

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS

"Still a wonderful place to pray & stay."

7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills. NSW. 2147

Ph. 9622 2920

Email: secretary@olol7hills.com.au

Parish Priest: Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran
Parish Deacon: Deacon Thong Nguyen
Parish Office Team: Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Jane Nguyen, Laura Ilioski
Office Hours: Monday-Friday: 9am - 3.00pm
WEEKDAY MASS: Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am
 Thursday 9.00am
WEEKEND MASS: Saturday Vigil 6pm
 Sunday 8am & 9.30am

Parish School: OLOL 8869 6800
Principal: Ms Keiran Byrnes
Reconciliation: Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
Baptismal Preparation: 16th April 2025
Baptism: 27th April 2025
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall
Youth Co-Ordinator: Diana Park
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.org.au
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

8th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

2 March 2025 • Year C



Let us Pray for the Sick

Florence Arinanan, Sarah Bartolo, Lawrence Charles, Ben Dixon, Alma Caguimbal, Para Dias, Mary Camilleri, Pope Francis, Lucia Fernando, Renuka Fernando, Philippe Honore, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Anthony Janicska, Odette James, Mary Jordan, Klare Kinsley, Paul Leong, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Maricar Poblete, Veronica Portelli, Camy Ratnam, 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: Tricia Batongbacal, Vivienne Cameron, Carmen Cassar, Murial Chary, Blaise Costa, Padmini De Seram, Randy De Silva, Dulcie Duraisamy, Sandra Eichhorn, Henrieta Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Jasmin Fernando, Ethan Garcia, Ricardo Garcia, Assad Karam, Cynthia Lopez, Antoun Martinez, Richard Monreal, Jennifer Morrissey, Silvia Morales, Leo Ngan, Jacintha Noronha, Carol Ordunia, Etelka Petkovics, Eustace Ratnam, Suranjith Reberra, Julius Suseno.

Anniversaries: Mary Alagiah, Horace Baptist, Ronald Barley, Romeo Biniahan, Elaine Bosen, Peter & Helen Bonnici, Denis Brophy, Catherine Chandra, Aloysean Corera, Mary Camenzuli, Paul Commarmond, Alejandra Yabut Dayrit, Joe Falzon, John Fernando, Nevis Fernando, M.A. Fernando, Sheela E. Franklin, Constance Gaycroft, Anthony Garcia, Francisca Garcia, Teodoro Garcia, Zenaida Garcia, Christine Gomez, Josephine Gomez, Bill & Helen Hili, Cecilia Dayvit Mendoza, Marie Marchand, Anton Motha, Xavier Motha Jnr, Paul Mula, Jason Muscat, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kutty, Tony Muscat, Cordula Paiva, Mile Perak, Adrian Pereira, John Portelli, Roseline Ratnam, Cornelio & Illuminada Rondario, Nicholas Saliba, Michael Sant, Mary Silva, Rosary Silva, Helen Tanti, Marie Tanti, Loreta Laberinto Udán, Melchor Usman, Dionisio Udán.

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, France Angseeing, Carmen Attard, Sydney Azie, Lydia, Marlene Busac, Barrie Chamberlain, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato & Marlyn Cabasa, Fe Licup Carmen, Catarina Camilleri, Dennis Clarke, Myrna Cruz, Saviour Caruana, Tania McGove, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Lancer De Guire, Gilbert D'Souza, Conception & Dominic D'Souza, Christiansen Dias, 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, Charlie Gauci, Selvam Irudayaraj, Harold, Marc, Rosine Laflier, Sheena Landagan, A. Mansoor, Apolinario & Felina Maglaya, Maureen & John Mead, Pauline Meilak, Mary Nichola, Cole Ngan, 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, Peter John & Carmelita, Ngan Pin, John Ratnam, Felcy & Henry Rodrigues, Paulina & Santan Soares, 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 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 first book of Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7*

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind, so too the defects of a man appear in his talk. The kiln tests the work of the potter, the test of a man is in his conversation.

