

# 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:** 15th November 2023  
**Baptism:** 22nd October 2023  
**Children's Liturgy Mass:** 15th October 2023, 9.30am  
**Parish Website:** [www.lol7hills.com.au](http://www.lol7hills.com.au)  
**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/LOL7Hills/>

## 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time 15 October 2023 • Year A



### Let us Pray for the Sick

Leonila Ahillon, Mary Attard, Cynthia Avery, Barrie Chamberlain, Rosella Booth, Alfredo Fernandez, Anthony Janicska, Fiona Mahon, Carlos Moreno, 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](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:** Mansour Ahmad, Ronald Bailey, Brian Coates, John Soo Choon, Gladys Fernando, John Lionel, Joan Falzon, Vilma Flores, Alfredo Fernandez, Ranjan Fernando, Joy Hayward, Jonathan Tek Kie, Eugenia Kowalski, Angelita Mangahas, Anthony & Evangelista Micallef, Solomon Morias, Lyn Morrissey, Josephine Muscat, Peter Nguyen, Mary Paz Novilla, Jill Smyth, John O'Rourke, Pacienza Piscopo, Gloria Reforma, Mercedes Yu, Maria Fely Sebastian, Jose Soriano, Joseph & Theresa Vella, Daniella Zahra.

**Anniversaries:** Fredy Alphonse, Mary Alagiah, Joseph Bartok, Charlie Gauci, Mervyn Costello, Conchita Deloso, Ngan Siu Eng, Antonia, Josephine Francis, Sheela Franklin, Charlie Gravina, Francis Xavier Ignatious, Martha Joseph, Felina A. & Felicidad A. Maglaya, Jason Muscat, Denis Morrissey, Philippa & Jim Muscat, Adele Moroney, Romeo Magda Palmos, Alberto Nahoy, Ignacio Nonato Snr, Rohan Senanayke, Sam Silvia, Cordula Paiva, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Caroline Susainathan, Melchor Usman.

**Remembrance:** Neil Amaratunga, France Angseeing, Cynthia Avery, Joseph Azzopardi, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Sam Borg, Lydia & Pascal Busac, Lina Cabaero, Cini-Mangion Family, Melvyn Fernandes, Christine Gomez, Harold, Rosine & Mark Lafleur, Soledad M. Leong, Apolinario A. Maglaya, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Deidre Matthews, Maureen & John Mead, Pauline Meilak, Mary Mifsud, Emilia & William Mifsud, Marcel Mohsen, Anton & Lourda Motha, Louis & Stephen Mula, Felix & Adriana Muscat, Michelle Muscat, Mary & Francis Muscat, Adrian Pereira, Lakshman Pereira, Ngan Pin, John & Rosaline Ratnam, Barry, Paul & Marion Ryan, Tony Vassallo, Shane Vaz, Domingo Villarta Jnr, Bibiano Villanueva, Amalia Usman.

*\*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 with the Parish Office.

### 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

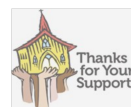
On behalf of the Parish Community, I would like to thank you very much for your ongoing support, which has been absolutely vital in keeping our Parish going strong. Projects completed include the Hall Kitchen renovation, Parish Meeting Room painting, Parish Office and Meeting Room Roof painted, Church 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 prophet Isaiah 25:6-10

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all people a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us; for the hand of the Lord rests on this mountain.

The Word of the Lord.

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**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**(R.) I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. <b>(R.)</b>                         | 3. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. <b>(R.)</b>         |
| 2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. <b>(R.)</b> | 4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. <b>(R.)</b> |

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**SECOND READING** A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 4:12-14. 19-20

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

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**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!

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**GOSPEL** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He dispatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town.

Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out onto the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

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.**



## FROM FR. HENRY DUC

Dear Friends,

As we know, the Jewish rabbis often used the image of a wedding banquet to describe the kingdom of God, for they believed that God would invite his Chosen people, namely the Jews to attend this banquet, and that the leaders of the Jewish people would be given the places of honour there due to their holiness. Jesus, however, had a different idea, and he made it known through this Gospel account, a parable about the wedding of the prince.

The king, according to Jesus, first sent out his servants to invite the first group of his special guests to come to the wedding, unfortunately they made all sorts of excuses to turn down his invitation, some even maltreated his men and killed them, they were then dealt with accordingly. The king then asked his servants to go out again, and this time they were instructed to invite everyone available on the streets to join the royal party.

What happened was extraordinary, because the king decided to throw a guest out of the wedding reception for this very reason, that the person failed to put on the wedding garment when he came to join the party. Surprisingly, he was tough with this person as much as he was with those who refused his invitation and became violent to his servants.

From a symbolic perspective, we know that the king symbolizes God himself, the Son stands for Jesus, the servants for the prophets, the first guests for the Jews and those gathered from the streets for the Gentiles, the people outside the Jewish circle, the people considered by the Jews as having no faith. Here Jesus once again had a go at the chief priests and the elders of the Jews for turning down God's invitation to attend the banquet of salvation, the wedding party of his Son, and they gave God's prophets the hardest times. Consequently, God will turn to the Gentiles and ask them to come to the banquet. This means to say that God's salvation now becomes a universal gift and all peoples and nations can enjoy it.

