

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

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

Parish School: OLOL 8869 6800
Principal: Ms Keiran Byrnes
Reconciliation: Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
Baptismal Preparation: 20th September 2023
Baptism: 8th October 2023
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.com.au
Catechist Coordinator : Sandy Manamperi
 0480 266 339
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/LOL7Hills/>

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time 17 September 2023 • Year A



Let us Pray for the Sick

Leonila Ahillon, Joseph Akkary, Mary Attard, Cynthia Avery, Barrie Chamberlain, Rosella Booth, Jock Clark Snr, Alfredo Fernandez, Gregory Fernando, Shelley Firth, Julian Gasparini, Anthony Janicska, Ian & Irene Hall, Elizabeth Mifsud, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Debra Price, Sue Tipaldo, 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: Phylis Amarasinghe, Lynne Albace, Christie Alwis, Mansour Ahmad, Ronald Bailey, Mary Bowie, Gladys Fernando, John Lionel, Fernando, Joan Falzon, Vilma Flores, Alfredo Fernandez, Ranjan Fernando, Joseph Galea, Jonathan Tek Kie, Angelita Mangahas, Anthony & Evangelista Micallef, Solomon Morias, Lyn Morrissey, Joe Mula, Mary Paz Novilla, Patricia Ore, Pacienza Piscopo, Illuminada Sunga, Maria Fely Sebastian, Joseph & Theresa Vella, Mercedes Yu.

Anniversaries: Fredy Alphonse, Victor Azzopardi, Horace Baptist, Rose Camenzuli, Joseph 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 Gauci, Charlie Gravina, Bertu Mula, Jason Muscat, Laurence Morrissey, John & Mary Moore, Philippa & Jim Muscat, Alberto Nahoy, Ignacio Nonato Snr, Cordula Paiva, Adrian Pereira, John Ratnam, Cornelio & Illuminada Rondario, T. Selvin, Sam Silvia, Caroline Susainathan, Edwid Tabone, Melchor Usman, Arthur Zammit.

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Fe Abadiano, France Angseeing, Carmen Attard, Cynthia Avery, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Sam Borg, Lydia & Pascal Busac, Lina Cabaero, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Antonia DeGuire, Loui DeGuire, Anacleto Dizon, Melvyn Fernandes, Constance Gaycroft, Sam & Mary Galea, Christine Gomez, Selvan Irudayaraj, Harold, Rosine & Mark Lafleur, Rita Leon, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Deidre Matthews, 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, Lakshman Pereira, Rosaline Ratnam, Barry, Paul & Marion Ryan, Betty Taiarol, Jim Vella, Shane Vaz.

*Names are to be submitted to the Parish Office on or before a Thursday and will be published for 4 weeks at a time.



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 Angseeing 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

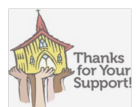
On behalf of the Parish Community, I would like to thank you very much for your ongoing support, which has been absolutely vital in keeping our Parish going strong. Projects completed include the Hall Kitchen renovation, Parish Meeting Room painting, Parish Office and Meeting Room Roof painted, Church 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 book of Ecclesiasticus 27:30 – 28:7

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. **(R.)**

3. His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. **(R.)**

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R.)**

4. For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins. **(R.)**

SECOND READING A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 14:7-9

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 18:21-35

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.

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,

Since 1996, the World Bank, together with the International Monetary Fund and the international community began the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative program aimed to work with developing countries to reduce the debt burden for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries, a program that helps to provide billions of debt relief for a lot of financially troubled nations.

Such an internationally coordinated effort is very impressive, but it is nothing compared to the generosity of the king in the Gospel this Sunday, who is unbelievably kind to cancel a massive debt of ten thousand talents that one of his servant owes him.

Let us take moment to work out how much ten thousand talents would be worth and you can see the king's unbelievable act of generosity. According to biblical scholars, a talent would be equivalent to twenty years of wages for a common worker. Take the case of my salary, it has a talent value of \$330,000,000.00. Think about this massive number and you have some idea of how kind, how generous and how forgiving the king is to his poor subject.

Ironically the same man refuses to extend payment time for another person who has owed him just one hundred denarii, an equivalence of about AUD fifteen thousand despite his desperate plead. The man was even prepared to be physical to the debtor, by seizing his throat and throttling him.

