

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS

"Still a wonderful place to pray & stay."

7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills. NSW. 2147

Ph. 9622 2920

Email: secretary@lol7hills.com.au

Parish Priest: Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran
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.olol7hills.com.au
Catechist Coordinator : Sandy Manamperi
 0480 266 339
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/LOL7Hills/>

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time 16 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, Alfredo Fernandez, 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, Rita Leon, Sarah De Silva, Gladys Fernando, Aurora Dumlao, Joan Falzon, Teodoro Garcia, Ranjan Fernando, Maria Garufo, Steve Gauci, Rohan Jayasundara, Debbie Mifsud, Evedita Monreal, Catherine Monsale, Michelle Muscat, Trent Ross, Margie Silva, Eddie Tabone, Jessica Neodama, Julia Lordan

Anniversaries: Fredy Alphonse, Caroline & Andre Almeida, Gay & Jacqueline Angley, Carmen Attard, Rolily Burac, Michelle Azzopardi, Frank & Fortunata Baiada, Josephine Calleja, Simeon Carlos, Charlie Chircop, Danielle Chalon, Jimmy & Tanya Dequire, Monica, Conception & Dominic D'Souza, Sam & Silvia Debatista, Antonia, Melvyn Fernandes, Josephine Francis, Sheela Franklin, Emilia Galea, Evangeline & Jose Garcia, Leandro Garcia Snr, Jean Garrick, Elsie & Karl Garrick, Zoltan Gartner, Charlie Gravina, Anthony Gracie, Chinedu Joseph & Family, Christine Henderson, Salvatore Loria, Fr Lorenzo Loria, Maria, Lourda Motha, Mary Muscat, Apolinario Maglaya, Tomasa & Nicanor Magpayo, Maria Regina Menezes, Graciano Theodore Menezes, Jason Muscat, Jim & Philippa Muscat, Alberto Nahoy, Custodio Palmos Sr, Nieves Palmos, Ersilia Paolini, Thirucheluum, Philomina, Theanmolish, Jayantibhai Parmar, Nirmala, Adrian Pereira, Shane Vaz, John Portelli, John Ratnam, Felicisimo Prahinog, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Michael Sant, John & Mary Silva, Vivian Silva, Rosary Silva, Pauline & Santan Soares, Salvu Zammit, S. Susainathan, Melchor Usman, Amalia Usman, Romualdo Austria Snr.

Remembrance: France Angseeing, Cynthia Avery, Gregorio Almodovar, Carmen & Tony Attard, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Lina Cabaero, Cini Family, Dennis Clarke, Cini Family, 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, 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, Jose Reyes, Mary & Francis Muscat, Josefina Lim, Adrian Pereira, Lakshman Pereira, Laureano Reyes, Jude Ranasinghe, John & Rosaline Ratnam, Connie Redman, Maria Reyes, Yolanda Reyes, Karen Reyes, Rodrigues Family, Sem Serna, Tony Vassallo, Hector & Rita Welgampola. Cua Sing, Jim Vella.

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.

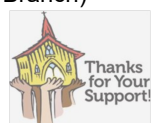
ON-LINE BANK DONATIONS

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



KEEP UP TO DATE

By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more - a great way to stay up to date with what's on in our parish Visit www.olol7hills.org.au

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), (Vigil), Sundays: 8AM, 9:30AM** <https://www.facebook.com/LOL7Hills/>

FIRST READING A reading from the prophet Isaiah 55:10-11

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'
The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

1. You care for the earth, give it water,
you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain. **(R.)**

2. And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows,
you level it, soften it with showers,
you bless its growth. **(R.)**

3. You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **(R.)**

4. The hills are girded with joy,
the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **(R.)**

SECOND READING A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:18-23

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.
The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 13:1-23

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!' Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?'

'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled: You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me. 'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.'

