

# 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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Email: [secretary@lol7hills.com.au](mailto:secretary@lol7hills.com.au)

**Parish Priest:** Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran  
**Parish Office Team:** Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang

**Parish School:** OLOL 8869 6800  
**Principal:** Ms Keiran Byrnes  
**Reconciliation:** Saturday 4:30-5:30pm  
**Baptismal Preparation:** 20th September 2023  
**Baptism:** 8th October 2023

**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

**Parish Website:** [www.olol7hills.com.au](http://www.olol7hills.com.au)  
**Catechist Coordinator :** Sandy Manamperi  
0480 266 339

**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/LOL7Hills/>

## 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time 27 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](mailto: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, Felisa Conejos, Anton, Philomena & Clarence Corera, Sarojini Chary, Gladys Fernando, John Lionel Fernando, Nasser Dehdeh, Aurora Dumlao, Joan Falzon, Alfredo Fernandez, Teodoro Garcia, Ranjan Fernando, Charlie Gauci, Maria Garufo, Joy Hayward, Rohan Jayasundara, Rohan Jayasundara, Anthony & Evangelista Micallef, Solomon Morias, Lyn Morrissey, Pacienza Piscopo, Jessica Neodama, Maria Fely Sebastian, Jonathan Tek Kie, Joseph & Theresa Vella.

**Anniversaries:** Fredy Alphonse, Caroline & Andre, Almeida, Gay & Jacqueline Anglely, Joe & Lisette Aristobile, Michelle Azzopardi, Giovanni Barnaba, Rolily Burac, Frank & Fortunata Baiada, Simeon Carlos, Rose Camenzuli, Joseph Caruana, Paula Simone Commarmond, Danielle Chalon, Josephine Cortis, Conchita Deloso, Zemanda Garcia, Clive Diggelman, Joan Falzon, Xavier Francis, Antonia, Josephine Francis, Sheela Franklin, Charlie Gravina, Oliver Jordan, John Johnson, Edouard Mahomudally, Jason Muscat, Laurence Morrissey, John & Mary Moore, Jim & Philippa Muscat, Alberto Nahoy, Ersilia Paolini, Thirucheluum, Philomina, Theanmolish, Jayantibhai Parmar, Nirmala, Cordula Paiva, Adrian Pereira, John Portelli, Felicisimo Prahinog, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, T. Selvin, Sam Silvia, John Spiteri, John & Mary Silva, Vivian Silva, Rosary Silva, Caroline Susainathan, Pauline & Santan Soares, Melchor Usman, Arthur Zammit, Salvu Zammit.

**Remembrance:** France Angseeing, Collette, Cynthia Avery, Gregorio Almodovar, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Barbara Chandler, Lina Cabaero, Dennis Clarke, Emerenciana Dizon, Anacleto Dizon, Melvyn Fernandes, Evangeline Garcie, Jose Garcie, Leandro Garcia Snr, Rudy Garcie, Francisca Garcia, Constance Gaycroft, Sam & Mary Galea, James Gray, Joe, Dolly Huertas, Selvam Irudayaraj, Harold, Marc, Rosine Lafleur, Maureen & John Mead, Pauline Meilak, Mary Mifsud, Emilia & William Mifsud, Marcel Mohsen, Anton & Lourda Motha, Louis & Stephen Mula, Mary & Francis Muscat, Michelle Muscat, Josefina Lim, Rita Leon, Taral Parmar, Lakshman Pereira, Laureano Reyes, Jim Vella, Jude Ranasinghe, John & Rosaline Ratnam, Rodrigues Family, Sem Serna, Cua Sing, Betty Taiarol, Tony Vassallo, 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.

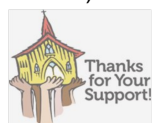
**BSB:** 067 950

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

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**FIRST READING** A reading from the prophet Isaiah 22:19-23

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace: I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

The Word of the Lord.

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**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**(R.) Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.**

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,  
you have heard the words of my mouth.  
Before the angels I will bless you.  
I will adore before your holy temple. **(R.)**

3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly  
and the haughty he knows from afar.  
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,  
discard not the work of your hands. **(R.)**

2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love  
which excel all we ever knew of you.  
On the day I called, you answered;  
you increased the strength of my soul. **(R.)**

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**SECOND READING** A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 11:33-36

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

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**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;  
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.  
Alleluia!

