



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: 19th February 2025
Baptism: 23rd February 2025
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall
Youth Co-Ordinator: Diana Park
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.com.au
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

16 February 2025 • Year C



Let us Pray for the Sick

Florence Arinanan, Lawrence Charles, Albert Cheng, Ben Dixon, Alma Caguimbal, Para Dias, Mary Camilleri, Lucia Fernando, Renuka Fernando, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Mary Jordan, 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: Emma Barriom, Tricia Batongbacal, Vivienne Cameron, Murial Chary, Blaise Costa, Padmini De Seram, Randy De Silva, Dulcie Duraisamy, Sandra Eichhom, Henrieta Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Jasmin Fernando, Ethan Garcia, Ricardo Garcia, Nazarene Jalandoni, Joan Lawrence, Venancio Legaspi, Cynthia Lopez, Antoun Martinez, Richard Monreal, Jennifer Morrissey, Silvia Morales, Rufino Nilmar, Consejo F. Noblezada, Ernesto Nuevaspana, Carol Ordunia, Etelka Petkovics, Eustace Ratnam, Suranjith Rebbera,

Anniversaries: Mary Alagiah, S. Alphonse, Horace Baptist, Ronald Barley, Lila Bate, Romeo Biniahan, Elaine Bosen, Peter & Helen Bonnici, Denis Brophy, Catherine Chandra, Aloysean Corera, Mary Camenzuli, Paul Commarmond, Alejandra Yabut Dayrit, Alita Do Rosario, Joe Falzon, John Fernando, Nevis Fernando, M.A Fernando, Sheela Franklin, Constance Gaycroft, Anthony Garcia, Francisca Garcia, Teodoro Garcia, Zenaida Garcia, Christine Gomez, Josephine Gomez, Bill & Helen Hili, Francisco Magallanes Jr, Cecilia Dayvit Mendoza, Thomas Morrissey Jnr, Anton Motha, Xavier Motha Jnr, Paul Mula, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kutty, Tony Muscat, Cordula Paiva, Antonio Palmos, Adrian Pereira, John Portelli, Roseline Ratnam, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Michael Sant, Mary Silva, Rosary Silva, Helen Tanti, Loreta Laberinto Udan, Melchor Usman, Dionisio Udan, Jim Vella,

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, France Angseeing, Carmen Attard, Lydia, Marlene Busac, Anthony Borg, Barrie Chamberlain, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato & Marilyn Cabasa, 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 & Carmena 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, Elizabeth Hancock, Selvam Irudayaraj, Harold, Marc, Rosine Lafleur, Sheena Landagan, A. Mansoor, Apolinario & Felina Maglaya, Maureen & John Mead, Pauline Meilak, Rose Merz, 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 & Camelita, Jesus Oplencia, Matilde T & Romeo T Palmos, John Ratnam, Jose, Maria, Laureano, Yolanda & Karen Reyes, Jonathan Tek Kie, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Vinnie Zahra, All Souls of Purgatory

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.com.au



FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Jeremiah 17:5-8*

The Lord says this:

‘A curse on the man who puts his trust in man, who relies on things of flesh, whose heart turns from the Lord. He is like dry scrub in the wastelands: if good comes, he has no eyes for it, he settles in the parched places of the wilderness, a salt land, uninhabited.

‘A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord, with the Lord for his hope. He is like a tree by the waterside that thrusts its roots to the stream: when the heat comes it feels no alarm, its foliage stays green; it has no worries in a year of drought, and never ceases to bear fruit.’

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

1. Happy indeed is the man
who follows not the counsel of the wicked;
nor lingers in the way of sinners
nor sits in the company of scorners,
but whose delight is the law of the Lord
and who ponders his law day and night. **(R.)**

3. Not so are the wicked, not so!
For they like winnowed chaff
shall be driven away by the wind.
For the Lord guards the way of the just
but the way of the wicked leads to doom. **(R.)**

2. He is like a tree that is planted
beside the flowing waters,
that yields its fruit in due season
and whose leaves shall never fade;
and all that he does shall prosper. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 15:12, 16-20*

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins. And what is more serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people. But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad;
your reward is great in heaven.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 6:17.20-26*

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:

‘How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God. Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied. Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh. ‘Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets. ‘But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now.

Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry. Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep. ‘Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.’

