

# 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 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:** 23rd March 2025  
**Sacrament Co-Ordinator:** Mrs Artelle Lenthall  
**Youth Co-Ordinator:** Diana Park  
**Parish Website:** [www.olol7hills.org.au](http://www.olol7hills.org.au)  
**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

### 16 March 2025 • Year C



#### Let us Pray for the Sick

Florence Arinanan, Sarah Bartolo, Max Barrett, Lawrence Charles, Ben Dixon, Alma Caguimbal, Para Dias, Mary Camilleri, Pope Francis, Lucia Fernando, Renuka Fernando, Emily Henebery, 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, Olivia, Prof Richard Scolyer, Sue Tiplado, Vivian Tomines, 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](mailto: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, Guy Cassar, Murial Chary, Blaise Costa, Irene Dassanayaka, Padmini De Seram, Randy De Silva, , Sandra Eichhorn, Henrieta Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Jasmin Fernando, Ethan Garcia, Ricardo Garcia, Gilbert Inoceto, Assad Karam, Nerissa Legaspi, Cynthia Lopez, Richard Monreal, Jennifer Morrissey, Francisca Naorbe, Leo Ngan, Aida Paguntalan, Etelka Petkovics, Eustace Ratnam, Suranjith Reberra, Joseph Singer, Caroline Stevenson, Julius Suseno, Long Thang Tran.

**Anniversaries:** Mary Alagiah, George Mario Attard, Horace Baptist, Ronald Barley, Romeo Biniahian, Elaine Bosen, Frank & Fortunata Baiada, Denis Brophy, Rosario Cabasa, Catherine Chandra, Aloysean Corera, Mary Camenzuli, Paul Commarmond, Dulcie Duraisamy, John Fernando, Nevis Fernando, M.A Fernando, Anthony Garcia, Francisca Garcia, Teodoro Garcia, Zenaida Garcia, Tarcisio "Archie" Gatt, Christine Gomez, Josephine Gomez, Manul Jafeth, Gwyn McNally, Marie Marchand, Anton Motha, Xavier Motha Jr, Paul Mula, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kutty, Jason Muscat, Tony Muscat, Angelita & Gil Opima, Cordula Paiva, Mile Perak, Adrian Pereira, John Portelli, John Ratnam, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Nicholas Saliba, Michael Sant, Mary Silva, Rosary Silva, Marie Tanti, Loreta Laberinto Udan, Melchor Usman, Dionisio Udan, Mary Vilot, Mody Viray.

**Remembrance:** Neil Amaratunga, France Angseeing, Carmen Attard, Sydney Azie, Lydia , Peter & Helen Bonnici, Marlene Busac, Barrie Chamberlain, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato & Marilyn 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, Conception & Dominic D'Souza, Joseph & Carmena Formosa, Melvyn Fernandes, Nevis Fernando, Mr & Mrs Francis, Sammy Formosa, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Sam Gabo, Mary & Sam Galea, Evangeline Garcia, Leandro Snr Garcia, Jose Garcia, Teodoro Garcia, Constance Gaycroft, Charlie Gauci, Norma Tan Gloria, Selvam Irudayaraj, Jonathan Tek Kie, Harold, Marc, Rosine Lafluer, Sheena Landagan, A. Mansoor, Apolinario & Felina Maglaya, John & Maureen 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 & Charmelita, Ngan Pin, Roseline Ratnam, Paulina & Santan Soares, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Vinnie Zahra, Mary Zammit

*\*\*Names will be published for 4 weeks at a time.*

#### 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 .

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**FIRST READING** *A reading from the book of Genesis 15:5-12. 17-18*

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied, 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off. Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms: 'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

The word of the Lord.

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**RESPONSORIAL PSALM****(R) The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

1. The Lord is my light and my help;  
whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life  
before whom shall I shrink? **(R.)**

3. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek,  
hide not your face.  
Dismiss not your servant in anger;  
you have been my help. **(R.)**

2. O Lord, hear my voice when I call;  
have mercy and answer.  
Of you my heart has spoken:  
'Seek his face.' **(R.)**

4. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness  
in the land of the living.  
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.  
Hope in the Lord! **(R.)**

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**SECOND READING** *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 3:17 – 4:1*

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things.

For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

The word of the Lord.

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**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:  
this is my beloved Son, hear him.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**GOSPEL** *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 9:28-36*

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' – He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord

## FROM FR. HENRY



Dear friends,

As we know, many Jews in Jesus' time believed that the righteous would wear white clothing in God's kingdom and live in tents as their ancestors used to live in tents when God brought them out of Egypt, through the desert and finally into the Promised Land.