The orchard where the tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit, similarly a man's words betray what he feels. Do not praise a man before he has spoken, since this is the test of men.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning
and your truth in the watches of the night. **(R.)**

2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar. **(R.)**

3. Planted in the house of the Lord
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just.
In him, my rock, there is no wrong. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 15:45-58*

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 6:39-54*

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord





Dear friends,

In the old days back in my village, I would see pairs of my neighbours equipped with long saws working day in day out to cut a log into planks of wood ready for building constructions in the village.

The men, one standing on top of the log, and the other under it, spent their whole day patiently pushing and pulling to slide the log into pieces, sometimes they stopped for a break or taking the sawdust out of their eyes, usually the person beneath the log had to call for the stop first because the sawdust often dropped upon him more than the other, worst was his fellow worker couldn't see him at all due to the log lying between them.

I wonder how many of us ever had the privilege to see such a scene before, and I think that probably was close enough to help us reflect upon the parable Jesus teaches us in the Gospel this Sunday. By means of the plank and the splinter symbolizing our weaknesses and mistakes both big and small, Jesus encourages us (1) to build up a strong sense of self-development and self-improvement by looking deep down into ourselves to identify the plank of our imperfection, faults and weaknesses and try our best to get rid of it, and (2) not to be critical of the other's splinter of small mistakes and make a big deal with that.

This self-criticism approach will help produce the good fruit Jesus talks about in the second part of the Gospel, the fruit of goodness expressed through our kind words coming right from our heart filled with love and compassion.

Let us pray this week for the courage to take the plank of weaknesses out of ourselves and the grace to help us grow better and better every day and bear the fruit of goodness through all that we do and say in our daily lives.

Have a self-improvement-oriented week,

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

PROJECT COMPASSION SUNDAY

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Your support this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need. You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413



THE LITTLE BOOK FOR LENT

'Start Anew in Christ' is a daily reflection book for Lent 2025 from Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday. It call's for all the followers of Jesus to examine their hearts and open themselves to be renewed and empowered by the Holy Spirit who makes all things new.

LENTEN PROGRAM A FRESH START WITH JESUS

The theme of our Lenten program this year is "Start Anew In Christ". God can do great things through us if we allow the grace and power of the Holy Spirit to fill us with real hope that all will know in a deeper way the love, mercy and joy of the Risen Lord at Easter. There are two choices - for face to face reflection, we will meet at 7.15am before Mass on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and 8.15am on Thursday.

The other opportunity is to join us online on Tuesday evenings at 7.30 - 8.30pm for a prayerful overview of the weeks readings starting on Tuesday 4th March. The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7961550398?omn=82703441237>.

The reflection booklets are available at the rear of the church for \$5. Enquiries - Adrian - 0408 649 327

SACRAMENTAL PROCESS 2025

Reconciliation and First Communion

The Sacramental Program for 2025 has now commenced, please keep these children in your prayers during their faith journey. A gentle reminder that the third Meeting is next Wednesday the 5th of March at 6.30pm in the Parish Hall, if you miss this, a repeat will be on Saturday 8th March at 4.30pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

PROGAM PASSPORT SIGNING

All children doing the Sacramental Program this year have received a passport to be signed as they attend Sunday Mass. For those who happen to go to Mass somewhere else, please ask the celebrant there to sign the passport.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES

The 5th of March 2025 is Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. Mass times for the day will be:

8am

9.15am (school mass)

7.30pm

'Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return'

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during LENT.

Starts Friday 7th March at 7.30pm.



IMPORTANT NOTES FOR LENT

- Lent begins from Ash Wednesday.
- In Lent there is no Alleluia at Mass.
- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence for healthy Catholics.
- Lent is a penitential time of prayer, self-denial and helping others.

