

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 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: 8th October 2023
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.com.au
Catechist Coordinator : Sandy Manamperi
 0480 266 339
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/LOL7Hills/>

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time 20 August 2023 • Year A



Let us Pray for the Sick

Leonila Ahillon, Ingrid Ball, Mary Attard, Cynthia Avery, Rosenda Bolano, Barrie Chamberlain, Rosella Booth, Jock Clark Snr, Gregory Fernando, Shelley Firth, Julian Gasparini, Anthony Janicska, Ian & Irene Hall, Blago Milicevic, 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, Phylis Amarasinghe, Lynne Albace, Marciano Areglamos, Mansour Ahmad, Ronald Bailey, Lydia & Pasquale Busac, Agnes Bonello, Anton, Philomena & Clarence Corera, Felisa Conejos, Sarojini Chary, Sarah De Silva, Gladys Fernando, John Lionel Fernando, Nasser Dehdeh, Aurora Dumlaio, Joan Falzon, Alfredo Fernandez, Teodoro Garcia, Joe Mula, Ranjan Fernando, Charlie Gauci, Maria Garufo, Rohan Jayasundara, Rohan Jayasundara, Anthony & Evangelista Micallef, Lyn Morrissey, Pacienza Piscopo, Trent Ross, Margie Silva, Mary Jean Spiteri, Illuminada Sunga, Eddie Tabone, Jessica Neodama, Maria Fely Sebastian, Joseph & Theresa Vella, Jonathan Tek Kie.

Anniversaries: Fredy Alphonse, Caroline & Andre, Almeida, Gay & Jacqueline Angley, Joe & Lisette Aristobile, Giovanni Barnaba, Rolily Burac, Michelle Azzopardi, Frank & Fortunata Baiada, Simeon Carlos, Rose Camenzuli, Joseph Caruana, Charlie Chircop, Paula Simone Commarmond, Mervin Costello, Danielle Chalon, Monica, Conception & Dominic D'Souza, Conchita Deloso, Emilia Galea, Zmanda Garcia, Clive Diggelman, Antonia, Josephine Francis, Sheela Franklin, Jean Garrick, Elsie & Karl Garrick, Gervais Garrick, Charlie Gravina, Oliver Jordan, John Johnson, Chinedu Joseph & Family, Edouard Mahomudally, Jason Muscat, Apolinario Maglaya, Tomasa & Nicanor Magpayo, Laurence Morrissey, Jim & Philippa Muscat, Alberto Nahoy, Ersilia Paolini, Thirucheluum, Philomina, Theanmolish, Jayantibhai Parmar, Nirmala, Adrian Pereira, John Portelli, Felicisimo Prahinog, Cornelio & Illuminada Rondario, Sam Silvia, John Spiteri, John & Mary Silva, Vivian Silva, Rosary Silva, Pauline & Santan Soares, Melchor Usman, Salvu Zammit, S. Susainathan.

Remembrance: George Alagiah, France Angseeing, Collette, Cynthia Avery, Gregorio Almodovar, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Barbara Chandler, Lina Cabaero, Cini Family, Dennis Clarke, Emerenciana Dizon, Anacleto Dizon, Ngan Siu Eng, Melvyn Fernandes, Evangeline Garcia, Jose Garcia, Leandro Garcia Snr, Rudy Garcia, Felina & Apolinario Maglaya, Zaren & Sam Formosa, John & William Formosa, Francisca Garcia, Sam & Mary Galea, James Gray, Joe, Dolly Huertas, Selvam Irudayaraj, Harold, Marc, Rosine Lafleur, Norma Lorenzo, Pauline Meilak, Mangion Family, Mary Mifsud, Emilia & William Mifsud, Marcel Mohsen, Anton & Lourda Motha, Louis & Stephen Mula, Michelle Muscat, Jose Reyes, Mary & Francis Muscat, Josefina Lim, Rita Leon, Taral Parmar, Lakshman Pereira, Laureano Reyes, Jude Ranasinghe, John & Rosaline Ratnam, Rodrigues Family, Sem Serna, Cua Sing, Tony Vassallo, Jim Vella, Hector & Rita Welgampola, Chrisantha Wijesundara

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.

