

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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Office Hours: Monday-Friday: 9am - 3.00pm
WEEKDAY MASS: Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am
 Thursday 9.00am
WEEKEND MASS: Saturday Vigil 6pm

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/>



22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 3 September 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, Alfredo Fernandez, 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, Felisa Conejos, Anton, Philomena & Clarence Corera, Sarojini Chary, Sarah De Silva, Gladys Fernando, John Lionel, Fernando, Nasser Dehdeh, Aurora Dumlaio, Joan Falzon, Vilma Flores, Alfredo Fernandez, Teodoro Garcia, Ranjan Fernando, Joseph Galea, Charlie Gauci, Maria Garufo, Joy Hayward, Rohan Jayasundara, Rohan Jayasundara, Anthony & Evangelista Micallef, Solomon Morias, Lyn Morrissey, Joe Mula, Patricia Oreo, Pacienza Piscopo, Jessica Neodama, Illuminada Sunga, Maria Fely Sebastian, Jonathan Tek Kie, Joseph & Theresa Vella.

Anniversaries: Fredy Alphonse, Rolily Burac, Rose Camenzuli, Josephine Cortis, Paul & Simone Commarmond, Mervyn Costello, Conchita Deloso, Zemanda Garcia, Clive Diggelman, Joan Falzon, Xavier Francis, Antonia, Josephine Francis, Sheela Franklin, Shanti Fernando, Charlie Gravina, John Johnson, Jason Muscat, Laurence Morrissey, John & Mary Moore, Philippa & Jim Muscat, Alberto Nahoy, Ignacio Nonato Snr, Cordula Paiva, Adrian Pereira, John Portelli, John Ratnam, Cornelio & Illuminada Rondario, T. Selvin, Sam Silvia, John Spiteri, Caroline Susainathan, Edwid Tabone, Melchor Usman, Arthur Zammit.

Remembrance: Fe Abadiano, France Angseeing, Cynthia Avery, Gregorio Almodovar, Carmen Attard, Cynthia Avery, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Lina Cabaero, Dennis Clarke, Charles Clinton, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Antonia DeGuire, Loui DeGuire, Emerenciana Dizon, Anacleto Dizon, Ngan Siu Eng, Melvyn Fernandes, Evangeline Garcia, Jose Garcia, Leandro Garcia Snr, Rudy Garcia, Francisca Garcia, Constance Gaycroft, Sam & Mary Galea, James Gray, Christine Gomez, Joe, Dolly Huertas, Selvam Irudayaraj, Harold, Marc, Rosine Lafleur, Josefina Lim, Rita Leon, Norma Lorenzo, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Maureen & John Mead, Pauline Meilak, Mary Mifsud, Emilia & William Mifsud, Marcel Mohsen, Anton & Lourda Motha, Louis & Stephen Mula, Charles Muscat, Michelle Muscat, Mary & Francis Muscat, Taral Parmar, Lakshman Pereira, Laureano Reyes, Jude Ranasinghe, Rosaline Ratnam, Cua Sing, Betty Taiarol, Jim Vella, Shane Vaz, Hector & Rita Welgampola, Chrisantha Wijesundara.

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 Augseeing on 0467 701 010.

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.

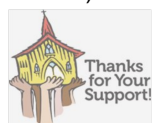
ON-LINE BANK DONATIONS

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 Jeremiah 20:7-9

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt. Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!' The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long. I used to say, I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more. Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. (R.) | 3. So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. (R.) |
| 2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. (R.) | 4. For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. (R.) |
-

SECOND READING A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 12:1-2

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart,
that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 16:21-27

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day.

Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's. Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the altar.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from you.

Amen





FROM FR. HENRY DUC

Dear Friends,

My grandfather passed away more than 32 years ago, when I was in my second year for the Formation program and I could not make the trip back home to attend his funeral, since the flight between Sydney and Saigon was not easy and far too expensive then.

I remember at the end of the day, he gathered everyone in the family together to pray our evening prayer in front of our family altar, and my sister, the youngest of his grandchildren, was always seated in his lap to learn her first prayers. I can never forget what he said to her one night after prayer in front of us, 'I'd like you to remain my little grandchild like this and be happy forever.' I want to freeze that moment, but it has gone just like my grandpa has gone, my sister of course can't be such a little girl as this was more than forty years ago, thankfully she is still a happy girl after those years.

