

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS

"Still a wonderful place to pray & stay."

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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: 23rd April July 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/>

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord 19/20 April 2025 • Year C



Let us Pray for the Sick

Florence Arinanan, Lorenzo Balabat, Sarah Bartolo, Max Barrett, Lawrence Charles, Ben Dixon, Alma Caguimbal, Para Dias, Mary Camilleri, John Crowther, 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, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Olivia, Sue Tipaldo, 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

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

Let us Pray for the Deceased

Recently Deceased: John Borg, Vivienne Cameron, Guy Cassar, Murial Chary, Albert Cheng, Blaise Costa, Maria Dalgado, Irene Dassanayaka, Padmini De Seram, Randy De Silva, John Doxey, Sandra Eichhorn, Bonosa Enfesta, Henrieta Fernando, Rienze Fernando, Jasmin Fernando, Ethan Garcia, Ricardo Garcia, Jean, Elsie, Karl, Gervais Garrick, Cynthia Lopez, Matilda Mifsud, Richard Monreal, Leo Ngan, Etelka Petkovics, Eustace Ratnam, Mangala Ratnam, Suranjith Reberra, Caroline Stevenson, Julius Suseno, Rita Xuereb.

Anniversaries: Astride Abeleda, Mary Alagiah, Listte & Joe Aristobil, Elvina Barnaba, Horace Baptist, Ronald Barley, Romeo Binihan, Elaine Bosen, Frank & Fortunata Baiada, Denis Brophy, Rosario Cabasa, Catherine Chandra, Joseph Chary, Saro Chary, Audrey & Herman Chillah, Aloysean Corera, Joseph & Mary Camenzuli, Edmundo Deloso, Dulcie & Sammy Duraisamy, Luiga Farrugia, Taniela Funaki, John Fernando, Nevis Fernando, M.A. Fernando, Martha Galea, Anthony Garcia, Francisca Garcia, Teodoro Garcia, Zenaida Garcia, Zoltan Gartner, Christine Gomez, Josephine Gomez, S.M. John, April Marabe, Albert Moroney, Xavier Motha Jr, Paul Mula, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kutty, Tony Muscat, Jacintah Noronha, Cordula Paiva, Adrian Pereira, John Portelli, Jose & Maria Reyes, Estileta Rival, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Michael Sant, Mary Silva, Rosary Silva, Loretta Laberinto Udan, Melchor Usman, Arsenio Laberinto Udan, Dionisio Udan.

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, France Angseeing, Carmen Attard, Lydia, Peter & Helen Bonnici, Richard Bowely, Marlene Busac, Barrie Chamberlain, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato & Marilyn Cabasa, Fe Licup Carmen, Catarina Camilleri, Dennis Clarke, Myrna Cruz, Saviour Caruana, Bede Diab, Debe Diab, Marcel Diab, Mohsen Diab, Peter Diab, Toufic Diab, Tania McGove, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Lancer De Guire, O. Francis, J. Francis, Joseph & Camena Fomosa, Melvyn Fernandes, Nevis Fernando, Sammy Formosa, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Sam Gabo, Mary & Sam Galea, Evangelina Garcia, Leandro Snr Garcia, Jose Garcia, Teodoro Garcia, Paul Garland, Constance Gaycroft, Selvam Irudayaraj, Jonathan Tek Kie, Harold, Marc, Rosine Lafuer, Sheena Landagan, A. Mansoor, Apolinario & Felina Maglaya, John & Maureen Mead, Pauline Meilak, Cole Ngan, Mangion & Cini Family, William & Emilia Mifsud, Joseph & Doris Mifsud, Mary Mifsud, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Anton & Lourda Motha, Louis, Bertu & Paula Mula, Stephen & Joseph Mula, Mary & Francis Muscat, Peter John & Carmelita, Ngan Pin, John & Eamon O'Sullivan, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose & Maria Reyes, Helen & Bill Tili, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Vinnie Zahra, Robert & Leila Zammit, Mary Zammit.

