

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES

PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS

*"Still a wonderful place to pray & stay."*

7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills. NSW. 2147

Ph. 9622 2920

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

**Parish Priest:** Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran  
**Parish Office Team:** Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Jane Nguyen  
**Sacrament Co-Ordinator:** Artelle Lenthall  
**Office Hours: Monday-Friday:** 9am - 3.00pm  
**WEEKDAY MASS:** Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am  
 Thursday 9.00am  
**WEEKEND MASS:** Saturday Vigil 6pm  
 Sunday 8am & 9.30am

**Parish School:** OLOL 8869 6800  
**Principal:** Ms Keiran Byrnes  
**Reconciliation:** Saturday 4:30-5:30pm  
**Baptismal Preparation:** 20th September 2023  
**Baptism:** 8th October 2023  
**Parish Website:** [www.lol7hills.com.au](http://www.lol7hills.com.au)  
**Catechist Coordinator :** Sandy Manamperi  
 0480 266 339  
**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/LOL7Hills/>

## The Transfiguration of the Lord 6 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, Alfredo Fernandez, Shelley Firth, Anthony Janicska, Ian & Irene Hall, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Debra Price, Sue Tiplado, Vinnie Zarha, Natalie Woodward, Sr Colleen O'Sullivan, Tek Wondo

**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:** George Alagiah, Neil Amaratunga, Marciano Areglamos, Mansour Ahmad, Lydia & Pasquale Busac, Agnes Bonello, Anton, Philomena & Clarence Corera, Felisa Conejos, Sarojini Chary, 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, Debbie Mifsud, Anthony & Evangelista Micallef, Joseph Mula, Michelle Muscat, Pacienza Piscopo, Trent Ross, Margie Silva, Eddie Tabone, Jessica Neodama, Joseph & Theresa Vella, Chrisantha Wijesundara.

**Anniversaries:** Fredy Alphonse, Caroline & Andre, Almeida, Gay & Jacqueline Angley, Joe & Lisette Aristobile, Giovanni Barnaba, Nazarene (Ronnie) Borg, Rolify Burac, Michelle Azzopardi, Frank & Fortunata Baiada, Josephine Calleja, Simeon Carlos, Charlie Chircop, Danielle Chalon, Monica, Conception & Dominic D'Souza, Conchita Deloso, Antonia, 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, Apolinario Maglaya, Tomasa & Nicanor Magpayo, Laurence Morrissey, Jason Muscat, Jim & Philippa Muscat, Alberto Nahoy, Ersilia Paolini, Thirucheluum, Philomina, Theanmolish, Jayantibhai Parmar, Nirmala, John Portelli, John Ratnam, Felicisimo Prahinog, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Maureen & Barry Seaman, John & Mary Silva, Vivian Silva, Rosary Silva, Pauline & Santan Soares, John Spiteri, Salu Zammit, S. Susainathan, Dionisio Udan, Melchor Usman, Romualdo Austria Snr.

**Remembrance:** France Angseeing, Cynthia Avery, Gregorio Almodovar, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Sam Borg, Barbara Chandler, Lina Cabaero, Cini Family, Dennis Clarke, Myrna Cruz, Emerenciana Dizon, Anacleto Dizon, Ngan Siu Eng, Julian Epondulan, Melvyn Fernandes, Felina & Apolinario Maglaya, Zaren & Sam Formosa, John & William Formosa, Charlie Gauci, Francisca Garcia, Sam & Mary Galea, Joe, 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, Rita Leon, Taral Parmar, 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.

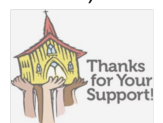
**BSB:** 067 950

**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.lol7hills.org.au](http://www.lol7hills.org.au)

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**FIRST READING** A reading from the book of Daniel 7:9-10. 13-14

As I watched: Thrones were set in place and one of great age took his seat. His robe was white as snow, the hair of his head as pure as wool. His throne was a blaze of flames, its wheels were a burning fire. A stream of fire poured out, issuing from his presence. A thousand thousand waited on him, ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. A court was held and the books were opened. I gazed into the visions of the night. And I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven, one like a son of man. He came to the one of great age and was led into his presence. On him was conferred sovereignty, glory and kingship, and men of all peoples, nations and languages became his servants. His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty which shall never pass away, nor will his empire ever be destroyed.

The Word of the Lord.

