

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:	23rd February 2025
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/

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD 2 February 2025 • Year C



Let us Pray for the Sick

Florence Arinanan, Rodney Bell, Lawrence Charles, Albert Cheng, 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, Carlos Mureno, Maricar Poblete, Veronica Portelli, Camy Ratnam, Louise Richard, Sue Tipaldo, Natalie Woodward.

If you would like to add to our Sick List or know of any Parishioner who is unwell please contact Father Henry or email the Parish Office: secretary@olol7hills.com.au

We can also arrange for Holy Communion or a visit if required.

Let us Pray for the Deceased

Recently Deceased: Joyce Ashton, Emma Barriom, Tricia Batongbacal, Vivienne Cameron, Murial Chary, Barrie Chamberlain, Blaise Costa, Padmini De Seram, Randy De Silva, Dulcie Duraisamy, Sandra Eichhorn, Henrieta Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Jasmin Fernando, Ethan Garcia, Ricardo Garcia, Nazarene Jalandoni, Joan Lawrence, Venancio Legaspi, Cynthia Lopez, Therese McFadden, Richard Monreal, Jennifer Morrissey, Silvia Morales, Phillip Newey, Consejo F. Noblezada, Ernesto Nuevaespana, Etelka Petkovics, Eustace Ratnam, Suranjith Reberra, Michael Scott.

Anniversaries: Mary Alagiah, S. Alphonse, John Azzopardi, Horace Baptist, Ronald Barley, Elaine Bosen, Peter & Helen Bonnici, Denis Brophy, Catherine Chandra, Aloysean Corera, Mary Camenzuli, Alita Do Rosario, Reycehiel Dormen, John Fernando, Nevis Fernando, M.A Fernando, Anthony Garcia, Francisca Garcia, Teodoro Garcia, Zenaida Garcia, Christine Gomez, Josephine Gomez, Bill & Helen Hili, Francis Magallanes Jr, Prudencio Monser, Thomas Morrissey Jnr, Anton Motha, Xavier Motha Jnr, Paul Mula, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kutty, Tony Muscat, Cordula Paiva, Antonio Palmos, Adrian Pereira, Elizabeth Pinter, John Portelli, Bernabe Quinto, Roseline Ratnam, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Michael Sant, Mary Silva, Rosary Silva, Loreta Laberinto Udan, Melchor Usman, Dionisio Udan, Jim Vella, Iris Warne.

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, France Angseeing, Carmen Attard, Anthony Borg, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato & Marlyn Cabasa, Toufic, Dede, Bede Marcel, Mohsen & Peter Diab, Fe Licup Carmen, Dennis Clarke, Myrna Cruz, Saviour Caruana, Tania McGove, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Lancer De Guire, Joseph & Camena Formosa, Melvyn Fernandes, Nevis Fernando, Sammy Formosa, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Sam Gabo, Mary & Sam Galea, Evangeline Garcia, Leandro Snr Garcia, Jose Garcia, Teodoro Garcia, Rita Hili, Selvam Irudayaraj, Sheena Landagan, A. Mansoor, Apolinario & Felina Maglaya, Pauline Meilak, Maria Regina Menezes, Mangion & Cini Family, William & Emilia Mifsud, Joseph & Doris Mifsud, Mary Mifsud, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Lourda Motha, Ngan Pin, Louis, Stephen & Joseph Mula, Mary & Francis Muscat, Andres Noblezada, Peter John & Carmelita, Jesus Opulencia, Matilde T & Romeo T Palmos, Natalia Prahinog, John Ratnam, Jose, Maria, Laureano, Yolanda & Karen Reyes, 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 or contact Maryse Augseeing on 0467 701 010.



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 Malachi 3:1-4*

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming?

Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fuller's alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**(R) Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!**

1. O gates, lift up your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! **(R.)**

3. O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! **(R.)**

2. Who is the king of glory?
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,
the Lord, the valiant in war. **(R.)**

4. Who is he, the king of glory?
He, the Lord of armies,
he is the king of glory. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 2:14-18*

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham.