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**GOSPEL** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

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,

During my student days, I had some excellent lecturers whom I admired so much for excelling in their own fields, such as Scriptures, philosophy and theology, and despite my respect for them, I couldn't stop asking them questions from time to time or express my views in questionable issues.

I remember I once made a bold comment about a statement that a well-known lecturer often told us, his students, regarding his new discoveries in theology, unfortunately I can't be more specific here for my

respect to his privacy. After days hearing again and again his 'this is my theology' refrain before he went on to give us a lecture about his personal contributions to the field, I decided to make the move to bring him back to the ground.

I took the courage to tell him in front of the class, 'none of us have any theology of our own, there is just one, which is God's.' He of course never appreciated such a comment from a student and I had to cope with a quiet retaliation after the incident. My marks were downgraded to Credit or C+ till I completed the Formation Program, though I often received high distinction or distinction prior to that, and I had no regret for that.

I can't help recall this unforgettable experience while reading Jesus' words to Peter in the Gospel today following his great effort to declare Jesus as the Christ, the Anointed One. Jesus, I guess, might see in Peter's eyes the boastful look for his achievement, which was the privilege to know of Jesus' divine identity and profess it in front of his less articulate friends. Jesus quickly humbled Peter by telling him that it was not of his own merits that he was able to say what he had said, but it was God himself who revealed such an inside knowledge to him.

Then he officially ordained Peter to the position as the Apostle of apostles, the First Pope as we call him with the power and the authority to bind and loose all Church matters on earth through the symbolic gesture entrusting to Peter, the keys of the kingdom of heaven. This helps explain why St Peter has been depicted in his portraits holding a key in his hand.

To me, this Gospel today is more than an account highlighting (1) Jesus' divine status as the One anointed by God to save humanity from sins and (2) Peter's privilege to have access to divine revelation revealing Jesus' real identity and professing that, it also serves as a reminder for all of us that all our gifts, talents and wisdom are given to us out of God's love and generosity, and they are no products of our own intelligence. Such a recognition in no doubt will keep our feet always on the ground and remain humble before our almighty God at all times.

Let us pray for Pope Francis who is occupying the Chair of St Peter at the moment, that he always enjoys the gifts he needs most to lead the Church, and also for us, that we all remain humble to bow down before God's immense power, wisdom and knowledge.

Have a humility-oriented week.

*Fr Henry*

## PARISH NEWS...

### 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.

### 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.*

### 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. Check out 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 and research and have more questions. Register via the sheets at entrances to the church. Come and join us on the journey. 28th August and 11th September 7-9 pm

### 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.

### 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 4 about the well versed in the community could help the lesser known to grow stronger and better.

### WESTMEAD HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED

Acolytes, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion or People trained for home visitations of the sick are needed to take Holy Communion to the Sick at Westmead Hospital on Sunday morning between 9.00am and 11.00am, on a roster basis once every eight weeks. This is not a difficult ministry but a very important and rewarding one. Assistance will be provided to volunteers before they commence visitations to the sick in the hospital wards. For further details please contact Jessie Borg 0404 355 494

**ZUMBA CLASSES ON HOLD** Until the first week of September.



## 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/>

### Bishop's Father's Day Appeal: Caring for those who have cared for us

Our priests never stop giving their lives in service to our community. They dedicate themselves to carrying out God's ministry for as long as they are able. This Father's Day, let us show our thanks and appreciation for our priests' lifelong gifts of faithful service. Your compassionate donation will help our Clergy Support Foundation to care for our priests, and provide them with personalised health and wellbeing support. Please give generously to the Bishop's Father's Day Appeal at [parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal](https://parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal) or scan this QR code. Thank you.



### 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](https://parracatholic.org/awards). The Awards Ceremony will be held in November. More details to come.

### Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities

The Diocesan Safeguarding team are organising sessions for parish clergy, staff and volunteers to complete their Mandatory Safeguarding Modules. Renewal Modules will soon be available on our online training platform.

- Renewal Mandatory Safeguarding Training (Module 5: Legal Compliance – Risk of Significant Harm & Mandatory Reporting): **Tuesday 29 August** at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes from 10am to 11.30am
- Mandatory Modules 1-3: **Saturday 28 October** at St Canice's Church, Katoomba from 10am-3pm.

Please register for these face-to-face renewal modules at: [safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org). For further information please contact Maria Kervin at: [maria.kervin@parracatholic.org](mailto:maria.kervin@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](mailto:hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org).

