

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 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/>

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time 2 July 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, Sue Tipaldo, Vinnie Zarha, Natalie Woodward, 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, Trent Ross, 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 Debatista, Antonia, Melvyn Fernandes, Josephine Francis, Sheela Franklin, Emilia Galea, Jean Garrick, Helen Gatt, Elsie & Karl Garrick, Zoltan Gartner, Charlie Gravina, Anthony Gracie, 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, Felicissimo Prahinog, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, John & Mary Silva, Vivian Silva, Rosary Silva, Pauline & Santan Soares, S. Susainathan, Melchor Usman, Amalia 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.

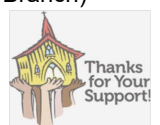
ON-LINE BANK DONATIONS

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 second book of the Kings 4:8-11. 14-16

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.'

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her?' he asked.

Gehazi (his servant) answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.'

The servant called her and he stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **(R.)**

2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss. **(R.)**

3. For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength; it is by your favour that our might is exalted: for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord; our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel. **(R.)**

SECOND READING A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 6:3-4. 8-11

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people.

Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 10:37-42

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.

'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward.

'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.

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 - 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time Matthew 10:37-42

Jesus says that he who welcomes a prophet will receive a prophet's reward. For many of us, this passage has little or no meaning because we somehow have the idea that God doesn't send prophets into the world anymore. That's simply not true. The problem is that we do not understand what a prophet is.

We associate prophets with gazing into the future, but Scripture tells us the real role of a prophet was to advise and admonish the king, especially on matters pertaining to justice. The prophet pointed out to the king that the poor were being treated unjustly or that widows and orphans were being neglected. The prophet confronted the king about discrimination and spoke for those who could not speak for themselves.

If the king did not attempt to solve the problem, the prophet would warn him of the dire consequences that would result.

"If you continue to neglect the poor," the prophet would tell him, "the Lord God will neglect to bless you." Of course, all this did not make the prophet very popular with the king and it occasionally resulted in the prophet's early death.

When we understand the role of the prophet in this way, we can see that there are prophets in the world today, people in our society who speak out on behalf of the poor and the needy by calling our attention to the plight of the hungry and the homeless. These people may work hard to protect the elderly from abuse and they might cry out against the build up of nuclear arms.

These are the modern day prophets Jesus encourages us to welcome.

Like the prophets of the Old Testament, today's prophets work for justice and they challenge us to do the same. We may not agree with the positions they have taken on certain issues but we owe them our respect because they are not just talking about faith in God but are trying to make God's love and concern for his children a reality.

For Reflection -

Anyone can be a prophet.

Take time this week to reflect on what is being done about the hunger problem, affordable housing for the poor etc. Think about how you can speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves.



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.

BECOME A CATECHIST AN SRE VOLUNTEER!

SRE's are parish volunteers who: Teach and share their faith with children of their parish 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 & The Hills Sports High School. **New volunteers SRE's will be given support, training, teaching materials and will start as a classroom helper.** For further enquiries please contact Sandy in the parish office 9622 2920

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@olol7hills.com.au

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.

STILL TIME REGISTER - 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.

Thank you to those who have already registered, we look forward to seeing you on the day. Tea, Coffee & lunch will be provided.

A new life in Christ...



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday

Sunday 2nd July 2023

Artwork: Jesus, the Living Water by Troy Mardigan (Daly River) www.natsicc.org.au

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: 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 consultation session on Wednesday 12 July from 6.30pm to 9pm at St Patrick's Parish, Guildford. Register your attendance via Humantix by scanning the QR code.



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.

There is still time to donate to Aboriginal Catholic Care

If you've donated, thank you for your compassionate, life-changing help! If you haven't had a chance, **you can still help the homeless and people experiencing hardship**. Our community drop-in centres provide practical assistance for anyone in need. With Government funding for Catholic Care's Housing, Care and Support program ceasing 30 June, **your support and tax-deductible gift is critical**. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal or scan this QR code. **Thanks for being a Good Samaritan!**



Refugee Week Diocesan Food Drive

Many vulnerable people in our community rely on the 'food banks' run by Jesuit Refugee Services and the House of Welcome, which operate thanks to donations from community food drives. This Refugee Week, the Diocese of Parramatta is encouraging schools and parishes to run a food drive for those seeking safety in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Find out more information about how you can help at parracatholic.org/fooddrive or emailing james.atanasious@parracatholic.org

Volunteer for the House of Welcome

Volunteers are needed by the House of Welcome to do odd jobs around properties which house refugees and people seeking asylum. If you are a handyman or woman with a few hours you can donate, please contact Maricar at m.tupaea@houseofwelcome.com.au.