It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
This is the light of revelation to the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 2:22-40*

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God, and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.' As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord



Dear friends,

Welcome to our first bulletin of 2025 which happens to be the start of the New Year of the Snake.

Recently I watched the Video log of a young Vietnamese lady regarding to her Spring trip back to her Chinese husband's city which was more than a thousand kilometers from where they work in Guangzhou. After failing to compete with thousands of other passengers for a seat in the High Speed train, they made the decision to travel by car and they were expected to drive for more than ten hours to get home for a trip which usually took them five hours in the low season. It was unbelievable to see the scene of a sea of people filling up a massive train station waiting to get on board the next train, something just like the New Year eve in Sydney, and all looked eager to go for thousands of miles to be home, and honestly I just felt tired by the look of that.

Talking about home-coming trip, we have a Gospel with the same topic which, in fact, deals with Jesus' return to his hometown namely Nazareth. This return trip of the Lord actually began last week with the Gospel account telling us what Jesus was invited to do as he came to the local synagogue: people gave him the scroll of Isaiah and asked him to read. He then chose chapter 61.1-2 which was about bringing the good news to the poor, healing to the sick, sight to the blind and freedom to captives, considered as Jesus' Mission statement.

At the end, he made the comment that such a text prophesying about the Messiah is fulfilled at the time of his proclamation of it, meaning that he is the fulfillment of the prophecy. Though he impressed the congregation with his words as Luke said, some began to dig into his family background as the way to put him down, and others challenged him to do miracles to win their approval, and in response, Jesus had no hesitation to tell them the wisdom that 'no prophet is ever accepted in his own country,' and went on to remind them of what happened in the past when those regarded as pagans received favors from the prophets of God in time of trouble, while the Israelites had none. Such a straightforward response from Jesus really enraged his opposition, and they began to turn physical against him by hustling him out of the town, taking him up the hill with the intention to throw him off the cliff, but he managed to free himself and walked away.

Apart from highlighting (1) Jesus' ministry to preach the Good News and give help to the needy and (2) the earliest sign of the tension between Jesus and those against him the one leading to his death eventually, this Gospel seems to challenge us not to behave like some of Jesus' townspeople when differences arise in our relation with others, that no matter how different we are, we have got to show each other tolerance and mutual respect.

Let us ask the Lord to fill our heart with tolerance and help us show respect first to God the way we are expected to do and secondly to all people around us, especially those who are different to us.

Have a Happy Lunar New Year and a lovely week filled with respect for God and humanity.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH FEAST DAY

ALL WELCOME!

Our Parish Feast Day will fall on Sunday 9th February this year. We are going to celebrate officially at the 9.30am Sunday Mass followed by a luncheon in the hall.

Please come along and join in commemorating this special day.

We are inviting parishioners to bring along a plate to share.

For further enquiries, please contact Evelyn on 0437 572 636 or the parish office.



SUNDAY EVENING MASS AT 5PM

From February this year, we begin to have an extra Sunday Mass at 5PM on every third Sunday of the month with the intention to offer an extra opportunity for our parishioners, especially the young ones to attend Mass on Sunday. Our first Sunday Evening Mass will be on 16th February at 5PM.

HOME VISITS

Deacon Thong Nguyen would like to offer his service for home visits and Holy Communion to our local elderly or those who are unable to attend Mass due to illness. Any parishioners who would like to volunteer to join his team in bringing God to the sick and elderly please contact Deacon Thong on 0452210951 or via the parish office.

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.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM ENROLMENT MASS

Reconciliation and First Communion Enrolment Mass
The Enrolment Mass for parents wishing to enrol their Year 3 (or above) child in the 2025 Sacramental program will be on Sunday 16th February during the 9.30am mass. Parents and children attend this Mass. Please arrive 10-15mins early with your completed enrolment form and contribution.

LOURDES OVER 50s GROUP MEETING

Over 50s meetings return on Thursday 13th February 2025, 10.30am– 1pm. Please bring a plate to share. Look forward to welcoming you back!