The Gospel of the Lord



Dear friends,

As you know, Jewish people in Jesus' time often believed that the only way to holiness was to strictly observe both the laws in the Torah meaning the first five books of the Bible and the laws of the oral tradition containing 613 articles altogether.

Following these laws became almost impossible for the poor in Israel, since they had no time to study them due to their long working hours to provide for their families, and only the rich could have time to study them and hence claim to be holy. On top of their education and knowledge of the laws, their comfortable lifestyle was thought to be a proof of God's blessing upon them, and the poor were considered as sinners due to many hardships they had experienced.

In the Gospel this Sunday, Jesus obviously stands against such a biased view as he openly names out the poor, the hungry, the crying and the persecuted as the blessed who will get the places of honor in the Kingdom of God, and he also sends strong warnings against those who were attached to worldly riches and vanity, that they shall have to face hunger, mourning and weeping.

It is very interesting to know (1) that this Lukan Beatitudes version is called the Sermon on the Plain based on the location Jesus chose to preach, which is a bit different to Matthew's version of the Beatitudes (cf 5.1-12) known as the Sermon on the Mount, for the evangelist recounts that Jesus went up the mountain, sat down and began preaching, and (2) that Luke mentions only four beatitudes and adds four woes, while Matthew gives eight beatitudes.

Despite these minor differences, both versions of Jesus' sermon in Luke and Matthew have the same purpose to encourage us, Jesus' followers not to look down on those who have a tough life, but respect and embrace the unfortunate and also cherish all adversities as opportunities to help us grow stronger in faith and ultimately receive the highest prize of all which is the Kingdom of God.

Let us ask for the grace to help us show genuine respect and provide support to those who struggle in their everyday lives, and have the courage to deal with whatever hardship we have to face and turn it into an opportunity for us to gain a place in the Kingdom of God.

Have a Beatitudes-oriented week,

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

SACRAMENTAL PROCESS ENROLMENT MASS

Reconciliation and First Communion Enrolment Mass

This weekend, Sunday 16th February during the 9:30am Mass, we will welcome the children and their families from our parish enrolling in the sacramental program for 2025.

Please keep these children in your prayers as they begin this important part of their faith journey.

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 this weekend at 5PM.

WELCOME OUR YOUTH COORDINATOR

We welcome our new Youth Co-ordinator Diana Park to our parish team. If you are a teenager or young adult and are interested in volunteering to be apart of the youth leader team, please contact Diana via dianap@olol7hills.com.au

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.

LOURDES PLAYGROUP

Will be returning for 2025 from next Friday 21st February, 9.00am—11.00am in the Parish Meeting Room. To attend please register by 3pm the Thursday prior via Facebook 'Lourdes Play Group' or contact Maria Hosni on 0432174056.

PARISH FEAST DAY THANK YOU

On behalf of the parish, I would like to thank all our volunteers for their generous efforts to provide plenty of yummy food, lively entertainment and sound, logistical service and manual works to make our Feast Day celebration last Sunday a wonderful occasion for the community to enjoy, especially Evelyn Beed for leading the organising team to accomplish the operation in style.

FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT (FGM) AT OLOL

The FGM has gone from strength-to-strength with more families having registered. The "Divine Rainbow" group will have their 3rd social gathering with a nature walk along the Prospect Reservoir on Saturday 22-February. The "Joyful Journey" group will meet on Sunday 2-March at Bungarribee Park. This will be their first social outing, and the families are looking forward to it. We warmly invite more families to join. Please contact the Parish office for further information. Coordinated by Frank Paiva and Edward Pieris.

TONGAN MASS

Join Us for a Special Tongan Youth Formation and Mass! The Tongan Catholic Youth in the Parramatta Diocese will host a special weekend event here at Our Lady of Lourdes. Under the guidance of Fr. Tali ai Hausia, the weekend will feature formation sessions on Saturday 22nd of February starting at 10 am -4 pm in the parish hall. It will conclude with a Youth Mass in the Church celebrated in Tongan on the Sunday, 23rd February 2025 at 2pm. All are welcome to join us in this opportunity to grow in faith and community!

CANDLE WAX ON THE CHURCH CARPET

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

DIOCESAN NEWS

LIFTED Launch: 27 February

Join us for LIFTED Launch on Thursday, February 27th, from 6:45 PM to 9:30 PM at West HQ, Rooty Hill!

