

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.lol7hills.com.au
		Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/LOLO7Hills/

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 15th December 2024 • Year C



Let us Pray for the Sick

S.R Anesley, 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@lol7hills.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, Randy De Silva, Dulcie Duraisamy, Sandra Eichhorn, Bonosa Enfesta, Henrieta Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Jasmin Fernando, Ethan Garcia, Ricardo Garcia, Zac Jordan, Cynthia Lopez, Richard Monreal, Teresita Ngalongalay, Gerard Noval, Etelka Petkovic, Suranjith Rebera, Sria Shami, Michael Scott.

Anniversaries: Mary Alagiah, Horace Baptist, Ronald Barley, Elaine Bosen, Peter & Helen Bonnici, Denis Brophy, Catherine Chandra, Aloysian 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, Harold Thomas Hancock, Bill & Helen Hili, Anton Motha, Xavier Motha Jr, Sr Christina Morrissey, Paul Mula, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kutty, Jason Muscat, Tony Muscat, Aurora Nonato, Cordula Paiva, Adrian Pereira, John Portelli, Roseline Ratnam, 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, Toufic, Dede & Bede Diab, 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, Lourda Motha, Louis, Stephen & Joseph Mula, Mary & Francis Muscat, Peter John & Carmelita, Natalia Prahinog, John Ratnam, Sem Sema, Jonathan Tek Kie, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Colin Zahra, 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.lol7hills.org.au



FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Zephaniah 3:14-18*

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

1. Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. **(R.)**

3. Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One
of Israel. **(R.)**

2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 4:4-7*

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 3:10-18*

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

The Gospel of the Lord



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

This Sunday marks the Third Sunday of Advent also known as the Sunday of Joy or the Gaudete Sunday for Gaudete in Latin means 'rejoice.' If we pay attention to all the readings and prayers this Sunday, we can find the theme of joy running through our entire liturgy with the constant repeat of these key words 'joy' and 'happiness' again and again. So, why are we encouraged to rejoice today? The answer is that because the coming of the Lord is very near and we are more than half way through our preparation for the celebration of Christmas and closer to an eschatological encounter with the Son of God in a future return he has promised us.

Apart from wrapping ourselves with the spirit of joy, happiness and gladness, we continue to proceed through the Advent process of preparation by being more generous to share with the needy, more honest in dealing with one another and more gentle with those around us.

It's important to keep in mind the agricultural symbols John uses in the second part of the Gospel when he paints the picture of the messiah to clear the threshing floor with a winnowing fan and then gather the wheat into his barns. Know that when a farmer harvested wheat in Jesus' time, he separated grain from the hulls by heaping the sheaves onto a threshing floor and then pulverising and crushing them with an ox or donkey pulling a heavy board with sharp stones attached. As the board ran over the wheat, the hulls were cracked open for the kernels to come out and the empty hulls became chaff. The farmer then uses a winnowing fork to toss the chaff the kernels up into the air. Thanks to the wind the chaff were blown away, but the kernels fell to the ground and were gathered and put in the barns by the farmer who later ground them into flour.

Symbolically speaking, the winnowing fan is a symbol for divine judgement, the chaff stands for the wicked and the kernels for the good who remain faithful to God. Here John means to ask his audience to prepare for the day of judgement by turning away from sins and changing their lives in the way worthy to be counted amongst the chosen ones of God.

Let us pray for the grace to help us repent from sins and grow more steadfast in charity and gentleness, consequently we will be ready to celebrate the birthday of Jesus and welcome him back at his dual return.

Have a joy-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 third candle is known as the Shepherd's candle and symbolises joy. To the shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble people like them, too. This joy is celebrated in the Readings of the Mass.



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.

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.

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please show your deepest respect for our House of God at Seven Hills by not bringing any food into the church, that includes the crying room. Parents are always encouraged to bring soft toys and crayons for children to work with our weekly bulletin.

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 SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Second rite of Reconciliation on Tuesday 17 December at 7.30pm with the help of clergy outside the parish.
Individual confessions: 19th, 20th, 24th from 9.00 – 10.30am

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 has ended for the year. 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.