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Diocesan World Day of Prayer for the Sick: 11 February

A World Day of Prayer for the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on Tuesday 11 February 2025 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. RSVPs are required by 6 February 2025 via parracatholic.org/world-day-prayer-feb11

Peace, Justice & Ecology Sharings online gathering: 13 February

"Peace, Justice & Ecology Sharings" are quarterly online gatherings for everyone interested in social justice, care for creation, or global peace. They are an opportunity to connect, meet like-minded people, and discuss what's happening in the Peace, Justice & Ecology space. In February, the PJE Sharing will focus on raising the age of criminal responsibility in NSW and Caritas' Project Compassion. You are invited to join Thursday 13 February 2025, 6:30-8:00pm. To receive a zoom link, please RSVP to met@parracatholic.org

Music for Lent Workshop: 13 February

Musicians and Liturgy Planners are invited to attend an evening exploring Music for Lent on Thursday 13 February from 7pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. The session will be presented by Eric Grella, the Music Formation Facilitator, Mission Enhancement Team. Registrations are essential, please RSVP by 11 February via parracatholic.org/music-workshop

Australian Catholic Historical Society 'Tragedy and farce: The Sister Liguori story': 16 February

The next Australian Catholic Historical Society event is on Sunday, 16 February, at 2:00 PM in the crypt of Saint Patrick's, Church Hill. Jeff Kildea, Barrister and Historian, will present *Tragedy and Farce: The Sister Liguori Story*. All are welcome; no charge.

Visit <https://australiancatholichistoricalsociety.com.au/> for details and resources.

FaithLIFE Scripture Short Courses for adults: 12-26 February

Are you looking to read the Bible more in 2025 but don't know where to start? Consider the FREE FaithLIFE Scripture Short Course guided by Scripture scholar, Dr Michele Connolly RSJ. Wednesdays, 12, 19, & 26 February. 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM 1-5 Marion Street Blacktown - Bishop Bede Heather Centre. RSVP via <https://parracatholic.org/faithlife> OR email met@parracatholic.org

Women's Lenten Retreat at Mount Schoenstatt: 21-23 February

Join us at Mount Schoenstatt for a reflective retreat inspired by 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. The retreat runs from 7pm on 21 February to 4pm on 23 February. Costs are \$240 per person for a shared room, \$290 per person for a single room (limited availability), or \$60 per person per day for day attendance. Accommodation and meals are included, or lunch for day attendees.

Register by 12 February by contacting Sr M Elizabeth Foley at bookings@schoenstatt.org.au or 02 4773 8338.

Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend: 22-23 February

How prepared are you for marriage? Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life. We give you a chance to spend time together to strengthen and enrich your relationship. The next Engaged Encounter Weekend will be held on 22-23 February, with future dates in May, August and November 2025.

For further information visit www.engagedencounter.org.au

Christian Meditation Introduction and Renewal Day: 16 February

You are invited to a Christian Meditation Introduction and Renewal Day on Sunday 16 February and 18 May from 10am to 3pm at St Benedict's Monastery, 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia. There will be an introduction to Christian Meditation for newcomers with periods of meditation for ongoing meditators, presentations and prayer with the monks. Mass will be celebrated in the afternoon. Morning tea is provided, but please bring your own picnic lunch. For enquiries, please contact Ann Lomas on atlomas@bigpond.com or call 0437 340 250.

LOLO SAFEGUARDING NEWS

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities: 8 February

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held on Saturday 8 February at St Thomas Aquinas, Springwood for Cycle 2 (Renewal Modules 4-5). More training opportunities will be available throughout February and May. Please register directly for this training or for other convenient dates and locations by clicking on the training event at: parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training. For more information, please email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

Working With Children Check Reminder

Here at OLOL Parish all our volunteers and staff have had a WWCC. It is important that your current WWCC number is renewed rather than applying for a new Check. If your WWCC is due to expire and you have not received an email from the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian, please contact the OCG for further information. NB: If you have forgotten your WWCC number or are unsure which email address your WWCC number is registered to, please contact the OCG on (02) 92867219.