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



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 Augseeings on 0467 701 010.

THE EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis 1:1-2:2

God saw all that he had made, and indeed it was good.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Response) Lord, send out your Spirit,
and renew the face of the earth.

SECOND READING

A reading from the book of Exodus 14.15-15.1

*Tell the children of Israel to march on, to walk through
the sea on dry ground.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Response) Let us sing to the Lord;
he has covered himself in glory.

THIRD READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 55:1-11

*Come to me and your soul will live. With you I will make
an everlasting covenant.*

EPISTLE

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

6:3-11

*Christ, having been raised from the dead, will never die
again.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

24:1-2

*On the first day of the week, at the first sign of dawn,
the women went to the tomb with the spices they had
prepared.*

EASTER SUNDAY of the RESURRECTION of the LORD

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 10:34, 37-43

*We have eaten and drunk with him after his
resurrection from the dead.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Response) This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

3:1-4

Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, Alleluia! Christ has become our paschal
sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord. Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

20:1-9

*The teaching of scripture is that he must rise from the
dead.*



BISHOP VINCENT'S EASTER MESSAGE 2025

We invite families to watch Bishop Vincent's Easter Message for 2025.

It can be viewed here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_CGeihQQ3-E



Dear friends,

As we know, the Holy Week and Easter commemorations were first started in Rome at least from the fourth century according to Egeria in her travel diary called Travels of Egeria, perhaps they even took place much earlier than that, since we have no written records of them.

So what did Christians do in Jerusalem for the Easter liturgies? According to Egeria, the Easter Vigil in Jerusalem began at the ninth hour which is 3pm our time on Holy Saturday with final preparations for adult catechumens. While their baptism was taking place, the rest of the congregation kept vigil. Then, when the neophytes or newly baptised were led into the church, all joined in singing hymns, then the passage from the Gospel about the Resurrection was read, the bishop recited a prayer, then offered the oblation, and dismissed the congregation. Egeria noted that 'everything is done quickly on account of the people, that they should not be delayed any longer.'

At the Easter Vigil, we have the opportunity to listen to Luke's account of Jesus' Resurrection, and he obviously agreed with other evangelists that it was the women who first discovered the Resurrection of Jesus as they came to visit the tomb with the spices early in the morning of the first of the week, meaning Sunday, and identified them as Mary of Magdala, Joanna and Mary the mother of James. They found the tomb empty where there was no Jesus to be found, and encountered the pair of angels who refreshed their memory what Jesus once told them about his death and Resurrection. They then came home to tell the story to the disciples and they treated it as 'pure nonsense.' Peter however ran to the tomb himself to see Jesus' binding cloths left behind, and felt amazed by the event.

In John's Gospel on Easter Sunday, the evangelist singled out Mary of Magdala as the first person who came to visit Jesus' tomb and discovered the removal of the stone sealing the tomb. She came home to share the finding with Peter and John, who then ran together to the tomb. John ran faster and reached the place first, for he was younger than his senior friend. Though he reached the tomb first, John didn't enter Jesus' tomb but stayed outside to look in and saw Jesus' linen cloths left lying on the ground. When Peter arrived later, entered inside he saw the cloth wrapping Jesus' head rolled up and left not in the same place with the linen cloths. Most significantly John summed up his experience with these five inspiring words, '*he saw and he believed*' meaning he saw Jesus' empty tomb with his linen cloths left behind in the empty tomb, and he believed in Jesus' prediction about his Resurrection, something he had the courage to admit that he and Peter failed to understand prior to that.

Let us pray that our celebrations of Easter this year will fill us with joy and that the grace of Easter will strengthen our faith and empower us in our mission to bear witness to the Risen Christ wherever we are called to be in the world.

Happy Easter and have a joy-filled week,

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER THANK YOU

A big thank you to our ministers and helpers for all the hard work they generously offered to create a right atmosphere for all to pray and celebrate.