Such a horrible act then was reported to the king, and the wicked servant was summoned to see the king, who of course was extremely angry with him for such a crime. He challenged the man for his failure to do to his friend what the king himself has done for him, which was a total cancellation of his beyond- imagination debt.

With this symbolic story, Jesus means to teach Peter and other disciples a profound message about endless the forgiveness they are expected to carry out in their everyday lives. They have to do it not seven times as Peter recommended, but 'seventy-seven times.'

Through the image of the king symbolizing God and the two servants symbolizing us, God's servants, Jesus tends to emphasize our duty to offer forgiveness to each other in the way God has endlessly forgiven us for all our trespasses.

Let us ask the Lord to open our hearts and minds to appreciate God's forgiving love to each of us, and to recognize our duty to forgive each other endlessly.

Have a forgiveness-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2023

Congratulations to 32 children who joined our Sacramental program this year and their families. Nine of them are going to receive the Eucharist for the first time this Sunday and twenty two last Sunday. Let's pray that they and their families will remain true friends of Jesus through the grace of the Eucharist.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

All children from 5 yrs up are invited to join in the Children's Liturgy at this Sunday's 9.30am Mass.

LOURDES PLAYGROUP IS BACK!

From the 13th of October, every Friday during school term, 9.30am—11.30am in the Parish Meeting Room, children aged 0 to 5 years old and their carers are welcome to come along during that time for a play, chat and cuppa in a fun, friendly environment! This is also great way to meet other potential OLOL school families although ALL ARE WELCOME. If you would like further information, please contact Maria Hosni 0432 174 056 or the Parish Office.

SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP

The Referendum is coming soon. The Social Justice group invites you to find out about the Voice to Parliament To ask the questions you want answered! Missed part 1 (read Uluru Statement from the Heart) and join us for part 2 on Friday 25th September 7-9 pm in Parish hall.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

The Hearts of Jesus and Mary Prayer Community invites us to a weekend with Jesus on the 30th of September and 1st of October 2023 in St Andrew the Apostle School Hall, Marayong. For more information contact their parish office on 9622 0817 or Josie 0452 486 323

REPORT FROM OUR LAST PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

The Parish Pastoral Council was convened last Wednesday and we started with a reading of the Position paper called 'What Lies Behind the First Ever Synod of the Diocese of Parramatta' prepared by Fr Paul Marshall for our diocesan synod, followed by a lively discussion. His paper reminded us of various issues our local Church has been facing and the opportunity for us to renew the Church as a whole and this parish community in particular. His quote from Bernard Franck, I think, is essential for our synodal process, that we need to collaborate, co-operate, accept, welcome, give and receive. These words I used to hear Bishop Bede Heather repeated again and again to our clergy while he was still in charge of the diocese. They suddenly disappeared for a long time and now begin to make a comeback thanks to Pope Francis' initiative

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.

INFORMATION SESSION FOR NEW CATECHISTS

If you are interested in partaking in the Ministry of Catechist, there will be an information session on Thursday, the 21st of September at 11am in the Parish Meeting Room. For any further details please contact Sandy in the Parish Office.

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 5 basically about what we should do to help the unchurched.

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/>

Spring | Season of Creation 2023 Catholic Outlook Magazine out now!

The Spring | Season of Creation 2023 edition of the *Catholic Outlook Magazine* – the news and views of the Diocese of Parramatta – is out now! In this edition, we welcome home our World Youth Day pilgrims and we ground ourselves spiritually and environmentally in this Season of Creation. Pick up your free copy from parishes and offices across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains today or read it online via catholicoutlook.org/magazine

Ordination to the Presbyterate: 21 September

Bishop Vincent Long and the Diocese of Parramatta invite you to the Ordination to the Presbyterate of Tom Green on Thursday 21 September at 7.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta.

Please RSVP to hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org if you can attend. We hope you will be able to join us at this joyous event for our Diocese and our faith community.

Peace, Justice and Ecology Season of Creation Weekly Zoom

Join Peace, Justice & Ecology for an hour on Thursdays during Season of Creation as we ponder, discuss, and pray through Pope Francis' call to World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation Message from Pope Francis.

For more information, please email met@parracatholic.org.au.