They also called their Scriptures that we Christians call the Old Testament 'the Law and the Prophets', whose representatives were Moses and Elijah, since Moses received the Ten Commandments from God on Mt. Sinai, and Elijah was one of the greatest prophets in the history of Jewish people.

Significantly, the element of the tents and the two figures symbolizing the Jewish Law and the Prophets all appear in the Gospel this Sunday recounting the story of how Jesus transfigured himself before the eyes of Peter, John and James in the mountain, where Moses and Elijah appeared to converse with him and God the Father also made his presence to confirm Jesus as his Son and instruct the Apostles representatives of all people on earth to listen to him.

Seeing Jesus, Moses and Elijah in the divine glory, Peter and the other two Apostles thought to be transcended into the divine world, the Kingdom of God if you like, and he volunteered to set up the tents for Jesus, Moses and Elijah to stay.

Despite the Apostles' desire to prolong their encounter with the Transfigured Jesus and his divine guests, the Transfiguration moment came to an end at last and Jesus took his companions back to the real world where he was about to take them through his Passion, death and Resurrection which we are going to commemorate again in a few weeks' time.

Symbolically speaking, Jesus through his Transfiguration gives Peter, James and John a glimpse into the glory of his Kingdom to come, the one which shall be theirs given that they remain faithful to him even in death. Here Jesus seems to extend his invitation to us, his disciples of today to look upon such a glorious world and follow his footsteps to enter it by taking up our daily cross of troubles and hardship. Let us pray for the strength to help us face our own difficulties with courage and turn them into credits.

Have a heaven-oriented week,

*Fr Henry*

## PARISH NEWS...

### SUNDAY EVENING MASS AT 5PM

This weekend we have our additional Sunday Mass at 5pm. It is an extra opportunity for our parishioners, especially the young ones to attend Mass.

### BECOME A CATECHIST AN SRE VOLUNTEER!

SRE's are parish volunteers who: Teach and share their faith with children who attend government schools; Have an hour per week to prepare and share their time with young people. OLOL SRE's go into Seven Hills, Seven Hills North, Bert Oldfield, Vardys Road State primary schools School. New volunteer SRE's will be given support, training and teaching materials. Further enquiries please kindly contact Anne McNally 0466 993 159

### LOURDES FOOTBALL CLUB PRE-SEASON BLESSING

Next Sunday the 23rd of March, we would like to welcome the soccer teams of Lourdes Football Club to a pre-season blessing during the 9.30am Mass. We pray for a great season where we embrace community and a healthy mind, body and spirit.

### 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 fourth Meeting will be Wednesday the 19th of March at 6.30pm in the Parish Hall, if you miss this, a repeat will follow on the Saturday 22nd 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.

### 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 PROGRAM A FRESH START WITH JESUS

The theme of our Lenten program this year is "Start Anew In Christ". There are two choices for face to face reflection, meeting 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. The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7961550398?omn=82703441237>. Enquiries - Adrian - 0408 649 327

### PROJECT COMPASSION SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

**Toefuata'iga** - (*Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah*) a primary school student from Samoa faced severe water shortages at her school. Thanks to Caritas Australia and the generosity of supporters like you, her primary school now has a 10,000 L water tank. Teachers and students now have access to clean drinking water at their school and are able to focus on education.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)

Or by calling: 1800 024 413



## DIOCESAN NEWS

### Positions Vacant

- Administration Assistant: Mission Enhancement Team
- Risk & Compliance Facilitator: Governance, Risk & Compliance
- Administration Assistant: Holy Spirit Parish, St Clair

More details at: [parracatholic.org/about/jobs/](http://parracatholic.org/about/jobs/)

### Nominations open for the 2025 Papal & Diocesan Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2025 Papal & Diocesan Awards, recognising individuals and groups—both religious and lay—who have made outstanding contributions to the Catholic Church and its community. Do you know someone who deserves to be recognised? Nominations close midnight on 31 May 2025. For information or to submit a nomination, visit [parracatholic.org/contribute/papal-diocesan-awards/](http://parracatholic.org/contribute/papal-diocesan-awards/)

### Enrolling Now for 2026: Belong to something Greater

Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese has 80 welcoming schools with so much to offer, including an excellent and personalised education for today's student. Our professional teachers cater for the needs, interests and abilities of every child. We teach children to become responsible, caring and productive young people. Visit [parra.catholic.edu.au](http://parra.catholic.edu.au) and learn more.

### Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers: 13 May

In this Jubilee Year of Hope all liturgical ministers - readers, servers and extra ordinary ministers are invited to join us for our Annual Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers. Families and friends are also invited. This celebration will take place 7:30pm on 13 May 2025, at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. To register your attendance and guests please visit the website: [parracatholic.org/events/liturgical-ministers-commissioning-mass/](http://parracatholic.org/events/liturgical-ministers-commissioning-mass/)

## LOLO SAFEGUARDING NEWS

### Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities: 24 March

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Renewal Training will be held on 24 March 2025 at Mary Immaculate Parish, Quakers Hill for Cycle 2 (Modules 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 information, email: [safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org)

### Harassment, Discrimination and Bullying

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

- Your supervisor/Parish Priest;
- The Office of Safeguarding; or
- The Chancery's Human Resources department.

To see the Diocese's Harassment, Bullying and Discrimination Policy please scan this QR Code.



### Celebrating Holy Week Liturgies Seminar: 22 March

Acolytes, Ministers at the Altar, Senior Servers and Extraordinary Ministers of Communion are invited to attend this day seminar which will focus on the different Holy Week and Easter Triduum liturgies presented by Mr Chris Ohlsen. Saturday 22 March from 9:30am-3pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre in Blacktown. Liturgies covered: Palm Sunday, Mass of the Lord's Supper, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. Morning tea and lunch provided.

### The FaithFeed: 29 March

Have questions about life & faith? Join with others on the search at The FaithFeed live studio audience - hosted by Baulkham Hills Parish in the Hills Deanery, all are welcome! The FaithFeed will be held on Saturday 29 March. Doors open 7:00PM for a 7:30PM start. The night will feature faith stories, live music, activities and great conversation. RSVP via [parracatholic.org/events-faithfeed](http://parracatholic.org/events-faithfeed)

### 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](mailto:cliff_dsouza03@yahoo.com.au) or [atitours@atitours.com.au](mailto:atitours@atitours.com.au)



### Global Mission: No age limit!

Ever thought volunteering overseas was beyond you? IT'S NOT. Palms always values our older participants for the wisdom they share in communities! Palms is celebrating Seniors Week with a special [online session](#) showcasing older volunteers' experience from the mission field. Explore our [opportunities](#) and match your life experience to the experience of a lifetime!

**Venue:** Online via Zoom- Scan the QR or register at [palms.org.au/events](http://palms.org.au/events)

**Date:** Thursday 27 March 2025

**Time:** 11 am – 12 pm

**02 9560 5333**

[palms@palms.org.au](http://palms@palms.org.au)



### Safeguarding the Elderly Project: 18 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're invited to 'Share a Cuppa' on Tuesday 18 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 experiences and reflections. RSVP by Friday 14 March.

Please contact Maria Kervin (Manager, Prevention, Healing & Support) at: [mariakervin@parracatholic.org](mailto:mariakervin@parracatholic.org) if you would like more information on hosting such a Morning Tea within your own Parish with your Ministry Team.

### 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](mailto:safeguarding@parracatholic.org).

## POPE FRANCIS' CONDITION By Vatican News



On Wednesday evening, 12 March, the Holy See Press Office provided the following medical update on Pope Francis who has been receiving care at Rome's Gemelli Hospital since 14 February:

*"The clinical condition of the Holy Father has remained stable, in the context of a complex overall medical picture. The chest X-ray performed yesterday has radiologically confirmed the improvements observed in the previous days. The Holy Father continues to undergo high-flow oxygen therapy during the day and non-invasive mechanical ventilation during nighttime rest. This morning, after following the spiritual exercises in a link-up with the Paul VI Hall in the Vatican, he received the Eucharist, dedicated time to prayer, and then continued with physical therapy. In the afternoon, after joining the spiritual exercises of the Curia, he continued with prayer, rest, and respiratory physiotherapy."*

**Let us continue to pray for our Holy Father, Pope Francis so that he will get well very soon and return to resume his papal office.**

## POPE FRANCIS' ANGELUS FROM THE HOSPITAL

**Text prepared by the Holy Father**

*Dear brothers and sisters,*

Last Wednesday, with the rite of the Ashes, we began Lent, the forty-day-long penitential itinerary that calls us to the conversion of the heart and leads us to the joy of Easter. Let us commit ourselves to making it a time of purification and spiritual renewal, a path of growth in faith, hope and charity. This morning, in Saint Peter's Square, holy Mass was celebrated for the world of volunteering, which is experiencing its own Jubilee. In our societies, too enslaved to market logic, where everything risks being subject to the criterion of interest and the quest for profit, volunteering is prophecy and a sign of hope, because it bears witness to the primacy of gratuitousness, solidarity and service to those most in need. I express my gratitude to those who are engaged in this field: thank you for offering your time and abilities; thank you for the closeness and tenderness with which you care for others, reawakening hope in them!