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.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve 6pm & 9.00pm
Christmas Day midnight, 8am & 9.30am



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.

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.

MET Natural Fertility Creighton Model Introduction

Session: 19 February

Are you looking for help to track your fertility cycle? Come and explore the Creighton Model FertilityCare System – a Natural, Effective, Healthy and Scientific approach to achieve, space/avoid pregnancy or monitor women's health. Engaged and married couples, single women and those wanting to know more about their menstrual cycles are welcome to attend. This free session will be held on the Wednesday 19 February from 7:15-8:15pm via Zoom and is valued at \$125. To register or for more information, contact catherine.bourne@parracatholic.org or 0400 427 605.

Thank You for Supporting our Catholic Care's Houses to Homes

Fr Fernando Montano, Parramatta Catholic Foundation, and Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains thank you for your generous support of homeless mothers and children. Our Bishop's Christmas Appeal ensures that Catholic Care can continue to provide homeless mothers and children safety, support, and a place to call home. If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit the website parracatholic.org/appeal Thank you.

Christmas Mass Times around the Diocese

There are many ways to celebrate the Christmas Season across the Diocese. At parracatholic.org you can find our Christmas and New Year Mass times, Reconciliation and Adoration Near Me, and Christmas Carols and Nativity plays. Go to: parracatholic.org/connect/find-a-mass/

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

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



LOL 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.

Harassment, Discrimination and Bullying

Our Lady of Lourdes Seven Hills Parish strives to achieve a healthy and safe workplace by addressing the issue of harassment, discrimination and workplace bullying. LOL will not tolerate any form of harassment, discrimination or bullying in the workplace including sexual harassment. Any volunteer who is found to have acted in such a manner may have their voluntary role terminated. If you think bullying or harassment is happening, you can talk to:

- Your supervisor/Parish Priest;
 - The Office of Safeguarding; or
 - The Chancery's Human Resources department.
- To see the Diocese's Harassment, Bullying and Discrimination Policy please scan this QR Code.



Manual Handling

Here at LOL we have implemented a minimal lift policy. You should avoid manual handling whenever possible. If this is not possible, you should follow the below procedure:

1. Plan—assess the load and determine if you need assistance.
2. Clear the path
3. Move in close to the load
4. Place your feet shoulder width apart
5. Secure your grip and hold the load close to your body
6. Maintain normal curves of the spine
7. Hold your head upright
8. Power lift with legs and body weight
9. Don't twist
10. Use smooth, controlled movements



POPE FRANCIS' ANGELUS

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and happy feast day!

Today, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the Gospel tells us about one of the most important, most beautiful moments in the history of humanity: the Annunciation (cf. *Lk 26-38*), when Mary's "yes" to the Archangel Gabriel permitted the Incarnation of the Son of God, Jesus. It is a scene that inspires the greatest wonder and emotion because God, the Most High, the Omnipotent, by means of the Angel converses with a young girl from Nazareth, asking for her collaboration for His plan of salvation. If today you find a little time, look in the Gospel of Saint Luke and read this scene. I assure you that it will do you good, a lot of good!

As in the scene of the creation of Adam, painted by Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel, where the finger of the heavenly Father touches the finger of the man; thus here too the human and the divine encounter each other, at the beginning of our Redemption, they meet with a wonderful delicacy, in the blessed instant in which the Virgin Mary utters her "yes". She is a woman in a small peripheral village and is called for ever to the centre of history: on her answer depends the fate of humanity, which can smile and hope again, because its destiny has been placed in good hands. She will be the one to bear the Saviour, conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Mary, then, as the Archangel Gabriel greets her, is "full of grace" (*Lk 1:28*), the Immaculate, entirely at the service of the Word of God, always with the Lord, to whom she entrusts herself completely. In her, there is nothing that resists His will, nothing that opposes truth and charity. Here is her blessedness, which all generations will sing. Let us also rejoice because the Immaculate has given us Jesus, who is our salvation!