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**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**(R.) The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.**

1. The Lord is king, let earth rejoice,  
let all the coastlands be glad.  
Cloud and darkness are his raiment;  
his throne, justice and right. **(R.)**

3. For you indeed are the Lord  
most high above all the earth  
exalted far above all spirits. **(R.)**

2. The mountains melt like wax  
before the Lord of all the earth.  
The skies proclaim his justice;  
all peoples see his glory. **(R.)**

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**SECOND READING** A reading from the second letter of St Peter 1:16-19

It was not any cleverly invented myths that we were repeating when we brought you the knowledge of the power and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we had seen his majesty for ourselves. He was honoured and glorified by God the Father, when the Sublime Glory itself spoke to him and said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour.' We heard this ourselves, spoken from heaven, when we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have confirmation of what was said in prophecies; and you will be right to depend on prophecy and take it as a lamp for lighting a way through the dark until the dawn comes and the morning star rises in your minds.

The Word of the Lord.

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**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

This is my Son, my beloved,  
in whom is all my delight: listen to him.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

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



## GOSPEL REFLECTION - *The Transfiguration of the Lord*

In today's Gospel, Peter, James, and John witness something very strange when they climb to the top of the mountain with Jesus. Without warning, Jesus clothing becomes dazzling white, while both Moses and Elijah appear and talk to him. A voice comes from a cloud that overshadows the group. Within seconds, the vision ends.

This vision is rich in symbolism. Moses symbolizes the Jewish laws, while Elijah represents the prophets.

Together, they stand for The Law and the Prophets, another name for the Jewish Scriptures. The purpose of the Scriptures is to prepare the world for the messiah who will conquer the world and hand the rule of the world over to God. With God in control, there will be no more pain or suffering or death. The Jews called this the reign or the kingdom of God.

The cloud overshadowing Jesus and his visitors would have reminded the apostles of the column of clouds God used to lead the Jewish people out of Egypt. Thus, the cloud is symbolic of God's presence.

The symbolism in the remainder of the reading also deals with the reign of God. The Jews pictured the saints wearing bright white clothing in God's kingdom, which is exactly how Jesus is dressed.

Peter offers to erect three tents(or booths). Because the Jews lived in tents when they were in the desert on their way to the Promised Land, tents were a symbol of God's saving power. Some Jews believed everyone will live in tents in the kingdom of God.

This symbolism about the reign of God is very important because it points to Jesus being the messiah even though he will not live up to popular expectations.

Instead of being the victorious military leader some Jews were waiting for, Jesus was to die the cruel and painful death of a common criminal. By everyone's standards, Jesus was a failure.

In today's Gospel, it is clear the apostles do not grasp the meaning of what Jesus is telling them because as they come down from the mountain we find them discussing what Jesus meant when he said he would rise from the dead. They, too, were looking for a victorious political/ military messiah who would not die.

*For Reflection-*

*If the apostles had difficulty understanding what Jesus was telling them, it's understandable that today's society would have difficulty discerning God's will. Pray to the Holy Spirit to give wisdom to us, so we can discern God's will.*

## PARISH NEWS...

### DIOCESAN SYNOD SURVEY

Thank you all for enthusiastically partaking in the synodal survey last week. 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, everyone is invited to have a look.

### OVER 50'S MEETING 10TH AUGUST

A gentle reminder to please arrive early as to be ready for the school performance. Thank you

### 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

### 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)

### THE PILGRIM STATUE OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

The Statue of Virgin Mary is available for home visitation and will reside with you for a week, being Sunday to Saturday. If you are wishing to participate, please leave your name and address at the Parish Office or contact Maryse Augseesing on 0467 701 010 .



### 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.

### SOCIAL JUSTICE

Save the date: Saturday 16th of September 2-5:30 pm here at OLOL in our hall. Family friendly event to celebrate World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

Posters will be up soon to register.

### 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. Checkout locations and times at <https://www.blacktown.nsw.gov.au/Events-and-activities/Walking-Together-Workshops>.

## DIOCESAN NEWS

### 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)

### 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)

### Billings Natural Fertility Awareness Week Webinar 21st August 2023

This year, 2023, marks the 70th anniversary of the commencement of Dr John Billings' research in finding a natural, reliable method of Fertility Awareness for couples. During Natural Fertility Awareness Week, in August, a special, free webinar in recognition of Dr John Billings' work, entitled "*Understanding Couple Fertility: the Male Perspective*" will be held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023 at 7.30pm AEST.

As well as highlighting the male perspective in using the Billings Ovulation Method®, couples will reflect on how it has helped them in understanding their joint fertility, as well as benefiting their relationships and family life.