Get a sneak peek at exciting events we have planned for young Catholics, including the Jubilee Year Pilgrimage and Australian Catholic Youth Festival. Enjoy a night of prayer, formation, and fun with fellow young Catholics. Register now: parracatholic.org/events/liftedlaunch/

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

Mount Schoenstatt Women's Retreat 'Grace & Silence 2025' Commencing 8 March

This four-part single-day retreat series is for single young women aged 20-35 discerning their vocation. Attendance on all four days is highly recommended. Spaces are limited, and registration is essential. The retreats take place on Saturdays: 8 February, 8 March, 12 April, and 10 May, from 9:30am to 4:30pm, at "Bethany," 301 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa. The cost is \$25 per day, including lunch. For more information or to register, contact Hannah on 0433443 384.

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 alomas@bigpond.com or call 0437 340 250.

LOLO SAFEGUARDING NEWS

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities: 22 February

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held on Saturday 22 February at Holy Family Emerton for Cycle 1 (Module 1-3). 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: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>. For more information, please email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

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.

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.

Catalyst for Renewal luncheon with Dr Susan Connelly rsj: 15 March

Join us for a luncheon with Dr Susan Connelly rsj on the ACBC's Social Justice Statement 2024-25 "Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World" on 15 March at 12.30pm. It is held at Hunters Hill Parish Hall, tickets \$35 each. For further information, call 02 4971 4090, email catalyst-for-renewal@outlook.com or book via <https://www.trybooking.com/CYPEV>

MET Natural Fertility Instruction Sessions:

MET Natural Fertility are organising a series of instruction sessions on the Natural Family Planning methods offered by the Diocese of Parramatta via Zoom. Learn how to chart your cycle, space out pregnancies and identify the best time to reach your family goals.

Sympto-Thermal Method: 25 February at 7:15pm

Billings Ovulation Method: 18 March at 7:30pm

To book your place or for further information, please contact Catherine on catherine.bourne@parracatholic.org or call 0400 427 605.

Children and Young People's Participation

A Safeguarding culture for Children and Young People is fostered and sustained by our parish being committed to living the Gospel by serving the most vulnerable. Here at OLOL Seven Hills we implement all Arch/Diocesan policies, procedures and community standards that are Child and Young Person centred to lift barriers so their voices can be heard and their participation valued.

OLOL Parish community values and celebrates ALL our Children and Young People for who they are and the great contributions they make to our parish. We therefore have an obligation to uphold their human and spiritual rights. This is achieved at OLOL by: 1. Providing ministries, services and programs that are relevant for Children and Young People including those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and who have a disability; 2. Committing to zero tolerance to any attitude and activity that makes Children and Young People feel less safe; 3. Enhancing relationships between leaders, community members, Children and Young People; and 4. Creating a new perspective to invigorate renewal. We also ensure all our volunteers and staff have an up to date WWCC and completed all safeguard training.

POPE FRANCIS: MUSIC CAN HELP THE CO-EXISTENCE OF PEOPLES *By Kielce Gussie*

At the annual Italian music festival, Sanremo, the focus shifted from the who's-who list of musicians and attendees when Pope Francis called the attention to the important role music has in creating worldpeace.

Music is a language that speaks to all

At the Ariston Theatre, the festival host and artistic director, Carlo Conti, announced that a "surprise" guest would share a message that was not listed on the schedule for the 75th edition of the Sanremo Festival.

Joining in with a recorded video message from Casa Santa Marta at the Vatican, Pope Francis explained how music "is a tool for peace."

Music, the Pope highlighted, "is a language that all peoples, in different ways, speak, and it reaches the heart of everyone. Music can help the coexistence of peoples."

Immediately after the papal message, a performance meant to exemplify this was held—Israeli singer Noa and Palestinian singer Mira Awad performed a duet in Hebrew, Arabic, and English to the tune of "Imagine" by John Lennon.

Keeping children at the center

Calling attention to the violence around the world, Pope Francis addressed the reality that there are "many children who cannot sing," not because they cannot hold a tune but because they "cry and suffer from the many injustices in the world, from the many wars, and situations of conflict."

"Wars destroy children," the Pope stressed, and he explained that what he most desires is "to see those who have hated each other shake hands, embrace, and say with life, music, and song: peace is possible!" The Sanremo Festival, Pope Francis said, is an example of this.

The Pope also recalled that he shared the stage with the Sanremo Festival host last year at the Olympic Stadium in Rome for World Children's Day, where he also dedicated a message to the care for the world's children. He described the event as a "beautiful moment" that he has kept "in his heart."