PROJECT COMPASSION BOX RETURN

Thank you all for showing your support to those who are in need around the world through your participation in the Project Compassion program and please bring your Project Compassion Box back to the church ASAP. Thank you.

HOLY COMMUNION HOME VISITS

We are seeking ministers for Holy Communion home visits. If you are available to volunteer some of your time and join our team, please contact Deacon Thong on 0452 210 951 or the parish office.

CHRISTIAN LIFE PROGRAMS

Couples for Christ (CFC) and Singles for Christ (SFC) would like to open an invitation to OLOL Parishioners to attend their Christian Life Programs that are being held in our parish hall. Further details can be found on the notice board flyers or contact Judith via ajcdeloso@gmail.com

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

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

CANDLE WAX ON THE CHURCH CARPET

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

RCIA CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Jessica-Lee Stewart, and Ava, Matilda and Mac Qorraj, who were fully initiated into the Church during tonight's Easter Vigil Mass. We also celebrate Ryan Stewart and Danielle Sanz, who completed their initiation into the faith through the Sacrament of Confirmation at the same Mass. May God bless each of you on your journey in faith.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL EASTER EGG DONATION

As part of our Easter outreach, we are collecting Easter Eggs to be donated to families supported by St. Vincent de Paul (St Vinnies). If you can contribute, please place your donated Easter Eggs in the designated area at the back of the Church. Your generosity will help bring joy to families in need this Easter. Thank you sincerely for your kindness and support. St Vincent de Paul Team.



DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

- Communications Lead – Diocesan Pastoral Plan

More details at: parracatholic.org/about/jobs/

FaithLIFE Theology Short Course: Wednesdays in May

Considering learning about theology? Interested in faith seek understanding? Looking to learn more about the Jubilee Year of Hope? Sign up now for the 3-session FaithLIFE Theology short course with Alison Ryan from MET on Wednesdays 7 + 14 + 21 May: parracatholic.org/faithlife

Special Mass for the Canonisation of Bl Carlo Acutis, Rouse Hill: 27 April

A special Mass will be celebrated by Fr Tom Green on Divine Mercy Sunday, 27 April at 10am at Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Rouse Hill in celebration of the Canonisation of Bl Carlo Acutis which will be held in Rome at the Jubilee of Teenagers. All welcome.

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, 13 May 2025, at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. To register your attendance and guests visit parracatholic.org/events/liturgical-ministers-commissioning-mass/

Low Cost Counselling Services

Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains provides low cost and affordable counselling services for individuals seeking support. Whether you're looking for general guidance or assistance with specific challenges like grief, loss, or family matters, Catholic Care is here to help. Call Catholic Care on 8843 2500 for a friendly chat today.

LOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities: 3 May

Face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Renewal Training will be held on Saturday 3 May at Holy Family Church, Emerton for Cycle 2 (Modules 4-5). More training opportunities will be available throughout 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

Visiting Clergy to LOL

Visiting clergy to our church this week who assisted with Parish Reconciliation 2nd Rite, all uphold the standards and processes we here at LOL and the Diocese of Parramatta have put in place to ensure the safety of our community.

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.

Thank You for Supporting our Catholic Care's chaplaincy services

Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains thank you for your kind-hearted generosity and support for people in hospital and prison who might otherwise feel abandoned. If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit parracatholic.org/appeal Thank you.