However, people have to realise that a free ticket to the wedding banquet does not mean that they can do whatever they like. They have to prepare themselves accordingly, meaning that they need to wrap themselves appropriately with the garment of faith and good works.

Let us give praise and thanks to God for inviting us to participate in the banquet Jesus has prepared for us today preparing for our perpetual participation in the eternal banquet in heaven, and let us also pray for the grace to keep the garment of faith and good works at all times.

Have a heaven-oriented week.

*Fr Henry*

## PARISH NEWS...

### DISPLAY OF OUR RECENT SURVEY

From this weekend, we continue to display the Chat APT-based results of the survey dealing with the question about how to build a better and stronger community.

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

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



### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

At the meeting last Wednesday night, members of the Council spent a good time to study the Chat GPT-based results of our recent survey relating to question 2 about what we can do to make our faith community stronger and better. We agreed to make the Youth ministry our priority. We will invest our resources to help encourage children, young people and their parents to be more connected with their faith and the parish through various initiatives, such as the Play group, Children liturgy, funs & activities for children. We continue to work with the school and other related groups in the parish to build up the Youth ministry. Please support our Parish Council in this effort.

### PARISH QUOTA FOR 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Diocese have advised our contribution Quota for the financial year 2023/24 is \$22,203. This is an annual quota, based on 10% of parish revenue. Past contributions were allocated to support works carried out by Catholic Care Western Sydney and Blue Mountains, the Ephpheta Centre and the Holy Spirit Seminary.

Our gratitude to OLOL parishioners for your generosity and support, without which our parish would not be able to meet these yearly quotas.

### WORD OF THANKS TO SANDY MANAMPERI

On behalf of the parish, I would like to thank Sandy for helping to co-ordinate our Catechists group in the last many months. May the Lord bless her for her tireless labours to bring the Good News to children at various public schools in our parish. Due to the needs of our community, we have a new group called Evangelisation group to cater for Catechists works and other Evangelisation needs.

### 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.

### LOURDES PLAYGROUP IS BACK!

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.

### 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





## DIOCESAN NEWS

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### **Catholic Care Keeping Kids in Mind Education Program: Starts 16 October**

Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, in partnership with CatholicCare Broken Bay, CatholicCare Sydney and CatholicCare Wollongong, are running a five-week online program via Zoom on supporting children following family separation. The course begins with a pre-session on 16 October from 6pm to 7pm, with a session each Monday from 6pm to 8.45pm from 23 October to 20 November. The cost is \$10 for workbooks and minimum postage fees. All participants must participate in a pre-group interview. For enquiries, please contact (02) 8843 2500 or email [enquiries@catholiccarewsbm.org.au](mailto:enquiries@catholiccarewsbm.org.au)

### **Ministry of Communion to Sick & Dying Workshop: 21 October**

On Saturday the 21st of October we will be offering an ongoing formation session for Ministry of Communion to the Sick and Dying. It will be held from 9:30am until 2pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre (1-5 Marion Street Blacktown.) Morning tea and lunch will be provided. We have limited spaces available so please RSVP to Mary by the 16th of October at [Mary.gale@parracatholic.org](mailto:Mary.gale@parracatholic.org) or 0460 037 795.

### **Diocese of Parramatta Wedding Anniversary Mass: 29 October**

The annual Diocese of Parramatta Wedding Anniversary Mass will be held on Sunday 29 October at 11am at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Bishop Vincent will celebrate Solemn Mass, followed by a light lunch at the Cathedral Hall. All couples celebrating a significant wedding anniversary will receive a certificate from Bishop Vincent. Please register your name, years of marriage and numbers attending at [marriage@parracatholic.org](mailto:marriage@parracatholic.org) or phone (02) 8838 3460 by 20 October. Family and friends are welcome.

### **125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cathedral Organ Concert: 12 November**

St. Patrick's Cathedral Organists, Choir and Guest Performers will present an array of performances at a Gala Concert to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Patrick's Cathedral Organ. The Concert will be held on Sunday 12 November, 2023 from 3pm at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Tickets can be purchased via this link <https://www.trybooking.com/CLUFN> or at the door. For more information contact [Hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org](mailto:Hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org)

### **Marriage Preparation Courses in 2024**

Getting married in 2024? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit [www.parracatholic.org/pmp](http://www.parracatholic.org/pmp) to view weekend course dates in the New Year, to book and pay. An online preparation called *SmartLoving* can also be booked via the website. For more information, email [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org) or phone Karin on 0419 242 435 or Marisa on 0412 280 017.

### **Rouse Hill Parish Natural Fertility Talk: 12 November**

Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Rouse Hill, are inviting all married (or soon to be married) couples to a talk on natural fertility by guest speaker Dr Catherine Lennon on Sunday 12 November at 1pm in the Parish Hall. The talk is an update on Fertility treatments for infertility and helping couples who need to space or avoid a pregnancy. To RSVP, and for more information, please email [parishoffice@ourladyoftheangels.org.au](mailto:parishoffice@ourladyoftheangels.org.au).

