

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS

"Still a wonderful place to pray & stay."

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Parish Office Team: Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Jane Nguyen
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Artelle Lenthall
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 July 2023
Baptism: 23rd July 2023
Parish Website: www.lol7hills.com.au
Catechist Coordinator : Sandy Manamperi, 0480 266 339
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/LOL7Hills/>

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time 25 June 2023 • Year A



Let us Pray for the Sick

Leonila Ahillon, George Alagiah, Ingrid Ball, Mamerto Angele, Mary Attard, Cynthia Avery, Rosenda Bolano, Barrie Chamberlain, Rosella Booth, Jock Clark Snr, Anthony Janicska, Ian & Irene Hall, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Debra Price, Trent Ross, Sue Tipaldo, Natalie Woodward, Vinnie Zarha, Sr Colleen O'Sullivan

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@lol7hills.com.au We can also arrange for Holy Communion or a visit if required.

Let us Pray for the Deceased

Recently Deceased: Neil Amaratunga, Mansour Ahmad, Agnes Bonello, Anton, Philomena & Clarence Corera, Felisa Conejos, Sarojini Chary, Helen Hill, Sarah De Silva, Gladys Fernando, Rita Leon, Aurora Dumlao, Joan Falzon, Teodoro Garcia, Ranjan Fernando, Maria Garufo, Steve Gauci, Debbie Mifsud, Dot McLandsborough, Ernesto Mendes, Michelle Muscat, Margie Silva, Eddie Tabone, Jessica Neodama,

Anniversaries: Fredy Alphonse, Gay & Jacqueline Angley, Sam Borg, Michelle Azzopardi, Frank & Fortunata Baiada, Rolily Burac, Josephine Calleja, Simeon Carlos, Charlie Chircop, Silvia & Sam Debattista, Antonia, Melvyn Fernandes, Josephine Francis, Sheela Franklin, Emilia Galea, Jean Garrick, Helen Gatt, Elsie & Karl Garrick, Zoltan Gartner, Charlie Gravina, Ginny Heke, Chinedu Joseph & Family, Salvatore Loria, Fr Lorenzo Loria, Maria, Anton Motha, Mary Muscat, Apolinario Maglaya, Tomasa & Nicanor Magpayo, Jason Muscat, Jim & Philippa Muscat, Alberto Nahoy, Ersilia Paolini, Thirucheluum, Philomina, Theanmolish, Lakshman Pereira, Nirmala, John Portelli, John Ratnam, Felicisimo Prahinog, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, John & Mary Silva, Vivian Silva, Rosary Silva, Pauline & Santan Soares, S. Susainathan, Melchor Usman, Shane Vaz, Salvu Zammit, Romualdo Austria Snr

Remembrance: France Angseeing, Cynthia Avery, Gregorio Almodovar, Carmen & Tony Attard, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Lina Cabaero, Cini Family, Dennis Clarke, Myrna Cruz, Emerenciana Dizon, Anacleto Dizon, Ngan Siu Eng, Julian Epondulan, Melvyn Fernandes, Felina & Apolinario Maglaya, Zaren & Sam Formosa, John & William Formosa, Charlie Gauci, Francisca Garcia, Sam & Mary Galea, Joe, Lonsan & Loui Deguire, Dolly Huertas, Selvam Irudayaraj, Sheena Landagan, Norma Lorenzo, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Pauline Meilak, Mangion Family, Mary Mifsud, Emilia & William Mifsud, T.Then Mozhi, Marcel Mohsen, Anton & Lourda Motha, Louis & Stephen Mula, Josephine & Charles Muscat, Mary & Francis Muscat, Josefina Lim, Adrian Pereira, Jose Reyes, Laureano Reyes, Jude Ranasinghe, John & Rosaline Ratnam, Maria Reyes, Yolanda Reyes, Karen Reyes, Rodrigues Family, Sem Serna, Hector & Rita Welgampola, Cua Sing, Jim Vella, Tania & Jimmy McGuire



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.lol7hills.org.au

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 and Matt's Point 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.

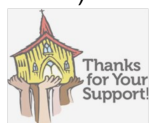
ON-LINE BANK DONATIONS

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



COVID- 19 UPDATE

PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING ANY FLU LIKE SYMPTOMS.
 Please Help Us Keep Our Community Safe.

