



# 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@olol7hills.com.au](mailto:secretary@olol7hills.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:** 20th September 2023  
**Baptism:** 13 August 2023  
**Parish Website:** [www.olol7hills.com.au](http://www.olol7hills.com.au)  
**Catechist Coordinator :** Sandy Manamperi  
 0480 266 339  
**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>



## 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time 30 July 2023 • Year A Happy Grandparents Day!



### Let us Pray for the Sick

Leonila Ahillon, Ingrid Ball, Mary Attard, Cynthia Avery, Rosenda Bolano, Barrie Chamberlain, Rosella Booth, Jock Clark Snr, Alfredo Fernandez, Shelley Firth, 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@olol7hills.com.au](mailto:secretary@olol7hills.com.au) We can also arrange for Holy Communion or a visit if required.

### Let us Pray for the Deceased

**Recently Deceased:** George Alagiah, Neil Amaratunga, Marciano Areglamas, Mansour Ahmad, Agnes Bonello, Anton, Philomena & Clarence Corera, Felisa Conejos, Sarojini Chary, Rita Leon, Sarah De Silva, Gladys Fernando, Nasser Dehdeh, Aurora Dumlao, Joan Falzon, Teodoro Garcia, Ranjan Fernando, Maria Garufo, Rohan Jayasundara, Steve Gauci, James Gray, Rohan Jayasundara, Harold, Marc, Rosine Lafleur, Anthony & Evangelista Micallef, Debbie Mifsud, Michelle Muscat, Pacienza Piscopo, Trent Ross, Margie Silva, Eddie Tabone, Jessica Neodama, Anthony O'Connor, Joseph & Theresa Vella, Chrisantha Wijesundara.

**Anniversaries:** Fredy Alphonse, France Angseesing, Caroline & Andre Almeida, Gay & Jacqueline Angley, Giovanni Barnaba, Nazarene (Ronnie) Borg, Rolily Burac, Michelle Azzopardi, Frank & Fortunata Baiada, Josephine Calleja, Simeon Carlos, Charlie Chircop, Danielle Chalon, Monica, Conception & Dominic D'Souza, Conchita Deloso, Antonia, Melvyn Fernandes, Josephine Francis, Sheela Franklin, Emilia Galea, Leandro Garcia Snr, Jean Garrick, Elsie & Karl Garrick, Gervais Garrick, Zoltan Gartner, Charlie Gravina, Anthony Gracie, Oliver Jordan, Chinedu Joseph & Family, Salvatore Loria, Edouard Mahomudally, Lourda Motha, Mary Muscat, Apolinario Maglaya, Tomasa & Nicanor Magpayo, Jason Muscat, Jim & Philippa Muscat, Alberto Nahoy, Ersilia Paolini, Thirucheluum, Philomina, Theanmolish, Jayantibhai Parmar, Nirmala, Adrian Pereira, John Portelli, John Ratnam, Felicisimo Prahinog, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Michael Sant, Maureen & Barry Seaman, John & Mary Silva, Vivian Silva, Rosary Silva, Pauline & Santan Soares, Salvu Zammit, S. Susainathan, Dionisio Udan, Melchor Usman, Romualdo Austria Snr. Lawrence Stanton

**Remembrance:** France Angseesing, Cynthia Avery, Gregorio Almodovar, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Sam Borg, 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, Cua Sing, Tony Vassallo, Hector & Rita Welgampola, Jim Vella, Shane Vaz,

### 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')

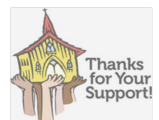
#### IN-PERSON BANK DEPOSIT (at a Bank Inst / Branch)

**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](http://www.olol7hills.org.au)

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**FIRST READING** A reading from the first book of the Kings 3:5.7-12

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

The Word of the Lord.