Sea Sunday – Apostleship of the Sea: 9 July

Next week is Sea Sunday, when the church prays for all those who live and work at sea. There will be an Appeal for Stella Maris, Apostleship of the Sea, the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church. Funds collected will be used to provide practical and spiritual support to seafarers visiting our ports. As it is dependent on voluntary donations, please give generously. To donate or for more information, visit www.stellamarisaustralia.org

Tri-Diocesan Social Justice Statement Evening: 26 July

Join Sydney, Broken Bay and Parramatta Peace, Justice and Ecology offices as we continue to break open the Social Justice Statement of 2022 – 2023, 'Respect Confronting Violence and Abuse'. Join us on Wednesday 26 July from 6pm to 8:30pm at the Catholic Institute of Sydney, 99 Albert Road, Strathfield. To RSVP, please visit bit.ly/2023-tri-diocesan-social-justice-evening

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!

Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend: 5 – 6 August

How prepared are you for marriage? Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life. We give you a chance to spend time together to strengthen and enrich your relationship. The next Engaged Encounter Weekend will be held on 5 – 6 August. For further info and to register, visit www.engagedencounter.org.au/

Get #Active4Vocations in the City2Surf: 13 August

Join the Parramatta Catholic Foundation #Active4Vocations team. Walk, stroll, jog, or run with our Holy Spirit seminarians, deacons, priests, and community. Scan this QR code or visit tinyurl.com/Active4Vocations to register or donate. Funds raised support our Diocese's seminarians to become priests.





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

The characters of the story

72. The parable begins with the robbers. Jesus chose to start when the robbery has already taken place, lest we dwell on the crime itself or the thieves who committed it. Yet we know them well. We have seen, descending on our world, the dark shadows of neglect and violence in the service of petty interests of power, gain and division. The real question is this: will we abandon the injured man and run to take refuge from the violence, or will we pursue the thieves? Will the wounded man end up being the justification for our irreconcilable divisions, our cruel indifference, our intestine conflicts?

73. The parable then asks us to take a closer look at the passers-by. The nervous indifference that makes them pass to the other side of the road – whether innocently or not, whether the result of disdain or mere distraction – makes the priest and the Levite a sad reflection of the growing gulf between ourselves and the world around us. There are many ways to pass by at a safe distance: we can retreat inwards, ignore others, or be indifferent to their plight. Or simply look elsewhere, as in some countries, or certain sectors of them, where contempt is shown for the poor and their culture, and one looks the other way, as if a development plan imported from without could edge them out. This is how some justify their indifference: the poor, whose pleas for help might touch their hearts, simply do not exist. The poor are beyond the scope of their interest.

74. One detail about the passers-by does stand out: they were religious, devoted to the worship of God: a priest and a Levite. This detail should not be overlooked. It shows that belief in God and the worship of God are not enough to ensure that we are actually living in a way pleasing to God. A believer may be untrue to everything that his faith demands of him, and yet think he is close to God and better than others. The guarantee of an authentic openness to God, on the other hand, is a way of practising the faith that helps open our hearts to our brothers and sisters. Saint John Chrysostom expressed this pointedly when he challenged his Christian hearers: “Do you wish to honour the body of the Saviour? Do not despise it when it is naked. Do not honour it in church with silk vestments while outside it is naked and numb with cold”. [58] Paradoxically, those who claim to be unbelievers can sometimes put God’s will into practice better than believers.

75. “Robbers” usually find secret allies in those who “pass by and look the other way”. There is a certain interplay between those who manipulate and cheat society, and those who, while claiming to be detached and impartial critics, live off that system and its benefits. There is a sad hypocrisy when the impunity of crime, the use of institutions for personal or corporate gain, and other evils apparently impossible to eradicate, are accompanied by a relentless criticism of everything, a constant sowing of suspicion that results in distrust and confusion. The complaint that “everything is broken” is answered by the claim that “it can’t be fixed”, or “what can I do?” This feeds into disillusionment and despair, and hardly encourages a spirit of solidarity and generosity. Plunging people into despair closes a perfectly perverse circle: such is the agenda of the invisible dictatorship of hidden interests that have gained mastery over both resources and the possibility of thinking and expressing opinions.

