

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS

"Still a wonderful place to pray & stay."

7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills. NSW. 2147

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Parish Priest:	Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran	Parish School:	LOLO 8869 6800
Parish Deacon:	Deacon Thong Nguyen	Principal:	Ms Keiran Byrnes
Parish Office Team:	Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Jane Nguyen, 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:	8th December 2024
WEEKEND MASS:	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9.30am	Sacrament Co-Ordinator:	Mrs Artelle Lenthall
		Parish Website:	www.olol7hills.com.au
		Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/LOLO7Hills/

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8th December 2024 • Year C



Let us Pray for the Sick

Florence Arinanan, Rodney Bell, Lawrence Charles, Ben Dixon, Alma Caguimbal, Para Dias, Mary Camilleri, Lucia Fernando, Renuka Fernando, Chmouneh Hayek, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Mary Jordan, Paul Leong, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Jennifer Morrissey, Carlos Mureno, Maricar Poblete, Camy Ratnam, Eustace Ratnam, Sue Tiplado, 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, Zac Jordan, Dulcie Duraisamy, Sandra Eichhorn, Henrieta Fernando, Rienze Fernando, Jasmin Fernando, Ethan Garcia, Ricardo Garcia, Cynthia Lopez, Richard Monreal, Teresita Ngalongalay, Gerard Noval, Etelka Petkovics, Suranjith Reberra, Sria Shami, Michael Scott.

Anniversaries: Mary Alagiah, Horace Baptist, Ronald Barley, Merlene & Ralph Blackford, Elaine Bosen, Peter & Helen Bonnici, Denis Brophy, Catherine Chandra, Aloysean Corera, Mary Camenzuli, Philomena Corera, Ivan Elisher, Rita de Silva, John Fernando, Nevis Fernando, M.A. Fernando, Anthony Garcia, Francisca Garcia, Teodoro Garcia, Zenaida Garcia, Christine Gomez, Josephine Gomez, Mary Grech, Bill & Helen Hili, Xavier Motha Jr, Sr Christina Morrissey, Paul Mula, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kutty, Jason Muscat, Tony Muscat, Aurora Nonato, Cordula Paiva, Adrian Pereira, John Portelli, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Michael Sant, Mary Silva, Rosary Silva, Loreta Laberinto Udan, Melchor Usman, Dionisio Udan, Alison & Jim Vella.

Remembrance: Fe & Jose Abadiano, Neil Amaratunga, France Angseeing, Carmen Attard, Annie Azucenas, Sam Borg, Fe Licup Carmen, Dennis Clarke, Myrna Cruz, Saviour Caruana, John Soo Choon, Tania McGove, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Marcel, Monsen & Peter Diab, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Launcer De Guire, Melvyn Fernandes, Nevis Fernando, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Sam Gabo, Mary & Sam Galea, Evangeline Garcia, Leandro Snr Garcia, Jose Garcia, Teodoro 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, Joe & Doris Mifsud, Mary Mifsud, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Anton & Lourda Motha, Louis, Stephen & Joseph Mula, Mary & Francis Muscat, Peter John & Carmelita, John & Roseline Ratnam, Sem Serna, 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 Baruch 5:1-9*

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'. Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. **(R.)**

2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels
the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. **(R.)**

3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. **(R.)**

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11*

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you.

My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 3:1-6*

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Iturea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness; Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

The Gospel of the Lord

2nd Sunday of Advent *Luke 3:1-6*

The strange names in today's Gospel are confusing, but they are very important because they help us identify the historical period during which Jesus lived and preached. Therefore, these names require a closer examination.

The reading begins with Luke telling us that Herod, Philip, and Lysanias were tetrarchs at the time when John the Baptist began preaching and that Pilate was procurator of Judea. "Tetrarch" is a Greek word that means "a ruler of one-fourth"; it refers to one of the four sections into which the Romans divided their provinces. "Procurator" is another word the Romans used for "governor."