Please follow the link to register for the Webinar on Eventbrite.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/understanding-couple-fertility-the-male-perspective-webinar-tickets-678382479257?aff=oddtcreator>

### FaithLIFE – 3 Night Short Course on Synodal Spirituality: Beginning 22 August

Pope Francis has invited the Church to be more 'synodal'. But what does that mean as an expression of Christian spirituality? Sign up for the FaithLIFE 3-night short course on synodal spirituality with Sr Patty Andrew, brought to you by the Mission Enhancement Team (MET). 6:30PM to 8:30PM on three Tuesday: 22 Aug + 29 Aug + 5 Sep. Downstairs @ Bishop Bede Heather Centre: 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown NSW 2148. RSVP via <https://pfparra.org.au/faithlife/>

### 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)

### 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](mailto:admin@stbernadette.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](mailto:secretaryolrchurch@inet.net.au)

### St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust

The St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust offers scholarships to enable lay people to further their understanding and skills in leadership/ministry or a specialised activity, such as promoting faith enhancement, social justice and pastoral care. More information and Applications Forms are available on our website [pallottine.org.au/svpscholarship](http://pallottine.org.au/svpscholarship). Applications close 4 August 2023.

### Are you interested in bringing the Gospel message to prisoners and their families?

Kairos Prison Ministry is hosting an information session on Saturday 16th September at 2.30pm–4.30pm at Blacktown Uniting Church, 59 Bungarribee Road, Blacktown.

Come and hear how you can join other Christians in dramatically changing lives.

RSVP to [kidillwyniassec@kairos.org.au](mailto:kidillwyniassec@kairos.org.au) or phone Yvonne on 0419 284 128.

### 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)

### Do you find life & faith inspiration by listening to the experiences of others?

The Mission Enhancement Team's *Soul Food Podcast* features life & faith stories of people from our diocesan family. Listen now for FREE via our website or on Spotify: <https://pfparra.org.au/soulfood/>



## POPE FRANCIS' LATEST ANGELUS

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

Today the Gospel tells the parable of a merchant in search of precious gemstones, who, Jesus says, “on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it” (*Mt 13:46*). Let us pause a little on the actions of this merchant, who first *seeks*, then *finds* and finally *buys*.

This man's first action: to *seek*. He is an enterprising merchant, who does not stand still, but leaves his house and sets out in search of precious pearls. He does not say: “I am satisfied with the ones I have”; he looks for more beautiful ones. And this is an invitation for us not to close ourselves up in habit, in the mediocrity of those who are complacent, but to *revive desire*: to revive the desire, so that the desire to seek, to go on, is not extinguished; to cultivate dreams of good, to seek the newness of the Lord, because the Lord is not repetitive, He always brings newness, the newness of the Spirit; He always makes the realities of life new (cf. *Rev 21:5*). And we must have this attitude: to seek.

The merchant's second action is to *find*. He is a shrewd person who “has a keen eye” and knows how to recognize a pearl of great value. This is not easy. Let us think, for example, of the fascinating oriental bazaars, where the stalls, full of goods, are crowded along the walls of streets full of people; or of some of the stalls one sees in many cities, full of books and various objects. Sometimes in these markets, if one stops to look closely, one can discover treasures: precious things, rare volumes that, mixed in with everything else, one does not notice at first glance. But the merchant in the parable has a sharp eye and knows how to find, he knows how to “discern” to find the pearl. This too is a teaching for us: every day, at home, on the street, at work, on holiday, we have the possibility of discerning good. And it is important to know how to find what counts: to train ourselves to recognize the precious gems of life and to distinguish them from junk. Let us not waste time and freedom on trivial things, pastimes that leave us empty inside, while life offers us every day the precious pearl of the encounter with God and with others! It is necessary to know how to recognize it: to discern in order to find it.

And the merchant's last action: he *buys* the pearl. Realizing its immense value, he sells everything, he sacrifices all his goods just to have it. He radically changes the inventory of his warehouse; there is no longer anything other than that pearl: it is his only wealth, the meaning of his present and his future. This too is an invitation for us. But what is this pearl for which one can renounce everything, the one of which the Lord speaks to us? This pearl is Him: it is the Lord! Seeking the Lord and finding the Lord, encountering the Lord, living with the Lord. The pearl is Jesus: He is the precious pearl of life, to be sought, found and made one's own. It is worth investing everything in Him because, when one encounters Christ, life changes like this, doesn't it? Your life ... you meet Christ and in this way your life changes.