Humanly speaking, we all love to see our loved ones happy and trouble-free throughout their lives, and none of us would want those we love to suffer in anyway, and Peter was the same. Consequently when Jesus foretold about his prominent Passion and death before him and other disciples, Peter became so protective to the point that he was prepared to 'remonstrate' Jesus as Matthew said. Peter thought that his strong words would make Jesus change his mind and back off from his plan. Instead of going along with Peter's intervention, Jesus surprisingly had a go at Peter and didn't hesitate to call him Satan and name him as an obstacle stopping him to fulfill the saving mission, whose summit was his crucifixion on the Cross.

Just minutes before, Peter, we remember, received the highest honor to be presented with the keys of the kingdom of heaven from Jesus for his solemn profession of faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the Living God, he then was given a dressing down for acting according to human wisdom instead of God's. Jesus quickly pointed out to him and his friends this truth, that his way is not God's.

Jesus then explained to the disciples what he meant about God's way, that they are required to renounce themselves, even their own lives, and take up their cross of troubles and suffering to walk along his footsteps.

Let us pray today for the grace to help us discern God's way in our lives and make it ours, and the strength to embrace the cross of whatever trouble we are invite to carry to follow the Lord.

Happy Father's Day.

Have a Cross-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 4 about the well versed in the community could help the lesser known to grow stronger and better.

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. 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! Missed part 1 (read Uluru Statement from the Heart) and join us for part 2 on Monday 11th September or Friday 8th September 7-9 pm in Parish hall.

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. Your compassionate donation will help our Clergy Support Foundation to care for our priests, and provide them with personalised health and wellbeing support. Donation envelopes can be found throughout the church. Thank you.

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.

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

GOD BLESS
our Fathers

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 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. The Awards Ceremony will be held in November. More details to come.

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>

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!

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

Glenmore Park St Padre Pio Feast Day Celebrations

Everyone is invited to join us for our parochial feast of St Padre Pio.

There are numerous blessings received by his intercession and we thank God for the gift of our patron: St Padre Pio.

Three Day Triduum:

- Thursday 21 September – 7.00pm Novena to St Padre Pio and Mass
- Friday 22 September – 7.00pm Novena to St Padre Pio and Mass
- Saturday 23 September – 5.30pm Novena to St Padre Pio and Vigil Mass

Feast Day: Sunday 24 September. At 10am: Solemn Procession with the Relic of St. Padre Pio, Solemn Feast Day Mass, Veneration and Blessing by the Relic of St. Padre, Other festivities. Address: 34 William Howell Drive, Glenmore Park. Enquiries: (02) 4789 2232 or glenmorepark@parracatholic.org

Masterclass for Sponsor Married Couples: 19 October

The Diocese is looking to more deeply accompany couples preparing to be married. Have you been married for more than 5 years? Committed to living the sacrament of Marriage? Willing to give time limited assistance to couples preparing for marriage? Join us for a Masterclass on Thursday 19 October at 7.30pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown, on Sponsoring engaged couples in your Parish using the SmartLoving Engaged Online program.

To book your attendance in-person or via Zoom or to ask further questions, please email marriage@parracatholic.org or phone Marisa on (02) 8838 3460.

St Bernadette's Lalor Park Wednesday Evening Devotions

St Bernadette's Parish, Lalor Park, is hosting weekly devotions to Our Lady of Lourdes & St Bernadette every Wednesday evening at 6.30pm with Adoration and Rosary and special prayers, followed by Mass at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9672 4037 or admin@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au

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.

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.

ACBC Social Justice Statement 2023/2024, Listen, Learn, Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples check it out at <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/>



POPE FRANCIS' ADDRESS AT THE ANGELUS LAST SUNDAY

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

Today in the Gospel (cf. *Mt* 16, 13-20), Jesus asks the disciples a good question: "Who do men say that the Son of man is?" (v.13).

It is a question we too can ask: what do the people say about Jesus? In general, good things: many see him as a great teacher, as a special person: good, righteous, consistent, courageous... But is this enough to understand who He is, and above all, is it enough for Jesus? It seems not. If He were simply a person from the past – just as the figures cited in the same Gospel, John the Baptist, Moses, Elijah and the great prophets were for the people – He would merely be a good memory of a bygone time. And for Jesus, this will not do. Therefore, immediately afterwards, the Lord asks the disciples the decisive question: "But who do you – you! – say that I am?" (v. 15). Who am I for you, now? Jesus does not want to be a key figure from past history; He wants to be an important person for you today, for me today; not a distant prophet: Jesus wants to be the God who is close to us!