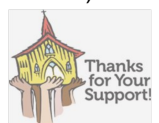
ON-LINE BANK DONATIONS

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

FIRST READING A reading from the prophet Isaiah 56:1,6-7

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest. Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

1. O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. **(R.)**

3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. **(R.)**

2. Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. **(R.)**

SECOND READING A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

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,

From a biological and historical perspective, we know that Canaanites and Jews were related to each other, since Canaanites were said to be descendants of Ham, one of the three sons of Noah, though Jews for some unknown reasons often looked down on Canaanites and considered them as pagans.

In the Gospel this Sunday, Matthew recounts a beautiful encounter between a Canaanite woman and Jesus, a Jew himself who was absolutely different to other Jews in the country then due to his stand for

inclusive love and compassion.

The story begins with the woman asking Jesus to cure her daughter thought to be possessed by a devil. Despite her loud voice, Jesus chose not to respond to her plea to the point that the disciples had to intervene by pleading with him to help her, as she had bothered them so much.

As a test of her faith and endurance, Jesus began to remind the disciples about the priority of his ministry, which the woman unfortunately was not part of, and when she was resolutely determined in asking for help not only through what she said, but also through her kneeling at his feet, Jesus decided to get engaged into a conversation with her. His language at first sounded quite upsetting as he literally told her 'it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs,' probably meaning he can't afford to give her, an outsider something which should be done for the Israelites first.

The woman, however, firmly stood her ground and got through the test alright. She swallowed her pride and humbly accepted her unworthy position before him. She argued with him that 'even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table', meaning that even though she is an unworthy person, she had still deserved some share of his healing power. Such a faith-filled statement of hers deeply touched Jesus' heart and completely won him over.

He then praised her for her great faith and healed her daughter from her mental sickness.

More than just a story supporting Jesus' status as the Son of God through his overwhelming power over devils, this miracle also encourages us to remain humble before the Lord, and persistent in our prayer.

Our humility and persistency shall touch the heart of the Divine and our appropriate prayer shall be heard.

Let us pray today for the wisdom to help us always remember that we are sinners and unworthy before God and for the endurance to pray for our need persistently.

Have a humility-oriented week,

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

DIOCESAN SYNOD SURVEY

Thank you all for enthusiastically partaking in the synodal survey. I hope the survey will offer both our parish and diocese a lot to reflect upon and help us be more productive both in strengthening and sharing our faith. Thank you John, Mary and Terry Jordan for helping to put all responses together and send it to the diocese.

DISPLAY OF OUR RECENT SURVEY

From this weekend, we begin to display the result of our recent survey for the diocesan synod in the church.

This week we continue with question 3 asking for ideas and thoughts to help build up a stronger and better community.

OVER 50'S PUBLIC TRANSPORT OUTING TO MANLY

Meet at Seven Hills station for the 9.28am train to the city on Thursday 24th August. For further information contact John Lyons 0402 260 856.

SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP

World Day of Migrant and Refugees celebration

You're warmly invited to a family-friendly event with Bishop Vincent and our migrant communities for the World Day of Migrants & Refugees on Saturday 16 September, 2pm – 5.30pm in our hall at OLOL. Come hear stories, enjoy free entertainment and activities. Checkout the details and [Register](#) online or scan the posters.

The Referendum is coming soon. The Social Justice group invites you to come on the journey with us to find out about the Voice to Parliament in a safe environment. To ask the questions you want answered! Why is it in two parts? It is a journey and we may not have all your answers. 2 weeks gives us a chance to find your answers and for you to review, research and have more questions. Options Monday or Friday nights 7-9 pm in Parish meeting room or hall.

Register via the links below or sheets at entrances to the church. Come and join us on the journey.

Mondays -28th August and 11th September 7-9 pm

Fridays -25th August and 8th September 7-9 pm

REPORT FROM THE LAST PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

At our last meeting, a part from the reports from various groups in the parish, members of the PPC dedicated a lot of time to process through the data gathered from our recent Diocesan Synod survey relating to the question about the mission for both our parish and diocese. Faith and the Word of God obviously stand out as the two most popular themes mentioned again and again in the responses.

So, the next question for us to think about is of how we can help to nurture and strengthen our faith and to share the Word and make it dwell in us.