Bookings now open: Diocese of Parramatta's Jubilee Youth Pilgrimage

Young people (18-35 years) from Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are invited to join an 18-day pilgrimage to the Jubilee of Youth in Rome from July 19 – August 5, 2025, including a visit to Greece to trace the footsteps of Saint Paul and a celebration of the canonisation of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati in Rome. With only 45 spots available, secure your place by booking before May 10, 2025, with a deposit of \$800, and find out more or book at parracatholic.org/jubilee2025/

Grace and Truth Event

You are invited to join the Dominican Friars and Sisters on Wednesday, 30 April for an evening of prayer, formation, and fellowship. Open to men and women of all ages. The evening will consist of Eucharistic Adoration, Vespers and Benediction, a light dinner, and talks by Sister Elena Marie and Father James Baxter. The event will run from 5-9PM, starting in the crypt of St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, and moving to the Cathedral Hall. Fee: \$20. For information, contact the Dominican Sisters at sydney@op-tn.org

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/

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 LOL 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.

LOL 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 LOL 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.

Face to Face Renewal Safeguarding Training at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.

If missed any of the face to face training held at our parish, you can complete these modules independently at times convenient to you via <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>.



Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

As we celebrate Palm Sunday today, we have listened to the account of the Lord's Passion according to Luke (cf. Lk 22:14-23:56) in the Gospel. We have heard Jesus addressing the Father several times: "Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done." (22:42); Father, forgive them, they know not what they do' (23:34); Father, into your hands I commend my spirit" (23:46). We have seen him walk towards the cross defenceless and humiliated, with the feelings and the heart of a child clinging to his father's neck, fragile in the flesh, but strong in trusting abandonment, until he fell asleep, in death, in the Father's arms. These are feelings that the liturgy calls us to contemplate and make our own. We all have sorrows, physical or moral, and faith helps us not to give in to despair, not to close ourselves off in bitterness, but to face them, feeling enveloped, like Jesus, by the providential and merciful embrace of the Father.

Sisters and brothers, I thank you very much for your prayers. At this time of physical weakness, they help me to feel God's closeness, compassion and tenderness even more. I too am praying for you, and I ask you to entrust all those who suffer to the Lord together with me, especially those affected by war, poverty or natural disasters. In particular, may God receive in His peace the victims of the collapse of a building in Santo Domingo, and comfort their families.

April 15th will mark the second sad anniversary of the beginning of the conflict in Sudan, in which thousands have been killed and millions of families have been forced to flee their homes. The suffering of children, women and vulnerable people cries out to heaven and begs us to act. I renew my appeal to the parties involved, that they may end the violence and embark on paths of dialogue, and to the international community, so that the help needed may be provided to the populations. And let us also remember Lebanon, where the tragic civil war began fifty years ago: with God's help, may it live in peace and prosperity.

May peace come at last to martyred Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, the Democratic Republic of Congo, to Myanmar, to South Sudan. May Mary, Mother of Sorrows, obtain this grace for us and help us to live this Holy Week with faith.

HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS Read by Cardinal Leonardo Sandri

St Peter's Square Sunday, 13 April 2025

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord" (Lk 19:38). So the crowd greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem. The Messiah entered through the gate of the holy city, thrown open to welcome the one who, a few days later, would leave through the same gate, this time cursed and condemned, bearing the cross.

Today we too have followed Jesus, first in a festive procession and then along a path of pain and sorrow, as we enter upon this Holy Week of preparation for the commemoration of the Lord's passion, death and resurrection.

As we look at the faces of the soldiers and the tears of the women in the crowd, our attention is drawn to an unknown person whose name suddenly appears in the Gospel: Simon of Cyrene. He was the man seized by the soldiers who then "laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus" (Lk 23:26). At that moment, he was coming in from the countryside. He happened to be passing by when he unexpectedly found himself caught up in a drama that overwhelmed him, like the heavy wood that was placed on his shoulders.

As we make our own way towards Calvary, let us reflect for a moment on Simon's *actions*, try to look into his *heart*, and follow in his *footsteps* at the side of Jesus.