Christ, brothers and sisters, is not a memory of the past, but the God of the present. If He were merely an historic figure, to imitate Him today would be impossible: we would find ourselves faced with the great chasm of time, and above all, faced with his model, which is like a very high, unscalable mountain; we would want to climb it, but lack the ability and the necessary means. Instead, Jesus is living: let us remember this, Jesus is living, Jesus lives in the Church, He lives in the world, Jesus accompanies us, Jesus is by our side, He offers us His Word, He offers us His grace, which enlighten and refresh us on the journey: He, an expert and wise guide, is happy to accompany us on the most difficult paths and the steepest slopes.

Dear brothers and sisters, we are not alone on the path of life, because Christ is with us, Christ helps us to walk, as He did with Peter and the other disciples. It is precisely Peter, in today's Gospel, who understands this and by grace recognizes in Jesus "*the Christ, the Son of the living God*" (v. 16): "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God", says Peter; He is not a character from the past, but the Christ, that is, the Messiah, the awaited one; not a deceased hero, but the Son of the living God, made man and come to share the joys and the labours of our journey. Let us not be discouraged if at times the summit of the Christian life seems too high and the path too steep. Let us look to Jesus, always; let us look to Jesus who walks beside us, who accepts our frailties, shares our efforts and rests his firm and gentle arm on our weak shoulders. With Him close at hand, let us also reach out to one another and renew our trust: with Jesus, what seems impossible on our own is no longer so, with Jesus we can go forth!

Today it will be good for us to repeat the decisive question, that comes out of his mouth: "Who do you – Jesus says to you – who do you say that I am?" Let us hear the voice of Jesus, who asks us this. In other words: who is Jesus for me? An important figure, a point of reference, an unattainable model? Or is He God the Son, who walks by my side, who can lead me to the peak of holiness, that I cannot reach by myself? Is Jesus truly living in my life, does Jesus live with me? Is He my Lord? Do I entrust myself to Him in moments of difficulty? Do I cultivate his presence through the Word, through the Sacraments? Do I let myself be guided by Him, together with my brothers and sisters, in the community?

May Mary, Mother of the path, help us to feel that Son alive and present beside us.

After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters!

On Thursday, I will set out on a journey for a few days in the heart of Asia, in Mongolia. It is a much-desired visit, which will be an opportunity to embrace a Church that is small in number, but vibrant in faith and great in charity; and also to meet at close quarters a noble, wise people, with a strong religious tradition that I will have the honour of getting to know, especially in the context of an interreligious event. I would not like to address you, brothers and sisters of Mongolia, to tell you that I am happy to travel to be with you as a brother to all. I thank your authorities for their kind invitation, and those who, with great commitment, are preparing for my arrival. I ask all of you to accompany this visit with your prayers.

I assure my remembrance in prayer of the victims of the fires that have broken out in recent days in north-eastern Greece, and I express my solidarity with the Greek people. And let us stay close to the Ukrainian people, who are suffering due to the war, and are suffering a lot: let us not forget Ukraine!

I greet you all, Romans and pilgrims from Italy and many countries.

In particular, I greet the parish group from Madrid; the priests from the diocese of Molfetta-Ruvo-Giovanazzo-Terlizzi, with their bishop; the faithful of San Gaetano da Thiene in Melia; the families from the quarter of Pizzo Carano di San Cataldo and the cyclists from Ciociaria. I greet the altar servers of the pastoral unit of Codevigo, in the diocese of Padua, on a pilgrimage to Rome with their parish priest.

Today we remember Saint Monica, mother of Saint Augustine: with her prayers and her tears, she asked the Lord for the conversion of her son; a strong woman, a good woman! Let us pray for the many mothers who suffer when their children are a little lost or who find themselves on difficult paths in life.