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**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**(R.) Lord, I love your commands.**

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord,  
is to obey your word.  
The law from your mouth means more to me  
than silver and gold. **(R.)**

3. That is why I love your commands  
more than finest gold.  
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:  
I hate false ways. **(R.)**

2. Let your love be ready to console me  
by your promise to your servant.  
Let your love come to me and I shall live  
for your law is my delight. **(R.)**

4. Your will is wonderful indeed;  
therefore I obey it. The unfolding of your word  
gives light and teaches the simple. **(R.)**

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**SECOND READING** A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:28-30

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

The Word of the Lord.

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**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;  
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 13:44-52

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.  
'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.  
'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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**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,

As you know rare earths have become necessary elements for more than 200 products, especially high-tech consumer items, such as smart phones, computer hard drives, electric and hybrid cars, flat-screen monitors and TVs, modern defense system hard wares and so on.

While I was in Vietnam recently, I learnt that a lot of people have been busy in buying and selling their lands in the north of Vietnam thought to contain large reserves of rare earths. Though there is a lot of money to be made here without any hard work, this is a risky and dangerous business, since all deals are done underground with no regulations and the Vietnamese government has been slow to enter

the race. They are very much of the treasures hidden in the field in today's world that Jesus talks about in the Gospel this Sunday.

This week we have a Gospel dealing with a treasure hidden in the field and fine pearls. Naturally, I guess these parables seem to be more attractive to those women who followed Jesus.

With these first two parables, Jesus uses the images of the hidden treasure and the fine pearls to teach people about how special, precious and desirable the Kingdom of God is to humanity, and earnestly invites all to commit themselves for a piece of it. Just like the men who happened to discover the treasure hidden in the field and the fine pearls, they were prepared to sell everything they had to buy them. Jesus also encourages his followers to try their best to gain a seat in such a very wonderful place, which of course surpasses any treasure and fine pearls on earth. Besides this, Jesus also utilises the image of a dragnet cast into the sea catching all sorts of sea species to give people a glimpse into the selecting process of the kingdom of God, that all peoples are invited to join Jesus' kingdom and must remain good and faithful to their Christian calling, otherwise they shall be thrown away at the end of time, just like the fishermen return unwanted species back to the angry sea.

Inspired by these lovely parables in the Gospel this Sunday, let us ask for the grace to help us be more committed to our faith and try our best to nurture it and bear witness to it through our worship and works of charity, consequently we shall be given a well-deserved place in the kingdom of heaven one day.

Have a God's kingdom -oriented week,

*Fr Henry*

## PARISH NEWS...



### RCIA 2023/2024

For anyone interested in becoming a Catholic or simply learning more about what it means to be a Catholic, we will begin our RCIA journey with the 'Inquiry Stage' of the process on the 3rd of September this year. Any parishioners who would like to partake in the discussion of the Sunday Readings on a regular basis or even on the occasional Sunday, you are most welcome to join us after the Liturgy of the Word at 9.30am mass. We meet in the Parish Office. For further information or enquiries, please contact Artelle in the parish office.

### SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST 2023

A reminder that the sacramental meetings begin on the 2nd of August. For more information please contact Artelle in the parish office.

### 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](mailto:ian_ube@hotmail.com)

### 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](https://parracatholic.org)),

or group through

[synod2023\\_submissions\\_group](https://parracatholic.org/synod2023_submissions_group) - Diocese of Parramatta ([parracatholic.org](https://parracatholic.org))

### DIOCEASAN SYNOD

Thank you all for enthusiastically partaking in synodal survey last week. I hope the survey will offer both our parish and diocese a lot to reflect upon and help us more productive both in strengthening and sharing our faith.

### FREE ZUMBA CLASSES RESUME

Zumba Classes will be resuming Tuesday 1st August 5.30pm- 6.30pm in the Hall. Everyone Welcome!