Privacy and Confidentiality

In your role here at OLOL, you may have access to private and confidential information about our Parish, the Diocese, clergy, employees and parishioners. You are expected to keep this information entirely confidential. This is a legal requirement and also applies to the use of social media and email. Discussing information, you have received during your volunteer role with staff, family, friends or any other volunteers – inside or outside the Parish or Diocese – is not acceptable. From time to time, photos may be taken of you whilst volunteering. If you do not wish your photo to be used, please inform the person taking the photo or through the Parish Office. Permission from a child's parent/guardian must be sought before taking any photographs of children.

Supporting the Safety of Our Community

We all have a role to play in safeguarding those who are vulnerable. Concerns about safeguarding may be referred to Fr Henry, our Parish Priest, or directly to the: Office for Safeguarding and Professional Standards Ph (02) 8838 3419 or via Email: safeguarding@parracatholic.org.

POPE FRANCIS' ANGELUS

Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday!

This Sunday, the Evangelist Luke presents Jesus to us in the synagogue in Nazareth, the town where He grew up. He reads the passage from the prophet Isaiah announcing the Messiah's evangelizing and liberating mission. He then says, in the general silence: 'Today this Scripture has been fulfilled' (cf. Lk 4:21).

Let us imagine the surprise and dismay of Jesus' fellow citizens, who knew Him as the carpenter Joseph's son and would never have imagined that He could present himself as the Messiah.

It was bewildering. Yet this is precisely how it was: Jesus proclaims that, by His presence, 'a year acceptable to the Lord' (v. 19) has come. It is the glad tidings for all and in a special way for the poor, for the captives, for the blind, for the oppressed (cf. v. 18).

That day, in Nazareth, Jesus confronted His interlocutors with a choice about His identity and mission. No one in the synagogue could help but wonder: is He only the carpenter's son who arrogates to Himself a role that does not belong to Him, or is He truly the Messiah, sent by God to save the people from sin and all evil?

The Evangelist tells us that the Nazarenes failed to recognize the Lord's anointed one in Jesus. They thought they knew Him too well, and this, instead of facilitating the opening of their minds and hearts, prevented them from doing so, like a veil obscuring the light.

Sisters and brothers, this event, with the due analogies, also happens for us today. We too are challenged by the presence and words of Jesus; we too are called to recognize in Him the Son of God, our Savior. But it may happen to us, as it did to His countrymen, to think that we already know Him, that we already know everything about Him, that we have grown up with Him, in school, in the parish, in catechism, in a country with a Catholic culture... And so, for us too, He is a Person who is close, indeed perhaps even 'too' close.

But let us try to ask ourselves: do we sense the unique authority with which Jesus of Nazareth speaks? Do we recognize that He is the bearer of a proclamation of salvation that no one else can give us? And I, do I feel in need of this salvation? Do I feel that I too am in some way poor, imprisoned, blind, oppressed? Then, only then, 'the year of grace' will be for me!

Let us turn confidently to Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, to help us recognize Jesus.

After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters!

The ongoing conflict in Sudan, which began in April 2023, is causing the most serious humanitarian crisis in the world, with dramatic consequences in South Sudan too. I am close to the peoples of both countries and I invite them to fraternity, solidarity, to avoid any kind of violence and not to allow themselves to be exploited. I renew my appeal to those who are at war in Sudan for them to put an end to hostilities and to agree to sit at the negotiating table. I urge the international community to do all it can to get the necessary humanitarian aid to the displaced people and to help the belligerents find paths to peace soon.

I look with concern at the situation in Colombia, particularly to the Catatumbo region, where clashes between armed groups have claimed many civilian lives and displaced more than thirty thousand people. I express my closeness to them and pray for them.

Today is World Leprosy Day. I encourage all those who work on behalf of those afflicted by this disease to continue their efforts, also helping those who heal to be reintegrated into society. May they not be marginalized!

