for profit'" (*1 Cor 12:7*).

The charisms are the "jewels" or the ornaments that the Holy Spirit distributes to make the Bride of Christ more beautiful. One can thus understand why the Conciliar text ends with the following exhortation: "These charisms, whether they be the more outstanding or the more simple and widely diffused, are to be received with thanksgiving and consolation for they are perfectly suited to and useful for the needs of the Church" (*LG 12*).

Pope Benedict XVI affirmed: "Anyone who considers the history of the post-conciliar era can recognize the process of true renewal, which often took unexpected forms in living movements and made almost tangible the inexhaustible vitality of the holy Church". And this is the charism given to a group, through a person.

We must rediscover the charisms, because this ensures that the promotion of the laity, and of women in particular, is understood not only as an institutional and sociological fact, but also in its biblical and spiritual dimension. Indeed, the laity are not the least, no, they laity are not a form of external collaborator or auxiliary troops of the clergy, no! They have their own charisms and gifts with which to contribute to the mission of the Church.

Let us add another thing: when we talk about the charisms, we must immediately dispel a misunderstanding: that of identifying them with spectacular or extraordinary gifts and capabilities; instead, they are ordinary gifts – each one of us has his or her own charism – that assume extraordinary value if inspired by the Holy Spirit and embodied with love in situations of life. Such an interpretation of the charism is important, because many Christians, when they hear talk of charisms, experience sadness or disappointment, as they are convinced that they do not possess any, and feel they are excluded or second-class Christians. No, they are not second-class Christians, no, each person has his or her own personal, and also community charism. Saint Augustine responded to these in his time with a very eloquent comparison: 'If you love,' he told his people, "if you love, it is not nothing that you have: if you love unity, whoever has anything in that unity has it also for you. In the body, the eye alone sees; but is it for itself alone that the eye sees? It sees both for the hand and the foot, and for all the other members". [1]

This reveals the secret of why charity is defined by the Apostle as "a still more excellent way" (*1 Cor 12, 31*): it makes me love the Church, or the community in which I live and, in unity, all charisms, not just some, are "mine", just as "my" charisms, little though they may seem, belong to all and are for the good of all. Charity multiplies charisms; it makes the charism of one, of one individual person, the charism of all. Thank you!

POPE FRANCIS: 'NEVER LOSE HOPE' WHEN A LOVED ONE ABANDONES HIS FAITH.

By Joseph Tulloch

Pope Francis has replied to a letter from an Italian grandmother concerned that her granddaughter, now five years old, has not been baptised by her non-religious parents.

The brief letter, signed "Oliva from Bergamo", was published in the first edition of the new magazine *Piazza San Pietro* ('St Peter's Square'), published by St Peter's Basilica.

In the message, Oliva says that the decision taken by her daughter and son-in-law not to baptise her grandchild is "a source of great suffering" to her.

"What will Jesus think of all this?", she asks.

In his reply, the Pope says that he understands Oliva's suffering and feels close to her.

Baptism, he says, is "a great gift". Since his election as Pope, he notes, he has baptised many children, and always found this to be a moment of "great joy".

The Pope goes on to point out that one should "never lose hope" when a loved one loses their faith, recalling the example of St Monica, who prayed for decades for the conversion of her son St Augustine.

He also stresses that "baptism cannot be imposed on parents who do not want it for their children."

He therefore urges Oliva to "accompany your children, speak with them, but not insist on baptism". "Gratuitous love is more persuasive than many words," the Pope writes. "Love for God plants seeds of the future, of friendship, of the search for Him."

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 December. 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.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE DECEMBER 2024

17	Parish Second Rite of Reconciliation	7.30pm
19 & 20	Individual Confession	9.30am
24	Children/Family Christmas Mass	6.00pm
24	Christmas Vigil Mass	9.00pm
25	Christmas Midnight Mass	12.00am
25	Christmas Day Masses	8.00 & 9.30am

LOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

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: Chricha Gonzales 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Volunteer	

7/8 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Edith Gartner 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: T. Perak, M. Simic 8am: E. Gartner, F. Paiva 9.30am: M. Aquino, C. Brooks	
Readers	Vigil: A. Punch, N. Do Rosario 8am: A. McNally, M. Santos 9.30am: F. Kennedy, C. Diaz	
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. Monteiro, A. Bagatella, A. Laus 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: C. Attard, A. Melki	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Young Adults Group	
Musicians	Vigil: OFS 8am: Fr. Henry 9.30am: Tongan Choir	
Flowers	Claudette & Judith	
Church Cleaning	19 Dec	Cathy Hutchings Annette Peatman Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Ugre 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Volunteer	

The Kids' Bulletin

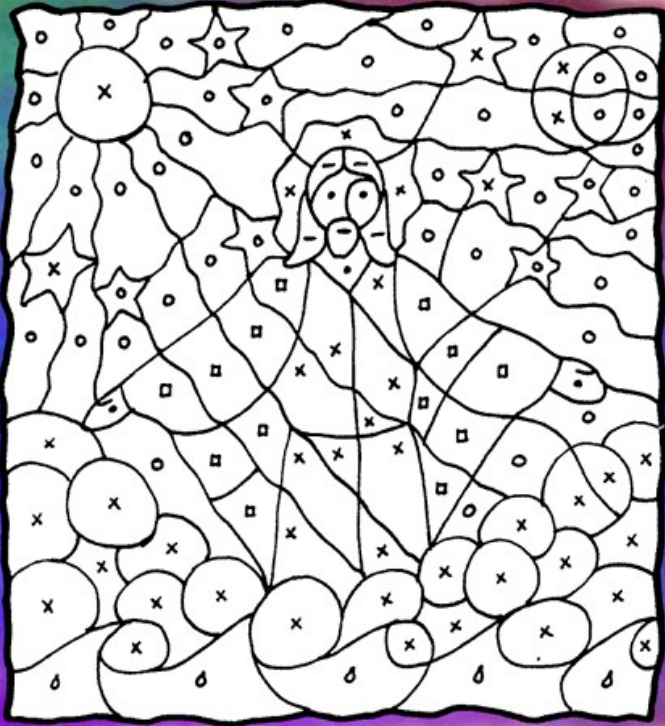
First Sunday of Advent
December 1st, 2024

Christ Is Coming Again

At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Luke 21:27 (NIV)

Choose the word that best matches the definition.

- ___ 1. The planet on which we live
A. stars B. earth C. head D. cloud
- ___ 2. The earth's source of heat and light
A. lift B. sun C. head D. watch
- ___ 3. The large heavenly body visible in the night sky
A. head B. moon C. earth D. cloud
- ___ 4. Twinkling points of light in the sky at night
A. lift B. stand C. stars D. earth
- ___ 5. Large, white, fluffy things floating in the sky
A. watch B. cloud C. stars D. sun
- ___ 6. To observe very carefully
A. watch B. stars C. cloud D. earth
- ___ 7. To make a request to God
A. stand B. pray C. earth D. stars
- ___ 8. To raise from a lower to a higher position
A. cloud B. head C. stand D. lift



Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

In today's Gospel reading Jesus talks about what is going to happen when He comes back at the end of the world.

Use the code to colour in the picture!

- x white
- o blue
- skin colour
- o black
- red
- dark brown

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

careful	glory	moon	redemption	stars
cloud	heads	nations	sea	sun
earth	heaven	power	signs	watch
escape	lift	pray	stand	world