### OVER 50'S BUS TRIP NOTICE

OVER 50'S CLUB BUS OUTING SET FOR MONDAY 7TH AUGUST TO CRONULLA HAS BEEN CANCELLED! For further enquires contact John Lyons 0402 260 856

### 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.





## DIOCESAN NEWS

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### **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/>

### **Apply to be a Member at our Diocesan Synod**

If you are someone with a commitment to discern prayerfully with others what God wants for the whole diocese, then you might be called to be a member at our first Diocesan Synod! Details of the selection criteria and requirements are available on our website now [parracatholic.org/synod2023](https://parracatholic.org/synod2023). Applications are welcome now until 31 July. Further enquiries can be sent via email [synod2023@parracatholic.org](mailto:synod2023@parracatholic.org)

### **Follow our World Youth Day pilgrimage from home!**

170 young people from Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains have officially taken off to World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal for an experience of a lifetime. Our pilgrimage will travel through some of the most beautiful and sacred parts of Europe and you are invited to follow along from home. We will be posting videos, photos and articles throughout the trip, so you can see and hear what our pilgrims are experiencing. Sign up today by visiting [catholicoutlook.info/WYD23News](https://catholicoutlook.info/WYD23News)

### **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](https://parracatholic.org/fooddrive) or emailing [james.atanasious@parracatholic.org](mailto: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, contact Maricar at [m.tupaea@houseofwelcome.com.au](mailto:m.tupaea@houseofwelcome.com.au).

### **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](mailto:parishoffice@maryimmac.org.au). Come one come all!

### **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](https://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](mailto:mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com)

### **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](mailto:marriage@parracatholic.org)

### **St Marys Parish Don Bosco Relic Visit: 23 – 27 August**

The relic statue of St John Bosco, better known as Don Bosco, will be visiting Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, St Marys, as part of the celebrations of the centenary of the arrival of the Salesians on Australian soil. There will be opportunities to venerate the relic and celebrate Mass, Adoration and Confessions throughout the week. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9623 1962 or email [secretaryolrchurch@inet.net.au](mailto:secretaryolrchurch@inet.net.au)

### **MET Natural Fertility: Instruction for Couples**

Natural Family Planning (NFP) is for couples wanting to achieve and avoid pregnancy.

It is suitable for couples at all stages of life, enhances communication and involves shared responsibility.

If you are: Preparing for marriage; Expecting a baby soon or breastfeeding; Looking for an effective, natural option and wanting to cease contraception; Peri menopausal, Then..... NFP is for you! For more information or to book an appointment contact Catherine M: 0400 427 605 E: [catherinebourne@parra.catholic.org](mailto:catherinebourne@parra.catholic.org)





## POPE FRANCIS' LATEST ANGELUS

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

Today's Gospel offers us the parable of the wheat and the weeds (cf. *Mt 13:24-43*). A farmer, who has sown good seed in his field, discovers that an enemy by night has sown darnel in it, a plant that looks very similar to wheat, but is a weed.

In this way, Jesus talks about our world, which in effect is like a *large field*, where God sows wheat and the evil one sows darnel, and therefore good and bad grow together. Good and bad grow together. We see this from the news, in society, and even in the family and in the Church. And when, along with the good wheat, we see bad weeds, we want to tear them up immediately, to make a "clean sweep". But today the Lord warns us that to do this is a temptation: one cannot create a perfect world, and one cannot do good by hastily destroying what is bad, because this has even worse effects: one ends up, as we say, "throwing the baby away with the bathwater".

There is, however, a second field where we can clean up: it is *the field of our heart*, the only one where we can intervene directly. There, too, there is wheat and darnel; indeed, it is precisely from there that both of them expand into the great field of the world. Brothers and sisters, our heart, in fact, is the field of freedom: it is not a sterile laboratory, but rather an open and therefore vulnerable space. To cultivate it properly, it is necessary on the one hand to take constant care of the delicate shoots of goodness, and on the other, to identify and uproot the weeds, at the right moment. So let us look within and examine what happens a little, what is growing in me, what grows in me that is good and evil. There is a good method for this: it is the examination of conscience, which is seeing what happened today in my life, what struck my heart and which decisions I made. And this serves precisely to verify, in the light of God, where the bad weeds and the good seed are.