When Herod the Great (the king of the Jews when Jesus was born) died in 4 B.C., the Romans divided his kingdom among three of his sons: Antipas, Archelaus, and Philip. Herod Antipas, the Herod Luke refers to in today's Gospel, ruled Galilee (where Jesus lived and spent most of his time preaching) until 39 A.D. Herod Philip ruled his part of the kingdom until 33 A.D. and Herod Archelaus reigned in his own territory until the Romans removed him from power in 25 A.D. and replaced him with a Roman governor named Pontius Pilate. Since Luke tells us Philip was still ruling and Pilate was already in power when John's ministry began, the events in today's Gospel must have taken place between 25 and 33 A.D.

Luke helps narrow the date even further when he says John the Baptist began preaching during the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius. Since we know Tiberius Caesar became the sole emperor of Rome in 14 A.D., John's ministry had to begin about 28-29 A.D., with Jesus' own ministry beginning shortly thereafter.

Today's Gospel ends with Luke shifting his focus to John the Baptist, quoting John as telling the people to clear the way for the Lord. Kings in those days sent their messengers ahead of them before they visited a city or town. The messengers were responsible for helping the people prepare for the coming of the king. That's John's message to us today. He reminds us to get our hearts ready because our king, Jesus Christ, is on his way.

For Reflection -

You spend time preparing for important events in your life (job interviews, parties, dates, etc.). How much time do you spend getting ready for Jesus? Isn't he more important?

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 second candle known as the Bethlehem's candle symbolises peace. Remember that the prophet Micah did foretell that the Messiah shall be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David.



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.

FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT (FGM) AT OLOL

The "Joyful Journey" group hosted a meet-n-greet session on Sunday 1-December in the parish hall. It was a great success with 9 families and their children in attendance. As per the "Divine Rainbow" group, they are planning a social gathering in January (date TBC). We invite more families to join. Coordinated by Frank Paiva and Edward Pieris.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2025

Ministry rosters for February - July 2025 are now available. You can find a copy at the back Sacristy or on our website under 'Parish Forms'. If you require more copies or notice any discrepancies, please kindly contact the parish office.

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.

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.

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 or through the envelopes found on your pew. Thank you.

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 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

LOURDES PLAYGROUP

Please note that Lourdes Playgroup will end for the year on Friday 13th December. To attend please register by 3pm the Thursday prior via Facebook under 'Lourdes Play Group' or contact Maria on 0432 174 056. Thank you to the families that have supported it during 2024 and we wish all a Blessed & Joyous Christmas. Playgroup will resume in 2025, school term 1.

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.

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.

Free English and Citizenship Classes

Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are offering English and Citizenship classes at Mamre House, 181 Mamre Rd, Orchard Hills, on a Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am to 2pm during school terms. Free childcare is available. If you are interested in enrolling, please contact Mamre Crèche on (02) 8843 2506 or Nepean Community College (02) 4724 9000.

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



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/>

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 wonderful 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 more information and to register for all or part of the journey, visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org

Diocese of Parramatta Tribunal Office

The Tribunal of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Parramatta is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, to offer advice and assistance regarding marriage annulments and dissolution of marriages. Interviews are preferably conducted in person with Zoom and telephone interviews in special circumstances. Please contact the Tribunal Office on (02) 8838 3480 or email tribunal@parracatholic.org.

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.

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/>

LOLO SAFEGUARDING NEWS

Visiting Clergy to OLOL

We thank Fr Thomas for kindly providing mass supplies while Fr Henry was away on spiritual retreat. We advise that all 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.

Driving

Some volunteer positions at OLOL, especially during the Christmas time festivities, 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.

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.

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>. Face to Face courses will resume in 2025. Dates and times will be provided once confirmed.

POPE FRANCIS' ANGELUS

Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday!

The Gospel of today's liturgy (*Lk 21:25-28, 34-36*), first Sunday of Advent, speaks to us about cosmic upheavals and anxiety and fear in humanity. In this context, Jesus addresses a word of hope to His disciples: "Stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand" (v. 28). The Master's concern is that their hearts do not grow drowsy (cf. v. 34) and that they await the coming of the Son of Man with vigilance.

Jesus' invitation is this: *raise your head high and keep your hearts light and awake*.