All are welcome to join us for **Our Lady of Lourdes, Seven Hills, Sydney, NSW, Australia Facebook LIVE-STREAM WEEKEND MASS** celebrated by **Fr. Henry Huu Duc Tran on Saturdays 6PM (Vigil)**, <https://www.facebook.com/LOL7Hills/>

FIRST READING A reading from the prophet Jeremiah 20:10-13

Jeremiah said: I hear so many disparaging me, "Terror from every side! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All those who used to be my friends watched for my downfall, "Perhaps he will be seduced into error. Then we will master him and take our revenge!" But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero; my opponents will stumble, mastered, confounded by their failure; everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs. But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with justice, who scrutinise the loins and heart, let me see the vengeance you will take on them, for I have committed my cause to you. Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord, for he has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of evil men.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Lord, in your great love, answer me.

1. It is for you that I suffer taunts,
that shame covers my face,
that I have become a stranger to my brothers,
an alien to my own mother's sons.
I burn with zeal for your house
and taunts against you fall on me. **(R.)**

3. The poor when they see it will be glad
and God-seeking hearts will revive;
for the Lord listens to the needy
and does not spurn his servants in their chains. **(R.)**

2. This is my prayer to you,
my prayer for your favour.
In your great love, answer me, O God,
with your help that never fails:
Lord, answer, for your love is kind;
in your compassion, turn towards me. **(R.)**

SECOND READING A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 5:12-15

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law. Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord,
and you also will be my witnesses.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 10:26-33

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the altar.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen

GOSPEL REFLECTION - 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time Matthew 10:26-33

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells us to be afraid of anyone who can destroy both our body and soul in Gehenna. Gehenna is the Jewish name for the underworld and it is sometimes also called Hades or She'ol.

The Jewish people in Jesus' day believed the earth was flat and they pictured Gehenna as the area beneath the earth where all people went after they died. There were three layers to Gehenna and the layer a person ended up in depended on one's deeds while on earth.

The top layer was a place where the deceased waited twelve months until the consequences of their actions were clear. Those who God judged to have led a good life remained in the top layer awaiting their reward at the end of the world, but those who led wicked lives were sent to one of the two lower layers.

The specific layer depended on the nature of the crimes committed.

Some rabbis believed God showed mercy on the Sabbath by quenching the fires, but other rabbis thought the flames were continuous.

Christians called Gehenna "hell," and in the Apostles' Creed we say Jesus descended into hell before rising from the dead. This means Jesus visited the top layer of Gehenna to take to their reward those whom God had already judged righteous.

For Reflection

How would you describe hell? Would you act differently if you found out there wasn't a hell? Why or why not?



PARISH NEWS...

PARISH PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPE PROGRAM

All those who have registered for envelopes they are now available to pick up from the back of the Church. If you would like an envelope number for regular donations, please fill in the card available at the church doors and return it to the parish office. If you wish to continue donating online, please add your planned giving number or for a one off donation, ref. Donation. Thank you most sincerely for your generous contribution to our Parish.

WATCH BISHOP VINCENT ON ABC's COMPASS

Bishop Vincent features on ABC Compass this Sunday 25 June. Accompanied by Geraldine Doogue, he will show you important places in his life, and you'll hear about his remarkable story and ministry. Watch it on ABC TV at 6.30pm or later on ABC iView.

FREE ZUMBA CLASSES

Every Tuesday and Thursday 5.30-6.30pm in the Hall. Everyone Welcome!

SAFE GUARD TRAINING

In keeping with Government regulations, the Diocese requires all volunteers, including our music ministry and choir members to complete a "Safe Guarding Training". This must be done by the end of the year. It can be done online with many modules, however our Parish has organised with Maria from the Diocese to conduct a one day training on Saturday 8th July 2023 10.00am-3.00pm, which will fulfill the requirement. To register please contact the Parish office.

FR HENRY'S ANNUAL LEAVE

Fr Henry will take annual leave from the 1st of June till the end of the first week of July. Frs Huy SJ, Vincy OFM Cap, and Luan OFM Cap will be available to help our parish with all Masses, so please make them most welcomed amongst us.

In cases of emergency, please contact clergy from our neighbouring parishes, such as Lalor Park, Blacktown or Toongabbie. Our staff in the parish office are more than happy to help provide their contact numbers.