After the field of the world, and the field of the heart, there is a third field. We can call it *the neighbour's field*. They are the people we associate with every day, and whom we often judge. How easy it is to recognize their weeds, how we like to "flay" others! And how difficult it is, instead, to know how to see the good grain that is growing! Let us remember, though, that if we want to cultivate the fields of life, it is important to seek first and foremost the work of God: to learn to see the beauty of what the Lord has sown, the sun-kissed wheat with its golden ears, in others, in the world and in ourselves. Brothers and sisters, let us ask for the grace to be able to see it in ourselves, but also in others, starting from those close to us. It is not a naïve perspective; it is a believing one, because God, the farmer of the great field of the world, loves to see goodness and to make it grow to make the harvest a feast!

So today too, we can ask ourselves some questions. Thinking of the *field of the world*: do I know how to resist the temptation to "bundle all the grass together", to sweep others aside with my judgments? Then, thinking of the *field of the heart*: am I honest in seeking out the bad weeds in myself, and decisive in throwing them into the fire of God's mercy? And, thinking of the *neighbour's field*: do I have the wisdom to see what is good without being discouraged by the limitations and limits of others?

May the Virgin Mary help us to cultivate patiently what the Lord sows in the field of life, in my field, in the neighbour's, in everyone's field.

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### After the Angelus

*Dear brothers and sisters!*

Today, while many young people are preparing to depart for World Youth Day, we celebrate the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. This is why I have next to me a young person and a grandmother: grandson and grandmother.

A round of applause to both of them! May the proximity of the two Days be an invitation to promote an alliance between the generations, in the sharing of experiences and reciprocal care between the young and the elderly. Let us not forget them. And let us applaud all the grandfathers and grandmothers! Louder!

Here, and in many countries, we are experiencing extreme climatic events: on the one hand, various regions are affected by anomalous heatwaves and struck by devastating fires; on the other, in a number of places there are storms and floods, like those that have swept across South Korea in recent days. I am close to those who suffer and those who are assisting the victims and the displaced. And please, I reiterate my appeal to the leaders of Nations, that something more tangible be done to limit polluting emissions: it is an urgent challenge and cannot be postponed; it affects everyone. Let us protect our common home!

And now I would like to draw attention to the ordeal that continues to unfold for migrants in the northern part of Africa. Thousands of them, amid unspeakable suffering, have been trapped and abandoned in desert areas for weeks. I appeal in particular to European and African heads of State to provide urgent relief and aid to these brothers and sisters. Let the Mediterranean no longer be a theatre of death and inhumanity. May the Lord enlighten the minds and hearts of all, inspiring sentiments of fraternity, solidarity and hospitality.

And let us continue to pray for peace, especially for dear Ukraine, which continues to suffer death and destruction, as unfortunately occurred last night in Odessa.

I greet you all, Romans and pilgrims from Italy and many countries, in particular those from Brazil, Poland, Uruguay... there are many of you! Also, the students from Buenos Aires and the faithful of the diocese of Legnica, Poland. I also greet the "*Quarant'anni dopo*" cycling tour group from Cogorno, participants in the "*Pedalar pela Paz*", and the children received by several communities in Lazio.

I wish you all a good Sunday, and please, do not forget to pray for me. And let us also pray for this grandmother, this grandson, and with all grandparents and with grandchildren.

Enjoy your lunch, and *arrivederci!*

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## POPE FRANCIS' HOMILY FOR WORLD DAY MASS FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

Jesus uses parables to teach us about the kingdom of God. He recounts simple stories that touch the hearts of his listeners. Such language, full of imagery, resembles the language that grandparents often use with their grandchildren, perhaps while holding them on their laps. In this way they pass on a wisdom important for life. Thinking of our grandparents and the elderly, whose roots young people need in order to grow into adulthood, I would like to reread the three stories contained in today's Gospel, beginning with an aspect they have in common: *growing together*.