You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

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

FROM FR. HENRY DUC



Dear Friends,

My family owned a few hectares of paddock in the Mekong delta and dad used to hire a sower to sow in the field at the start of the season. My dad could do the job himself, but not as good as the sower, one of our neighbours, who was able to throw the grains very evenly throughout our entire paddock. Unfortunately, I didn't see any sower at work for a long time, since it was the end of the harvest every time I came back. I just wonder how many of us have the privilege to see sowers doing their job in the fields.

In the Gospel this Sunday, Jesus utilises the image of the sower, sowing seeds in the field and the seeds have gone everywhere: some fell on the edge of the walkway, some got stuck on the rocky ground, some ended up among thorns, and thankfully some stayed where they meant to be, the rich soil. Except those sown on the rich soil bringing forth a good crop, those fell on other places either sprung up, withered or choked due to the inhospitable environment they were in.

At first, the disciples had no idea what Jesus meant to teach them and the crowds following him, and they asked Jesus the please-explain question, 'why do you talk to them in parables?'

In reply, Jesus tells the disciples of his intention behind the move: it was because he chose to give the disciples the privilege to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, something very precious revealed firstly to them, something even prophets and holy men of old wanted to see and hear, but never had a chance to do so.

He then began to unfold the meaning of the symbolic story above, which in a nut shell highlights various ways people choose to respond to and interact with his life giving teaching: some hear with ignorance; some receive it, but let it go due to trials of life; some welcome it, but allow the lures of the world to overcome it.

However, it's truly a blessing for those who embrace his teaching and make it dwelling within them to produce a harvest of good works.

Let us pray today for the grace to help us wholeheartedly welcome Jesus' teaching and allow us to grow and bear a great harvest for the Lord through our good words and deeds.

Have a faith-filled week,

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

A THANK YOU NOTE TO OUR VISITING CLERGY

I would like to thank Frs Huy SJ, Vincy OFM Cap, and Luan OFM Cap for their generosity to offer Mass supplies to our Parish community throughout my recent holidays, and all our parishioners for making them feel welcome.

LIVESTREAMED MASS RETURN

After a five week break due to my leave, our live-streamed Mass began to resume last Saturday. Thank you to our on-line parishioners for their patience.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY 23RD JULY

Please note that this month's Children's Liturgy has been changed to Sunday the 23rd of July, 9.30am mass.

All children from 5 yrs up are invited to join.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Thank you for your donations for Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS). **Save the date** Sat 16th Sept 2-5:30pm "World Day of Migrants and Refugees" will be celebrated in our parish hall. Family friendly event with food and entertainment.

DENTAL HEALTH WEEK 2023

When: Saturday, 12th of August 2023

Time: 1PM-3PM

Where: Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Meeting Room

Who: All are welcome, all ages!

Join our volunteer oral health professionals from the Dental Hygienists Association of Australia and in collaboration with the Peace, Justice and Ecology Office, Diocese of Parramatta for an Information Day to celebrate Dental Health Week!

FREE toothpastes and toothbrushes will be provided

To register and for more information please refer to the posters around the parish.

For any questions please contact: Ian Epondulan - ian_ube@hotmail.com

REPORT FROM THE LAST PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Nine members of our PPC met last Wednesday night, the second Wednesday of the month as usual, and we began with Pope Francis' address for the opening of the Synod in 2021 providing us the background for our participation in the Synod of Bishops and also our diocesan synod, followed by reports from various groups in our parish.