MINISTRY ROSTERS 1 July 2023 - 28 January 2024

are now available. You can find a copy in front of the back sacristy or on the Ministry Pro website. If you require more copies, please contact the Parish office or email secretary@lol7hills.com.au

SYNOD

Last Wednesday our Parish held a Synod listening event, kindly led by Terry Jordan. Everybody was heard and their lived experience was valuable to the task. Each group produced a submission. Below is one.

Submission-1

'We focused on the role of the Holy Spirit. This focus on the Holy Spirit is an aspect of "The New Thing" that God is doing. Very early in the discussion there was anger expressed at the lack of feedback from the submissions made to the Plenary Council. There was also a level of frustration at the limits placed by Canon Law on what a Synod can address. The inevitable "red tape" and institutional requirements for sacramental programs – which are very well done but a degree of flexibility is needed for parents and grandparents who must repeat programs for subsequent children. The lack of freshness in our programs and liturgies could be enlivened by involving other Christian denominations in common interest groups – practical or spiritual. While recognising the need for parishioners to be intentional disciples, we need to run programs that will introduce an experience of the Holy Spirit through "Life in the Spirit" seminars or Alpha programmes. We see the parish and diocese as being instruments of the Holy Spirit with action in our suburb, our parishes and our diocese. How to become active in the community in a way, that parishioners will see us in our mission to spread the message of God's unconditional love.'

If you get the opportunity to partake and have your voice heard, please take it, **Synod Submission close July 31st**. Group and individual submissions can be made up to 1,000 words based upon questions at the back of the church with St Joseph. See the website https://parracatholic.org/synod_getinvolved/ for options and resources or contact Terry Jordan on 0409373715.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Families called to share their stories with the first Diocesan Synod

Bishop Vincent wants to hear from families and households across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Your stories will inform the direction of our local Church into the future through what is known as a synod. Our Diocesan Synod is both an event and a process where people gather to discuss important matters relating to the life and mission of the Church. Synods are transformative experiences that lead to renewal in the Church's life. The success of the Synod relies on your participation. Families and households are encouraged to participate in the Synod at home using the resources 'Synod at Home' found here: https://parracatholic.org/synod2023_resources/

Diocesan Synod Interfaith Consultations: 27 June and 12 July

In response to Bishop Vincent's invitation that all in the diocese engage with the upcoming Diocesan Synod, the Columban Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations and the Diocesan Interfaith Commission will be co-hosting a series of consultations on how we are called to walk together with believers from other religions. All are welcome to join in the consultations sessions:

- Tuesday 27 June from 6.30pm to 9pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta – tickets at https://events.humanitix.com/synod_interfaith_consults_parramatta
- Wednesday 12 July from 6.30pm to 9pm at St Patrick's Parish, Guildford – tickets at https://events.humanitix.com/synod_interfaith_consultation_guildford

National NAIDOC Week Sunday 2 - 8 July

National NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia in the first week of July each year (Sunday to Sunday), to celebrate and recognise the history, culture, achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and celebrates the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth. You can support and get to know your local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities through activities and events held across the country.

Aboriginal Catholic Care NAIDOC Celebrations: 4 July

You are warmly invited to attend Aboriginal Catholic Care's NAIDOC Week celebrations on Tuesday 4 July at 252 Luxford Road, Emerton from 10am to 2pm. The event will include Stalls, Entertainment, Rides, Jumping Castle, Creature Feature, Face Painting, Sausage Sizzles & much more.

CYP LIFTED RETREAT 'Behold': 7 – 9 July

Young people aged 18 to 25 are invited to Catholic Youth Parramatta's LIFTED Retreat: Behold. Get away from the busyness of life for a weekend of prayer, sacraments, and community. The retreat will be held from Friday 7 to Sunday 9 July at the Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. Cost: \$125 per person including accommodation for two nights and all meals. Register at: <https://parracatholic.org/cyp-lifted-retreat/>

Diocesan Liturgical Conference: 15 July

The Diocesan Liturgy Conference is on again in 2023! Save the date for Saturday 15 July at St Andrew the Apostle Parish, Marayong. Fr Peter Williams AM VG will be the Keynote speaker as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Constitution on Sacred Liturgy. The conference will include a variety of workshops such as nourishing faith in children and discovering sacred art. To register, please visit www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1041495, contact mary.gale@parracatholic.org.