Brothers and sisters, contemplating this mystery we can ask ourselves: in our time, ravaged by wars and bent on the effort to possess and dominate, where do I place my hope? In strength, in money, in powerful friends? Do I place my hope there? Or in God's infinite mercy? And in the face of the shiny false models circulating in the media and on the internet, where do I look for my happiness? Where is the treasure of my heart? Is it in the fact that God loves me freely, that His love always goes before me, and is ready to forgive me when I return repentant to Him? In that filial hope in God's love? Or am I deluding myself in trying to assert my ego and my will at all costs?

Brothers and sisters, as the opening of the Holy Door of the Jubilee approaches, let us open the doors of the heart and the mind to the Lord. He is born of Mary Immaculate: let us implore the intercession of Mary. And I will give you a piece of advice. Today it is a good day to decide to make a good Confession. If you cannot go today, this week, until next Sunday, open your heart and the Lord will forgive everything, everything, everything. And so, in Mary's hands, we will be happier.

After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters!

On this solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, I am especially close to the Nicaraguans. I invite you to join in prayer for the Church and the people of Nicaragua, who celebrate the Most Pure, as Mother and Patroness, and raises to her a cry of faith and hope. May the heavenly Mother be a consolation for them in difficulties and uncertainties, and open everyone's hearts, so that the way of respectful and constructive dialogue may be sought, in order to promote peace, fraternity and harmony in the country.

And let us continue to pray for peace, in tormented Ukraine, in the Middle East – Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, now in Syria – in Myanmar, Sudan and wherever people suffer from war and violence. I appeal to governors and the international community, so that we may reach the feast of the Nativity with a ceasefire on all fronts of war.

I greet you all, Romans and pilgrims. In particular, the pilgrimage of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart from Spain, the "Oasi Mamma dell'Amore" group, the faithful from the United States, from Honduras and Australia, as well as those of Calderara di Reno, Corpolò and Grado, and the candidates for Confirmation from the parish of *San Pio da Pietrelcina* in Rome.

Today, it comes to my heart to ask you all to pray for the prisoners who are on death row in the United States. I believe there are thirteen or fifteen of them. Let us pray that their sentence be commuted, changed. Let us think of these brothers and sisters of ours and ask the Lord for the grace to save them from death.

Today in Italian parishes, adhesion to Catholic Action is renewed. I wish all members a good journey of formation, service and apostolic commitment. I heartily bless the faithful of Rocca di Papa and the torch with which they will light the great star on the Fortress of their beautiful town in honour of Mary Immaculate. And I am close to the workers of Siena, Fabriano and Ascoli Piceno who are defending in solidarity the right to work, which is a right to dignity! May their work not be taken away for economic and financial reasons.

I wish you all a good Sunday and a happy feast of Mary Immaculate. We will see each other this afternoon in Piazza di Spagna. And please, do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your lunch, and *arrivederci!*

POPE AT AUDIENCE: HOMILIES SHOULD BE FOCUSED AND NO LONGER THAN 10 MINUTES By Francesca Merlo

Pope Francis continues his catechesis cycle on the Holy Spirit and the Bride, focusing this week's General Audience on the role of preaching in the Church, encouraging preachers to rely on the Gospel's content and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. In continuing his cycle of catechesis on the Spirit and the Bride, Pope Francis dedicated his Wednesday General Audience to the evangelising work of the Holy Spirit in the preaching of the Church's ministers. Addressing the faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square, the Pope reflected on the First Letter of Peter, in which the first Pope defined the apostles as "those who preached the good news to you [through] the Holy Spirit." Pope Francis explained that in this expression we find the two constitutive elements of Christian preaching, namely "its content, which is the Gospel, and its means, which is the Holy Spirit."

The content we preach Reflecting first on the content, Pope Francis recalled the use of the word "Gospel" in the New Testament. It has two principal meanings, said the Pope. When it indicates any one of the four canonical Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), the word means "the good news proclaimed by Jesus during His earthly life." However, after the first Easter, the word "Gospel" assumes its new meaning "of good news about Jesus, that is, the Paschal mystery of the death and resurrection of Christ," said the Pope. He explained that this is what the Apostle Peter 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." Pope Francis went on to note that 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, stressed the Pope, "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." It is for this reason, the Pope continued, that in the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, "I insisted a lot on the first of these two things, namely the *kerygma*, or 'proclamation,' on which every moral application depends."