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE CATECHIST GROUP

Due to circumstances, lot of our current catechists have to take a break and we therefore urgently need others to replace. If you can spare an hour per week plus a few hours of preparation for the class, please consider to join this ministry by contacting our Parish Office. You will receive lot of support, such as training and materials for the ministry to nurture the faith of children at public schools.

ZUMBA CLASSES ON HOLD

Our free Zumba Classes held on Tuesday and Thursday nights are cancelled until the first week of September 2023. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

PARISH BIN ROSTER - VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

We are seeking volunteers to assist 4 times a year to place the Parish bins on the kerbside (Grantham Road) once a week on Tuesday. Please contact the Parish Office if you are able to help out. *Thank you.*

A NOTE FROM ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

St. Vincent De Paul Society would like to thank OLOL parishioners for their generous contributions towards their winter appeal which was held on the week ending 30th July 2023. The total of contributions was \$2080 and feel blessed by your generosity. You can find a copy of the full letter sent to our Parish from St Vincent De Paul Society on the church notice boards.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Nine-Week Novena for the Diocesan Synod

All are invited to pray a Nine-Week Novena for the Diocesan Synod. The Novena will begin the week of Sunday 13 August and conclude the week of Sunday 8 October in the lead-up to the Synod Assembly: Friday 13 to Sunday 15 October. You are invited to pray once a week as a parish community, with your family, ministry groups or during personal prayer. More information: <https://parracatholic.org/synod2023/>

Nominations open for Papal, Civil and Diocesan Awards

From today until Thursday 7 September 2023, you can nominate an outstanding individual who has contributed to the Catholic Church and society for a Papal Honours Award, Civil Award or Diocesan Award.

Please visit parracatholic.org/awards. The Awards Ceremony will be held in November. More details to come.

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/>

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

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

Diocesan Adult Confirmation: 5 September

Adult Confirmation 2023 will be held on Tuesday 5 September at 7:30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral with the Catechesis and Formation Day to be held on Saturday 2 September at 9:30am – 2pm at the Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown.

Adult Confirmation is a community celebration for those who have reached the age of 16 years and have received both the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist. If you would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org.

Free English and Citizenship Classes

Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are offering English and Citizenship classes at Mamre House, 181 Mamre Rd, Orchard Hills, on a Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am to 2pm during school terms. Free childcare is available. If you are interested in enrolling, please contact Mamre Crèche on (02) 8843 2506 or Nepean Community College (02) 4724 9000.

New Adoration Chapel (24/7) at Holy Name of Mary Parish/ Rydalmere

Holy Name of Mary Parish has a new Adoration Chapel that is open to the public 24/7.

The Adoration Chapel is located inside of Holy Name of Mary Church - 4 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere NSW 2116. Fr. Chadi welcomes anyone who wishes to make use of the Adoration Chapel to make contact with him via the Parish Office for access to the Church (after hours).

For more information, please contact Blake via (02) 9684 1541 or admin@holymary.org.au

Celebrate St. Monica's Spring Fair on Sept 16 at 32 Francis Street, Richmond.

Enjoy a delightful day with kids and family, featuring an array of entertaining activities. Indulge in exciting games, delicious treats, captivating performances, and more! Mark your calendars for this joyous community event that promises laughter and memories for all. See you there!

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.

Walking Together Workshops HIGHLY RECOMMENDED Blacktown Council with Youth Off the Streets and Sydney Alliance will be holding workshops 2hrs **for free** from 7th to 28th August. With the Uluru Statement from the Heart as a framework, this workshop paves the way for participants to accept the invitation and confidently walk together.

Register at <https://www.blacktown.nsw.gov.au/Events-and-activities/Walking-Together-Workshops>.

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|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Monday 21 August 2023 | 10 am - 12 pm | The Ponds Community Hub |
| | 2 pm - 4 pm | Max Webber Library Blacktown |
| Monday 28 August 2023 | 1 pm - 3 pm | Marsden Park Neighbourhood Centre |
| | 6 pm - 8 pm | The Mount Druitt Hub |