Diocesan Interfaith Commission Walking Together for Peace gathering: 21 September

The Interfaith Commission Diocese of Parramatta invite you to an interfaith gathering to mark the *UN International Day of Peace*. This is an opportunity to have real conversations and positive dialogue with people from faiths different to your own. The gathering will be held on Thursday 21 September from 6.30pm to 8.30pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. To RSVP, please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/walking-together-for-peace>

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

Diocese of Parramatta Season of Creation Mass: 23 September

Bishop Vincent invites everyone to join him celebrate Season of Creation with a Diocesan Mass held on **Saturday 23 September at 9am at St Andrew the Apostle Parish, Marayong**, followed by a simple eco-friendly morning tea and talk.

For more information, please email met@parracatholic.org.au.

Blacktown Parish Golf Day 2023: 29 September

The parish community of Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown, is inviting golfers to join their Parish Golf Day, which will take place on Friday 29 September from 7am at Stonecutter Ridge Golf Course - 86 Stonecutters Drive Colebee NSW 2761. All funds raised at this event will go towards the repair of our church roof at St Patrick's Church, Blacktown. For further information and/or to register to participate, please click onto the following website:

<https://www.mqofblacktown.org/golfdays2023> Or contact the parish office: (02) 9622 1125 or admin@mqofblacktown.org.au

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

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

Rydalmere Parish Perpetual Adoration Chapel now open

Holy Name of Mary Parish, Rydalmere, has a new Adoration Chapel that is open to the public 24/7 located at 4 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere. Fr Chadi welcomes everyone to the Chapel. For after-hours access please contact the Parish Office or Blake on (02) 9684 1541 or admin@holymary.org.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/>

Soul Food Podcast – Mission Enhancement Team 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' ANGELUS

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

Today the Gospel speaks to us about *fraternal correction* (cf. *Mt 18:15-20*), which is one of the highest expressions of love, and also one of the most demanding, because it is not easy to correct others. When a brother in faith wrongs you, then you, without rancour, help him, correct him: help by correcting. Unfortunately, however, often the first thing that is created around those who make a mistake is gossip, in which everyone comes to know the mistake, complete with details, apart from the person concerned! This is not right, brothers and sisters, this does not please God. I never tire of repeating that gossip is a plague on the life of people and communities, because it leads to division, it leads to suffering, it leads to scandal; it never helps improve or grow. A great spiritual master, Saint Bernard, said that idle curiosity and superficial words are the first steps on the ladder of pride, which does not lead upwards, but downwards, plunging man towards perdition and ruin (cf. *The twelve steps of humility and pride*). Instead, Jesus teaches us to behave in a different way. This is what He says today: "*If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone*" (v. 15). Speak to him about it "face to face", speak about it fairly, to help him understand where he has erred. And do this for his own good, overcoming shame and finding true courage, which is not to slander, but to tell him to his face with meekness and gentleness. But we might ask, what if this is not enough? What if he does not understand? Then we must look for help. Beware, though: not from the group that gossips! Jesus says: "Take one or two others along with you" (v. 16), meaning people who genuinely want to lend a hand to this misguided brother. And if he still does not understand? Then, Jesus says, involve the community. But here too, this does not mean to pillory a person, putting him to shame publicly, but rather to unite the efforts of everyone to help him change. Pointing the finger is not good; in fact, it often makes it more difficult for the wrongdoer to recognize his mistake. Rather, the community must make him feel that, while it condemns the mistake, it is close to the person with prayer and affection, always ready to offer forgiveness, understanding, and to start over.

And so, let us ask ourselves: how should I behave with a person who wrongs me? Do I keep it inside and accumulate resentment? "You will *pay* for it", those words which come so often: "you will *pay* for it...". Do I talk about it behind their backs? "Do you know what he did?"; and so on... Or am I brave, courageous, and do I try to talk about it to him or her? Do I pray for him or her, ask for help to do good? And do our communities take care of those who fall, so that they can get back up and start a new life? Do they point their fingers or open their arms? What do you do: do you point the finger or open your arms?

May Mary, who continued to love even as she heard people condemn her Son, help us to always seek the path of good.

After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters,

I wish to express my proximity to the dear people of Morocco, stricken by a devastating earthquake. I pray for the injured, for those who have lost their lives – so many! – and for their relatives. I thank the rescue workers and those who are working to alleviate the suffering of the people; may concrete help on the part of everyone support the population at this tragic time: let us be close to the people of Morocco! Today in Markowa, Poland, the martyrs Józef and Wiktoria Ulma, with their seven children, were beatified: an entire family exterminated by the Nazis on 24 March 1944 for having given shelter to some persecuted Jews. They opposed the hatred and violence that characterized that time with evangelical love. May this Polish family, which represents a ray of light in the darkness of the Second World War, be for all of us a model to imitate in the zeal for goodness and service to those in need. A round of applause for this family of Blesseds!