First of all, Simon's *actions* were ambivalent. On the one hand, he was forced to carry the cross. He did not help Jesus out of conviction, but out of coercion. On the other hand, he then becomes personally involved in the Lord's passion. Jesus' cross becomes Simon's cross. He was not the Simon, called Peter, who had promised to follow the Master at all times. That Simon disappeared on the night of betrayal, even after he had exclaimed: "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death" (Lk 22:33). The one who now follows Jesus is not that disciple, but this man from Cyrene. Yet the Master had clearly taught: "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me" (Lk 9:23). Simon of Galilee spoke but did not act. Simon of Cyrene acts but does not speak.

Between him and Jesus, there is no dialogue; not a single word is spoken. Between him and Jesus, there is only the wood of the cross.

If we would know whether Simon of Cyrene helped or hated Jesus, in whose suffering he now had to share, whether he "took up" the Lord's cross or simply carried it, we must look into his *heart*. While God's heart is ever open, pierced by a pain that reveals his mercy, the human heart remains closed. We do not know what went on in Simon's heart. Let us imagine ourselves in his place: would we feel anger or pity, compassion or annoyance? When we think of what Simon did for Jesus, we should also think of what Jesus did for Simon — what he did for me, for you, for each of us:

he redeemed the world. The cross of wood that Simon of Cyrene bore is the cross of Christ, who himself bore the sins of all humanity. He bore them for love of us, in obedience to the Father (cf. Lk 22:42); he suffered with us and for us. In this unexpected and astonishing way, Simon of Cyrene becomes part of the history of salvation, in which no one is a stranger, no one a foreigner.

Let us follow, then, in Simon's *footsteps*, for he teaches us that Jesus comes to meet everyone, in every situation. When we see the great crowds of men and women whom hatred and violence are compelling to walk the road to Calvary, let us remember that God has made this road a place of redemption, for he walked it himself, giving his life for us. How many Simons of Cyrene are there in our own day, bearing the cross of Christ on their shoulders! Can we recognize them? Can we see the Lord in their faces, marred by the burden of war and deprivation? Faced with the appalling injustice of evil, we never carry the cross of Christ in vain; on the contrary, it is the most tangible way for us to share in his redemptive love.

Jesus' passion becomes compassion whenever we hold out our hand to those who feel they cannot go on, when we lift up those who have fallen, when we embrace those who are discouraged. Brothers and sisters, in order to experience this great miracle of mercy, let us decide how we are meant to carry our own cross during this Holy Week: if not on our shoulders, in our hearts. And not only our cross, but also the cross of those who suffer all around us; perhaps even the cross of some unknown person whom chance — but is it really chance? — has placed on our way. Let us prepare for the Lord's paschal mystery by becoming each of us, for one another, a Simon of Cyrene.

POPE FRANCIS' HOMILY AT EASTER VIGIL 2022

Many writers have evoked the beauty of starlit nights. The nights of war, however, are riven by streams of light that portend death. On this night, brothers and sisters, let us allow the women of the Gospel to lead us by the hand, so that, with them, we may glimpse the first rays of the dawn of God's life rising in the darkness of our world. As the shadows of night were dispelled before the quiet coming of the light, the women set out for the tomb, to anoint the body of Jesus. There they had a disconcerting experience. First, they discovered that the tomb was empty; then they saw two figures in dazzling garments who told them that Jesus was risen. Immediately they ran back to proclaim the news to the other disciples (cf. *Lk* 24:1-10). *They saw, they heard, they proclaimed.* With these three verbs, may we too enter into the passover of the Lord from death to life.

The women saw. The first proclamation of the resurrection was not a statement to be unpacked, but a sign to be contemplated. In a burial ground, near a grave, in a place where everything should be orderly and peaceful, the women "found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they went in, they did not find the body" (vv. 2-3). Easter begins by upsetting our expectations. It comes with the gift of a hope that surprises and amazes us. Yet it is not easy to welcome that gift. At times – we must admit – this hope does not find a place in our hearts. Like the women in the Gospel, we are overtaken by questions and doubts, and our first reaction before the unexpected sign is one of fear: "They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground" (v. 5).