Let us then resume the merchant's three actions: seeking, finding and buying – and ask ourselves some questions

*Seeking*: am I searching, in my life? Do I feel fine, accomplished, am I satisfied, or do I exercise my desire for good?

Am I in spiritual retirement? How many young people are in retirement! The second action, *finding*: do I practise discerning what is good and comes from God, knowing how to renounce what leaves me with little or nothing? Finally, *buying*: do I know how to spend myself for Jesus? Is He in first place for me, is He the greatest good in life? It would be nice to say to Him today: “Jesus, You are my greatest good”. Each one of you in your heart, say now: “Jesus, you are my greatest good”. May Mary help us to seek, find and embrace Jesus with all of ourselves.

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### After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters!

Today we observe two World Days declared by the UN: International Friendship Day and the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. The first promotes friendship between peoples and cultures; the second combats the crime that turns people into commodities. Trafficking is a terrible reality, affecting too many people: children, women, workers..., so many exploited people; all living in inhuman conditions and suffering indifference and rejection by society. There is so much trafficking in the world today. God bless those who work to fight against trafficking.

Let us not cease to pray for beleaguered Ukraine, where the war is destroying everything, even grain. This is a grave offense to God, because grain is His gift to feed humanity; and the cry of millions of brothers and sisters who suffer hunger rises to Heaven. I appeal to my brothers, the authorities of the Russian Federation, that the Black Sea Initiative may be restored and grain may be transported safely.

The coming 4 August will mark three years since the devastating explosion in the port of Beirut. I renew my prayer for the victims and their families, who are seeking truth and justice, and I hope that Lebanon's complex crisis may find a solution worthy of the history and values of that people. Let us not forget that Lebanon is also a message.

I ask you to accompany me with prayer in my journey to Portugal, which will begin next Wednesday, on the occasion of World Youth Day. A great many young people, from all continents, will experience the joy of the encounter with God and with their brothers and sisters, guided by the Virgin Mary, who after the annunciation “arose and went with haste” (*Lk 1:39*). I entrust the World Youth Day pilgrims and all young people of the world to Her, shining star of the Christian path.

And now I greet you all, Romans and pilgrims from Italy and many countries. In particular, I greet the choir of children from Veliko Tarnovo, in Bulgaria, and the group of young Mexicans, as well as the teenagers from Biadene and Caonada. And I greet the young people of the *Immacolata*.

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

Enjoy your lunch, and *arrivederci!*



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## POPE FRANCIS' ADDRESS TO PORTUGUESE CHURCH LEADERS By Linda Bordoni

Praying Vespers in the 16th century Jeronimos Monastery in Lisbon on the first day of his visit to Portugal for World Youth Day 2023, Pope Francis urged the clergy and religious to proclaim the saving message of the Gospel with renewed impetus in a world in which there is so much darkness. Addressing Portuguese Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Persons, Seminarians and Pastoral Workers gathered in the ancient monastery on Wednesday evening, the Pope reflected on the readings of the Vespers that tell of the Lord's saving grace and of how Jesus changed the lives of his disciples by bringing God's closeness into the places and situations in which "people live, work and hope."

### Find new ways to follow the Lord

Acknowledging the weariness that can burden men and women of the Church in times that are "buffeted by social and cultural changes and increasingly marked by secularism, indifference to God and growing detachment from the practice of the faith," the Pope invited them "to bring their struggles and tears to the Lord" and with open hearts find new ways to follow Him.

That weariness, the Holy Father said, "is often accentuated by the disappointment and anger with which some people view the Church, at times due to our poor witness and the scandals that have marred her face and call us to a humble and ongoing purification, starting with the anguished cry of the victims, who must always be accepted and listened to."

*"The anguished cry of victims must always be accepted and listened to."*

"Whenever we feel discouraged, we can feel tempted to leave the boat and become entangled in the nets of resignation and pessimism," the Pope said, Jesus comes to us "amid our feelings of solitude and our crises, in order to help us begin anew."

### No to the 'administrators of the sacred'

Underscoring the relevance of this invitation, the Pope noted that when we feel discouragement and "retire" from apostolic zeal, "we risk becoming mere 'administrators of the sacred': 'It is very sad when a person who has consecrated his life to God becomes an 'official', a mere administrator of things. It is very sad,' and he appealed to those who may be bored and are living the mission as "a kind of job" to make room for "that repeated call of Jesus" and allow ourselves to be seduced by it.