And following their example, let us hear the call to oppose the force of weapons with that of charity, the rhetoric of violence with the tenacity of prayer. Let us do so above all for the many countries that are suffering due to war; in a special way, let us intensify our prayer for beleaguered Ukraine. There are the flags, there, of Ukraine, which is suffering so, so much!

The day after tomorrow, 12 September, the dear Ethiopian people will celebrate their traditional New Year. I wish to extend my warmest wishes to the entire population, in the hope they will be blessed with the gifts of fraternal reconciliation and peace. Let us turn our thoughts today to the Abbey of Mont-Saint-Michel, in Normandy, which is celebrating the millennium of the consecration of its temple. And I greet you all, Romans and pilgrims from Italy and various countries, in particular the parish of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, from Madrid; the Risen Christ pastoral community from Saronno; candidates for confirmation from Soliera, and high school students from Lucca. As we approach the beginning of the catechetical year, Elledici, the Salesian publishing house, is donating to those present in the square today a catechetical handbook, entitled "Step by step": it is a beautiful gift! I would like to take this opportunity to thank the catechists for their valuable work and to wish the boys and girls in catechism the joy of encountering Jesus.

I wish you all a good Sunday, and please do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your meal, and *arrivederci!*

APPEAL

My thoughts go to the people of Libya, hard hit by violent rains that have caused flooding and inundation, causing numerous deaths and injuries, as well as extensive damage. I invite you to join my prayer for those who have lost their lives, their families and the displaced. Please do not fail in our solidarity with these brothers and sisters tried so hard by this calamity. And my thoughts also go out to the noble Moroccan people who have suffered these movements of the earth, these earthquakes. Let us pray for Morocco, let us pray for the inhabitants. May the Lord give them the strength to recover, to recover after this terrible disaster [It. *agguato*, "ambush"] that has befallen them.

* * *

Finally, my thoughts go out to the young, the sick, the elderly and newlyweds. Tomorrow the Church celebrates the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Let us not tire of being faithful to the Cross of Christ, a sign of love and salvation.

And please, brothers and sisters, let us continue to pray for peace in the world, especially in tormented Ukraine, whose sufferings are ever present in our minds and hearts.

And to all of you my Blessing.

POPE FRANCIS' CATECHESIS

Catechesis. The passion for evangelization: the apostolic zeal of the believer. 20. Blessed José Gregorio Hernández Cisneros, doctor of the poor and apostle of peace

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

In our catecheses, we continue to meet passionate witnesses to the proclamation of the Gospel. Let us recall that this is a series of catecheses on apostolic zeal, on the will and even the interior ardour to carry forward the Gospel. Today we go to Latin America, specifically to Venezuela, to get to know the figure of a layman, Blessed José Gregorio Hernández Cisneros. He was born in 1864 and learned the faith above all from his mother, as he recounted, "My mother taught me virtue from the cradle, made me grow in the knowledge of God and gave me charity as my guide." Let's be attentive: it is the moms who pass on the faith. The faith is passed on in dialect, that is, the language of moms, that dialect that moms know to speak with their children. And to you moms: be diligent in passing on the faith in that maternal dialect.

Truly, charity was the north star that oriented the existence of Blessed José Gregorio: a good and sunny person with a cheerful disposition, he was endowed with a marked intelligence; he became a doctor, university professor, and scientist. But he was first and foremost a doctor close to the weakest, so much so that he was known in his homeland as "the doctor of the poor." He cared for the poor, always. To the riches of money he preferred the riches of the Gospel, spending his existence to aid the needy. In the poor, the sick, the migrants, the suffering, José Gregorio saw Jesus. The success he never sought in the world he received, and continues to receive, from the people, who call him "saint of the people," "apostle of charity," "missionary of hope." Beautiful names: "saint of the people", "apostle of the people", "missionary of hope".