Tomorrow is the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust: 80 years have passed since the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp. The horror of the extermination of millions of Jews and people of other faiths during those years can neither be forgotten nor denied. I remember the talented Hungarian poet Edith Bruck, who lives in Rome. She suffered because of all of that... Today, if you want, you can listen to her on the program 'Che tempo che fa'. She is a good woman. We also remember many Christians, among them many martyrs. I renew my appeal for everyone to work together to eradicate the scourge of anti-Semitism, along with all forms of discrimination and religious persecution. Let us build a more fraternal, more just world, together. Let us educate young people to have a heart open to all, following the logic of fraternity, forgiveness and peace.

And I greet all of you from Italy and from many parts of the world. In particular I greet the journalists and media workers who have taken part in their Jubilee in these days: I urge them to be narrators of hope, always.

I also greet the Poles, especially those coming from Zabno; the students of the 'Zurbará' Institute of Badajoz (Spain), the faithful of Siquirres (Costa Rica), the group of *quinceañeras* girls from Panama.

I greet the pilgrims of the Pastoral Unit of Busto Garolfo and Olcella, Archdiocese of Milan.

And it is with joy that I welcome all of you, boys and girls of the Italian Catholic Action, of the parishes and Catholic schools of Rome. You have come here at the end of the 'Caravan of Peace', during which you reflected on the presence of Jesus in your lives, witnessing to your peers the beauty of welcome and fraternity. And now let us listen to these good people who want to tell us something...Come on! Make yourself heard!

POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE FOR 33RD WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

Dear brothers and sisters,

We are celebrating the 33rd World Day of the Sick in the Jubilee Year 2025, in which the Church invites us to become “pilgrims of hope”. The word of God accompanies us and offers us, in the words of Saint Paul, an encouraging message: “Hope does not disappoint” (*Rom 5:5*); indeed, it strengthens us in times of trial.

These are comforting words, but they can also prove perplexing, especially for those who are suffering. How can we be strong, for example, when our bodies are prey to severe, debilitating illnesses that require costly treatment that we may not be able to afford? How can we show strength when, in addition to our own sufferings, we see those of our loved ones who support us yet feel powerless to help us? In these situations, we sense our need for a strength greater than our own. We realize that we need God’s help, his grace, his Providence, and the strength that is the gift of his Spirit (cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1808).

Let us stop for a moment to reflect on how God remains close to those who are suffering in three particular ways: through *encounter*, *gift* and *sharing*.

1. *Encounter*. When Jesus sent the seventy-two disciples out on mission (cf. *Lk 10:1-9*), he told them to proclaim to the sick: “The kingdom of God has come near to you” (v. 9). He asks them, in other words, to help the sick to see their infirmity, however painful and incomprehensible it may be, as an opportunity to encounter the Lord. In times of illness, we sense our human frailty on the physical, psychological and spiritual levels. Yet we also experience the closeness and compassion of God, who, in Jesus, shared in our human suffering. God does not abandon us and often amazes us by granting us a strength that we never expected, and would never have found on our own.

Sickness, then, becomes an occasion for a transformative encounter, the discovery of a solid rock to which we can hold fast amid the tempests of life, an experience that, even at great cost, makes us all the stronger because it teaches us that we are not alone. Suffering always brings with it a mysterious promise of salvation, for it makes us experience the closeness and reality of God’s consoling presence. In this way, we come to know “the fullness of the Gospel with all its promise and life” (SAINT JOHN PAUL II, *Address to Young People*, New Orleans, 12 September 1987).

2. This brings us to the second way that God is close to the suffering: as *gift*. More than anything else, suffering makes us aware that hope comes from the Lord. It is thus, first and foremost, a gift to be received and cultivated, by remaining “faithful to the faithfulness of God”, in the fine expression of Madeleine Delbr el (cf. *La speranza   una luce nella notte*, Vatican City 2024, Preface).