### MET Worship Selecting Music for Mass Workshop: 7 September

Looking for further training on selecting music for mass? Wanting some tips on encouraging a congregation to sing? Eric Grella, Music Formation Facilitator, Diocese of Parramatta will be running a Music Workshop on Thursday 7 September at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown from 7pm-9pm! Musicians, Liturgy Planners and Clergy are invited to attend. RSVP by 5 September on 0460 037 795 or [mary.gale@parracatholic.org](mailto:mary.gale@parracatholic.org)

### Arise Women's Retreat: 16 September

St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, is hosting a day of reflection, inspiration and encounter with Christ at this year's Arise Women's Retreat: 'Arise – Talitha Koum – Little girl, I say ARISE' on Saturday 16 September from 8.30am to 8.30pm. The retreat will include Mass, meditation, talks, praise and worship, creative expression, spiritual direction and healing Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. All meals are included. For bookings and more information, please visit <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1078404>

### Season of Creation: 1 September – 4 October

The Season of Creation is an ecumenical celebration and this year's theme is, 'Let Justice and Peace Flow'. It starts on 1 September, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and ends on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4 October. In his message for this year's World Day of Prayer for Creation, Pope Francis reminds us that the next chapter in the Church's synodal journey will begin at the conclusion of the Season of Creation. He hopes that this synodal journey will foster deeper communion enriched by greater dialogue. To learn more, please contact our Peace, Justice and Ecology team via [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org)

### 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](mailto: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!

**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>.

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 recounts the encounter of Jesus with a Canaanite woman outside the territory of Israel (cf. *Mt* 15:21-28). She asks him to liberate her daughter, who is tormented by a demon. But the Lord pays no attention to her. She insists, and the disciples advise Jesus to acknowledge her so she would stop. Jesus, however, explains that his mission is directed to the children of Israel, using this image: "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs". And the courageous woman responds, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table". Then, Jesus says to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly" (vv. 26-28). This is a beautiful story. And this happened to Jesus. We see that Jesus changed his attitude. What made him change it was the strength of the woman's faith. So, let us pause briefly over these two aspects: *the change in Jesus* and *the woman's faith*.

*The change in Jesus.* He was directing his preaching to the chosen people. Later the Holy Spirit would push the Church to the ends of the world. But what happens here, we could say, is an anticipation through which the universality of God's work is already manifested in the episode of the Canaanite woman. Jesus' openness is interesting. On hearing the woman's prayer, "he anticipates the plan"; faced with her concrete case, he becomes even more sympathetic and compassionate. This is what God is like: he is love, and the one who loves does not remain rigid. Yes, he or she stands firm, but not rigid, they do not remain rigid in their own positions, but allow themselves *to be moved and touched*. He or she knows how to change their plans. Love is creative. And we Christians who want to imitate Christ, we are invited to *be open to change*. How good it would do our relationships, as well as our lives of faith, if we were to be docile, to truly pay attention, to soften up in the name of compassion and the good of others, like Jesus did with the Canaanite woman. The docility to change. Hearts docile to change.

Now let us look at the *woman's faith*, which the Lord praises, saying that it is "great" (v. 28). According to the disciples, the only thing that seemed "great" was her insistence; but Jesus sees her faith. If we think about it, that foreign woman had probably little or no awareness of the laws and religious precepts of Israel. What does her faith consist of then? *She does not have a wealth of concepts but of deeds* – the Canaanite woman draws near, prostrates herself, insists, takes part in a frank dialogue with Jesus, overcomes every obstacle just to speak with him. This is the concreteness of faith, which is not a religious label but is a personal relationship with the Lord. How many times we fall into the temptation to confuse faith with a label! This woman's faith is not fraught with theological gallantry, but with insistence – she knocks at the door, knocks, knocks. Her faith is not made up of words, but of prayer. And God does not resist when he is prayed to.

This is why he said, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (*Mt* 7:7).

Brothers and sisters, in light of all this, we can ask ourselves a few questions beginning with the *change in Jesus*.

For example: Am I capable of changing opinion? Do I know how to be understanding and do I know how to be compassionate, or do I remain rigid in my position? Is there some rigidity in my heart? Which is not firmness: rigidity is awful, firmness is good. And beginning with the *woman's faith*: What is my faith like? Does it stop at concepts and words, or is it truly lived with prayer and deeds? Do I know how to dialogue with the Lord? Do I know how to insist with him? Or am I content to recite beautiful formulas? May Our Lady make us open to what is good and concrete in the faith.