St Luke's Marsden Park Dinner Dance: 22 July

St Luke's at Marsden Park is holding its first ever Dinner Dance Saturday, July 22 from 7pm at St Luke's Catholic College, Frontier Avenue, Marsden Park. A 3-course Spanish-styled meal with sangria is on offer along with prizes. All profits will go towards funding the St Luke's Church building. Tickets are now on sale. Email marsdenpark@parracatholic.org to arrange your tickets.

Quakers Hill Parish Bingo Night: 5 August

Due to popular demand, BINGO will be held again on **5 August at Mary Immaculate Parish** (in the MPA). Doors open at **6:30pm for a 7pm start**. Please BYO Food and Drinks. Hot and cool beverages will be available on the night for a small fee. There will be more cash and prizes to be won! Please RSVP by phone or email by 3 August to book your seat(s) on (02) 9626 3326 or parishoffice@maryimmac.org.au. Come one come all!

Diocesan Adult Confirmation: 5 September

Adult Confirmation 2023 will be held on Tuesday 5 September at 7:30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral with the Catechesis and Formation Day to be held on Saturday 2 September at 9:30am – 2pm at the Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown (formerly known as the IFM). Adult Confirmation is a community celebration for those who have reached the age of 16 years and have received both the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist but are yet to receive the Confirmation. If you would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org.

Save Calvary Hospital

There is a petition to the Members of the ACT Legislative Assembly to reverse a decision of the ACT government to compulsorily acquire Calvary Hospital in Canberra. This removes the ownership and management from Calvary Health Care a Catholic operator and gives the ownership to the government-run, non-faith-based Canberra Health Services. To find out more about the implications of this decision and to sign the petition please visit: www.savecalvary.com.au

Aid to the Church in Need | ACN Australia & New Zealand

One of the major works of *Aid to the Church in Need* is providing transport to priests, sisters, and catechists to reach the faithful, who are often at great distances and must go through difficult terrain. In 2022, ACN provided 1,253 pastoral vehicles. This included 564 cars, 406 bicycles, 252 motorcycles, 16 boats, 11 buses, and 4 trucks for the pastoral work of the Church – particularly in Latin America and Africa. Can you help us supply transport to priests and religious again in 2023? Visit www.aidtochurch.org/transport

Quakers Hill Parish Perpetual Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Mary Immaculate Parish, Quakers Hill-Schofields celebrates a Perpetual Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help on Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the Church. All are welcome to join. For more information, please contact the parish office on (02) 9626 3326 or parishoffice@maryimmac.org.au.



ENCYCLICAL LETTER
FRATELLI TUTTI
OF THE HOLY FATHER
FRANCIS
ON FRATERNITY AND SOCIAL FRIENDSHIP *continued..*

CHAPTER TWO
A STRANGER ON THE ROAD

56. The previous chapter should not be read as a cool and detached description of today's problems, for "the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the people of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted, are the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well. Nothing that is genuinely human fails to find an echo in their hearts". [53] In the attempt to search for a ray of light in the midst of what we are experiencing, and before proposing a few lines of action, I now wish to devote a chapter to a parable told by Jesus Christ two thousand years ago. Although this Letter is addressed to all people of good will, regardless of their religious convictions, the parable is one that any of us can relate to and find challenging.

"Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.' But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'" (Lk 10:25-37).

The context

57. This parable has to do with an age-old problem. Shortly after its account of the creation of the world and of man, the Bible takes up the issue of human relationships. Cain kills his brother Abel and then hears God ask: "Where is your brother Abel?" (Gen 4:9). His answer is one that we ourselves all too often give: "Am I my brother's keeper?" (ibid.). By the very question he asks, God leaves no room for an appeal to determinism or fatalism as a justification for our own indifference. Instead, he encourages us to create a different culture, in which we resolve our conflicts and care for one another.