POPE FRANCIS' ADDRESS AT THE ANGELUS LAST SUNDAY

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

Today's Gospel narrates a particular prodigious deed of Jesus: He walks at night on the waters of the lake of Galilee toward his disciples who are crossing the lake in a boat (cf. *Mt* 14:22-33). The question is: Why did Jesus do this? Like a show? No! But why? Maybe because of an urgent, unforeseeable need to help his

disciples who were blocked by a headwind? No, because he himself had planned everything, He had made them depart that evening. The text even says he "made them" (cf. v. 22). Maybe he did it to give them a demonstration of his greatness and power? But it is not that simple with him. So, why did he do it? Why did he want to walk on the waters? There is a message that is not evident, a message we need to grasp. In fact, at that time, great expanses of water were held to be the haunts of evil powers that man was not able to master. Particularly when storms made them turbulent, these abysses were symbols of chaos and recalled the darkness of the underworld. Now, the disciples found themselves in the middle of the lake when it was dark. They are afraid of sinking, of being sucked in by evil. And comes Jesus here, walking on the waters, that is, over the powers of evil. He walks on top of the powers of evil and says to his disciples: "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid" (v. 27). This is the message Jesus gives us. This is the meaning of the sign: the powers of evil that frighten us, that we cannot master, take on smaller proportions immediately with Jesus. By walking on the waters, He wants to say, "Do not be afraid. I put your enemies under my feet" – a beautiful message – I put your enemies under my feet – not people! – not that type of enemy, but death, sin, the devil – these are the enemies of the people, our enemies. And Jesus tramples on these enemies for us.

Today, Christ repeats to each of us, "*Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid!*" Take heart because I am here, because you are no longer alone on the turbulent waters of life. And so, what should we do when we find ourselves on the open sea at the mercy of headwinds? What should we do when we face the fear of the open sea, when we see only darkness and we feel we are going under? We need to do two things that the disciples do in the Gospel. What do the disciples do? They *call on* and *welcome* Jesus. At the worst moments, in the darkest of storms, call on Jesus and welcome Jesus.

The disciples *call on* Jesus: Peter walks a little on the waters toward Jesus, but then gets frightened. He sinks and then cries out: "Lord, save me!" (v. 30). Invoke Jesus, call on Jesus. This prayer is beautiful. It expresses the certainty that the Lord can save us, that he conquers our evil and our fears. I invite you to repeat it now all together. Three times together: *Lord, save me! Lord, save me! Lord, save me!*

And then the disciples *welcome*, first they call on, then they welcome Jesus into the boat. The text says that as soon as he got into the boat, "the wind ceased" (v. 32). The Lord knows that the boat of our life, as well as the boat of the Church, is threatened by headwinds, and that the sea on which we sail is often turbulent. He does not spare us the hard work of sailing, rather – the Gospel emphasizes – he pushes his disciples to depart. He invites us to face difficulties so they too might become *salvific places*, so Jesus can conquer them, so they become opportunities to meet him. In fact, in our moments of darkness, he comes to meet us, asking to be welcomed like that night on the lake.

So, let us ask ourselves: How do I react when I am afraid, in difficulties? Do I go ahead alone, with my own strength, or do I call on the Lord with trust? And what is my faith like? Do I believe that Christ is stronger than the adversarial waves and winds? But above all: Am I sailing with him? Do I welcome him? Do I make room for him in the boat of my life – never alone, always with Jesus? Do I hand the helm over to Jesus?

In the dark crossings, may Mary, the mother of Jesus, Star of the Sea, help us to seek the light of Jesus.

After praying the Angelus, the Holy Father continued:

Dear brothers and sisters,

Another tragic shipwreck happened a few days ago in the Mediterranean – forty-one people lost their lives. I have prayed for them. And sadly and shamefully we must say that from the beginning of this year, almost two thousand men, women and children have already died trying to reach Europe. This is an open wound on our humanity. I encourage the political and diplomatic powers that are trying to heal this in a spirit of solidarity and fraternity, as well as the dedication of all those who are working to prevent shipwrecks and are aiding migrants.

Tomorrow, in Bafoussam in Cameroon, still afflicted by violence and war, on the eve of the Feast of Mary Most Holy, Assumed into Heaven, a pilgrimage for peace in the country will take place. Let us unite ourselves in prayer to our brothers and sisters of Cameroon so that, through the Virgin's intercession, God might sustain the hope of the people who have been suffering for years, and open paths of dialogue so that peace and harmony might be achieved.

And let us pray for the people of Ukraine who are suffering so much because of this war.

I also want to assure my prayers for the victims of the fires that have devastated the Hawaiian Island of Maui.