Indeed, many of Jesus' contemporaries, faced with the catastrophic events they saw happening around them – persecutions, conflicts, natural disasters – are gripped by anxiety and think that the end of the world is coming. Their hearts are weighed down with fear. Jesus, however, wants to free them from present anxieties and false convictions, showing them how to stay awake in their hearts, how to read events from the plan of God, who works salvation even within the most dramatic events of history. That is why He suggests that they turn their gaze to Heaven to understand the things of earth: "Stand erect and raise your heads" (v. 28). It is beautiful... "Stand erect and raise your heads".

Brothers and sisters, for us too Jesus' recommendation is important: "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy" (v. 34). All of us, in many moments of life, ask ourselves: what can I do to have a light heart, a wakeful heart, a free heart? A heart that does not let itself be crushed by sadness? And sadness is awful, it is awful. Indeed, it can happen that the anxiety, fears and worries about our personal lives or about what is happening in the world today weigh down on us like boulders and throw us into discouragement. If worries weigh down our hearts and induce us to close in on ourselves, Jesus, on the contrary, invites us to lift up our heads, to trust in His love that wants to save us and that draws close to us in every situation of our existence, He asks us to make room for Him in order to find hope again.

And so, let us ask ourselves: is my heart weighed down by fear, worries and anxieties about the future? Do I know how to look at daily events and the vicissitudes of history with God's eyes, in prayer, with a broader horizon? Or do I let myself be overcome by despondency? May this Advent season be a precious opportunity to lift our gaze to Him, who lightens our hearts and sustains us on our way.

Let us now invoke the Virgin Mary, who even in times of trial was ready to accept God's plan.

After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters!

In recent days the fortieth anniversary of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Argentina and Chile was commemorated. With the mediation of the Holy See, it put an end to a terrible dispute that had led Argentina and Chile to the brink of war. This shows that, when one renounces the use of weapons and engages in dialogue, a good path is taken.

I welcome the ceasefire that has been reached in recent days in Lebanon, and I hope that it may be respected by all parties, thus enabling the population of the regions involved in the conflict – both Lebanese and Israeli – to return home soon and safely, also with the valuable help of the Lebanese army and the United Nations peacekeeping forces. In this situation, I address an urgent call to all Lebanese politicians, so that the President of the Republic may be elected immediately and the institutions return to their normal functioning, so as to proceed to the necessary reforms and assure the country of its role as an example of peaceful coexistence between different religions. It is my hope that the glimmer of peace that has appeared may lead to a ceasefire on all fronts, especially in Gaza. I very much have at heart the liberation of the Israelis who are still held hostage, and access to humanitarian aid for the stricken Palestinian population. And let us pray for Syria, where unfortunately war has flared up again, claiming many victims. I am very close to the Church in Syria. Let us pray!

I express my concern, my sorrow, for the conflict that continues to cause bloodshed in tormented Ukraine. For almost three years we have witnessed a terrible sequence of deaths, injuries, violence, and destruction... Children, women, the elderly, and the weak are the first victims. War is a horror, war is an affront to God and to humanity, war spares no-one, war is always a defeat, a defeat for the whole of humanity. Think that winter is around the corner, and risks exacerbating the conditions of millions of displaced persons. They will be extremely difficult months for them. The coincidence of war and the cold is tragic. I renew once again my appeal to the international community, and to every man and woman of good will, to make every effort to stop this war, and to make dialogue, fraternity and reconciliation prevail. Let there be a renewed commitment at every level. And as we prepare for Christmas, as we await the birth of the King of Peace, let these peoples be given concrete hope. The quest for peace is the responsibility not of a few, but of all. If habituation and indifference to the horrors of war prevail, the whole, entire human family is defeated. The whole human family is defeated. Dear brothers and sisters, let us not tire of praying for that population so sorely tried, and let us implore from God the gift of peace.

I affectionately greet all of you, faithful of Rome and pilgrims who have come from Italy and from various countries. In particular, I greet the groups from Barcelona, Murcia and Valencia – and think of Valencia, how it is suffering – and from Gerovo in Croatia. I greet the faithful of Arco di Trento and those from Sciacca, and the Roman group of Gioventù Ardente Mariana. And I greet the young people of the *Immacolata*.