Brothers and sisters, during my prolonged hospitalization here, I too experience the thoughtfulness of service and the tenderness of care, in particular from the doctors and healthcare workers, whom I thank from the bottom of my heart. And while I am here, I think of the many people who in various ways are close to the sick, and who are for them a sign of the Lord's presence. We need this, the "miracle of tenderness" which accompanies those who are in adversity, bringing a little light into the night of pain.

I would like to thank all those who are showing their closeness to me in prayer: heartfelt thanks to you all! I pray for you too. And I join spiritually with those who in the coming days will participate in the spiritual Exercises of the Roman Curia. Together let us continue to invoke the gift of peace, in particular in tormented Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Myanmar, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In particular, I have learned with concern of the resumption of violence in some areas of Syria: I hope that they cease definitively, with full respect for all ethnic and religious components of society, especially civilians. I entrust you all to the maternal intercession of the Virgin Mary. Happy Sunday, and *arrivederci!*

## POPE FRANCIS: A LOVING SOCIETY MUST FREE WOMEN FROM PRESSURE TO SEEK ABORTION

**By Devin Watkins**

As he recovers from bilateral pneumonia at Rome's Gemelli Hospital, Pope Francis has sent a message to participants in a pilgrimage organized by the Italian Movement for Life.

Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin read the message on the Pope's behalf on Saturday at Mass for the pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Basilica.

"Continue to place your trust in women, in their capacity for welcome, generosity, and courage," said Pope Francis in his message. "Women must be able to count on the support of the entire civil and ecclesial community."

He lamented the pressure that contemporary society places on women with its focus on "possession, action, production, and appearance."

The Church, added the Pope, seeks to counter society's message by promoting the dignity of the human person and prioritizing those who are weakest in the world's eyes.

"The unborn child represents, in the fullest sense, every man and woman who does not count, who has no voice," he said. "Taking their side means standing in solidarity with all the discarded of the world."

Pope Francis called on Christians to foster a "civilization of love," which frees women "from the pressures that push them not to give birth to their child".

He said it takes a "gaze of the heart" to recognize unborn children as "one of us."

The Pope went on to praise the Italian Movement for Life, which was set up in 1975 and runs several centers that assist women with difficult pregnancies or who are under pressure to seek an abortion.

Their work, he said, promotes a culture of life "with frankness, love, and tenacity, closely uniting truth with charity toward all." As the movement celebrates its 50th anniversary, Pope Francis urged all those who seek to promote life to "advance the social protection of motherhood and the acceptance of human life in all its stages."

"In this half-century, while some ideological prejudices have diminished and young people's sensitivity toward caring for creation has grown," he said, "the throwaway culture has unfortunately spread."

The Pope called on everyone to dedicate themselves to the service of human life, especially when it is most fragile and vulnerable.

"[Life] is sacred, created by God for a great and beautiful destiny," he said. "A just society is not built by eliminating unwanted unborn children, elderly people who are no longer self-sufficient, or terminally ill patients."

In conclusion, Pope Francis prayed that the Blessed Virgin Mary may watch over those who promote human life, and he asked them to continue to pray for him and his health.

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## POPE FRANCIS' HOMILY FOR MASS FOR VOLUNTEERS

By Tiziana Campisi

The fluorescent uniforms of thousands of volunteers in Rome for the Jubilee of the World of Volunteering stood out in Saint Peter's Square during the Sunday Mass presided over by Cardinal Michael Czerny.

Thirty thousand people participate in the Mass on the first Sunday of Lent, and their colorful jackets created a chromatic spectacle, along with the purple liturgical vestments worn for the season of Lent.

Over a hundred concelebrants – including cardinals, bishops, and priests – came for the liturgy presided over by Cardinal Michael Czerny, Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. Pope Francis delegated Cardinal Czerny to preside since he has been in hospital since 14 February. But the Pope's spiritual presence among them in the celebration was symbolized in the papal banner with the papal crest displayed on the central loggia of Saint Peter's Basilica.