José Gregorio was a humble man, kind, and helpful man. And at the same time he was driven by an inner fire, a desire to live in the service of God and neighbor. Driven by this ardor, he tried several times to become a religious and a priest, but various health problems prevented him from doing so. Physical frailty did not, however, lead him to close in on himself, but to become a doctor who was even more sensitive to the needs of others; he clung to Providence and, forged in his soul, went ever more toward what was essential. This is apostolic zeal: it does not follow one's own aspirations, but openness to God's designs. And so the Blessed understood that, through caring for the sick, he would put God's will into practice, comforting the suffering, giving hope to the poor, witnessing to the faith not in words but by example. So, by way of this interior path, he came to accept medicine as a priesthood: "the priesthood of human pain" (M. YABER, *José Gregorio Hernández: Médico de los Pobres, Apóstol de la Justicia Social, Misionero de las Esperanzas*, 2004, 107). How important it is not to suffer things passively, but, as Scripture says, to do everything in a good spirit, to serve the Lord (cf. Col. 3:23).

But let us ask ourselves, though: where did José Gregorio get all this enthusiasm, all this zeal? It came from a certainty and a strength. The certainty was God's grace: he wrote that "if there are good and bad people in the world, the bad are such because they themselves have become bad: but the good are such with God's help" (May 27, 1914). And he considered himself first of all to be in need of grace, begging on the streets and in dire need of the love. And this was the strength he drew on: intimacy with God. He was a man of prayer – this is the grace of God and the intimacy with the Lord. He was a man of prayer who participated at Mass. And in contact with Jesus, who offers himself on the altar for all, José Gregory felt called to offer his life for peace. The First World War was underway. So, we come to June 29, 1919: a friend comes to visit him and finds him very happy. José Gregorio has indeed learned that the treaty ending the war has been signed. His offering has been accepted, and it is as if he foresees that his work on earth is done. That morning, as usual, he had been at Mass, and now he goes down the street to bring medicine to a sick person. But as he crosses the road, he is hit by a vehicle; taken to the hospital, he dies pronouncing the name of Our Lady. So, his earthly journey ends, on a road while doing a work of mercy, and in a hospital, where he had made his work a masterpiece, as a doctor.

Brothers, sisters, in the presence of this witness let us ask ourselves: do I, faced with God present in the poor near me, faced with those in the world who suffer the most, how do I react? And the example of José Gregorio: how does it affect me? He spurs us to engagement in the face of the great social, economic, and political issues of today. So many people talk about it, so many complain about it, so many criticize and say that everything is going wrong. But that's not what the Christian is called to do; instead, he is called to deal with it, to get his or her hands dirty: first of all, as St. Paul told us, to pray (cf. 1 Tim 2:1-4), and then not to engage in idle chattering – idle chatter is a plague – but to promote good, and to build peace and justice in truth. This, too, is apostolic zeal; it is the proclamation of the Gospel; and this is Christian beatitude: "blessed are the peacemakers" (Mt 5:9).

Let us go forward along the path of Blessed [José] Gregorio: a layman, a doctor, a man of daily work whom apostolic zeal drove to live performing charity throughout his whole life.

Summary of the Holy Father's words

Dear brothers and sisters: In our continuing catechesis on apostolic zeal, we have been reflecting on the spread of the Gospel through the witness of men and women of every time and place. Today we turn to Latin America and the example of Blessed José Gregorio Hernández. Born in Venezuela in 1864, José Gregorio was unable to pursue studies for the priesthood for reasons of health. Accepting this as God's will, he studied medicine and devoted his life to the care of those in need. Because of his deep devotion to Christ, expressed in charitable service to the least of our brothers and sisters, he became known as the "doctor of the poor". His apostolic zeal was born of a personal experience of God's mercy and daily union with the Lord in Holy Mass and personal prayer. At the outbreak of the First World War, he offered himself as a sacrificial victim in union with Christ, interceding for the dawn of peace, and died shortly after learning of the end of the war. The life of Blessed José Gregorio Hernández can inspire us, in the concrete circumstances of our own lives, to draw closer to the Lord in prayer, to serve him in the poor, and to work for the spread of his Gospel and the growth of his Kingdom of holiness, justice and peace.

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/>

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. Names will be published for 4 weeks at a time.



LOURDES OVER 50s GROUP

Over 50s Meeting Thursday 11th October 10.30am-1pm.
Please bring a plate for a shared lunch.
Look forward to seeing you there.