I wish you all a good Sunday and a happy beginning of Advent. 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 16. Proclaiming the Gospel in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit and evangelization

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

After having reflected on the sanctifying and charismatic action of the Spirit, we will dedicate this catechesis to another aspect: the *evangelizing work of the Holy Spirit*, that is, on the role of preaching in the Church.

The First Letter of Peter defines the apostles as “those who preached the good news to you [through] the holy Spirit” (cf. 1:12). In this expression we find the two constitutive elements of Christian preaching: its *content*, which is the Gospel, and its *means*, which is the Holy Spirit. Let’s say something about one and the other.

In the New Testament, the word “Gospel” has two principal meanings. It can indicate any one of the four canonical Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, and according to this definition the Gospel means the good news proclaimed *by* Jesus during His earthly life. After the Pasch, the word “Gospel” assumes its new meaning of good news *about* Jesus, that is, the Paschal mystery of the death and resurrection of the Lord. This is what the Apostle calls “Gospel” when he writes: “I am not ashamed of the Gospel. It is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes” (*Rom 1:16*).

The preaching of Jesus and, subsequently, that of the Apostles, also contains all the moral duties that stem from the Gospel, starting from the ten commandments up to the “new” commandment of love. But if we do not want to relapse into the error denounced by the Apostle Paul of putting the law before grace and deeds before faith, it is necessary always to start anew from the proclamation of what Christ has done for us. Therefore, the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* insists a lot on the first of these two things, namely the *kerygma* or “proclamation”, on which every moral application depends. Indeed, “in catechesis too, we have rediscovered the fundamental role of the first announcement or *kerygma*, which needs to be at the centre of all evangelizing activity and all efforts at Church renewal. ... The first proclamation is called ‘first’ not because it exists at the beginning and can then be forgotten or replaced by other more important things. It is first in a qualitative sense because it is the principal proclamation, the one which we must hear again and again in different ways, the one which we must announce one way or another through the process of catechesis, at every level and moment. ... We must not think that in catechesis the *kerygma* gives way to a supposedly more ‘solid’ formation. Nothing is more solid, profound, secure, meaningful and wisdom-filled than that initial proclamation” (nos. 164-165), namely, the *kerygma*.

So far, we have seen the content of Christian preaching. We must however bear in mind also the *means* by which it is proclaimed. The Gospel must be preached “through the Holy Spirit” (*1 Pt 1:12*). The Church must do precisely what Jesus says at the beginning of His public ministry: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor” (*Lk 4:18*). *Preaching with the anointing of the Holy Spirit* means transmitting, together with the ideas and the doctrine, the life and conviction of our faith. It means doing so “not with persuasive (words of) wisdom, but with a demonstration of spirit and power” (*1 Cor 2:4*), as Saint Paul wrote.

It is easy to say, one might object, but how can it be put into practice if it does not depend on us, but on the coming of the Holy Spirit? In reality, there is one thing that does depend on us, or rather two, and I will briefly mention them. The first is *prayer*. The Holy Spirit comes to those who pray, because the heavenly Father – it is written – “give[s] the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him” (*Lk 11:13*), especially if we ask Him in order to proclaim the Gospel of His Son! Woe to those who preach without praying! They become those whom the Apostle defines as “a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal” (cf. *1 Cor 13:1*).

So, the first thing that depends on us is praying, so that the Holy Spirit may come. The second is *not wanting to preach ourselves, but Jesus the Lord* (cf. *2 Cor 4:5*). This relates to preaching. At times there are long sermons, twenty minutes, thirty minutes... But, please, preachers must preach an idea, a feeling and a call to action. Beyond eight minutes the preaching starts to fade, it is not understood. And I say this to preachers [applause] – I can see that you like to hear this! At times we see men who, when the sermon starts, go outside to smoke a cigarette and then come back in. Please, the sermon must be an idea, a feeling and a call to action. And it must never exceed ten minutes. This is very important.

The second thing, I was saying, is not to want to preach ourselves, but the Lord. There is no need to dwell on this, because anyone engaged in evangelization knows what it means in practice not to preach oneself. I will limit myself to a particular application of this requirement. Not wanting to preach oneself also implies not always giving priority to pastoral initiatives promoted by us and linked to our own name, but willingly collaborating, if requested, in community initiatives, or entrusted to us by obedience.