The Pope closed his video message by greeting everyone and expressing his hope that music will "open the heart to harmony, to the joy of being together, with a common language and understanding, making us commit to a more just and fraternal world."

POPE FRANCIS STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF MEANINGFUL PRAYER WITHIN FAMILIES

By Deborah Castellano Lubov

May the heartbeat of love always be felt in your work, Pope Francis said to the Executive Committee of the II International Congress of Confraternities and Popular Piety, in Casa Santa Marta on Saturday.

The Holy Father began his remarks by expressing his delight in welcoming the Committee of the Congress—which took place, 4-8 Dec. 2024, in Seville, Spain—as pilgrims this Jubilee Year, acknowledging they have come to give thanks to God for their Congress.

"When I was told that you would be coming, I was a little worried," the Pope joked, recalling that in the message he had sent them for that occasion, he called them "crazy," "and I wondered if that was why you were so eager to meet me."

"But Monsignor Saiz Meneses tells me that this initiative has been a grace whose echoes are still being heard," he added, quipping, "and so I feel more at ease."

In his remarks, the Holy Father recalled the invitation he gave them to live their event as a prayer of praise "that accompanies our earthly journey like a pilgrimage toward God and toward our brothers and sisters" and asking them "to be witnesses of a love so overflowing that it might seem 'crazy,' crazy with love."

"How good it would be, at the conclusion of this event," the Pope noted, "if the first of these echoes could be heard especially within families."

Heartfelt prayer

"May it be heard," he explained, "as the resounding silence of a prayer that moves one to tears because it comes from the heart—whether before the image of the patron of your confraternity, who presides over your homes, before the Tabernacle of your parish or temple, at the bedside of the sick, or in the company of the elderly."

The Pope acknowledged and expressed his gratitude for a charitable work of theirs providing a shelter for the homeless.

"May the heartbeat of a loving heart," the Holy Father noted, "always be heard in this work."

In this sense, the Pope encouraged them in their efforts to promote human dignity and to care for others.

Finally, Pope Francis concluded praying that Jesus bless them, Mary watch over them, and asking for their prayers.

POPE FRANCIS' AUDIENCE

Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025. *Jesus Christ our Hope. I. The Infancy of Jesus. 3. «You are to name Him Jesus» (Mt 1:21). The annunciation to Joseph*

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Today we will continue to contemplate Jesus our hope in the mystery of His origins, as narrated by the infancy Gospels.

Whereas Luke lets us do so from the perspective of the mother, the Virgin Mary, instead Matthew takes the perspective of Joseph, the man who assumes the legal paternity of Jesus, grafting him onto the trunk of Jesse and linking him to the promise made to David.

Indeed, Jesus is *the hope of Israel which is fulfilled*: He is the descendent promised to David (cf. 2 Sam 7:12; 1Cr 17:11), who makes his home “blessed forever” (2 Sam 7:29); He is the shoot that buds from the trunk of Jesse (cf. Is 11:1), the “righteous Branch, [who] shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land” (cf. Jer 23:5; 33:15).

Joseph enters the scene in the Gospel of Matthew as Mary’s betrothed. For the Hebrews, betrothal was a full legal bond, which prepared for what would happen around a year later, the celebration of marriage. It was then that the woman passed from the father’s custody to that of her husband, moving into his home and making herself willing to the gift of motherhood.

It is precisely during this time that Joseph discovers Mary’s pregnancy, and his love is harshly put to the test. Faced with a similar situation, which would have led to the termination of the betrothal, the Law suggested two possible solutions: either a legal act of a public nature, such as the convocation of the woman in court, or a private action such as giving the woman a letter of repudiation.

Matthew defines Joseph as a “righteous” man (*zaddiq*), a man who lives according to the Law of the Lord, and who draws inspiration from this in every occasion of his life. Thus, following the Word of God, Joseph acts thoughtfully: he does not let himself be overcome by instinctive feelings and fear of accepting Mary with him, but prefers to be guided by divine wisdom. He chooses to part with Mary quietly, privately (cf. Mt 1:19). And this is Joseph’s wisdom, which enables him not to make mistakes and to make himself open and docile to the voice of the Lord.

In this way, Joseph of Nazareth brings to mind another Joseph, son of Jacob, dubbed the “lord of dreams” (cf. Gen 37:19), greatly beloved by his father and much loathed by his brothers, whom the Lord raised up by having him sit in the Pharaoh’s court.