LENTEN RETREAT FOR ALL

We put our Cars in for Service; Lent is the time for us to put ourselves in for Service! Let's do it! Check your Diary and Come along! Saturday March 15, 2025. Time: 9.30AM- 3PM in the Parish Meeting Room. Lunch will be provided. The Theme is: 'Speak Lord, your servants are listening' This day will be interesting, and too good to miss. Your companion for the day is Fr Kevin Walsh an Experienced Retreat Giver and Missioner. Please RSVP on the clipboard available at the rear of the church or contact the Parish Office.

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.

ST JOSEPH NOVENA MASS WED 12 MARCH 7PM

All are welcome to join in the Novena Masses for the Feast of St Joseph. Our parish at Seven Hills will host the 7th Day Novena Mass on Wednesday, 12th March 2025 7pm Mass. Main celebrant will be Fr Domingo (Meng) Barawid MI. The Feast Day Mass will be Saturday, 15th March 2025, 10:30am St Patrick's Church, 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown celebrated by Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFMConv.

DIOCESAN NEWS

FaithLIFE Lenten Scripture night by Dr Michele Connolly RSJ: 3 March

Are you looking to read the Bible during Lent but don't know where to start? Consider the FREE Diocesan Lenten Scripture Night guided by Scripture scholar, Dr Michele Connolly RSJ. Monday, 3 March. 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM. 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown NSW 2148 – Mary Queen of the Family parish. RSVP via parracatholic.org/events/lenten-scripture-night/ OR email met@parracatholic.org

Ecumenical World Day of Prayer service: 7 March

The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian laywomen, observed annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. Join us on Friday, 7 March, at 10am at Penrith Uniting Church (15 Evans Street, Penrith – behind the Fire Station). All denominations are warmly invited to participate. Morning tea will be provided after the service. For more information, please contact Rev Christine Bayliss Kelly on 0409 925 607.

Holy Hour for Vocations: 28 February

Join us for a Holy Hour for Vocations at Mary Immaculate Parish, Quakers Hill on Friday 28 February from 7-8 pm. Join us afterwards for refreshments, discussions and games in the pergola space. Email parishoffice@maryimmac.org.au for more details.

Diocese of Parramatta's Jubilee Youth Pilgrimage

Young people (18-35) across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are invited to embark on an 18-day pilgrimage to the Jubilee of Youth in Rome from 19 July – 5 August 2025. The journey includes a visit to Greece, tracing the footsteps of Saint Paul, before heading to Rome for the celebration. Express your interest today via the below link

parracatholic.org/jubileeyouth2025

Pilgrimage 2025

Fr. Clifford D'souza is inviting you to join him on a pilgrimage to the saints of Portugal, Spain, France and Italy- Fatima, Avila, Loyola, Lourdes, Nevers, Lisieux, Paris, Padova, Assisi and Rome. 31 August-19 September 2025. For more details pls contact Fr. Clifford on cliff_dsouza03@yahoo.com.au or atitours.com.au/

Sydney Alliance Federal Pre-Election Assembly: 13 March

Join the Diocese of Parramatta's delegation at the Sydney Alliance Federal Pre-Election Assembly 2025. A great opportunity to experience and showcase our faith in action as this non-partisan assembly invites decision-makers to commit to concrete post-election action on housing and renting, affordable and renewable energy, and climate resilience: 13 March 2025, 5:40pm–7:40pm, Morley Centre, 2 Darcy Rd, Westmead. Register at events.humanitix.com/sydney-alliance-federal-assembly-2025 and please include "Catholic Diocese of Parramatta" and the name of your parish or organisation.

Enrolling Now for Kindergarten 2026



OUR LADY OF LOURDES PRIMARY

OPEN 26 February 6pm - 7:30pm
DAYS 3 March 6pm - 7:30pm

7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills 2147
T: 8869 6800 ololshills.catholic.edu.au



OLOL 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.