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### After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters

I am following with concern what is happening in Niger. I join the Bishops' appeal in favor of peace in the country and for stability in the Sahel region. I accompany with my prayers the efforts of the international community to find a peaceful solution as soon as possible for everyone's benefit. Let us pray for the dear people of Niger. And let us also pray for peace for all populations wounded by war and violence. Let us especially pray for Ukraine, which has been suffering for some time.

I greet all of you, the faithful from Rome and pilgrims from various countries. In particular, I greet the new seminarians from the North American College and I wish them a good formative journey; I also greet the "*de la Borriquita*" community from Cadice, Spain; I greet the Polish people, thinking of the women and girls, pilgrims to the Shrine of Our Lady of Piekary Śląskie.

I greet the young people from the "Tucum" Project who today are beginning a *Via Lucis* through Italian railway stations to meet with people who live on the margins to bring them the hope of the Gospel.

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

Enjoy your dinner and *arrivederci*.



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## CATHOLIC INFLUENCERS AT WYD ARE CALLED TO 'ANNOUNCE JESUS CHRIST IN DIGITAL SPACES.'

By Alessandro di Bussolo and Francesca Merlo - Lisbon, Portugal

The Church "needs you, dear digital influencers, to be the heaven of hope in these new spaces of social construction that are social networks and digital networks." The question "is no longer whether or not we will interact with digital culture", this is now an irreversible fact, but the reflection imposed on us "is to know how to do it". Thus Cardinal José Tolentino de Mendonça, prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education, involved hundreds of young digital influencers in the mission "to culturally translate the message of Jesus" in today's digital world. He did so at the Portuguese Catholic University of Lisbon, in his homily at the Mass which concluded the meeting held at the end of Pope Francis' encounter with young university students on Thursday, an event promoted by the Dicastery for Communication (Vatican News' parent organization).

### **WYD: an opportunity to get to know the "digital next"**

The 37th World Youth Day, underway in the Portuguese capital until 6 August, according to Cardinal de Mendonça offers an opportunity to be able to learn to recognise our "digital neighbour", because it brings together hundreds of thousands of young people face to face, "to show the world that war, the dictatorship of indifference and inequality between human beings are not inevitable." Young people can thus realise Pope Francis' dream when he speaks of the need to build a "culture of encounter" and "challenges us to be protagonists together in the missionary dream of reaching out to everyone."

### **Imagination to proclaim the faith out of doors**

The prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education told Catholic influencers: "Now it is your turn. It is up to you to fall in love with Christ, to make Him the centre of your personal story."

"Christianity needs witnesses who say precisely this," he explained, "who express it credibly first and foremost with their own lives. Contemporary Christianity," added the Portuguese Cardinal, needs "existential credibility on the part of Christians.

But it also needs cultural credibility." The worst thing that can happen to us, he said, "is to talk to ourselves, to reduce the experience of faith to a clandestine conversation or to the circle of those who are already convinced, clinging to a language that the men and women of today do not understand. Jesus is good news. Today's mission asks you to inhabit the new Areopagus. It asks for imagination and courage to announce the faith out of doors, in heterogeneous contexts, where the traditional presence of religious does not arrive, or arrives in a transformed and rarefied way."

### **'Make it felt that you are the Church'**

And finally, Cardinal de Mendonça reminded the young influencers that "the Church is a team effort": sometimes we see "that social networks function like a bubble, where polarisation and rejection are easily normalised."

What triumphs, unfortunately, is "the logic of the mirror and a certain tribalisation of discourse, very different from the synodal mission that Jesus entrusts to us. He exhorts us to walk towards others." The Cardinal wrapped up his homily by urging Catholic influencers to feel at home in the Catholic Church. "Make it felt that you are the Church. Fill yourselves with your youth, with your joy. Act as co-responsible for her and her mission."

### **Msgr. Ruiz: 'Influencers of God's tenderness and mercy'**

At the end of the homily, the young people approached a large crucifix, painted in the WYD colours, so that each person could place on it a post-it note, which had been previously given to them at the entrance. Each young person thus offered to the Lord their social media usernames, which they had carefully written on the post-it upon arrival.