I now I extend my greetings to all of you, people from Rome and pilgrims from various countries. In particular, I greet several groups who participated in [World Youth Day in Lisbon](#) – and there are many!...I see flags – Poland, Mexico, Argentina, Italy, many, El Salvador, many...the priests and young people from El Salvador who are so loud; the students from Universidad Iberoamericana, Puebla, Mexico; and the young people from Taiwan. Enjoy your trip!

And I wish all of you a good Sunday. Please, do not forget to pray for me.

Enjoy your meal and *arrivederci!*



POPE FRANCIS' ADDRESS AT THE ASSUMPTION ANGELUS

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

Today, Solemnity of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, we contemplate her ascending in body and soul to the glory of Heaven. Today's Gospel also presents her to us as she ascends, this time "into the hill country" (Lk 1:39). And why does she go up there? To help her cousin Elizabeth, and there she proclaims the joyful canticle of the *Magnificat*. Mary ascends and the Word of God reveals to us what characterizes us as she does so: *service to her neighbour and praise to God*. Both of these things: Mary is the woman of service to neighbour, and Mary is the woman who praises God. The evangelist Luke, moreover, narrates the life of Jesus himself as an ascent upwards, towards Jerusalem, the place of his self-giving on the cross; and he also describes Mary's journey in the same way. Jesus and Mary, in short, travel the same road: two lives that ascend upwards, glorifying God and serving brethren. Jesus as the Redeemer, who gives his life for us, for our justification; Mary as the servant who goes to serve: two lives that conquer death and rise again; two lives whose secrets are *service* and *praise*. Let us look more closely at these two aspects: service and praise. *Service*. It is when we stoop to serve our brethren that rise: it is love that elevates life. We go to serve our brothers and with this service, we "ascend". But serving is not easy: Our Lady, who had just conceived, travels almost 150 kilometres from Nazareth to reach Elizabeth's house. Helping is costly, to all of us!

We always experience this in the fatigue, patience and worries that taking care of others entails. Think, for example, of the kilometres that many people travel every day to and from work, and the many tasks they perform for others; think of the sacrifices of time and sleep in caring for a newborn or an elderly person; the effort in serving those who have nothing to offer in return, in the Church and in voluntary work. I admire voluntary work. It is tiring, but it is ascending upwards, it is reaching Heaven! This is true service. But service risks being barren without *praise* to God. Indeed, when Mary enters the home of her cousin, she praises the Lord. She does not talk about her weariness from the journey, but rather a song of jubilation springs from her heart. Because those who love God know praise. And today's Gospel shows us "a cascade of praise: the child who leaps with joy in Elizabeth's womb (cf. Lk 1:44); Elizabeth who utters words of blessing and "the first beatitude": "Blessed is she who believed" (Lk 1:45); and everything culminates in Mary, who proclaims the *Magnificat* (cf. Lk 1:46-55). Praise increases joy. Praise is like a ladder: it leads hearts upwards. Praise raises souls and defeats the temptation to give up. Have you seen how boring people, those who live off gossip, are incapable of giving praise? Ask yourselves: am I capable of giving praise? How good it is to praise God every day, and others too! How good it is to live in gratitude and blessing instead of regrets and complaints, to raise our gaze upwards instead of wearing a long face! Complaints: there are people who lament every day. But see that God is near you, see that he has created you, see the things he has given you. Praise, praise! And this is spiritual health. Service and praise. Let us try to ask ourselves: do I live my work and daily occupations with a spirit of service, or with selfishness? Do I devote myself to someone freely, without seeking immediate advantages? In short, do I make service the "springboard" of my life? And thinking about praise: do I, like Mary, exult in God (cf. Lk 1:47)? Do I pray, blessing the Lord? And, after praising him, do I spread his joy among the people I meet? Each one of you, try to answer these questions. May our Mother, assumed into Heaven, help us to climb higher each day through service and praise.

POPE FRANCIS' LATEST INTERVIEW By Lisa Zengarini

During his flight back to Rome from his Apostolic Journey to Portugal for World Youth Day 2023, on Sunday evening, Pope Francis said he was very positively impressed by the huge participation and enthusiasm shown by so many young people in Lisbon and also by the successful organization of the event, the best of all the ones he has attended so far (Rio de Janeiro, Krakow and Panama). "For me it was beautiful!", he told journalists travelling with him in his customary post-visit press conference aboard the return flight to Rome.