DIOCESAN SYNOD

Everyone is welcome to submit ideas and suggestions either individually through this link

[synod2023_submissions_Individual](https://parracatholic.org/synod2023_submissions_Individual) - Diocese of Parramatta (parracatholic.org),

or group through

[synod2023_submissions_group](https://parracatholic.org/synod2023_submissions_group) - Diocese of Parramatta (parracatholic.org)

DIOCEASAN SYNOD

In preparation for our participation in the diocesan synod, our parish is going to take these two steps:

Step one, all are invited to take home this week a copy of Pope Francis' address for the opening of the synod two years ago, since his address gives us some idea of what synodality is about, why the pope has called us to get involved in this synodal journey and where he hopes the Church to become;

Step two, each of our parishioners will have a chance to share their dreams and ideas to make our Church better, and we are going to do it at all Masses next weekend 22 & 23 July.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

For our Diocesan Synod,
may the inspiration of the
Holy Spirit guide our journey
so that we experience renewal
in our local Church today and
for generations to come.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Your stories matter! Send your submissions to the first Diocesan Synod before 31 July

Our Diocesan Synod is calling you to share stories and have conversations at your parish, with a friend, or with family, about how we can walk together to become the Church that Christ calls us to be. The success of the Synod relies on your participation. Your submissions will inform the development of the agenda for the Synod, from 12-15 October 2023, which will gather clergy, consecrated and laity to discuss important matters relating to the life and mission of the Church.

Applications to be a member at the Synod are now open. Apply to be a member or make a submission before 31 July: <https://parracatholic.org/synod2023/>

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 Food Drives

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. All parishes and schools are encouraged 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

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/

Rouse Hill Parish Family Fiesta: 6 August

The Annual Our Lady of the Angels Family Fiesta will be on Sunday 6 August at 1 Wellgate Avenue, North Kellyville. Celebrations commence with Mass at 11am followed by a procession. Rides, Entertainment, Petting Zoo and wonderful International Food will be available from 1pm and continue throughout the afternoon with a fireworks display to finish at 6pm. This is a wonderful event for all the family and we hope to see you there!

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.



Missionaries of God's Love Overshadowed Retreat: 18-20 August

Join the MGL Sisters in a weekend retreat exploring what happens we say 'yes' to the Holy Spirit. Experience the life-changing power of deepening in God's love, surrendering to Jesus and living under the grace of the Holy Spirit. The retreat will be held at Carmel House, 345 St Andrews Rd, Varroville NSW, from Friday 18 to Sunday 30 August. Bookings can be made before 11 August by visiting <http://www.trybooking.com/CFBQX>. For more information, please contact Katherine on mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com

Castle Hill Parish an Evening of Sacred Music: 25 August

St Bernadette's Parish, Castle Hill, will be hosting an evening of Sacred Music on Friday 25 August at 7:30pm. The event will be a night of performances by choirs, music groups and soloists from around the Diocese, performing a selection of hymns and choral music. Tickets are \$5 per person and can be purchased at <https://www.trybooking.com/CJJSM>. Entry includes light refreshments during intermission. For more information, please contact the parish office on (02) 9634 2622 or email admin@stbernadette.org.au

MET Marriage Retrouvaille Program Information Session: 25 August

The Diocese of Parramatta aims to offer the Retrouvaille program for couples who are having difficulties in their marriage. We are looking for married couples who are committed to helping others heal their marriage relationships. You will be trained to facilitate this program. An information evening will be held on 25 August at 7.30pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Contact Karin on (02) 8838 3460 or register at marriage@parracatholic.org

Liturgical Ministry Formation Course

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in September. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or mary.gale@parracatholic.org or visit our website to download an enrolment form at <https://officeforworship.org.au/>

Positions Vacant:

- Assets and Leasing Manager, Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 10pm Wednesday 19 July**
 - Communications and Digital Manager, Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 10pm on Thursday 20 July**
- More details at: parracatholic.org/employment