Indeed, only in Christ’s resurrection does our own life and destiny find its place within the infinite horizon of eternity. In Jesus’ paschal mystery alone do we attain the certainty that “neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God” (*Rom 8:38-39*). This “great hope” is the source of all those small glimmers of light that help us to see our way through the trials and obstacles of life (cf. BENEDICT XVI, *Spe Salvi*, 27, 31). The risen Lord goes so far as to walk beside us as our companion on the way, even as he did with the disciples on the road to Emmaus (cf. *Lk 24:13-53*). Like them, we can share with him our anxieties, concerns and disappointments, and listen to his word, which enlightens us and warms our hearts. Like them too, we can recognize him present in the breaking of the bread and thus, even in the present, sense that “greater reality” which, by drawing near to us, restores our courage and confidence.

3. We now come to God’s third way of being close to us: through *sharing*. Places of suffering are frequently also places of sharing and mutual enrichment. How often, at the bedside of the sick, do we learn to hope! How often, by our closeness to those who suffer, do we learn to have faith! How often, when we care for those in need, do we discover love! We realize that we are “angels” of hope and messengers of God for one another, all of us together: whether patients, physicians, nurses, family members, friends, priests, men and women religious, no matter where we are, whether in the family or in clinics, nursing homes, hospitals or medical centres.

We need to learn how to appreciate the beauty and significance of these grace-filled encounters. We need to learn how to cherish the gentle smile of a nurse, the gratitude and trust of a patient, the caring face of a doctor or volunteer, or the anxious and expectant look of a spouse, a child, a grandchild or a dear friend. All these are rays of light to be treasured; even amid the dark night of adversity, they give us strength, while at the same time teaching us the deeper meaning of life, in love and closeness (cf. *Lk 10:25-37*).

Dear brothers and sisters who are ill or who care for the suffering, in this Jubilee you play an especially important part. Your journey together is a sign for everyone: “a hymn to human dignity, a song of hope” (*Spes Non Confundit*, 11). Its strains are heard far beyond the rooms and beds of health facilities, and serve to elicit in charity “the choral participation of society as a whole” (ibid.) in a harmony that is at times difficult to achieve, but for that very reason is so comforting and powerful, capable of bringing light and warmth wherever they are most needed.

The whole Church thanks you for this! I do as well, and I remember you always in my prayers. I entrust you to Our Lady, Health of the Sick, in the words that so many of our brothers and sisters have addressed to her in their hour of need:

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our petitions in our necessities,

but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

I bless you, along with your families and loved ones, and I ask you, please, not to forget to pray for me.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 14 January 2025

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 February. 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.

FEBRUARY 2025

4	School Term 1 Commences	
9	OLOL Feast Day Mass & Celebrations	9.30am
13	Over 50's Meeting	10.30am
16	Sacramental Program 2025 Enrolment Mass	9.30am
19	1st Meeting—Sacramental Program	6.30pm

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

1/2 February

Acolytes	Vigil: Frank Paiva 8am: Eugene Miu 9.30am: Ryan Epondulan	
Ministers	Vigil: N.Shami, J. Franco 8am: M. Santos, T. Perak 9.30am: C. Brooks, P. Gow	
Readers	Vigil: Neila Sumcad, Alexandra Franco 8am: A. Pushparajan, J. Mai 9.30am: L. Ridney, A. Han	
Altar Servers	Vigil: J. Hoang, D & J Sant 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: K. Maruthanayagam, J & M Pieris	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Tongan Choir	
Musicians	Vigil: Christine Clarke 8am: Fr. Henry 9.30am: Couples for Christ	
Flowers	Angela & Ka	
Church Cleaning	6 Feb	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Volunteer	

8/9 February

Acolytes	Vigil: Darryl Green 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am: Ramzee Michael	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Mifsud, M. Simic 8am: L. Fernandes, J. Irudayaraj 9.30am: A. Walker, B. Chandler	
Readers	Vigil: Yxaak & Yxavel Dino 8am: F. Paiva, A. McNally 9.30am: N. Arambulo, B. Motha	
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. Monteiro, C. Bellamin, M. Gluovic 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: L. Sadipoor, J & O Martinez	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council - Feast Day	
Musicians	Vigil: OFS 8am: Fr Henry 9.30am: Tongan Choir	
Flowers	Claudette & Siani	
Church Cleaning	8 Feb	Tongan Community Edgardo Barcelon Edgar Cabrera
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli	