Young people need to be accompanied

Commenting on the over a million youths joining the WYD last week, the Pope remarked "they are religious, they are looking for a non-hostile, non-artificial, non-legalistic faith, for an encounter with Jesus Christ", which "is not easy", he said.

Some may object that young people today don't always abide by moral rules, however, Pope Francis remarked, we all make mistakes in life, and despite this the Lord is always waiting for us because He is merciful. "*Who among us has not made a moral mistake in our lives? Everyone has! Life is like that, but the Lord is always waiting for us because He is merciful.*" While highlighting the need to accompany young people, our future, as they "seek to look forward", Pope Francis stressed once again the vital importance of "dialogue between old and young" so they don't lose their roots.

The Church is open to everyone, but there are rules in the Church

In the conversation the Pope spoke also about his health, his silent prayer for peace in Fatima, sexual abuse, his upcoming visit to Marseille, in France, and his assertion that the Church is open to all with no exception ("Todos, todos, todos", as he repeated several times during the WYD). Asked by a reporter if he didn't think that this assertion was somehow incoherent with the fact that some people, such as women and gay people, do not have the same rights and cannot receive some Sacraments, Pope Francis reiterated that the Catholic Church welcomes everyone and that it has a duty to accompany them on a personal path of spirituality, but within the framework of its rules. "The Church is open to everyone but there are laws that regulate life inside the Church," he said. According to these laws, certain people they cannot partake in (some) Sacraments. "This does not mean that it is closed. Each person encounters God in their own way inside the Church,"

All forms of abuse must be addressed by the Church and society

Pope Francis was also asked about his private meeting with a group of victims of abuse in Lisbon and his opinion on the Portuguese bishops' policies to address the scourge of sexual abuse in the Church, following the recent publication by independent commission pointing to nearly 5,000 victims over the past decades in the country. Pope Francis said he knows things are proceeding well in this respect and reiterated that all forms of abuse against minors and vulnerable people, whether sexual or not, must be addressed by the Church and society at large.

Exploitation of migrants is criminal

Finally, a French reporter asked Pope Francis about his upcoming visit to the French port city of Marseille in September and his reason for never visiting France as a country. Pope Francis explained that the specific purpose of the visit is to join an international conference hosted by the archdiocese (the "Rencontres Méditerranéennes") gathering bishops and religious leaders of the Mediterranean to discuss, amongst other issues, immigration in the region, an issue which is of particular concern to him. "The exploitation of migrants is criminal", he said referring in particular to Sub-Saharan African migrants blocked in North Africa. He added that at the moment his priority are smaller and more remote countries, rather than big countries like France.

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 14th September 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 the parish office to organise a meeting with Fr Henry. Funerals are not permitted on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation.

BAPTISM

Parents desiring Baptism for their children are encouraged to contact the parish office to arrange for the required preparation class for parents.

MASS INTENTIONS

All Mass intentions must be submitted to the Parish Office on or before Thursday

Lourdes: Luminate Young Adults Group

The next group night is Friday, 15th of September, 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

AUGUST

| | AUGUST | |
|----|--|--------|
| 23 | Sacramental Program Meeting | 6.30pm |
| 24 | Over 50's Manly trip | |
| 26 | Sacramental Program Meeting (RPT) | 4.30pm |
| 27 | Mass Presentation of the Lord's Prayer | 9.30am |
| 28 | St Vincent De Paul Meeting | 7.00pm |
| 30 | Sacramental Program Meeting | 6.30pm |