The means by which we preach Turning then to the second of the two elements of Christian preaching, "means," Pope Francis noted that when considering *kerygma*, "we must bear in mind the means by which it is proclaimed." The Gospel must be preached "through the Holy Spirit," said the Pope. "Preaching with the anointing of the Holy Spirit means transmitting, together with the ideas and the doctrine, the life and profound conviction" and thus "not with persuasive (words of) wisdom, but with a demonstration of spirit and power." Speaking off-the-cuff, Pope Francis urged preachers to transmit "one idea, one sentiment, and one invitation to action" within at most 10 minutes. "After 8 minutes, preaching gets dispersive and no one understands," he said. "Never go over 10 minutes, ever! This is very important." In bringing his catechesis to a close, the Pope noted that some might object, saying that it is easily said but wondered how it can be put into practice if it does not depend on us but on the coming of the Holy Spirit. Preachers, he said, must pray for the grace of the Holy Spirit to proclaim Christ with their preaching. Secondly, he added, preachers must not preach themselves but Jesus the Lord. "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," he said. In conclusion, Pope Francis prayed that the Holy Spirit might teach the Church how to preach the Gospel in an efficacious way to the men and women of today.

POPE FRANCIS TO THEOLOGIAN: 'IDEOLOGY KILLS REALITY AND MANIPULATES PEOPLE' By Lisa Zengarini

Speaking at an audience for participants in a two-day international conference held at the Pontifical Lateran University on 9-10 December on the future of theology, Pope Francis called for a dynamic inter-disciplinary and inclusive theological approach that addresses the complexities of contemporary society while remaining deeply rooted in faith.

The conference Titled "The Future of Theology: Legacy and Imagination" the conference is organized by the Vatican Dicastery for Culture and Education and brings together some 500 theologians from all continents to reflect on how to make theology relevant in today's world as called for by Pope Francis. Specifically, the purpose of the conference is to enable theologians from different cultural backgrounds to share their experiences and reflections with a synodal approach on how to transform the theological legacy of past generations into a creative impetus for the present. Participants will reaffirm the fundamental contribution of theology to the broader scientific and academic research system, address the cultural marginalization of theology by highlighting its unique contribution to creating new paradigms of rationality and rethink the network of theological academic institutions. **Theology illuminates and reveals the world** In his address Pope Francis reaffirmed the crucial role of theologians in the Church and society at large, likening theology to a light that illuminates and reveals the world while remaining invisible. "Theology is like that," he said, "it works quietly and humbly so that the light of Christ and his Gospel can emerge." He therefore urged theologians to remain rooted in friendship with Christ, and love for humanity, engaging with both the beauty and suffering of the world.

An all-male theology is an incomplete theology As participants explore fundamental questions of theology's relevance, direction, and role in addressing contemporary challenges, Pope Francis highlighted the importance of collaboration between male and female theologians citing the biblical example of Huldah, in the Second Book of Kings, and therefore the need for inclusive theological perspectives. "There are things that only women understand and theology needs their contribution", the Pope insisted. "An all-male theology is an incomplete theology." Pope Francis then shared his desire that theology may "help to rethink how to think", and specifically, to move "beyond simplification" and instead embrace the complexity of reality. **Need for an inter-disciplinary approach to counteract ideological simplification** "Simplification," he warned "mutilates reality; it gives rise to empty and unilateral thinking and it generates polarization and fragmentation", which is "precisely what ideologies do: they flatten reality to a single idea, which they then repeat obsessively and manipulate." As an antidote to simplification Pope cited "inter-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary" approaches as suggested by the Apostolic Constitution 'Veritatis Gaudium', urging theologians to engage with other fields such as philosophy, science, and the arts. Integrating diverse perspective, he stressed referencing Saint Thomas Aquinas and Saint Bonaventure, are essential to grasp the complexity of reality. **Making theology accessible to all** Finally, Pope Francis invited theologians to make their discipline accessible to all, noting the growing interest, notably among middle-aged adults in deepening their faith and education. Theology, he argued, could serve as a guide for those seeking purpose and renewal at a critical phase of their lives. He therefore urged theological institutes to make "imaginative adjustments to their programmes of study so that theology can be accessible to all."