Afterwards, Monsignor Lucio Ruiz, Secretary of the Dicastery for Communication, asked for the celebrating Cardinal's blessing on the young Catholic influencers, called them "influencers of God's tenderness and mercy" like Mary.

For the past year, the project "The Church listens to you", explained Msgr. Ruiz, which accompanies the ongoing Synod and was dubbed the "digital synod", has been discovering this "river of grace, love and mission, bringing them together, making them feel the caress of the Church, which sees and values the mission and encourages them to be an outgoing Church and to go to the existential peripheries."

### **Dr. Ruffini: A different kind of communication in social media**

Before the celebration, during the first of several Catholic influencers meetings at WYD (another will be held on Friday evening, 4 August, after the WYD Way of the Cross), Dr. Paolo Ruffini, Prefect of the Dicastery for Communication, offered several words of welcome, along with Msgr. Ruiz, who presented all the participants with a small wooden cross and an icon blessed by Pope Francis.

Dr. Ruffini thanked the young influencers "for having accompanied with your reflections our pastoral reflection on the Christian presence on social networks."

Since our age is a digital one, he said, "we are all digital missionaries. We must all be 'fully present'. Young people are digital natives, and 'those who, like me, come from another era', are digital migrants."

### **A network that frees and does not enslave**

Dr. Ruffini spoke also about the importance of gathering together to "network with each other". He mentioned the Dicastery for Communication's new document "Towards Full Presence", and urged young people to move from words to deeds.

"Building something in social media is a truly different form of communication," he said.

The Prefect added that "a network of witnesses must be created who are aware of the difference between the Spirit that unites us and the algorithms that fail to perceive the love in which everything exists."

He urged Catholic influencers to be willing to open themselves up to others, without pretending to be someone they are not. "Only in this way will our network be different," he said, saying social media needs to be "a net of freedom that frees you rather than enslaving you."

### **Cardinal Tagle: 'Only Jesus will make us true influencers'**

Also among the concelebrants was Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelisation, who expressed his hopes that digital influencers would find "a way to understand and practise Gospel-based influence or, better still, to learn from Jesus how to influence others."

The Filipino-born Cardinal invited Catholic influencers to lead their bishops, priests, religious and peers "into this territory as fertile ground for ministry and mission," reminding them that "every influencer who wants to be an evangeliser must be influenced by Jesus and His Gospel. Only Jesus will make us true influencers. The world already has many false influencers for false purposes."

## 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 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](mailto: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

28	St Vincent De Paul Meeting	7.00pm
30	Sacramental Program Meeting	6.30pm
SEPTEMBER		
1	Father's Day School Mass	9.15am
2	Sacramental Program Meeting (RPT)	4.30pm
3	<i>Father's Day</i>	
10	First Holy Communion (Group 1)	11.30am
14	Over 50's Meeting (25th Anniversary BBQ)	10.30am
15	Lourdes: Luminate Young Adult Group Night	6.45pm

## OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

### 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, 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

### 2/3 September 2023

Acolytes	Vigil: Derick Soares 8am: Sandy Manamperi 9.30am Ramzee Michael.
Ministers	Vigil: A. Bellissimo, R. Soares. 8am: S. Nemorin, VOLUNTEER 9.30am: B. Chandler, M. Michael.
Readers	Vigil: L. Bellissimo, C.Rodrigues. 8am: N. Arambulo, P. Ferriols. 9.30am: E. Pieris, A. Walker.
Altar Servers	Vigil: E. Reardon, D. Sant, J. Sant. 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am S. Culili, M.Gluvic, F. Wanandy.
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Tongan Choir
Flowers	Fenty & Liz
Church cleaning	09 Sept Tongan Community
Welcomers	Vigil: VOLUNTEER 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: Kathy Chamberlain