Dear brothers and sisters, Pope Francis said: "We are surely living in difficult times, but the Lord is asking this Church: 'Do you want to leave the boat and plunge into disillusion, or will you let me enter and allow the newness of my words once more to take the helm? Do you want only to preserve the past which lies behind you, or do you want once again to lower the nets with enthusiasm for the catch?'"

"The Lord" he said, "is asking us to revive our 'restless' enthusiasm for the spread of the Gospel," and reiterating the need for a renewed missionary zeal, he asked his "Dear Portuguese friends" to set out from the shore, "not to conquer the world but to make it exult in the comforting joy of the Gospel."

"This is not the time to stop and give up, to drag the boat to shore or to look back. We must not take flight from the present out of fear, or take refuge in forms and practices of the past. Now is the God-given time of grace to sail boldly into the sea of evangelization and of mission," he added.

*"Now is the God-given time of grace to sail boldly into the sea of evangelization and of mission."*

Thus, Pope Francis had three indications which, he said, are inspired by the Gospel.

### Put out into the deep, share the journey, evangelize

"First," he said, *"Put out into the deep."* To lower the nets anew, he explained, it is necessary to leave disappointments and inertia, and *"pass from defeatism to faith."*

"A second choice," he continued, is *"to work together in offering pastoral care."*

This indication allowed the Pope to underscore, yet again, his belief that the Church is synodal: "She is communion, mutual assistance and shared journey."

*"The Church is communion, mutual assistance and shared journey."*

That, he explained, is the aim of the current Synod, which will have its first general assembly in October.

"On the boat of the Church, there has to be room for everyone: all the baptized are called on board to lower the nets, becoming personally involved in the preaching of the Gospel."

Acknowledging that this "is a great challenge," he said that it is something to be done "without worldliness, yet not without the world." And speaking off-the-cuff to highlight this crucial concept, the Pope said "clericalism is one of the most serious evils that can happen to the Church," and he urged those present to overcome this risk "without ideologies, without worldliness."

"In the Church, we help each other, we support one another and we feel ourselves called to spread a climate of constructive fraternity beyond our own walls," he said.

"The third choice," he said, is *"to become fishers of men."*

Noting that there is so much darkness in today's society, Pope Francis lamented the fact that "We seem to have lost a sense of enthusiasm, the courage to dream, the strength to confront challenges and to be confident about the future."

He described the course of humanity as one that sails "amid doubts and economic uncertainty, an impoverishment of social friendship, and lack of hope."

"As Church, we are entrusted with the task of putting out into the waters of this sea and casting the nets of the Gospel, not pointing fingers but bringing to the men and women of our time an offer of new life, the life of Jesus," he continued.

### 'Bring the openness of the Gospel to today's multicultural society'

We are called, the Holy Father said, "to bring the openness of the Gospel to a multicultural society; to bring the closeness of the Father to situations of growing uncertainty and poverty, especially among young people. To bring the love of Christ wherever families are fragile and relationships wounded. To transmit the joy of the Spirit where discouragement and fatalism reign."

*"We are called to bring the closeness of the Father to situations of growing uncertainty and poverty, especially among young people"*

"Dear brothers and sisters," Pope Francis concluded, spelling out the fact that his invitation is directed to all - lay people, religious men and women, priests, bishops, everyone - "do not be afraid, cast your nets (...) do not accuse others but feel the invitation of Jesus" and don't turn the Church into a customs house.

It's an invitation, he said, to everyone: "To the righteous, to those who are well off, to those who are happily married and to everyone else" because the Church is made of everyone, "righteous and sinners, good and bad, everyone, everyone, everyone. And then the Lord help us to sort that out!"

## 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 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, 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

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 School Mass	9.15am
11	Lourdes: Luminate Young Adults Group Meeting	6.45pm
12	Sacramental Program Meeting	4.30pm
14	St Vincent De Paul Meeting	7.00pm

## OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

### 5/6 August 2023

Acolytes	Vigil: Daniel La Guidara 8am: Fayelene Kennedy 9.30am Eugene Mui
Ministers	Vigil: A. Bellissimo, M. Mifsud 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, J. Martinez 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: Chisha Gonzales 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: Kathy Chamberlain

### 12/13 August 2023

Acolytes	Vigil: Derick Soares 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am Kilifi Huihui
Ministers	Vigil: J. Sarmiento, R.Soures 8am: C. Gonzales, H. Gonzales 9.30am: S. Lenthall, A. Walker
Readers	Vigil: A. Punch, M. Simic 8am: J. Cabasa, K. Walker 9.30am: M. Aquino, K. Huihui
Altar Servers	Vigil: M. Gluvic, J. Martinez, L. Sadipoor 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am L. Culili, J. Kingston, F. Wanandy
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Young Adults Group
Flowers	Claudette & Judith
Church cleaning	17 August Cathy Hutchings Annette Peatman
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: VOLUNTEER


# The Kids' Bulletin

Feast of the Transfiguration  
August 6th, 2023



took Peter, James and John up a



Suddenly His  became dazzling white, like the




began to speak with Moses and Elijah,

who appeared beside Him.




were terrified.