58. The Book of Job sees our origin in the one Creator as the basis of certain common rights: "Did not he who made me in the womb also make him? And did not the same one fashion us in the womb?" (Job 31:15). Many centuries later, Saint Irenaeus would use the image of a melody to make the same point: "One who seeks the truth should not concentrate on the differences between one note and another, thinking as if each was created separately and apart from the others; instead, he should realize that one and the same person composed the entire melody".[54]

59. In earlier Jewish traditions, the imperative to love and care for others appears to have been limited to relationships between members of the same nation. The ancient commandment to "love your neighbour as yourself" (Lev 19:18) was usually understood as referring to one's fellow citizens, yet the boundaries gradually expanded, especially in the Judaism that developed outside of the land of Israel. We encounter the command not to do to others what you would not want them to do to you (cf. Tob 4:15). In the first century before Christ, Rabbi Hillel stated: "This is the entire Torah. Everything else is commentary".[55] The desire to imitate God's own way of acting gradually replaced the tendency to think only of those nearest us: "The compassion of man is for his neighbour, but the compassion of the Lord is for all living beings" (Sir 18:13).

60. In the New Testament, Hillel's precept was expressed in positive terms: "In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets" (Mt 7:12). This command is universal in scope, embracing everyone on the basis of our shared humanity, since the heavenly Father "makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good" (Mt 5:45). Hence the summons to "be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (Lk 6:36).

61. In the oldest texts of the Bible, we find a reason why our hearts should expand to embrace the foreigner. It derives from the enduring memory of the Jewish people that they themselves had once lived as foreigners in Egypt:

"You shall not wrong or oppress a stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Ex 22:21).

"You shall not oppress a stranger; you know the heart of a stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Ex 23:9).

"When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the stranger as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt"

"When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the sojourner, the orphan, and the widow. Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt" (Deut 24:21-22).

The call to fraternal love echoes throughout the New Testament:

"For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself'" (Gal 5:14).

"Whoever loves a brother or sister lives in the light, and in such a person there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates another believer is in the darkness" (1 Jn 2:10-11).

"We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another. Whoever does not love abides in death" (1 Jn 3:14).

"Those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen" (1 Jn 4:20).

Continued over page

62. Yet this call to love could be misunderstood. Saint Paul, recognizing the temptation of the earliest Christian communities to form closed and isolated groups, urged his disciples to abound in love “for one another and for all” (1 Thess 3:12). In the Johannine community, fellow Christians were to be welcomed, “even though they are strangers to you” (3 Jn 5). In this context, we can better understand the significance of the parable of the Good Samaritan: love does not care if a brother or sister in need comes from one place or another. For “love shatters the chains that keep us isolated and separate; in their place, it builds bridges. Love enables us to create one great family, where all of us can feel at home. Love exudes compassion and dignity”.[56]

Abandoned on the wayside

63. Jesus tells the story of a man assaulted by thieves and lying injured on the wayside. Several persons passed him by, but failed to stop. These were people holding important social positions, yet lacking in real concern for the common good. They would not waste a couple of minutes caring for the injured man, or even in calling for help. Only one person stopped, approached the man and cared for him personally, even spending his own money to provide for his needs. He also gave him something that in our frenetic world we cling to tightly: he gave him his time. Certainly, he had his own plans for that day, his own needs, commitments and desires. Yet he was able to put all that aside when confronted with someone in need. Without even knowing the injured man, he saw him as deserving of his time and attention.

64. Which of these persons do you identify with? This question, blunt as it is, is direct and incisive. Which of these characters do you resemble? We need to acknowledge that we are constantly tempted to ignore others, especially the weak. Let us admit that, for all the progress we have made, we are still “illiterate” when it comes to accompanying, caring for and supporting the most frail and vulnerable members of our developed societies. We have become accustomed to looking the other way, passing by, ignoring situations until they affect us directly.

65. Someone is assaulted on our streets, and many hurry off as if they did not notice. People hit someone with their car and then flee the scene. Their only desire is to avoid problems; it does not matter that, through their fault, another person could die. All these are signs of an approach to life that is spreading in various and subtle ways. What is more, caught up as we are with our own needs, the sight of a person who is suffering disturbs us. It makes us uneasy, since we have no time to waste on other people’s problems. These are symptoms of an unhealthy society. A society that seeks prosperity but turns its back on suffering.