### Thanks to the volunteers

In the homily prepared by Pope Francis, and read by Cardinal Czerny, the Pope focused on the beginning of the Lenten journey, but with special words for the volunteers from around the world visiting Rome on pilgrimage. The Pope recalled their service and commitment alongside so many people, "all those small gestures" that "in the deserts of poverty and loneliness" help "a new humanity blossom in the garden that is God's dream, always and everywhere, for all of us."

*"I thank you heartily, dear friends, because, following the example of Jesus, you serve your neighbours unstintingly. On the streets and in homes, in the company of the sick, the suffering and the imprisoned, with the young and the elderly, your generosity and commitment offer hope to our entire society."*

### Jesus shows the way through the desert

Commenting on the Sunday Gospel, the Pope recalled the temptations Jesus faced in the desert, where He is "led by the Spirit." And our Lenten journey begins here, "by following the Lord there and sharing in that experience, which he transformed for our benefit." Because in that "place of silence," which becomes "a place of listening," the ability to listen is "put to the test," and then we must choose "between two completely different voices." In the desert, Jesus experiences hunger and is tempted by the devil's words, but He rejects them.

*"We too are tempted, yet are not alone. Jesus is with us, to guide us through the desert. The Son of God made man does not simply give us an example of how to combat evil. He gives us something much greater: the strength to resist its attacks and to persevere on our journey."*

### Three characteristics of temptation

In his homily, Pope Francis explains the three aspects of Jesus' temptation and of our own: "its beginning, the way it takes place and its result," and invites everyone to compare these two experiences to find support in one's own "journey of conversion." He then explains, regarding the beginning of the temptation, "the Lord does not go into the desert to show the strength of his will, but out of filial openness to the Spirit of the Father, whose guidance he readily and freely accepts." On the other hand, our temptation "is not intentional: evil is prior to our freedom, attacking it from within, like an inner shadow and a constant threat."

*"Whenever we ask God not to lead us into temptation, we need to remember that he has already answered that prayer through Jesus, his incarnate Word, who remains with us always. The Lord is close to us and cares for us, especially in times of trial and uncertainty, when the tempter makes his voice heard."*

The latter is "the father of lies, perverse and perversive," the Pope clarifies, "for he knows God's word without understanding it. Quite the opposite: just as he had done since the days of Adam in the Garden of Eden, so he does now in the case of Jesus, the new Adam, in the desert."

### Christ unites God and humanity

As for the way Christ is tempted, the Pope explained that it is "through His relationship with God, His Father." He went on to say how "the devil is the one who separates and divides, whereas Jesus is the one who unites God and man, the mediator." And if "in his perversion, the devil wants to destroy that bond," Jesus makes it "a relationship that embraces everyone, without excluding anyone" and "a gift that he shares with the world for our salvation."

*"Yet just when the devil would have us believe that the Lord is far from us, and would tempt us to despair, God draws all the closer to us, giving his life for the redemption of the world."*

### Jesus defeats evil and redeems us

Jesus "vanquishes evil," this is "the result of these temptations," concluded Pope Francis, "He drives away the devil," who will however, as the Gospel says, "return to tempt Him, waiting for 'another opportunity,'" that is, when "on Golgotha, Jesus is tempted again: 'If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross'" But "in the paschal mystery of His death and resurrection" Christ definitively defeats "the tempter." We, on the other hand, are not always capable of defeating temptations.

*"In the face of temptation, we sometimes fall; we are all sinners. Our defeat, however, is not definitive, because following our every fall, God lifts us up by his infinite love and forgiveness. Our testing does not end in failure, because, in Christ, we are redeemed from evil."*

In conclusion, the Pope underscored how "Jesus himself opens up before us this new path of liberation and redemption" and by following Him in faith "from drifters we become pilgrims."

## 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](http://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 10th April 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 March. If you would like more information please contact Ian Epondulan: [youtholol7h@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.