76. Let us turn at last to the injured man. There are times when we feel like him, badly hurt and left on side of the road. We can also feel helpless because our institutions are neglected and lack resources, or simply serve the interests of a few, without and within. Indeed, “globalized society often has an elegant way of shifting its gaze. Under the guise of being politically correct or ideologically fashionable, we look at those who suffer without touching them. We televise live pictures of them, even speaking about them with euphemisms and with apparent tolerance”. [59]

Starting anew

77. Each day offers us a new opportunity, a new possibility. We should not expect everything from those who govern us, for that would be childish. We have the space we need for co-responsibility in creating and putting into place new processes and changes. Let us take an active part in renewing and supporting our troubled societies. Today we have a great opportunity to express our innate sense of fraternity, to be Good Samaritans who bear the pain of other people’s troubles rather than fomenting greater hatred and resentment. Like the chance traveller in the parable, we need only have a pure and simple desire to be a people, a community, constant and tireless in the effort to include, integrate and lift up the fallen. We may often find ourselves succumbing to the mentality of the violent, the blindly ambitious, those who spread mistrust and lies. Others may continue to view politics or the economy as an arena for their own power plays. For our part, let us foster what is good and place ourselves at its service.

78. We can start from below and, case by case, act at the most concrete and local levels, and then expand to the farthest reaches of our countries and our world, with the same care and concern that the Samaritan showed for each of the wounded man’s injuries. Let us seek out others and embrace the world as it is, without fear of pain or a sense of inadequacy, because there we will discover all the goodness that God has planted in human hearts. Difficulties that seem overwhelming are opportunities for growth, not excuses for a glum resignation that can lead only to acquiescence. Yet let us not do this alone, as individuals. The Samaritan discovered an innkeeper who would care for the man; we too are called to unite as a family that is stronger than the sum of small individual members. For “the whole is greater than the part, but it is also greater than the sum of its parts”. [60] Let us renounce the pettiness and resentment of useless in-fighting and constant confrontation. Let us stop feeling sorry for ourselves and acknowledge our crimes, our apathy, our lies. Reparation and reconciliation will give us new life and set us all free from fear.

79. The Samaritan who stopped along the way departed without expecting any recognition or gratitude. His effort to assist another person gave him great satisfaction in life and before his God, and thus became a duty. All of us have a responsibility for the wounded, those of our own people and all the peoples of the earth. Let us care for the needs of every man and woman, young and old, with the same fraternal spirit of care and closeness that marked the Good Samaritan.

Continued over page

80. Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan in answer to the question: Who is my neighbour? The word “neighbour”, in the society of Jesus’ time, usually meant those nearest us. It was felt that help should be given primarily to those of one’s own group and race. For some Jews of that time, Samaritans were looked down upon, considered impure. They were not among those to be helped. Jesus, himself a Jew, completely transforms this approach. He asks us not to decide who is close enough to be our neighbour, but rather that we ourselves become neighbours to all.

81. Jesus asks us to be present to those in need of help, regardless of whether or not they belong to our social group. In this case, the Samaritan *became a neighbour* to the wounded Judean. By approaching and making himself present, he crossed all cultural and historical barriers. Jesus concludes the parable by saying: “Go and do likewise” (Lk 10:37). In other words, he challenges us to put aside all differences and, in the face of suffering, to draw near to others with no questions asked. I should no longer say that I have neighbours to help, but that I must myself be a neighbour to others.

82. The parable, though, is troubling, for Jesus says that the wounded man was a Judean, while the one who stopped and helped him was a Samaritan. This detail is quite significant for our reflection on a love that includes everyone. The Samaritans lived in a region where pagan rites were practised. For the Jews, this made them impure, detestable, dangerous. In fact, one ancient Jewish text referring to nations that were hated, speaks of Samaria as “not even a people” (Sir 50:25); it also refers to “the foolish people that live in Shechem” (50:26).

83. This explains why a Samaritan woman, when asked by Jesus for a drink, answered curtly: “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jn 4:9). The most offensive charge that those who sought to discredit Jesus could bring was that he was “possessed” and “a Samaritan” (Jn 8:48). So this encounter of mercy between a Samaritan and a Jew is highly provocative; it leaves no room for ideological manipulation and challenges us to expand our frontiers. It gives a universal dimension to our call to love, one that transcends all prejudices, all historical and cultural barriers, all petty interests.

The plea of the stranger

84. Finally, I would note that in another passage of the Gospel Jesus says: “I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (Mt 25:35). Jesus could speak those words because he had an open heart, sensitive to the difficulties of others. Saint Paul urges us to “rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep” (Rom 12:15). When our hearts do this, they are capable of identifying with others without worrying about where they were born or come from. In the process, we come to experience others as our “own flesh” (Is 58:7).