66. May we not sink to such depths! Let us look to the example of the Good Samaritan. Jesus’ parable summons us to rediscover our vocation as citizens of our respective nations and of the entire world, builders of a new social bond. This summons is ever new, yet it is grounded in a fundamental law of our being: we are called to direct society to the pursuit of the common good and, with this purpose in mind, to persevere in consolidating its political and social order, its fabric of relations, its human goals. By his actions, the Good Samaritan showed that “the existence of each and every individual is deeply tied to that of others: life is not simply time that passes; life is a time for interactions”.[57]

67. The parable eloquently presents the basic decision we need to make in order to rebuild our wounded world. In the face of so much pain and suffering, our only course is to imitate the Good Samaritan. Any other decision would make us either one of the robbers or one of those who walked by without showing compassion for the sufferings of the man on the roadside. The parable shows us how a community can be rebuilt by men and women who identify with the vulnerability of others, who reject the creation of a society of exclusion, and act instead as neighbours, lifting up and rehabilitating the fallen for the sake of the common good. At the same time, it warns us about the attitude of those who think only of themselves and fail to shoulder the inevitable responsibilities of life as it is.

68. The parable clearly does not indulge in abstract moralizing, nor is its message merely social and ethical. It speaks to us of an essential and often forgotten aspect of our common humanity: we were created for a fulfilment that can only be found in love. We cannot be indifferent to suffering; we cannot allow anyone to go through life as an outcast. Instead, we should feel indignant, challenged to emerge from our comfortable isolation and to be changed by our contact with human suffering. That is the meaning of dignity.

A story constantly retold

69. The parable is clear and straightforward, yet it also evokes the interior struggle that each of us experiences as we gradually come to know ourselves through our relationships with our brothers and sisters. Sooner or later, we will all encounter a person who is suffering. Today there are more and more of them. The decision to include or exclude those lying wounded along the roadside can serve as a criterion for judging every economic, political, social and religious project. Each day we have to decide whether to be Good Samaritans or indifferent bystanders. And if we extend our gaze to the history of our own lives and that of the entire world, all of us are, or have been, like each of the characters in the parable. All of us have in ourselves something of the wounded man, something of the robber, something of the passers-by, and something of the Good Samaritan.

70. It is remarkable how the various characters in the story change, once confronted by the painful sight of the poor man on the roadside. The distinctions between Judean and Samaritan, priest and merchant, fade into insignificance. Now there are only two kinds of people: those who care for someone who is hurting and those who pass by; those who bend down to help and those who look the other way and hurry off. Here, all our distinctions, labels and masks fall away: it is the moment of truth. Will we bend down to touch and heal the wounds of others? Will we bend down and help another to get up? This is today’s challenge, and we should not be afraid to face it. In moments of crisis, decisions become urgent. It could be said that, here and now, anyone who is neither a robber nor a passer-by is either injured himself or bearing an injured person on his shoulders.

71. The story of the Good Samaritan is constantly being repeated. We can see this clearly as social and political inertia is turning many parts of our world into a desolate byway, even as domestic and international disputes and the robbing of opportunities are leaving great numbers of the marginalized stranded on the roadside. In his parable, Jesus does not offer alternatives; he does not ask what might have happened had the injured man or the one who helped him yielded to anger or a thirst for revenge. Jesus trusts in the best of the human spirit; with this parable, he encourages us to persevere in love, to restore dignity to the suffering and to build a society worthy of the name.

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/>



LOURDES OVER 50s GROUP

Over 50s Meeting Thursday 13th July 10.30am-1pm.
Please bring a plate for a shared lunch.
Look forward to seeing you there.

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 96222920

FUNERALS

When a Funeral is to be celebrated, please contact Fr. Henry before contacting the Funeral Home. 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

Lourdes: Luminate Young Adults Group

The next group night is Friday, 14th of July, 2023 6:45-9:30pm in the Parish Hall. If you would like more information please contact Ian Epondulan: youtholol7h@gmail.com

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 STILL AVAILABLE TO THOSE IN NEED St Vincent de Paul Support Centres across Greater Sydney are still available and taking calls to arrange for food vouchers or other items to be provided to those in need. If you need assistance, call the Support Centres in Blacktown on (02) 8861 9777, Harris Park on (02) 8861 9757 and Penrith on (02) 8861 9770. To find out more about what support is available, visit <http://vinnies.org.au/covidsupportnsw>

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 recent 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 wedding anniversaries, baptisms, birthdays, or death anniversaries. Please see Fr Henry or Ernie before Mass to arrange it.