Now, what does Joseph of Nazareth dream of? He dreams of the miracle that God fulfils in Mary’s life, and also the miracle that he works in his own life: to take on a fatherhood capable of guarding, protecting and passing on a material and spiritual inheritance. The womb of his bride is pregnant with God’s promise, a promise that bears a name in which the certainty of salvation is given to all (cf. Acts 4:12).

As he sleeps, Joseph hears these words: “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus because he will save his people from their sins” (Mt 1:20-21). Faced with this revelation, Joseph does not ask for further proof; he trusts. Joseph trusts in God, he accepts the God’s dream of his life and that of his betrothed. He thus enters into the grace of one who knows how to live the divine promise with faith, hope and love.

Joseph, in all of this, does not utter a word, but he believes, hopes and loves. He does not express himself with “idle words”, but with concrete deeds. He belongs to the lineage of those who, according to the apostle James, “put the Word into practice” (cf. James 1:22), translating it into deeds, flesh, life. Joseph trusts in God and obeys: “His inner watchfulness for God ... leads quite spontaneously to obedience” (Benedict XVI, *The Infancy Narratives*, Milan-Vatican City 2012, 57).

Sisters, brothers, let us, too, ask the Lord for the grace to listen more than we speak, the grace to dream God’s dreams and to welcome responsibly the Christ who, from the moment of our baptism, lives and grows in our life. Thank you!

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.com.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: 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

19	1st Meeting—Sacramental Program	6.30pm
19	Baptism Preparation Program	7.30pm
22	1st Meeting—Sacramental Program (RPT)	4.30pm
22/23	Tongan Youth Formation Weekend	

LOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

15/16 February

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Fayelene Kennedy	
Ministers	Vigil: N. Shami, J. Sarmiento 8am: M. Santos, T. Perak 9.30am: E. Miu, G. Basili	
Readers	Vigil: R. Saldanha, N. Do Rosario 8am: P. Ferriols, J. Cabasa 9.30am: Z. Smith, E. Pieris	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Leonaldo, Sebastian & Saoirse Costello 8am: Chris Bellamin & Volunteer 9.30am: Majerin & Jenolin Pieris, K. Cassaniti	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Flore & Co.	
Musicians	Vigil: K. Thoms & C.W 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: 5.00pm: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fenty & Angela	
Church Cleaning	20 Feb	Cathy Hutchings Annette Peatman Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Sastina Pieris	

22/23 February

Acolytes	Vigil: Daniel La Guidara 8am: Ernie Gartner 9.30am: Ryan Epondulan	
Ministers	Vigil: J. Franco, L. La Guidara 8am: E. Gartner, J. Irudayaraj 9.30am: P. Gow, C. Brooks	
Readers	Vigil: A. Franco, N. Sumcad 8am: F. Paiva, A. Pushparajan 9.30am: J. Nonato, A. Han	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Alex & Christina La Guidara, A. Bagatella 8am: Harrison Winter & Volunteer 9.30am: A. Melki, C. Attard	
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	
Church Cleaning	26 Feb	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Ugre 8am: Anne McNally 9.30am: Kathy Chamberlain	

The Kids' Bulletin

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 16th, 2025

Can you match up the pieces in this puzzle?

Luke 6:20-26

The Sermon on the Plain

"Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets. Luke 6:23 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 6:17-26 (NIV).



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

blessed	exclude	evil	insult	comfort
reject	joy	satisfied	hunger	woe
reward	rich	great	kingdom	hate
weep	poor	rejoice	mourn	laugh



Choose the word that best matches the definition.

- ___ 1. A feeling of great happiness
A. joy B. hungry C. heaven D. laugh
- ___ 2. Something given or received in return for good behavior
A. reward B. poor C. laugh D. heaven
- ___ 3. Having very little money or few possessions
A. joy B. hungry C. weep D. poor
- ___ 4. To have a desire or need for food
A. rich B. reward C. joy D. hungry
- ___ 5. Having a great amount of money
A. laugh B. weep C. rich D. poor
- ___ 6. The sound which expresses happiness or delight
A. heaven B. poor C. rich D. laugh
- ___ 7. To shed tears
A. weep B. rich C. joy D. heaven
- ___ 8. The home of God, the angels, and those who have been saved
A. poor B. reward C. heaven D. weep