Lourdes: Luminate Young Adults Group

The next group night is Friday, 13th of October, 2023 6:45-9:30pm in the Parish Hall. If you would like more information please contact Ian Epondulan: youtholol7h@gmail.com

LOURDES PLAYGROUP

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish playgroup is a fun playtime for children aged 0 to 5 years old and their carers. It is held every Friday morning during school terms 9.30am-11.30am in the Parish Meeting Room. For further information please contact Maria Hosni 0432 174 056 or the Parish Office.

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

20	Baptism Preparation Meeting	7.30pm
21	School Last Day Term 3	
24	First Holy Communion Presentation Mass	9.30am
25	St Vincent de Paul Meeting	7.00pm
28	Finance Committee Meeting	8.00pm

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

16/17 September 2023

Acolytes	Vigil: James Dinning 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Ryan Epondulan
Ministers	Vigil: A. Do Rosario, VOLUNTEER 8am: A. McNally, VOLUNTEER 9.30am: G. Basili & P. Gow
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario & J. Sarmiento 8am: A. Joseph & M. Santos 9.30am: A. Hye R. Han & E. Pieris.
Altar Servers	Vigil: B. Spadaro, S.Thoms 8am: Sean Park & Philip Park 9.30am: A. Melki, M. Pieris & J. Pieris.
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Office
Musicians	Vigil: K. Thoms & C.W 8am: Maximilian's Chorale 9.30am: Maximilian's Chorale
Flowers	Fennie & Angela
Church cleaning	21 Sept Cathy Hutchings Annette Peatman
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Ugre 8am: Joyce Hillbrick 9.30am: Sastina Pieris

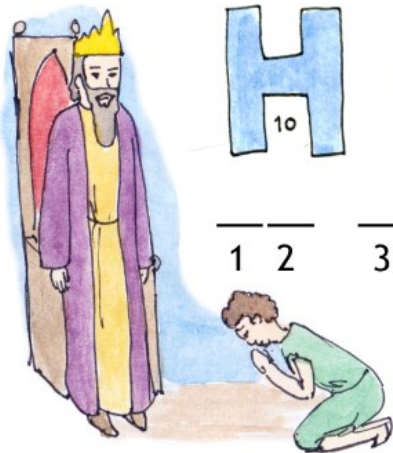
23/24 September 2023

Acolytes	Vigil: Derick Soares 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am: Jane Seaman.
Ministers	Vigil: H. Gonzales & R. Soares 8am: L. Fernandes & VOLUNTEER 9.30am: C. Brooks & B. Chandler
Readers	Vigil: A. Punch & C. Rodrigues 8am: N. Arambulo & K. Walker 9.30am: C. Diaz & I. Epondulan
Altar Servers	Vigil: M. Gluvic, A. Laus & L. Laus 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: VOLUNTEER
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Fr. Henry 9.30am: Nina's Group
Flowers	Annette & Mary B.
Church cleaning	27 Sept Jessie Borg Anne McNally
Welcomers	Vigil: Chrisha Gonzales 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: VOLUNTEER

The Kids' Bulletin

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 17th, 2023

What did the king in today's parable do to the servant who owed him much but asked for forgiveness?
Use the numbers to sort the letters and find out!



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
10 11 12

Keep On Forgiving

Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" Matthew 18:21 (NLT)

Based on Matthew 18:21-35 (NIV)



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

MANY	SINS	PETER	FORGIVE
SEVEN	TIMES	JESUS	TIMES
ASKED	BROTHER	LORD	HOW

Forgiving Makes Us Happy. Can you draw happy faces?

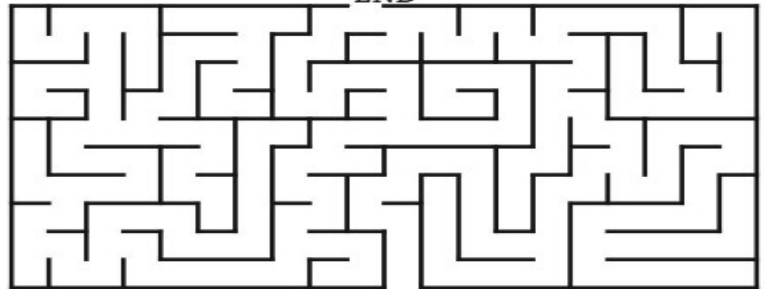


THE PARABLE OF THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

Help the servant find his way to the king.



END



START



Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.