POPE FRANCIS' ANGELUS

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

Today the Gospel contains a very beautiful prayer Jesus addresses to the Father, saying, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children" (*Mt 11:25*). But what things is Jesus talking about? And then, who are these little children

to whom such things are revealed? Let us reflect on this: on the things for which Jesus thanks his Father and on the little children who know how to welcome them. *The things* for which Jesus thanks his Father. Just before this, the Lord had recalled some of his works: "the blind receive their sight [...] lepers are cleansed, [...] the poor have the good news preached to them" (*Mt 11:5*), and he revealed what this means, saying that these are the signs that God is at work in the world. The message, then, is clear – God reveals himself by liberating and healing the human person – let's not forget this, God reveals himself by liberating and healing the human person—and he does this with a gratuitous love, a love that saves. This is why Jesus thanks his father, because his greatness consists in his love and he never works outside of love. But this *greatness in love* is not understood by those who presume to be great and who fabricate a god in their own image – powerful, inflexible, vindictive. In other words, those who are presumptuous – full of themselves, proud, concerned only about their own interests – these are the presumptuous ones, convinced they do not need anyone, are not able to accept God as Father. In this regard, Jesus names the inhabitants of three rich cities of his times – Chorazin, Bethsaida, Capernaum – where he had accomplished many healings, but whose inhabitants remained indifferent to his preaching. For them, his miracles were only spectacular events, useful for making news and to increase gossip. Once passing interest in them was over, they archived them, maybe in order to occupy themselves in other novelties of the moment. They did not know how to welcome the great things of God. *The little children*, instead, know how to welcome them, and Jesus thanks the Father for them: "I bless you," he says, because you have revealed the Kingdom of Heaven to little ones. Jesus praises him for the simple people whose hearts are free from presumption and self-love. The little ones are those who, like children, feel their need and are not self-sufficient. They are open to God and allow themselves to be amazed at his works. They know how to read his signs, to marvel at the miracles of his love! I ask all of you, and even myself, do we know how to marvel at the things of God or do we take them for passing things? Brothers and sisters, if we think about it, our lives are filled with miracles – they are filled with deeds of love, signs of God's goodness. Before these, however, even our hearts can remain indifferent and become habitual, curious but not capable of being amazed, of allowing themselves to be "impressed". A closed heart, an armed heart, that does not have the capacity of being amazed. To impress is a beautiful verb that brings to mind photographic film. This is the correct behaviour before God's works: to take a photo of his works in our minds so it is impressed on our hearts, to then be developed in our lives through many good deeds, so that this "photograph" of God who is love becomes ever brighter in us and through us. And now, let us ask ourselves: In the deluge of news that overwhelms us, do I, as Jesus shows us today, know how to stop before the great things of God, those that God accomplishes? Do I allow myself to marvel like a child at the good that silently changes the world? Have I lost the capacity to be amazed? And do I thank the Father each day for his works? May Mary, who exulted in the Lord, make us able to be amazed by his love and to thank him with simplicity.

After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters, With sorrow, I learned again that blood has been poured out in the Holy Land. I hope that the Israeli and Palestinian leaders can resume direct dialogue to bring an end to the spiral of violence and open paths of reconciliation and peace. Today is Sea Sunday, dedicated to those who work aboard ships, in the ports and in the maritime industry. I thank the mariners who protect the oceans from various forms of pollution – in addition to their work – and remove from the ocean the garbage that we throw into it, the plastic. The fishermen from San Benedetto del Tronto told me once about the tons of plastic they removed from the sea, as we saw recently on the programme *Sua Immagine*. I thank the chaplains and volunteers of the Apostolate of the Sea and I entrust all of them to the protection of Mary, *Stella maris* (Star of the Sea). I would also like remember gratefully all who work for *Mediterranea Saving Humans* for saving migrants in the sea. Thank you very much, brothers and sisters! And now I greet you, faithful from Rome and pilgrims, who, despite the July heat, are here in the square! A round of applause to all of you! I am happy to greet in a particular way the girl scouts and university students from Leopoli in Ukraine: I give you all my blessing and I extend it to your dear ones and your people, so severely tried. Let us pray for this people that suffers so much. I greet the people from Poland and I remember the huge pilgrimage that takes place today at the Shrine of Jasna Góra, in Częstochowa. I greet the young people from the *Regnum Christi* movement, the scouts from Modica, the parish choir from Saint Stephen Quisquina - Agrigento, the children from the Diocese of Pistoia and the faithful from Sacile. And now I would like to announce that next 30 September I will hold a Consistory for the appointment of new Cardinals. Where they come from expresses the universality of the Church, which continues to proclaim the merciful love of God to all people of the earth. In addition, the insertion of the new Cardinals in the Diocese of Rome, manifests the inseparable bond between the See of Peter and the local Churches spread throughout the world. Let us pray for the new Cardinals, so that, confirming their adhesion to Christ, the merciful and faithful High Priest (cf. Heb 2:17), they might help me in my ministry as Bishop of Rome for the good of the entire Holy People faithful to God. I hope all of you have a good Sunday. Please, do not forget to pray for me.