85. For Christians, the words of Jesus have an even deeper meaning. They compel us to recognize Christ himself in each of our abandoned or excluded brothers and sisters (cf. Mt 25:40.45). Faith has untold power to inspire and sustain our respect for others, for believers come to know that God loves every man and woman with infinite love and “thereby confers infinite dignity” upon all humanity.[61] We likewise believe that Christ shed his blood for each of us and that no one is beyond the scope of his universal love. If we go to the ultimate source of that love which is the very life of the triune God, we encounter in the community of the three divine Persons the origin and perfect model of all life in society. Theology continues to be enriched by its reflection on this great truth.

86. I sometimes wonder why, in light of this, it took so long for the Church unequivocally to condemn slavery and various forms of violence. Today, with our developed spirituality and theology, we have no excuses. Still, there are those who appear to feel encouraged or at least permitted by their faith to support varieties of narrow and violent nationalism, xenophobia and contempt, and even the mistreatment of those who are different. Faith, and the humanism it inspires, must maintain a critical sense in the face of these tendencies, and prompt an immediate response whenever they rear their head. For this reason, it is important that catechesis and preaching speak more directly and clearly about the social meaning of existence, the fraternal dimension of spirituality, our conviction of the inalienable dignity of each person, and our reasons for loving and accepting all our brothers and sisters.

CHAPTER THREE

ENVISAGING AND ENGENDERING AN OPEN WORLD

87. Human beings are so made that they cannot live, develop and find fulfilment except “in the sincere gift of self to others”. [62] Nor can they fully know themselves apart from an encounter with other persons: “I communicate effectively with myself only insofar as I communicate with others”. [63] No one can experience the true beauty of life without relating to others, without having real faces to love. This is part of the mystery of authentic human existence. “Life exists where there is bonding, communion, fraternity; and life is stronger than death when it is built on true relationships and bonds of fidelity. On the contrary, there is no life when we claim to be self-sufficient and live as islands: in these attitudes, death prevails”. [64]

MOVING BEYOND OURSELVES

88. In the depths of every heart, love creates bonds and expands existence, for it draws people out of themselves and towards others. [65] Since we were made for love, in each one of us “a law of *ekstasis*” seems to operate: “the lover ‘goes outside’ the self to find a fuller existence in another”. [66] For this reason, “man always has to take up the challenge of moving beyond himself”. [67]

89. Nor can I reduce my life to relationships with a small group, even my own family; I cannot know myself apart from a broader network of relationships, including those that have preceded me and shaped my entire life. My relationship with those whom I respect has to take account of the fact that they do not live only for me, nor do I live only for them. Our relationships, if healthy and authentic, open us to others who expand and enrich us. Nowadays, our noblest social instincts can easily be thwarted by self-centred chats that give the impression of being deep relationships. On the contrary, authentic and mature love and true friendship can only take root in hearts open to growth through relationships with others. As couples or friends, we find that our hearts expand as we step out of ourselves and embrace others. Closed groups and self-absorbed couples that define themselves in opposition to others tend to be expressions of selfishness and mere self-preservation.

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

JULY

8	Safeguard Training	10.00am
12	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	7.30pm
13	Over 50's Meeting	10.30am
14	Lourdes: Luminate Young Adults Group Meeting	6.45pm
16	Children's Liturgy	9.30am
17	St Vincent De Paul Meeting	7.00pm
18	First Day School Term 3	
19	Baptism Preparation Program	7.30pm
27	Finance Committee Meeting	8.00pm
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.

1/2 July 2023

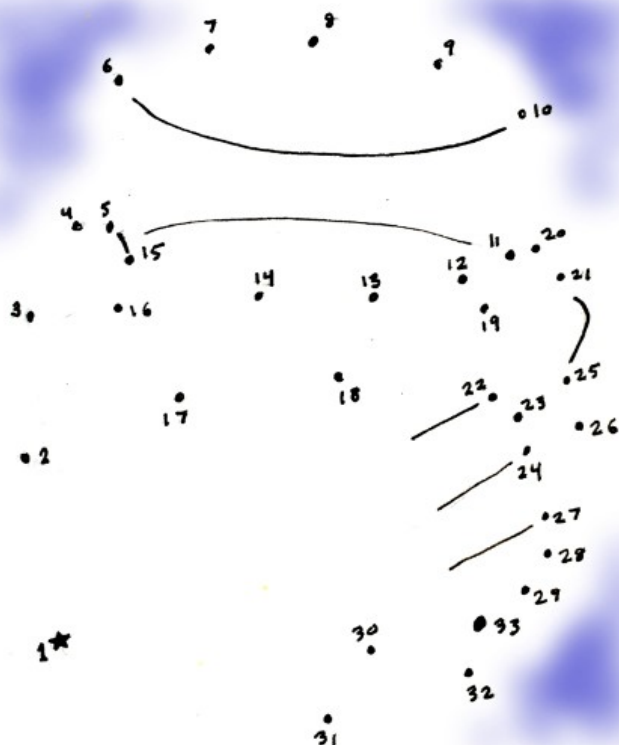
Acolytes	Vigil: Ernie Gartner 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am Ramzee Michael	
Ministers	Vigil: A. Do Rosario, R. Soares 8am: L. Fernandes, S.Nemorin 9.30am: G.Basili, M.Michael	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, M.Simic 8am: A. Joseph, M.Santos 9.30am A.Hye Rin Han, S.Manamperi	
Altar Servers	Vigil: M.Glucic, 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	