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

Enjoy your lunch, and *arrivederci!*

POPE FRANCIS WARNS AGAINST DEHUMANIZING TYRANNY OF TECHNOCRACY By Lisa Zengarini

Pope Francis on Saturday decried the many “dehumanizing trends” resulting from technocracy, impacting especially the poorest and most vulnerable in society. In a speech to a group of Catholic legislators, on 26 August, he said the “dominant technocratic paradigm”, with its negative impact upon both human and natural ecology, raises profound questions about “the place of human beings and of human action in the world”.

The International Catholic Legislators Network

The Pope was addressing participants in the fourteenth Annual Meeting of the International Catholic Legislators Network (ICLN) taking place in Frascati, near Rome. The ICLN is a non-profit organization established in 2010 to educate, empower and connect in fellowship a new generation of Christian leaders serving in a public office, regardless their political affiliation, by offering them spiritual and doctrinal formation and global networking opportunities. The network is also engaged in helping to build bridges between political leaders, nations, non-profit organizations and Churches in a crisis-ridden world.

The technocratic tyranny reducing human beings to objects

Reflecting on the theme of the ICLN meeting this year, “Great Power Struggle, Corporate Capture and Technocracy: A Christian Answer to Dehumanizing Trends”, Pope Francis noted that one of the most concerning aspects of the modern “technocratic paradigm”, is its “subtle seduction of the human spirit, lulling people – and especially the young – into misusing their freedom”. “We see this - he said - when men and women are encouraged to exercise control over, instead of responsible custodianship of material or economic ‘objects’, the natural resources of our common home, or even one another”. “Such *objectification* - the Pope remarked - can take place directly or indirectly, through daily choices that may seem neutral but ‘are in reality decisions about the kind of society we want to build (*Laudato Si*’, 107).”.

Algorithms and fake news

Opposed to this “objectification” is connecting people, making them feel part of something larger than themselves, which is the central aim of ICLN. Connecting is also the stated goal of many social media platforms. However, the Pope noted, “many dehumanizing trends resulting from technocracy are found on these media, such as the deliberate spread of false information, the promotion of hatred and division, and the reduction of human relationships to mere algorithms, not to mention a false sense of belonging, especially among young people, that can lead to isolation and loneliness”.

Authentic encounter vs. virtual encounter

“This misuse of virtual encounter can only be overcome by the culture of authentic encounter, which involves a radical call to respect and to listen to one another, including those with whom we may strongly disagree,” Pope Francis stressed. “Here too your network can offer an example, for you seek to draw people from across the globe to encounter one another in this genuine way”.

Connecting people for a common end

The Pope went on to remark that networking is not only about gathering people together: “It is also for enabling them to cooperate in reaching a common objective.” Both these essential aspects underpin the work of the ICLN, and reflect the nature of the Church herself, “the People of God called to live in both communion and mission” to spread the Gospel. The Catholic network, the Pope said, is therefore already an answer to the “dehumanizing trends” of our technocratic societies. “*By remaining a genuinely international Catholic network, you will credibly demonstrate an alternative to that technocratic tyranny which lures our brothers and sisters into seizing the raw elements of both nature and human nature, and diminishes their capacity for making decisions or living genuinely free lives*”

ICLN's mission

Pope Francis concluded by encouraging ICLN to continue its “efforts to form a new generation of well educated and faithful Catholics leaders committed to promoting the Church's social and ethical teachings in the public sphere”. “*I pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire and guide your efforts to form a new generation of well educated and faithful Catholics leaders committed to promoting the Church's social and ethical teachings in the public sphere. In this way, you will surely contribute to the building up of God's kingdom.*”

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER By Devin Watkins

“*Let us pray for those people on the margins of society in subhuman living conditions, that they may not be neglected by institutions and never be cast out.*” Pope Francis launched that invitation on Tuesday as he released his prayer intention for September 2023, which is for “people living on the margins”.

‘Stiff necks, indifferent hearts’

In The Pope Video for September, produced by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, he reflected on the indifference endured by many people who are marginalized. “A homeless person who dies on the street will never appear among the top stories of search engines or newscasts,” he lamented, wondering how our societies could have reached such a level of indifference. Pope Francis attributed this indifference to a “throwaway culture in which millions of men and women are worth nothing compared to economic goods”. He said our “necks are going to get stiff from looking the other way so we don't have to see this situation.”