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities: 3 May

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Renewal Training will be held on Saturday 3 May at Holy Family Emerton for Cycle 2 (Module 4-5). More training opportunities will be available soon. Please register directly for this training or for other convenient dates and locations by clicking on the training event at: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>.

For more information, please email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

Safeguarding the Elderly Project: 13 March

Are you interested in sharing and listening to ideas about how we can meet the needs of older people in our Parish communities? You are invited to 'Share a Cuppa' on Thursday 13 March from 10am-12noon at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Those involved in ministries such as Ministers of Communion to the Sick and Pastoral Care Groups, are invited to share their experiences and reflections. RSVP by Monday 3 March with any dietary requirements to: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org Please contact Maria Kervin (Manager, Prevention, Healing & Support) at: mariakervin@parracatholic.org if you would like more information on hosting such a Morning Tea within your own Parish with your Ministry Team.

Responsibility

The protection of all vulnerable people is not something to be added to the to-do list. All volunteers of the Church have a responsibility to ensure the safeguarding of all peoples. It is everyone's responsibility and it must be embedded into everything that happens in our Church.



Vatican News

On Wednesday evening, the Holy See Press Office provided the following update on Pope Francis' health: *"The Holy Father's condition has shown a slight further improvement over the past 24 hours.*

The mild kidney insufficiency observed in recent days has subsided. A chest CT scan carried out last night showed a normal progression of the lung inflammation.

Blood tests conducted today confirmed the improvement seen yesterday.

The Holy Father remains on high-flow oxygen therapy but has not experienced any asthma-like respiratory episodes today. Respiratory physiotherapy is continuing. Despite the slight improvement, his prognosis remains guarded.

This morning, the Holy Father received the Eucharist, and in the afternoon, he resumed his work."

Let us continue to pray for our Holy Father, so that he will get well very soon and return to lead our Church as its Commander-in-Chief.

POPE FRANCIS PAVES THE WAY FOR NEW SAINTS By Vatican News

In an audience granted to Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin, and Archbishop Edgar Peña Parra, Substitute for General Affairs, Pope Francis authorized the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints to promulgate various Decrees concerning those on the path to sainthood.

The Holy Father recognized the "offering of life" of the Servants of God, Fr Emil Joseph Kapaun, who served as a United States Army chaplain during World War II and the Korean War; and Italian layman Salvo D'Acquisto.

The category of "offering of life" is "a new cause for the beatification and canonization procedure, distinct from the causes based on martyrdom and on the heroism of virtues." This cause was introduced by Pope Francis in 2017 to recognize as saints "those Christians who, following more than closely the footsteps and teachings of the Lord Jesus, have voluntarily and freely offered their life for others and persevered with this determination unto death."

With the decrees of "offering of life" and of heroic virtue, the Servants of God become Venerable.

A confirmed miracle is required for Beatification, the next stage in the process of canonization.

Fr Emil Kapaun

Born on 20 April 1916 in Kansas, Emil Joseph Kapaun was a chaplain in the Burma theater of World War II, then served again as a chaplain with the U.S. Army in Korea, where he was captured. He died in a prisoner of war in the Pyoktong Prison Camp.

Ordained a priest in 1940, he had joined the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps in 1944. When taken as a prisoner of war in Korea, he ministered to fellow prisoners.

Salvo D'Acquisto

In addition, the Holy Father recognized the offering of life of the Servant of God Salvo D'Acquisto, lay faithful, born in Naples on 15 October 1920, and died in Palidoro, Italy, on 23 September 1943.

The Servant of God was a member of the Italian Carabinieri during the Second World War.