8/9 July 2023

Acolytes	Vigil: Daniel La Guidara 8am: Jane Seaman 9.30am Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: H. Gonzales, L. La Guidara 8am: E. Gartner, A. McNally 9.30am: A.Bellissimo, S.Lenthall	
Readers	Vigil: B.Motho, C.Rodrigues 8am: N. Arambulo, P.Ferriols 9.30am: L.Bellissimo, K.Huihui	
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. La Guidara, C. La Guidara, B. Spadaro 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am VOLUNTEERS	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Young Adults Group	
Flowers	Claudette & Judith	
Church cleaning	20 July	Cathy Hutchings Annette Peatman
Welcomers	Vigil: Chrisha Gonzales 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: VOLUNTEER	

The Kids' Bulletin

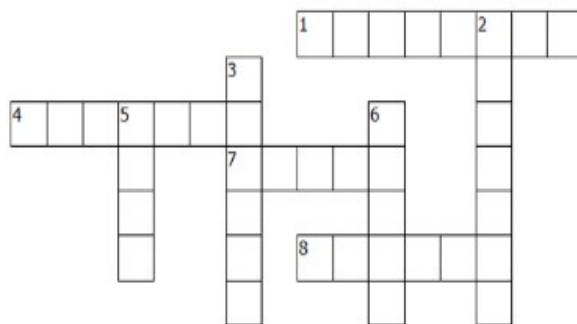
13th Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 2nd, 2023



In today's Gospel reading Jesus says that if you give one of these to a little one because they are His disciple you will be rewarded. What is it? Connect the dots to find out!



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



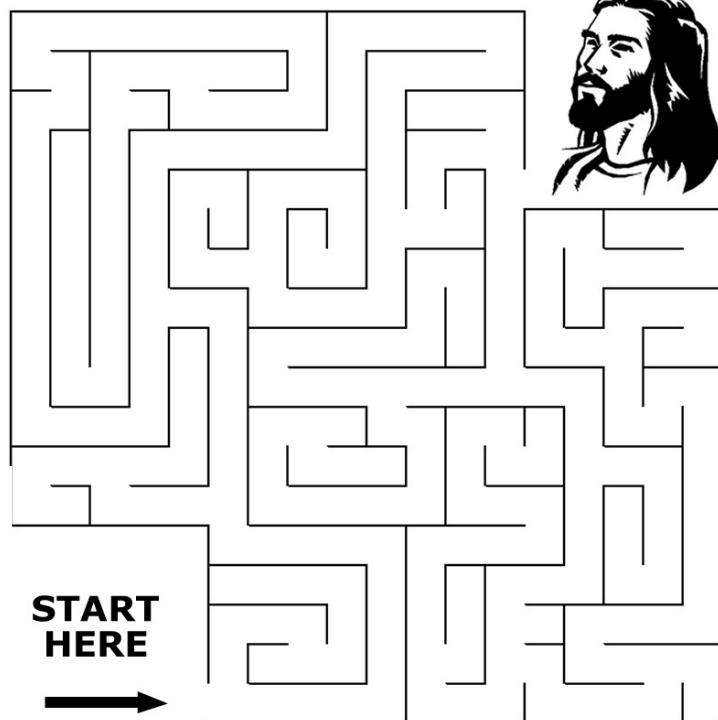
ACROSS

1. A follower of Jesus
4. To gladly receive someone into your own house
7. An odorless, colorless, tasteless liquid; H₂O
8. Small; not large

DOWN

2. A person who speaks for God
3. Recognition of someone's good behavior
5. The opposite of hot; having a very low temperature
6. A fact that has been proven

PROPHET	TRUTH	DISCIPLE	COLD
LITTLE	WELCOME	REWARD	WATER



PREFERS	FATHER	MOTHER
WORTHY	DAUGHTER	CROSS
FOOTSTEPS	LIFE	WELCOMES
PROPHET	HOLY	WATER