Culture of welcoming

The Pope then urged everyone to pay attention to people who face marginalization, even if it results from “poverty, addictions, mental illness, or disability.” “Let's focus on accepting them, on welcoming all the people who need it,” he said. In response to such indifference, he held up a “culture of welcoming, of providing shelter, of giving a home, of offering love, of giving human warmth.” And Pope Francis concluded by inviting every Christian to pray for those people “on the margins of society living in subhuman living conditions.”

Widespread poverty and hardship

A press release accompanying his prayer intention noted that The Pope Video for September contains images of homeless people, street children washing car windshields, and people with various disabilities. According to the UN, over 10 percent of the global population, or 700 million people, live in extreme poverty. Another 1.6 billion people dwell in inadequate living conditions, even in developed nations. “Similarly, reports from the World Health Organization reveal that one of every eight persons lives with a ‘mental disorder,’ and that 16% of the world's population lives with a ‘serious disability’,” according to the press release.

Hearts of flesh

Cardinal Michael Czerny, prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, echoed the Pope's prayer intention, inviting us to have hearts of flesh and not of stone. “Welcoming is more than helping: it means putting the other person at our level, rediscovering a sister or a brother we have lost,” said Cardinal Czerny. “We are transformed into one Body through prayer.”

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

SEPTEMBER

6	First Holy Communion Practice (Group 1)	6.30pm
7	Bishops Father's Day Appeal	All Masses
10	First Holy Communion (Group 1)	11.30am
13	First Holy Communion Practice (Group 2)	6.30pm
13	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	7.30pm
14	Over 50's Meeting (25th Anniversary BBQ)	10.30am
15	Lourdes: Luminate Young Adults Group Night	6.45pm
17	Children's Liturgy Mass	9.30am
21	School Last Day Term 3	

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

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	
Musicians	Vigil: Youth for Christ 8am: Fr Henry 9.30am: Couples for Christ	
Flowers	Fenty & Liz	
Church cleaning	09 Sept	Tongan Community
Welcomers	Vigil: VOLUNTEER 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: Kathy Chamberlain	

9/10 September 2023

Acolytes	Vigil: Frank Paiva 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am Kilifi Huihui.	
Ministers	Vigil: C. Jansz, B. Motha 8am: F. Balatbat, E. Mi 9.30am: M. Aquino, S. Lenthall.	
Readers	Vigil: A. Punch, M. Simic 8am: J. Cabasa, K. Walker 9.30am: K. Huihui, F. Kennedy	
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. Bagatella, J. Martinez, A. Spadaro. 8am: K. Maruthanayagam, VOLUNTEERS 9.30am : C. Attard, L. Culili, J. Kingston.	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Young Adults Group	
Musicians	Vigil: OFS Choir 8am: Fr Henry 9.30am: Tongan Choir	
Flowers	Claudette & Judith	
Church cleaning	21 Sept	Cathy Hutchings & Annette Peatman.
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: VOLUNTEER	

The Kids' Bulletin Take Up Your Cross

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 3rd, 2023

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Matthew 16:24 (NIV)

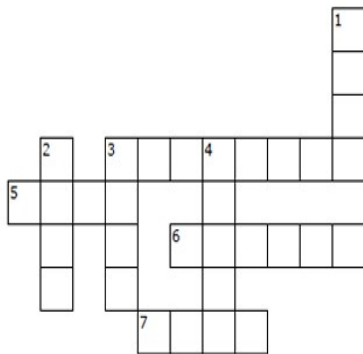
Based on Matthew 16:22-28 (NIV)



What did Jesus say that the people would have to do to be His disciples? Find your way through the maze and then use the letters from that path to fill in the blanks.

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

I follow Jesus



ACROSS

3. One who believes in Christ and follows his teachings
5. The period between birth and death
6. To accept the leadership of someone
7. To no longer have something because it has been taken away from you or misplaced

DOWN

1. To keep something from harm or loss
2. To discover something unexpectedly or as a result of a search
3. To refuse to allow yourself to have something you want
4. The object upon which Jesus was crucified

GIVE	EXCHANGE	GOOD	WHOLE
FIND	SAVE	CROSS	GAIN
SELF	SOUL	FOLLOW	LOSE
DENY	WORLD	FORFEIT	LIFE



FIND	LIFE	DISCIPLE	FOLLOW
DENY	CROSS	SAVE	LOSE