Heroic virtues recognized

Moreover, the Pope recognized the heroic virtues of three Servants of God:

- Michele Maura Montaner, diocesan priest and founder of the Congregación de las Hermanas Celadoras del Culto Eucarístico, born in Palma de Mallorca (Spain) on September 6, 1843, and died there on September 19, 1915;

- The heroic virtues of the Servant of God Didaco Bessi, diocesan priest and founder of the Congregation of the Dominican Sisters of Saint Mary of the Rosary, born on February 5, 1856, in Iolo (Italy) and died there on May 25, 1919;

- The heroic virtues of the Servant of God Cunegonda Siwec, lay faithful, born on May 28, 1876, in Stryżawa - Siwówka (Poland) and died there on June 27, 1955.

Canonization of Blesseds

Furthermore, the Supreme Pontiff approved the favorable votes of the Ordinary Session of the Cardinals and Bishops of the Dicastery for the canonization of two Blesseds:

- Blessed Giuseppe Gregorio Hernández Cisneros, lay faithful, born in Isnotú (Venezuela) on October 26, 1864, and died in Caracas (Venezuela) on June 29, 1919, and of

- Blessed Bartolo Longo, lay faithful, born in Latiano (Italy) on February 10, 1841, and died in Pompeii (Italy) on October 5, 1926.

Blessed Bartolo was a lawyer from Naples who initially despised the Church, but converted and became responsible for establishing the Shrine of the Holy Rosary at Pompeii.

He has decided to convene a Consistory concerning the upcoming canonizations at a date to be determined.

POPE FRANCIS' AUDIENCE

Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025. Jesus Christ our Hope. I. The Infancy of Jesus. 7.

“My eyes have seen your salvation” (Lk 2:30). The presentation of Jesus at the Temple

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Today we will contemplate the beauty of “Jesus Christ, our hope” (1 Tim 1:1), in the mystery of His presentation at the Temple.

In the *narratives of Jesus’ infancy*, the evangelist Luke shows us Mary and Joseph’s obedience to the Law of the Lord and to all its prescriptions. In reality, in Israel there was no obligation to present the child at the Temple, but those who lived listening to the Word of the Law and wished to conform to it, considered it a valuable practice. So did Hannah, the mother of the prophet Samuel, who was barren; God heard her prayer and she, having had her son, took him to the temple and offered him to the Lord forever (cf. 1 Sam 1:24-28).

Luke therefore recounts Jesus’ first act of worship, celebrated in the holy city, Jerusalem, which will be the destination of His entire itinerant ministry from the moment He makes the firm decision to go up there (cf. Lk 9:51), heading towards the fulfilment of His mission.

Mary and Joseph do not simply embed Jesus in a history of the family, the people, of the covenant with the Lord God. They take care of His growth, and introduce Him into the atmosphere of faith and worship. And they too gradually grow in their comprehension of a vocation that far surpasses them.

In the Temple, which is a “house of prayer” (Lk 19:46), the Holy Spirit breathes, speaks to the heart of an elderly man: Simeon, a member of the holy people of God schooled in expectation and hope, who nurtures the desire for the fulfilment of God’s promises to Israel by through the prophets. Simeon perceives in the Temple the presence of the Lord’s Anointed One, he sees the light that shines in the midst of the peoples plunged “in darkness” (cf. Is 9:1) and he goes to meet that child who, as Isaiah prophesies, “is born to us”, He is the son who “is given to us”, the “Prince of Peace” (Is 9:5). Simeon embraces that child who, small and helpless, rests in his arms; but it is he, in fact, who finds consolation and the fullness of his existence by holding Him to himself. He expresses this in a canticle full of heartfelt gratitude, which in the Church has become the prayer at the end of the day:

“Now, Master, you may let your servant go
in peace, according to your word,
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in sight of all the peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and glory for your people Israel” (Lk 2:29-32).

Simeon sings the joy of those who have seen Him, who have recognized Him and are able to transmit to others the encounter with the Savior of Israel and of the peoples.

He is a witness of faith received as a gift and communicated to others; he is a witness of the hope that does not disappoint; he is a witness of God’s love, which fills the heart of man with joy and peace. Filled with this spiritual consolation, the elderly Simeon sees death not as the end, but as fulfilment, fullness; he awaits it like a “sister” that does not annihilate but introduces to the true life that he has already foretasted and in which he believes.