All too often we look at life and reality with downcast eyes; we fix our gaze only on this passing day, disenchanted by the future, concerned only with ourselves and our needs, settled into the prison of our apathy, even as we keep complaining that things will never change. In this way, we halt before the tomb of resignation and fatalism; we bury the joy of living. Yet tonight the Lord wants to give us different eyes, alive with hope that fear, pain and death will not have the last word over us. Thanks to Jesus' paschal mystery, we can make the leap from nothingness to life. "Death will no longer be able to rob our life" (K. RAHNER), for that life is now completely and eternally embraced by the boundless love of God. True, death can fill us with dread; it can paralyze us. But the Lord is risen! Let us lift up our gaze, remove the veil of sadness and sorrow from our eyes, and open our hearts to the hope that God brings!

In the second place, *the women heard.* After they had seen the empty tomb, the two men in dazzling garments said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen" (vv. 5-6). We do well to listen to those words and to repeat them: *He is not here!* Whenever we think we have understood everything there is to know about God, and can pigeonhole him in our own ideas and categories, let us repeat to ourselves: He is not here!

Whenever we seek him only in times of trouble and moments of need, only to set him aside and forget about him in the rest of our daily life and decisions, let us repeat: He is not here! And whenever we think we can imprison him in our words and our customary ways of thinking and acting, and neglect to seek him in the darkest corners of life, where people weep, struggle, suffer and hope, let us repeat: He is not here!

May we too hear the question asked of the women: "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" We cannot celebrate Easter if we continue to be dead; if we remain prisoners of the past; if in our lives we lack the courage to let ourselves be forgiven by God who forgives everything; if we fail to change, to break with the works of evil, to decide for Jesus and his love. If we continue to reduce faith to a talisman, making God a lovely memory from times past, instead of encountering him today as the living God who desires to change us and to change our world. A Christianity that seeks the Lord among the ruins of the past and encloses him in the tomb of habit is a *Christianity without Easter*. Yet the Lord is risen! Let us not tarry among the tombs, but run to find him, the Living One! Nor may we be afraid to seek him also in the faces of our brothers and sisters, in the stories of those who hope and dream, in the pain of those who we suffer: God is there!

Finally, *the women proclaimed.* What did they proclaim? The joy of the resurrection. Easter did not occur simply to console those who mourned the death of Jesus, but to open hearts to the extraordinary message of God's triumph over evil and death. The light of the resurrection was not meant to let the women bask in a transport of joy, but to generate missionary disciples who "return from the tomb" (v. 9) in order to bring to all the Gospel of the risen Christ. That is why, after seeing and hearing, the women ran to proclaim to the disciples the joy of the resurrection. They knew that the others might think they were mad; indeed, the Gospel says that the women's words "seemed to them an idle tale" (v. 11). Yet those women were not concerned for their reputation, for preserving their image; they did not contain their emotions or measure their words. Their hearts were enflamed only with the desire to convey the news, the proclamation: "The Lord is risen!"

How beautiful is a Church that can run this way through the streets of our world! Without fear, without schemes and stratagems, but solely with the desire to lead everyone to the joy of the Gospel. That is what we are called to do: to experience the risen Christ and to share the experience with others; to roll away the stone from the tomb where we may have enclosed the Lord, in order to spread his joy in the world. Let us make Jesus, the Living One, rise again from all those tombs in which we have sealed him. Let us set him free from the narrow cells in which we have so often imprisoned him. Let us awaken from our peaceful slumber and let him disturb and inconvenience us. Let us bring him into our everyday lives: through gestures of peace in these days marked by the horrors of war, through acts of reconciliation amid broken relationships, acts of compassion towards those in need, acts of justice amid situations of inequality and of truth in the midst of lies. And above all, through works of love and fraternity.