OLOL PARISH CALENDAR

JUNE

29	Finance Committee Meeting	8.00pm
30	Last Day School Term 2	

JULY

8	Safeguard Training	10.00am
12	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	7.30pm
13	Over 50's Meeting	10.30am
18	First Day School Term 3	
14	Lourdes: Luminate Young Adults Group Meeting	6.45pm
19	Baptism Preparation Program	7.30pm
30	School Mass—Grandparents Day	9.30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

24/25 June 2023

Acolytes	Vigil: James Dinning 8am: Ernie Gartner 9.30am Ian Epondulan
Ministers	Vigil: L. La Guidara, M. Mifsud 8am: F. Balatbat, E. Gartner 9.30am: P.Gow, S.Lenthall
Readers	Vigil: C. Rodrigues, M.Simic 8am: A. McNally, K. Walker 9.30am M. Aquino, F. Kennedy
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. Bagatella, A. La Guidara, C. La Guidara 8am: K.Maruthanayagam, S.Park, P.Park 9.30am L.Culili, C.Attard, M.Pieris
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ
Flowers	Annette & Mary B
Church cleaning	28 June Jessie Borg Anne McNally
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Urge 8am: Joyce Hillbrick 9.30am: VOLUNTEER

1/2 July 2023

Acolytes	Vigil: Ernie Gartner 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am Ramzee Michael
Ministers	Vigil: A. Do Rosario, R. Soares 8am: L. Fernandes, S.Nemorin 9.30am: G.Basili, M.Michael
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, M.Simic 8am: A. Joseph, M.Santos 9.30am A.Hye Rin Han, S.Manamperi
Altar Servers	Vigil: M.Gluvic, J.Martinez, E.Reardon 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am L.Culili, A.Melki
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Tongan Choir
Flowers	Fenty & Liz
Church cleaning	8 July Tongan Community
Welcomers	Vigil: VOLUNTEER 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: Maria Michael

The Kids' Bulletin

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time
June 25th, 2023

Unscramble each word, then use the marked letters to reveal the secret word.



GURNOD
5
SLOD
1
PNENY
2
WRTOH
7 6 4
HRIAS
3 8

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?
Yet not one of them will fall to the ground
apart from the will of your Father.
Matthew 10:29 (NLT)

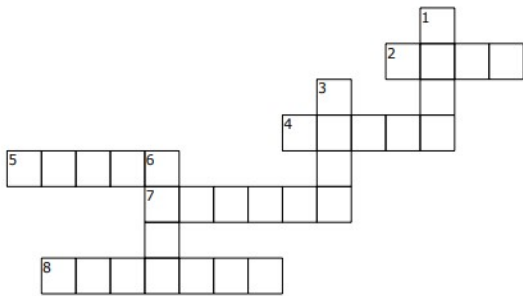
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8



HERE ARE SOME CLUES IN CASE YOU NEED HELP!

1. The surface of a piece of land. I dug a hole in the _____.
2. Exchanged something for money. He _____ his bicycle.
3. A copper coin that is of very little value. Matthew 10:29
4. The importance or value of something or someone.
5. Those things growing on the top of your head.

*In today's Gospel reading Jesus says that
God sees even little things.
What little things did He mention?
Connect the dots to find out!*



You are worth
more than
many sparrows



ACROSS

2. The spiritual part of a person
4. A small copper coin
5. The value of something
7. To be fearful or anxious about something
8. A common, small, gray-brown bird

DOWN

1. The physical part of a person
3. The part of the body that contains the eyes, nose, mouth, ears, and the brain
6. Threadlike structures growing on the head of a person

WORTH	SOUL	SPARROW	HEAD
HAIR	PENNY	AFRAID	BODY

T	G	H	I	L	D	A	Y	I	A
H	S	O	U	S	A	N	Y	F	D
G	E	W	L	D	N	D	R	O	E
I	D	H	O	E	A	A	A	W	S
L	E	I	P	R	I	F	E	L	T
Y	C	S	K	D	R	L	L	L	R
A	L	P	I	N	L	A	C	I	O
D	A	E	H	U	F	E	P	K	Y
A	R	R	O	H	R	A	P	S	T
S	E	S	P	I	H	W	O	S	E

AFRAID
CLEAR
DARK
DAYLIGHT
WHISPERS
KILL
SOUL
DESTROY
SPARROWS
PENNY
HEAD
HUNDREDS