Saint Vincent De Paul Our Lady of Lourdes Winter Appeal



Our group at Seven Hills is actively helping people who find themselves in difficulties for some reason or another. Sometimes because of an accident or a sickness situation it becomes difficult for people to cope. Social assistance is available but one has to wait for it to take place and during that waiting period hunger and other necessities need to be addressed.

When you are placing a donation in the poor box at the church spare a thought for the homeless person who is content that he found a clean bench to lie on instead of damp ground and also content with the donated blanket wrapped around him and a parcel of food set beside him; He wakes up in the morning to find that the food stolen from him!

Is this imagination or real? Yes, it is real and sadly also frequently happening.

A homeless person may be someone who until recently would have been living in a comfortable home and for some reason has been rejected by the family or partner and is now in a helpless situation not knowing what to do next.

Your support with food and money and warm clothing donations makes it possible for us to help people who are in need this winter.

Why do we do volunteer to do this? It's simply the fact that Jesus speaks to us through other people and when there is a warm smile or thank you from the heart from those we assist we know it is Jesus himself thanking you and us for our contribution.

We are extremely grateful for the food drives which our OLOL primary school organises during the year.

We also appreciate the food items which are left for us at the church for distribution amongst the needy of our parish. They go a long way towards helping people in need.

Apart from this work we also assist conferences overseas in places like in India Indonesia and the Philippines to name a few. The few dollars which we send help in small projects some simply to give them a bit of extra light by helping them with a solar panel, we also assist students to help them to progress through their schooling.

During the weekend ending 30th July we are holding our yearly winter appeal collection. You'll find envelopes on the pews for those of you who wish to donate. We thank you for your generosity and your continued assistance. Also if anyone would like to join us as a volunteer you are most welcome, a lot of us are getting on in years and that makes carrying a parcel of food up a couple of flights of steps increasingly difficult!

God Bless you all

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 10th August 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, 11th of August, 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>

FREE ZUMBA CLASSES

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

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

17	St Vincent De Paul Meeting	7.00pm
18	First Day School Term 3	
19	Baptism Preparation Program	7.30pm
23	Children's Liturgy	9.30am
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.

15/16 July 2023

Acolytes	Vigil: Frank Paiva 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Faylene Kennedy
Ministers	Vigil: M.Mifsud, M.Simic 8am: A. Joseph, E.Mui 9.30am: C.Brooks, B.Chandler
Readers	Vigil: A.Punch, J.Sarmiento 8am: J.Cabasa, K.Walker 9.30am: VOLUNTEER, A.Walker
Altar Servers	Vigil: D.Sant, J.Sant 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am: S.Culili, F.Wanandy
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council
Flowers	Fennie & Angela
Church cleaning	20 July Cathy Hutchings Annette Peatman
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: Kathy Chamberlain

22/23 July 2023




Acolytes	Vigil: Derick Soares 8am: Jane Seaman 9.30am: Ryan Epondulan
Ministers	Vigil: A. Do Rosario, R. Soares 8am: F. Balatbat, E. Gartner 9.30am: P.Gow, S.Lenthall
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, C. Rodrigues 8am: J. Irudayaraj, A. McNally 9.30am: M.Aquino, C.Diaz
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. Laus, L. Laus, L.Sadipoor 8am: S.Park, P.Park 9.30am: C.Attard, J.Kingston, A. Melki
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ
Flowers	Annette & Mary B
Church cleaning	26 July Jessie Borg Anne McNally
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Urge 8am: Joyce Hillbrick 9.30am: Lena Falzon


The Kids' Bulletin

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 16th, 2023




Here is the parable Our Lord told in today's Gospel reading, with pictures!