In the first parable, the wheat and the weeds grow together, in the same field (cf. *Mt* 13:24-30). This image helps us to see things realistically: in human history, as in each of our lives, there is a mixture of light and shadows, love and selfishness. Good and evil are even intertwined to the point of seeming inseparable. This realistic approach helps us to view history without ideologies, without sterile optimism or poisonous pessimism. Christians, motivated by the hope of God, are not pessimists; nor do they naïvely live in a fairy tale, pretending not to see evil and saying that "all is well". No, Christians are realists: they know that there are wheat and weeds in the world. Looking at their own lives, they recognize that evil does not only come from "outside", that it is not always the fault of others, that there is no need to "invent" enemies to fight against in order to avoid looking within themselves. They realize that evil comes from within, in the inner struggle that we all experience.

Yet, the parable poses a question: When we see "wheat" and "weeds" living side by side in the world, what should we do? How should we react? In the narrative, the servants would like immediately to pull up the weeds (cf. v. 28). This attitude comes from good intentions, but is impulsive and even aggressive. They delude themselves into thinking that they can uproot evil by their own efforts in order to make things pure. Indeed, we frequently see the temptation of seeking to bring about a "pure society" or a "pure Church", whereas in working to reach this purity, we risk being impatient, intransigent, even violent toward those who have fallen into error. In this way, together with the weeds we pull up the good wheat and block people from moving forward, from growing and changing. Let us listen instead to what Jesus says: "Let both of them *grow together* until the harvest" (*Mt* 13:30). How beautiful is this vision of God, his way of teaching us about mercy. This invites us to be patient with others, and – in our families, in the Church and in society – to welcome weakness, delay and limitations, not in order to let ourselves grow accustomed to them or excuse them, but to learn to act with respect, caring for the good wheat gently and patiently. We must also remember that the purification of the heart and the definitive victory over evil are essentially God's work. And we, overcoming the temptation to divide the wheat from the weeds, are called to understand the best ways and times for action.

Here I think of our grandparents and the elderly, who have already travelled far along life's journey. If they look back, they see so many beautiful things they have succeeded in doing. Yet they also see defeats, mistakes, things that – as they say – "if I went back I would not do again". Yet today the Lord offers us a gentle word that invites us to accept the mystery of life with serenity and patience, to leave judgment to him, and not to live regretful and remorseful lives. It is as if Jesus wanted to say to us: "Look at the good wheat that has sprouted along the path of your life and let it keep growing, entrusting everything to me, for I always forgive: in the end, the good will be stronger than the evil". Old age is indeed a blessed time, for it is the season to be reconciled, a time for looking tenderly at the light that has shone despite the shadows, confident in the hope that the good wheat sown by God will prevail over the weeds with which the devil has wanted to plague our hearts.

Let us now turn to the second parable. Jesus tells us that the kingdom of heaven is the work of God acting silently in the course of history, to the point of seeming small and invisible, like a tiny mustard seed. Yet, when this seed grows, "it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches" (*Mt* 13:32). Brothers and sisters, our lives are like this too, for we come into the world so small; we become adults, then grow old. At the beginning we are like a small seed; then we are nourished by hopes, and our plans and dreams come to fruition, the most beautiful of which become like the tree that does not live for itself but gives shade to all who desire it and offers space to those who wish to build a nest there. Thus those who *grow together* in this parable are ultimately the mature tree and the little birds.

Here I think of our grandparents: how beautiful are these thriving trees, in whose "branches" children and grandchildren build their own "nests", learning the warmth of home and experiencing the tenderness of an embrace. This is about growing together: the verdant tree and the little ones who need a nest, grandparents with their children and grandchildren, the elderly with the youngest. Brothers and sisters, how much we need a new bond between young and old, so that the sap of those who have a long experience of life behind them will nourish the shoots of hope of those who are growing. In this fruitful exchange we can learn the beauty of life, build a fraternal society, and in the Church be enabled to encounter one another and dialogue between tradition and the newness of the Spirit.