On that day, Simeon is not the only one to see salvation made flesh in the child Jesus.

The same also happens to Anna, a woman more than eighty years old, a widow, entirely devoted to service to the Temple and consecrated to prayer. Indeed, upon seeing the child, Anne celebrates the God of Israel, who has redeemed His people in that very child, and tells others about Him, generously spreading the prophetic word. The song of redemption of two elders thus emits the proclamation of the Jubilee for all the people and for the world. Hope is rekindled in hearts in the Temple of Jerusalem because Christ our hope has entered it.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us too imitate Simeon and Anna, these “pilgrims of hope” who have clear eyes capable of seeing beyond appearances, who are able to detect the presence of God in smallness, who know how to welcome God’s visit with joy and rekindle hope in the heart of brothers and sisters.

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 March 2025, 10.30am– 1pm in the Parish Hall. Please bring a plate to share. Look forward to seeing you there.

Lourdes: Luminare 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 rael24@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.

MARCH 2025

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 5 | Ash Wednesday Masses | 8am, 9.15am, 7.30pm |
| 5 | 3rd Meeting—Sacramental Program | 6.30pm-7.30pm |
| 7 | Stations of the Cross | 7.30pm |
| 8 | 3rd Meeting—Sacramental Program RPT | 4.30pm –5.30pm |

LOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

1/2 March

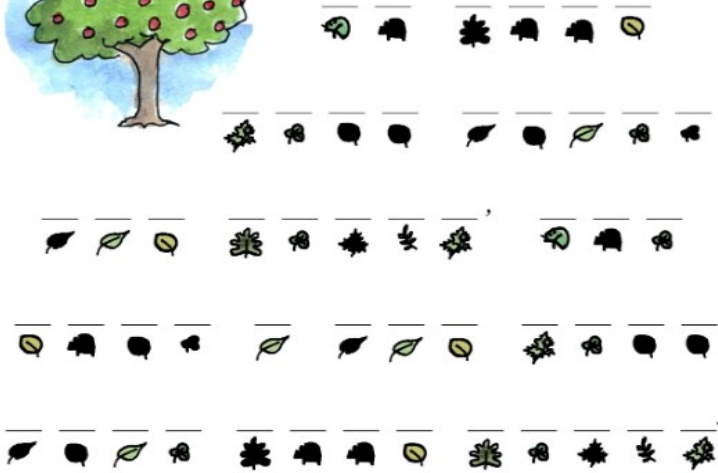
| | | |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Acolytes | Vigil: Derick Soares 8am: Eugene Miu 9.30am: Fayelene Kennedy | |
| Ministers | Vigil: M. Mifsud, R. Soares 8am: A. McNally, F. Paiva 9.30am: P. Gow, C. Brooks | |
| Readers | Vigil: C. Rodrigues, M. Simic 8am: J. Mai, T. Perak 9.30am: K. Huihui, L. Rigney | |
| Altar Servers | Vigil: E. Reardon, M. Gluvic, J Hoang 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: L. Sadipoor & Volunteer | |
| Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass) | Tongan Choir | |
| Musicians | Vigil: Christine Clarke 8am: Fr Henry 9.30am: Couples for Christ | |
| Flowers | Fenty & Liz | |
| Church Cleaning | 6 March | Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon |
| Welcomers | Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli | |

8/9 March

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Acolytes | Vigil: Frank Paiva 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am: Ramzee Michael | |
| Ministers | Vigil: N. Shami, B. Motha 8am: L. Fernandes, T. Perak 9.30am: M. Aquino, M. Michael | |
| Readers | Vigil: Yxaak & Yxavel Dino 8am: M. Santos, P. Ferriols 9.30am: E. Pieris, N. Arambulo | |
| Altar Servers | Vigil: Julian & Orlando Martinez, C. Bellamin 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: K. Cassaniti, Jenolin & Majerin Pieris | |
| Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass) | Young Adults Group | |
| Musicians | Vigil: OFS 8am: Fr Henry 9.30am: Tongan Choir | |
| Flowers | Claudette & Siani | |
| Church Cleaning | 8 March | Tongan Community Edgardo Barcelon Edgar Cabrera |
| Welcomers | Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon | |

The Kids' Bulletin

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
March 2nd, 2025



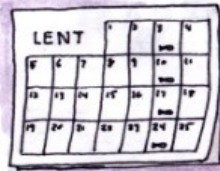
In today's Gospel reading Jesus told a parable about trees. What did He say? Use the code to find out!



A B D E F G I N O R S T U

Ash Wednesday

This Wednesday is the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday. Lent is a special time when we prepare ourselves for Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

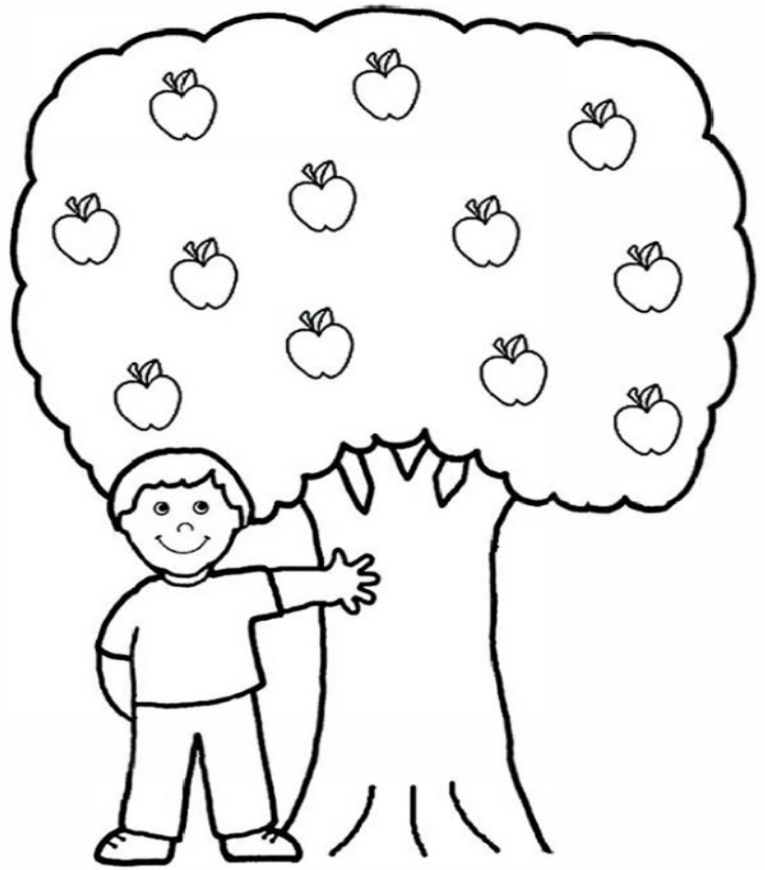


If you go to Mass on Ash Wednesday, the priest will make a little cross on your forehead with ashes. The ashes remind us that people were made from the dust of the ground and that some day we will die and go back into the ground.

It is good for us to remember that we will die one day. It helps us realize that God put us here and that we need Him all the time. If we remember how much we need God then we will think of Him more and love Him more.



What is something you can do this Lent to remind yourself every day that you need God?



The Tree and Its Fruit
Luke 6: 43-45

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



| | | | |
|------------|--------|--------|-------|
| FIGS | GRAPES | STORED | FRUIT |
| IDENTIFIED | SPEAKS | HEART | EVIL |
| PEOPLE | GOOD | MOUTH | TREE |

Draw a picture of you during Lent