The Kids' Bulletin

Feast of the Presentation of Jesus
February 2nd, 2025

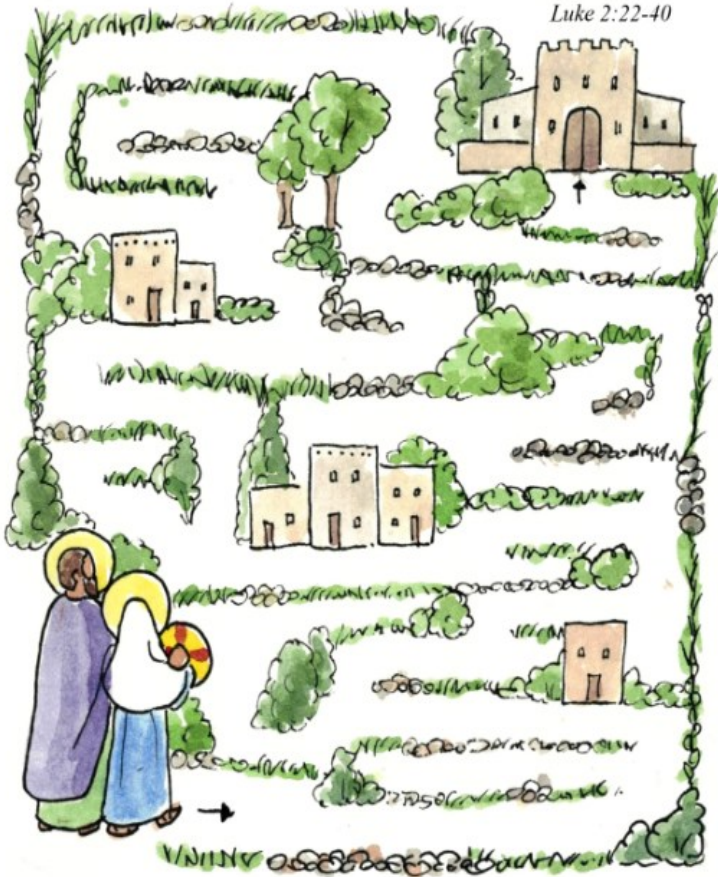
Simeon Recognizes Jesus

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Luke 2:25-26 (NVI)

Based on Luke 2:22-40 (NIV)



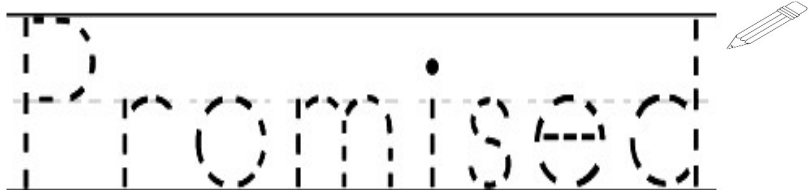
Luke 2:22-40



Can you help the Holy Family find their way to the Temple so that Baby Jesus can be presented there?

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

SPIRIT	RIGHTEOUS	PRAISED	COURTS	TEMPLE
CHILD	DEVOUT	LIGHT	JOSEPH	JESUS
PARENTS	SALVATION	ISRAEL	REVEALED	PIGEONS
SIMEON	PROMISED	DOVES	SACRIFICE	MARY



V	C	Y	U	K	S	N	Z	W	O	X	R	H	M	G	D	I	Q	T	P	J	F	L	B	A	E
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 21-26-6-4-6 _____
- 21-10-6-26-20-13 _____
- 14-25-12-3 _____
- 6-17-14-26-10-7 _____
- 16-26-1-10-4-19 _____
- 19-26-14-20-23-26 _____
- 2-13-17-23-16 _____
- 20-12-10-14-17-6-26-16 _____

MARY	CHILD	PROMISED	DEVOUT
JESUS	TEMPLE	JOSEPH	SIMEON