Finally the third parable, where the yeast and the flour *grow together* (cf. *Mt* 13:33). This mixing makes the whole dough rise. Jesus uses the verb "to mix". This reminds us of the "art" or "mystique" of "living together, of mingling and encounter, of embracing and supporting one another... To go out of ourselves and to join others" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 87). This is the way to overcome individualism and selfishness, and to build a more human and more fraternal world. Indeed, today the word of God calls us to be vigilant so that we do not marginalize the elderly in our families or lives. Let us be careful, so that our crowded cities do not become "centres of loneliness"; that politics, called to provide for the needs of the most fragile, never forgets the elderly nor allows the market to banish them as "unprofitable waste". May we not chase after the utopias of efficiency and performance at full-speed, lest we become incapable of slowing down to accompany those who struggle to keep up. Please, let us mingle and grow together. Brothers and sisters, God's word calls us not to separate ourselves, close in on ourselves or think we can do it alone, but to *grow together*. Let us listen to each other, talk together and support one another. Let us not forget our grandparents or the elderly, for so often we have been lifted up, gotten back on track, felt loved and been healed within, all by a caress of theirs. They have made sacrifices for us, and we cannot let them drop down the list of our priorities. Let us grow together, let us go forward together. May the Lord bless our journey!



## GENERAL NOTICES...

### NEW TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES? HOW CAN WE SERVE YOU?

Welcome. Wherever you are in your faith journey, it is great to have you. Please visit our website or call the parish office. We're here to serve you.  
[www.olol7hills.org.au](http://www.olol7hills.org.au)

**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK** <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>



### 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

### August

	August	
2	Sacramental 1st Meeting (Eucharist)	6.30pm
5	Sacramental 1st Meeting (Eucharist) RPT	4.30pm
6	Mass & Eucharist Talk	9.30am
9	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	7.30pm
10	Over 50's Group Meeting	10.30am
11	St Mary of the Cross Mackillop Parish Mass	9.15am
11	Lourdes: Luminate Young Adults Group Meeting	6.45pm

## OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

### 29/30 July 2023

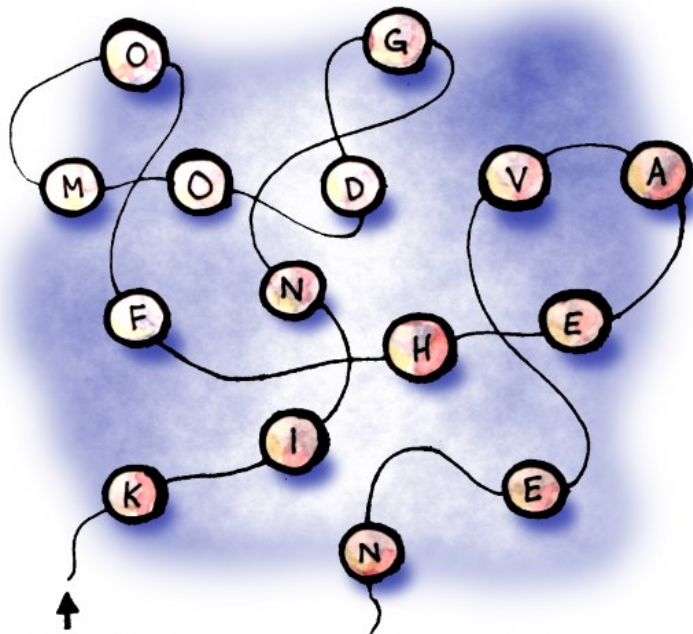
Acolytes	Vigil: Frank Paiva 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am Ramzee Michael
Ministers	Vigil: M.Mifsud, VOLUNTEER 8am: B.Motha, M.Santos 9.30am: G.Basili, M.Michael
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, VOLUNTEER 8am: J. Cabasa, A.Joseph 9.30am: I.Epondulan, S.Manamperi
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. Bagatella, B.Spadaro, A. Spadaro 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am A.La Guidara, C.La Guidara, L. Costello, M. Gluvic
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	OLOL School Parents
Flowers	Rani & Angela
Church cleaning	3 August Beth Paiva Lourdes Spiteri
Welcomers	Vigil: VOLUNTEER 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: VOLUNTEER