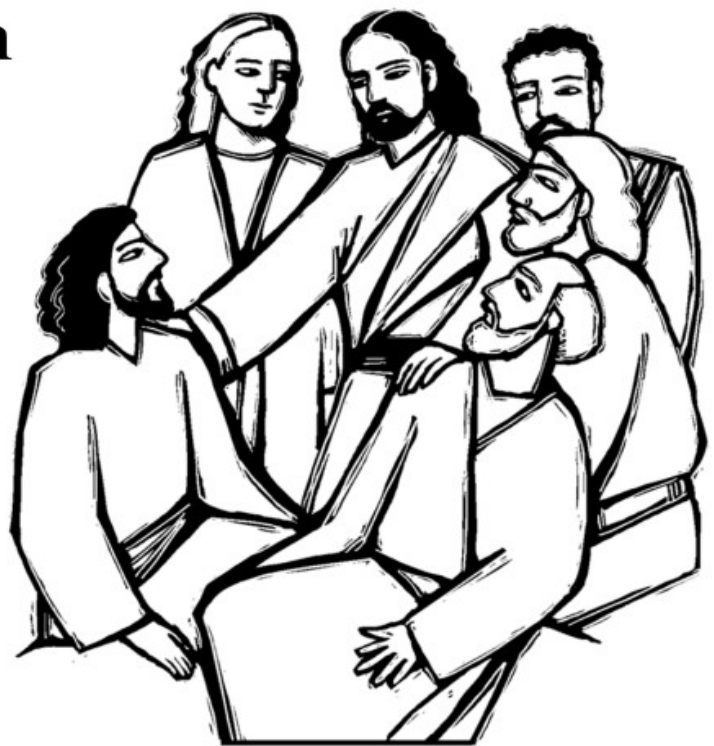


# The Kids' Bulletin

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time  
August 27th, 2023

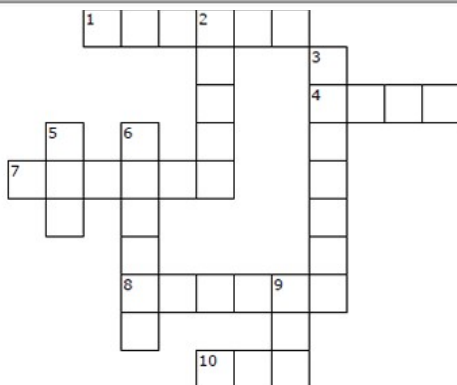
Choose the word that best matches the definition.

- \_\_\_ 1. Persons; men, women, and children; human beings  
A. people B. father C. prophet D. man
- \_\_\_ 2. To speak  
A. sing B. say C. mime D. rock
- \_\_\_ 3. A male child in relation to his parents  
A. daughter B. prophet C. son D. father
- \_\_\_ 4. An adult male human being  
A. prophet B. man C. son D. people
- \_\_\_ 5. A persons who speaks for God  
A. Christ B. man C. prophet D. father
- \_\_\_ 6. A male parent  
A. Christ B. father C. prophet D. church
- \_\_\_ 7. The Messiah, as foretold by the prophets  
A. Peter B. Elijah C. Jeremiah D. Christ
- \_\_\_ 8. The name that Jesus called Simon  
A. Jeremiah B. Peter C. Elijah D. Christ
- \_\_\_ 9. A large stone that sticks up out of the ground or the sea  
A. father B. Christ C. rock D. prophet
- \_\_\_ 10. The whole body of believers in Christ  
A. prophet B. rock C. church D. man



"But what about you? Who do you say I am?"  
Matthew 16:15

I W H Q O X N F C T Z V D L M  
P V V P O E U A Z F U I B O M  
E R Y G V M S T S P S Y D R N  
O X O A R J R H B M E G O O M  
P P E P G E D E L G N T S C S  
L H I I H E L R B I S P E K E  
E K F R S E Y I K A V U V R U  
U T E S W I T J J O P I M O W  
M H E Y O E Q S E A A T N P I  
T L C T S A J I Z R H J I G M  
B A H Y P R P J S I E K O S L  
X P R J N T F E J A D M A H T  
I L I B U H D J L A J P I X N  
J J S Y L A J G A T E S T A T  
G L T E H U I S A C H U R C H



## ACROSS

1. Persons; men, women, and children; human beings
4. A large stone that sticks up out of the ground or the sea
7. A male parent
8. The Messiah, as foretold by the prophets
10. An adult male human being

## DOWN

2. The name that Jesus called Simon
3. A persons who speaks for God
5. To speak
6. The whole body of believers in Christ
9. A male child in relation to his parents

PETER	FATHER	PEOPLE	SON	CHRIST
PROPHET	ROCK	MAN	CHURCH	SAY

CHRIST	EARTH	SON	PROPHETS	PEOPLE
BLESSED	KINGDOM	CHURCH	GATES	BAPTIST
LIVING	ROCK	FATHER	HADES	ELIJAH
JOHN	HEAVEN	PETER	KEYS	JEREMIAH