#### MARCH 2025

17	St. Vincent de Paul Meeting	6.30pm
19	4th Meeting—Sacramental Program	6.30pm
21	Stations of the Cross	7.30pm
22	4th Meeting—Sacramental Program <b>RPT</b>	4.30pm
23	Lourdes Football Club Pre-Season Blessing	9.30am
26	5th Meeting—Sacramental Program	6.30pm

## LOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

### 15/16 March

Acolytes	Vigil: Derick Soares 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Ryan Epondulan	
Ministers	Vigil: D.Green, R.Soarese 8am: B.Mohta, F.Paiva 9.30am: E.Miu, C.Brooks	
Readers	Vigil: C.Rodrigues, A.Punch 8am: J.Irudayaraj, A.McNally 9.30am: C.Diaz, A. Hye Rin Han	
Altar Servers	Vigil: A.Bagatella, S.Thoms, K.Maruthanayagam 8am: H.Winter 9.30am: A.Melki, C.Attard	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: K.Thoms & Chris Woodward 8am: Fr Henry & Chris Woodward 9.30am: Christine Clarke 5.00pm: Maximilian's Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	20 March	Cathy Hutchings Annette Peatman Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Urge 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Kathy Chamberlain	

### 22/23 March

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am: Ramzee Michael	
Ministers	Vigil: M.Simic, N.Shami 8am: L.Fernandes, F.Paiva 9.30am: F.Kennedy, A.Walker	
Readers	Vigil: N.Do Rosario, R.Saldanha 8am: A.Pushparajan, K. Walker 9.30am: Z.Smith, R.G. Nigli	
Altar Servers	Vigil: A.Monteiro, C.P. Bellamin, SUB RQ 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: M.Glucic, Volunteers	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Fr Henry & Chris Woodward 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary	
Church Cleaning	26 March	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Georgina Basili	

# The Kids' Bulletin

Second Sunday of Lent  
March 16th, 2025

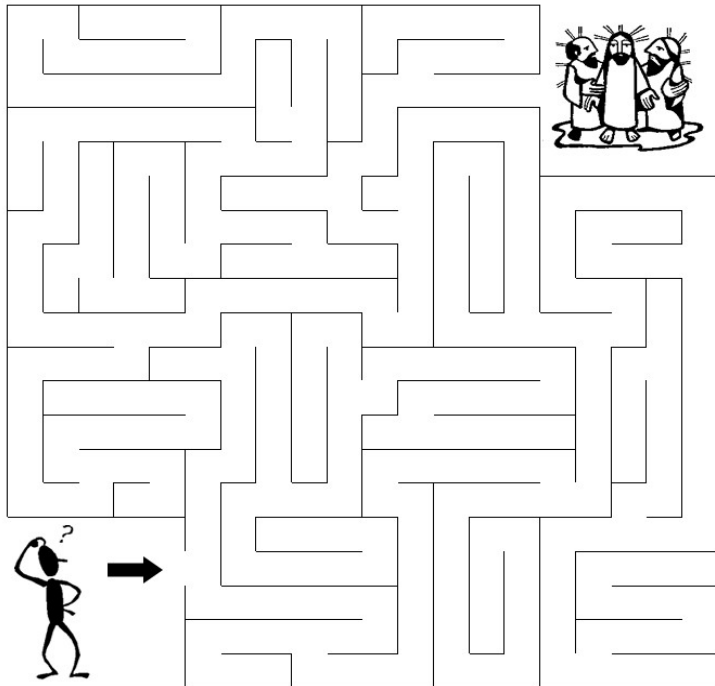
Jesus shone like the sun when He took his three friends up the mountain.

Luke 9:28-36



Peter was confused and said something without thinking. What did he say he could make?

Connect the dots to find out!



Can you find the way to Jesus, Moses, and Elijah on the mountain?

Appear

Mountain

# The Transfiguration

As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Luke 9:29 (NIV)



Choose the word that best matches the definition.

- \_\_\_ 1. A raised part of the Earth's surface, much larger than a hill  
A. lightning B. mountain C. awake D. sleepy
- \_\_\_ 2. To speak to God  
A. clothes B. mountain C. pray D. face
- \_\_\_ 3. The front of the head, where the eyes, nose and mouth are  
A. cloud B. pray C. face D. sleepy
- \_\_\_ 4. Things such as a dress or trousers that you wear to cover your body  
A. face B. mountain C. lightning D. clothes
- \_\_\_ 5. A flash of bright light in the sky produced by electricity  
A. pray B. lightning C. mountain D. awake
- \_\_\_ 6. Ready to go to bed or take a nap  
A. sleepy B. clothes C. pray D. cloud
- \_\_\_ 7. The opposite of being asleep  
A. awake B. mountain C. lightning D. face
- \_\_\_ 8. A grey or white mass floating in the sky, made of very small drops of water  
A. cloud B. clothes C. awake D. pray