### 5/6 August 2023

Acolytes	Vigil: Daniel La Guidara 8am: Fayelene Kennedy 9.30am Eugene Mui
Ministers	Vigil: A. Bellissimo, L. La Guidara 8am: L. Fernandes, Louis Fernandes 9.30am: C.Brooks, B. Chandler
Readers	Vigil: L. Bellissimo, B. Motha 8am: N. Arambulo, P.Ferriols 9.30am: C.Diaz, E. Vinoth Pieris
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. La Guidara, C. La Guidara 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am L. Culili, J. Pieras, M. Pieras
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Tongan Choir
Flowers	Fenty & Liz
Church cleaning	12 August Tongan Group
Welcomers	Vigil: Chrisha Gonzales 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: Kathy Chamberlain

# The Kids' Bulletin

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
July 30th, 2023



What did Jesus say was like a buried treasure or a pearl of great price?

Use the letters on the string of pearls to fill in the blanks and find out!

The \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

## Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. Matthew 13:46 (NIV)

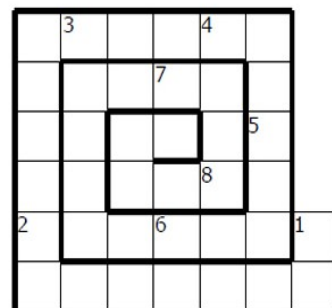
Choose the word that best matches the definition.

- \_\_\_ 1. An adult male human  
A. boy B. girl C. man D. woman
- \_\_\_ 2. Gave something in exchange for money  
A. hid B. sold C. buried D. found
- \_\_\_ 3. To put in a place where something cannot be seen or found (past tense)  
A. found B. treasure C. hid D. joy
- \_\_\_ 4. A feeling of great happiness  
A. sad B. angry C. joy D. tired
- \_\_\_ 5. Something of great value; gold, silver, or jewels, for example  
A. kingdom B. joy C. found D. treasure
- \_\_\_ 6. A small, shiny, hard ball that forms inside some oysters  
A. pearl B. diamond C. gold D. silver
- \_\_\_ 7. The worth of something in money  
A. joy B. kingdom C. value D. sold
- \_\_\_ 8. A territory or country ruled by a king or queen  
A. kingdom B. field C. treasure D. pearl

### Parables of the Kingdom

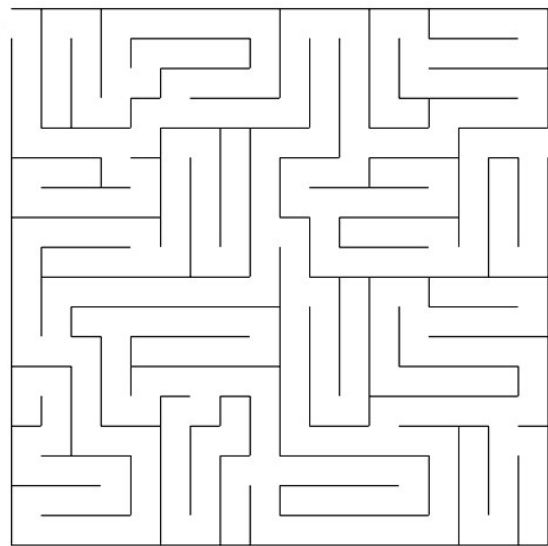


When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. Matthew 13:46 (NIV)  
Look at the numbered clues, determine the correct word, and write that word in the spiral puzzle. Each numbered square will begin a new word.



1. Something of great value; gold, silver, or jewels, for example
2. A small, shiny, hard ball that forms inside some oysters
3. A feeling of great happiness
4. To put in a place where something cannot be seen or found (past tense)
5. Gave something in exchange for money
6. A territory or country ruled by a king or queen
7. An adult male human
8. The worth of something in money

VALUE	PEARL	HID	KINGDOM
TREASURE	MAN	SOLD	JOY



Treasure in the Field  
Dot to Dot