Brothers and sisters our hope has a name: the name of Jesus. He entered the tomb of our sin; he descended to those depths where we feel most lost; he wove his way through the tangles of our fears, bore the weight of our burdens and from the dark abyss of death restored us to life and turned our mourning into joy. Let us celebrate Easter with Christ! He is alive! Today, too, he walks in our midst, changes us and sets us free. Thanks to him, evil has been robbed of its power; failure can no longer hold us back from starting anew; and death has become a passage to the stirrings of new life. For with Jesus, the Risen Lord, no night will last forever; and even in the darkest night, in that darkness, the morning star continues to shine.

In this darkness that you are experiencing, Mr Mayor and dear Parliamentarians, the thick darkness of war, of cruelty, all of us are praying, praying with you and for you this night. We are praying for all the suffering. We can give you only our fellowship and our prayer and say to you: "Courage! We accompany you!" And also to say to you the greatest thing we are celebrating today: *Christòs voskrés!* Christ is risen!

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 8th May 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 May. 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.

APRIL 2025

22	St Vincent De Paul Meeting	6.30pm
23	Baptism Preparation Meeting	7.30pm
25	Anzac Day	
30	School Returns for Term 2	

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

19/20 April

Acolytes	Vigil: Easter Roster 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui
Ministers	Vigil: Easter Roster 8am: L. Fernandes, F. Paiva 9.30am: P. Gow, C. Brooks
Readers	Vigil: Easter Roster 8am: Benno Motha, J. Cabasa 9.30am: Kamela Huihui, M. Aquino
Altar Servers	Vigil: Easter Roster 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: Volunteers
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council
Musicians	Vigil: Christine Clarke 8am: Fr Henry 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale
Flowers	Fennie & Angela
Church Cleaning	23 April Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Easter Roster 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Volunteer

26/27 April

Acolytes	Vigil: Frank Paiva 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Ramzee Michael
Ministers	Vigil: J. Franco, A. Do Rosario 8am: A. McNally, T. Perak 9.30am: M. Michael, B. Chandler
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, R. Saldanha 8am: K. Walker, A. Pushparajan 9.30am: C. Diaz, Volunteer
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. Bagatella, Julian & Orlando Martinez 8am: Harrison Winter 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	1 May Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Ugre 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Volunteer

The Kids' Bulletin



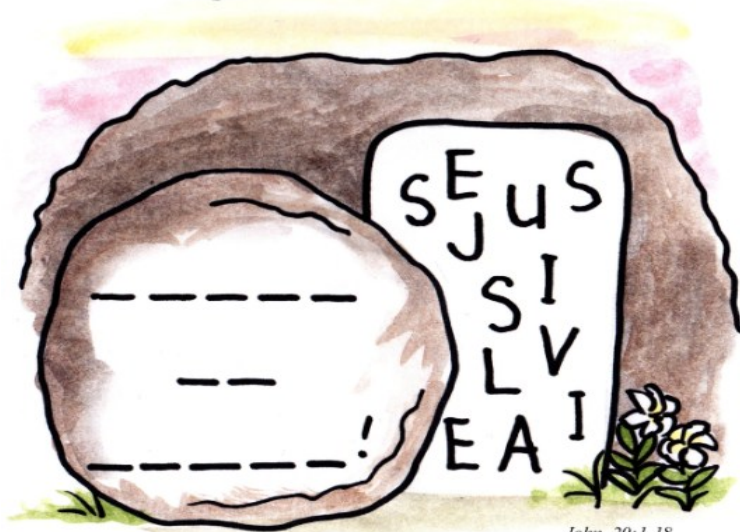
Easter Sunday
April 20th, 2025



Easter Sunrise Surprise

He is not here; he has risen! Luke 24:6a (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 24:1-12 (NIV).



John 20:1-18



What are we celebrating on Easter?
Unscramble the letters
to fill in the blanks!

Alleluia!



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

living	tomb	rolled	risen	dead
women	first	spices	away	bowed
faces	stone	entered	ground	remember
morning	week	body	fright	day

Alleluia

HE IS RISEN

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.