A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed,

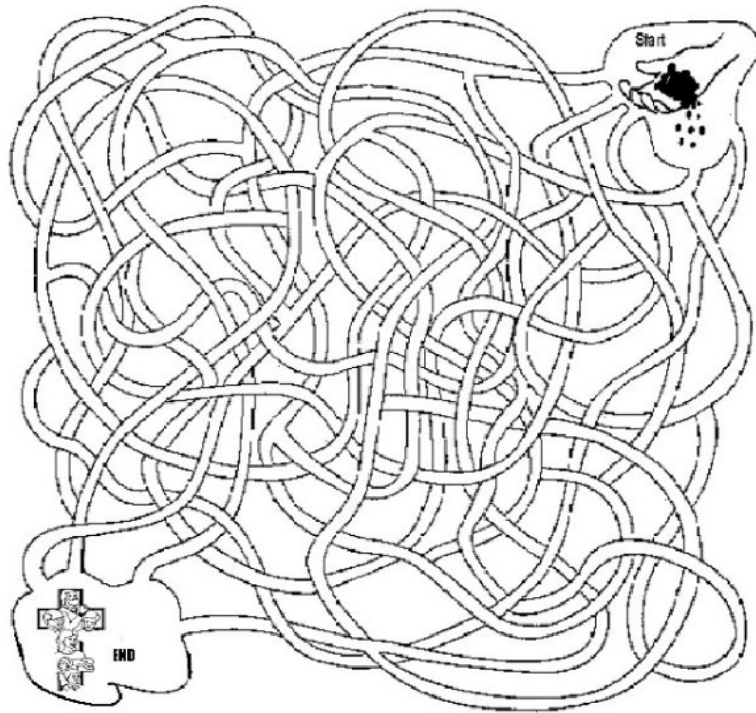
some of the  fell on on the , and  came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil.

It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the  rose it was

scorched, and it withered for lack of .

Some  fell among , and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some  fell on

rich soil and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty, or thirty-fold.



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

The Parable of the Sower

But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. Matthew 13:23a
Choose the word that best matches the definition.

- ___ 1. A person who owns or takes care of a farm
A. baker B. farmer C. butcher D. teacher
- ___ 2. To put seeds in the ground so that plants will grow
A. rocky B. farmer C. path D. sow
- ___ 3. A small, usually hard part of a plant from which a new plant can grow
A. thorn B. seed C. soil D. root
- ___ 4. A way made by or for people walking on the ground
A. path B. sow C. rocky D. soil
- ___ 5. Covered with stones
A. seed B. rocky C. path D. thorns
- ___ 6. Small, sharp, pointed growths on the stem of a plant
A. soil B. shallow C. thorns D. sow
- ___ 7. Not deep
A. rocky B. shallow C. sow D. soil
- ___ 8. The part of a plant which grows down into the earth
A. thorn B. rocky C. root D. leaf
- ___ 9. The upper layer of earth that may be dug or plowed and in which plants grow
A. rocky B. soil C. farmer D. path
- ___ 10. Plants such as grain, vegetables, or fruit grown by farmers
A. crop B. shallow C. sow D. soil



LAKESIDE	CROWDS	SOWER
SEEDS	BIRDS	SOIL
EARTH	SCORCHED	ROOTS
WITHERED	THORNS	CROP