May the Holy Spirit help us, accompany us and teach the Church how to preach the Gospel in this way to the men and women of this time! Thank you.

Special greetings:

I extend a warm welcome to the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today’s Audience, especially those coming from the Netherlands, Australia, Indonesia, the United States of America, Japan and Singapore. I pray that each of you, and your families, may experience a blessed Advent in preparation for the coming of the newborn Saviour at Christmas. God bless you!

Summary of the Holy Father's words:

Dear brothers and sisters: In our continuing catechesis on the Holy Spirit, we now consider the Spirit’s role in the Church’s mission of evangelization. The First Letter of Peter describes the Apostles as those who “preached the Gospel through the Holy Spirit” (cf. *1 Pet 1:12*). The Gospel, of course, is the joyful message of the coming of God’s kingdom announced by Jesus and confirmed by the Apostles’ preaching of his dying and rising to new life. This “good news” is the basis for all further catechesis and teaching, including the moral demands of Christian discipleship. The preaching of the Gospel takes place “through the Holy Spirit”, who enables us to speak with conviction and to reflect the message that we preach by the way that we live. Let us pray that in our own day the Spirit will raise up ever more joyful, holy and convincing witnesses to the Risen Lord and the saving truth of his Gospel.

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.

7/8 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Ernie 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	14 Dec	Tongan Community Edgardo Barcelon Edgar Cabrera
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Ugre 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Volunteer	

14/15 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Derick Soares 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: R. Soares, N. Shami 8am: L. Fernandes, J. Irudayaraj 9.30am: P. Gow, Sub Req	
Readers	Vigil: B. Motha, C. Rodrigues 8am: K. Walker, J. Cabasa 9.30am: S. Manamperi, K. Huihui	
Altar Servers	Vigil: J & O. Martinez, C. Bellamin 8am: Kiyana Cassaniti, Volunteers 9.30am: Volunteers	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: K. Thoms & C.W 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	19 Dec	Cathy Hutchings Annette Peatman Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

The Kids' Bulletin

Second Sunday of Advent
December 8th, 2024

Prepare the Way

As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" Luke 3:4 (NIV)



The activity is based on Luke 3:1-6



Luke 3:1-6

In Advent we hear about Saint John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin, who prepared the way for Jesus' coming. He preached to the people, telling them to repent, and baptized them.

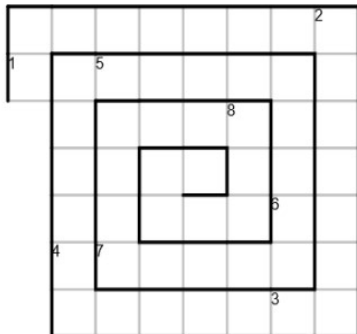
When Jesus came Saint John told the people to follow Jesus because He was the Messiah.

Can you find your way from Saint John to Jesus?

Unscramble the names of the twelve disciples below.

- | | | | |
|------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| 1. dujas | _____ | 7. lipphi | _____ |
| 2. eetrp | _____ | 8. tsamho | _____ |
| 3. nosim | _____ | 9. udadhtsea | _____ |
| 4. weadnr | _____ | 10. semaj | _____ |
| 5. htmtwea | _____ | 11. owmeotbarhl | _____ |
| 6. ajesm | _____ | 12. ohnj | _____ |

Look at the numbered sentences, decide which is the right word and write it on the spiral puzzle. A new word starts in each box with a number.



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Having no bends or curves. | 6. Having an irregular, course, or shaggy surface |
| 2. To make things or oneself ready. | 7. To turn away from one's sins. |
| 3. Having a surface free from roughness | 8. Having bends, curves, or angles. |
| 4. What we use to speak. | |
| 5. To grant a pardon for sin. | |

STRAIGHT	ROUGH	CROOKED	REPENT
FORGIVE	VOICE	PREPARE	SMOOTH

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

CALLING	STRAIGHT	DESERT	REPENT
VOICE	VALLEY	PREPARE	FORGIVE
CROOKED	ROUGH	SMOOTH	PREACHING