Peter said, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. Shall we

build  : one for You, one for Moses and

one for Elijah?" Then a  came over them, and a

voice came out of it and said, "This is my beloved Son.

Listen to Him." Then only  was there with them.

Coming down the , He told  not to tell

anyone what happened until after He rose from the dead.

Use the pictures to help read the story  
from today's Gospel reading!

## The Transfiguration

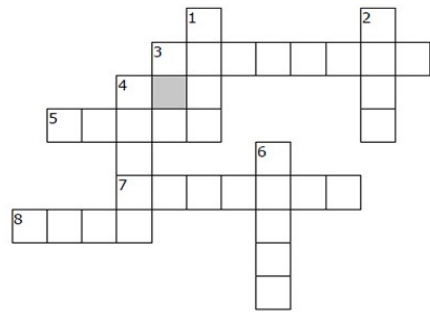
While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" Matthew 17:5 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 17:1-9



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

SIX	PETER	CLOTHES	VOICE	JOHN
LOVE	MOSES	GOOD	WHITE	ELIJAH
JAMES	DAYS	APPEARED	MOUNTAIN	HIGH



### ACROSS

- A raised part of the earth's surface, larger than a hill
- A white or gray mass of very small drops of water that floats in the sky
- Articles of apparel such as pants, shirts, dresses, etc.
- To have a strong feeling of affection for someone

### DOWN

- Something that is pleasing, enjoyable, or of high quality
- Having a great distance from top to bottom
- The sound produced by the vocal organs; what we use to speak
- The color of snow or milk

HIGH  
VOICE

CLOUD  
GOOD

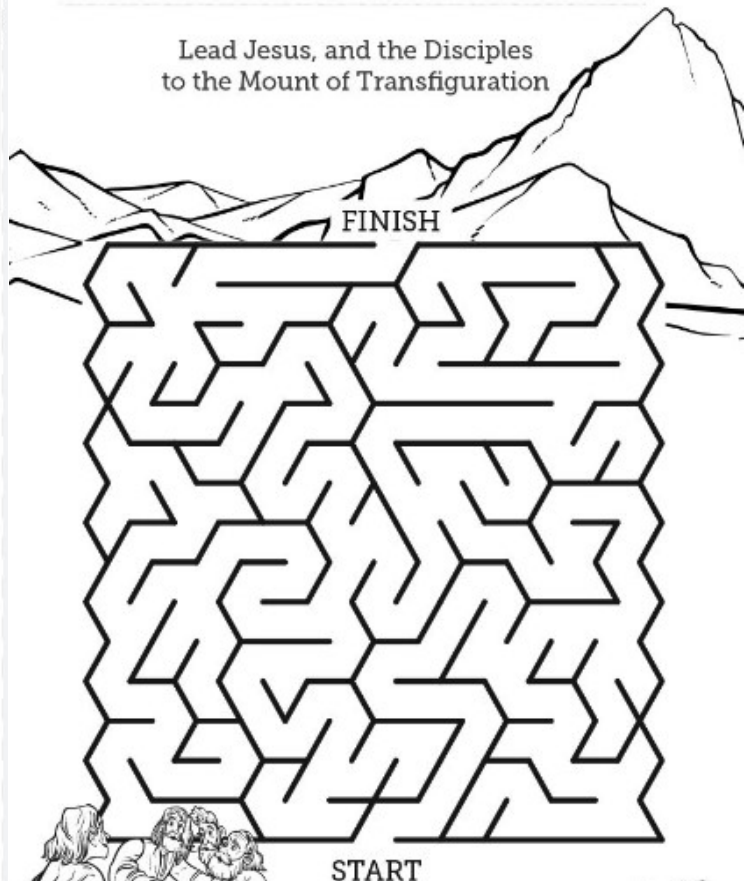
WHITE  
LOVE

MOUNTAIN  
CLOTHES



## JESUS TRANSFIGURED

Lead Jesus, and the Disciples  
to the Mount of Transfiguration



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