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

19/20 August 2023

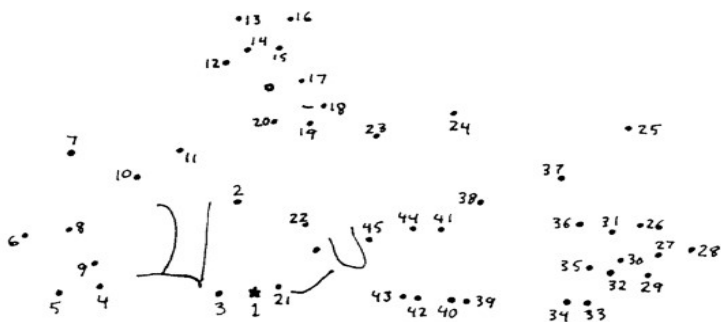
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| Acolytes | Vigil: Daniel La Guidara 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am Eugene Mui |
| Ministers | Vigil: A. Do Rosario, L. La Guidara 8am: F. Paiva, VOLUNTEER 9.30am: G. Basili, P. Gow |
| Readers | Vigil: N. Do Rosario, B.Motha 8am: A. McNally, M. Santos 9.30am: C. Diaz, SUB RQD |
| Altar Servers | Vigil: A. Bagatella, A. La Guidara, C. La Guidara 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am C. Attard, M. Pieris, J. Pieris |
| Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass) | Parish Pastoral Council |
| Flowers | Fennie & Angela |
| Church cleaning | 23 August Jessie Borg Anne McNally |
| Welcomers | Vigil: Ram Urge 8am: Joyce Hillbrick 9.30am: Sastina Pieris |

26/27 August 2023

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Acolytes | Vigil: James Dinning 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am Ian Epondulan |
| Ministers | Vigil: H.Gonzales, B.Motha 8am: L.Fernandes, M.Santos 9.30am: E.Gartner, Edith Gartner |
| Readers | Vigil: A.Punch, J.Sarmiento 8am: A. Joseph, K.Walker 9.30am: R.Epondulan, A.Hye Rin Han |
| Altar Servers | Vigil: A. Laus, L. Laus, B. Spadaro 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am A. Melki, VOLUNTEERS |
| Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass) | Couples for Christ |
| Flowers | Annette & Mary B |
| Church cleaning | 31 August Beth Paiva Lourdes Spiteri |
| Welcomers | Vigil: Chrisha Gonzales 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: VOLUNTEER |

The Kids' Bulletin

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 20th, 2023



In today's Gospel reading, a foreign woman was asking Jesus to cure her daughter. But Jesus said that He was sent to care for the children of Israel, not foreigners.

The woman replied to Jesus, "But even the _____ eat the scraps that fall from their master's table!"

*What did she say she was like?
Connect the dots to find out!*



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

Crumbs from the Table

Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." Matthew 15:28 (NIV)

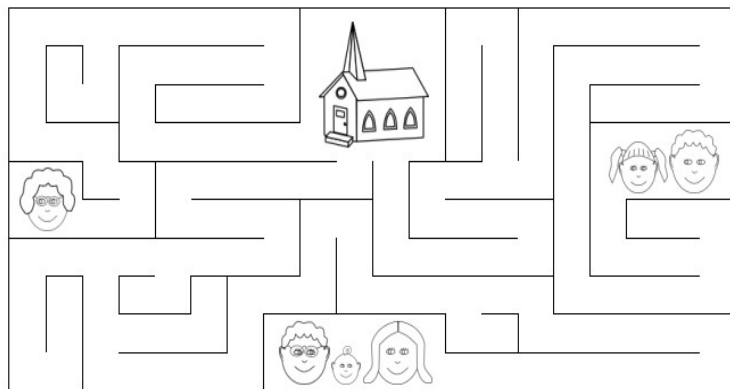
Choose the word that best matches the definition.



1. An adult female human being
A. girl B. demon C. woman D. daughter
2. A female child in relation to her parents
A. dog B. daughter C. demon D. woman
3. To experience physical or mental pain
A. lost B. worry C. faith D. suffer
4. An evil spirit
A. woman B. lost C. demon D. daughter
5. The Son of God
A. Matthew B. Jesus C. Joseph D. James
6. Unable to be found
A. sick B. suffer C. demon D. lost
7. Animals with four legs, commonly kept as pets, and sometimes used to guard things
A. dogs B. cats C. frogs D. camels
8. Small pieces of bread or cake
A. food B. crumbs C. crackers D. leftovers
9. An very large amount of something
A. small B. great C. medium D. tiny
10. To have trust or confidence in something or someone
A. help B. great C. cry D. faith

Faith

Draw a path for each family to get to the church building.



| | | |
|------------|-------|-----------|
| GENNESARET | TYRE | CANAANITE |
| DAUGHTER | DEVIL | LOST |
| SHEEP | WOMAN | HOUSEDOGS |
| SCRAPS | TABLE | WELL |