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.

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	14 Dec	Tongan Community Edgardo Barcelon Edgar Cabrera
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

21/22 December

Acolytes	Vigil: James Dinning 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: A. Bellissimo, M. Simic 8am: C. Gonzales, F. Paiva 9.30am: A. Walker, C. Brooks	
Readers	Vigil: L. Bellissimo, J. Sarmiento 8am: B. Motha, A. McNally 9.30am: R. Epondulan, A. Hye Rin Han	
Altar Servers	Vigil: H. Winter, M. Gluvic, J. Hoang 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: Volunteers	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary B.	
Church Cleaning	19 Dec	Cathy Hutchings Annette Peatman Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Helen Gonzales 9.30am: Georgina Basili	

The Kids' Bulletin

Third Sunday of Advent
December 15th, 2024

I AM BAPTIZING YOU
 WITH WATER, BUT ONE
 MIGHTIER THAN I IS COMING.
 I AM NOT WORTHY
 TO TIE THE THONG
 OF HIS SANDALS.

HE WILL BAPTIZE YOU WITH
 THE HOLY SPIRIT AND WITH FIRE.



Luke 3:10-18

God sent Saint John the Baptist to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus.

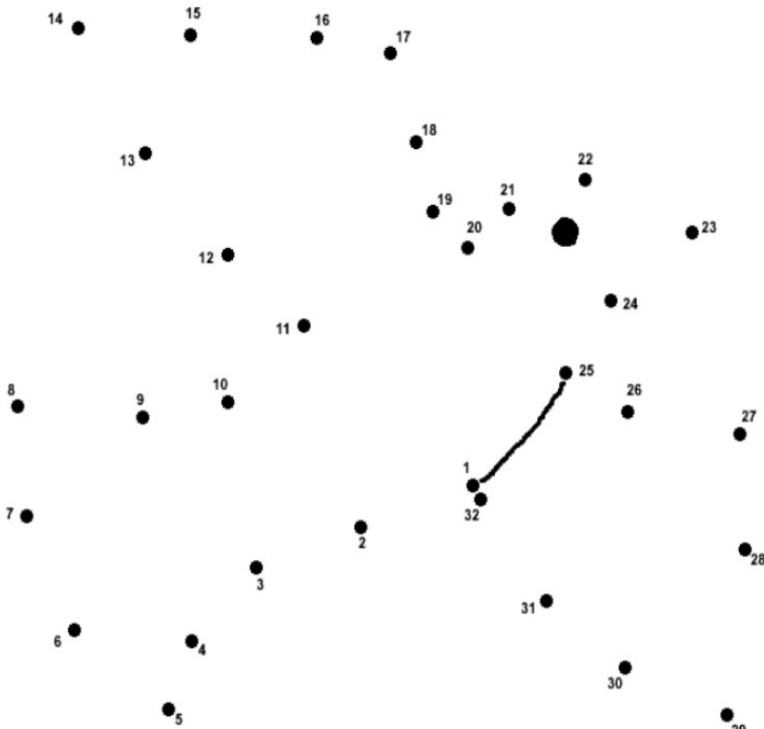
What did he say when some of the people thought that he might be the saviour?

Look in the mirror to find out!

Choose the word that best matches the definition below.

- The liquid used to baptize someone.
A. wine B. vinegar C. honey D. water
- The river where Jesus was baptized.
A. Nile B. Amazon C. Jordan D. Danube
- Name of the man who baptized Jesus.
A. John B. Peter C. Matthew D. Paul

Connect the Dots



The Baptism of Jesus

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. Luke 3:21 (NIV)

Words are taken from Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 (NIV).



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

Spirit	John	voice	Christ	fire
opened	Jesus	dove	powerful	water
people	praying	heaven	Holy	baptize