### **Glenbrook Parish Biblical and Theological Lecture Series: 24 October**

St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, invite you to the next session of their Biblical and Theological Lecture Series on Tuesday 24 October from 7.30pm at the parish hall, 52 Levy Street, Glenbrook. Dr Debra Snoddy, lecturer in Biblical Studies at the Catholic Institute of Sydney, will be presenting on women in the bible. Cost of entry is a donation. To RSVP, please contact [secretary@stfinbars.org.au](mailto:secretary@stfinbars.org.au)

### **Pastoral Ministry Network Alive in the Spirit Conference: 25 October**

The Pastoral Ministry Network (PMN) invite you to the Alive in the Spirit Conference on Wednesday 25 October from 10am to 4pm at Hornsby RSL. Discover and celebrate how our Australian faith communities creatively live out God's mission, to inspire and grow participation and community through 2 keynote addresses and 10 interactive workshops. Tickets are \$99 for PMN members and \$149 for non-members. Book now via <https://www.trybooking.com/CLCTP>. For enquiries, please email [info@aliveinthespirit.com.au](mailto:info@aliveinthespirit.com.au)

### **Free FirstCPR Training Vouchers**

16 October is World Restart a Heart Day, a global initiative to raise awareness about the importance of CPR. FirstCPR, to which the Diocese of Parramatta is an organisation member, is offering a free training voucher for people wishing to learn CPR. To receive the voucher, contact the FirstCPR team by emailing [warc.firstcpr@sydney.edu.au](mailto:warc.firstcpr@sydney.edu.au) with the subject 'WRAH Day CPR training voucher'. For more information, contact [warc.firstcpr@sydney.edu.au](mailto:warc.firstcpr@sydney.edu.au) or call 0412 369 519.

### **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.

### **St Bernadette's Lalor Park Wednesday Evening Devotions**

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

### **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](mailto:m.tupaea@houseofwelcome.com.au).

### **Positions Vacant:**

- Communications Manager – Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 10pm on Wednesday 1 November 2023.**

More details at: [parracatholic.org/employment](http://parracatholic.org/employment)



## POPE FRANCIS' ANGELUS

In his Angelus address on Sunday, Pope Francis reflects on the parable of the wicked tenants.

*By Christopher Wells*

In Sunday's Gospel, the parable of the wicked tenants shows us how "ungrateful and greedy thoughts insinuated themselves into the minds of the tenants, who imagined "the product of our work belongs to us alone". Instead of caring for the garden and sharing the harvest with the landowner, they sought to keep everything for themselves, mistreated the master's servants, and ultimately killed his son.

### Ingratitude leads to violence

Reflecting on this parable, Pope Francis said that the tenants "should have been grateful for what they received and for how they had been treated. Instead, ingratitude gives rise to greed and a progressive sense of rebellion grew within them, leading them to see the situation in a distorted way, to feel that the owner was in their debt rather than that they were in debt to the owner who had given them work."

And thus, the Pope said, "from being tenants, they become assassins."

Pope Francis went on to explain that, in this parable, Jesus reminds us what happens when a person deceives him or herself into thinking he or she does things on their own and forgets to be grateful..." This attitude, he said, can lead to dissatisfaction, misunderstandings, resentment, and ultimately violence. "Yes, dear brothers and sisters," he said, "ungratefulness generates violence... while a simple 'Thank you' can bring back peace!"

### Learning to say 'Thank you'

The Holy Father invited us to ask ourselves if we recognize that life and faith, our very selves, and everything we have "comes from the grace of the Lord..."; and if, in response to grace, we "know how to say 'Thank you'?"

Pope Francis concluded his Angelus reflection with the prayer that the Blessed Virgin Mary, "whose soul glorifies the Lord," might "help us to make gratitude the light that dawns daily in our hearts."

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## POPE FRANCIS' APPEALS FOR PEACE AND RESTRAINT IN ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

Pope Francis appeals for peace in the Holy Land and says Israel has the right to defend itself, but affirms that violence cannot help achieve a lasting peace built on justice.

*By Devin Watkins*

Speaking at the Wednesday General Audience, Pope Francis expressed his "sorrow and concern" for the war that has broken out between Israel and Hamas, an Islamist militant organization operating in Palestine.

The Pope mourned the many people who have been killed and injured.

"I pray for those families who have seen a day of celebration turned into a day of mourning and ask for the immediate release of the hostages," he said.

Militants from Hamas launched a surprise attack on the southern part of Israel on Saturday, as Jews marked the feast of *Simchat Torah*, or "joy of the Torah".

Hamas took dozens of hostages during its incursion into Israel and has threatened to execute them if Israel attacks areas within the Gaza Strip.

### Violence cannot lead to peace

In his appeal, Pope Francis acknowledged that "it is the right of those who are attacked to defend themselves".

However, he expressed concern for the "total siege facing the Palestinians in Gaza, where there have also been many innocent victims."

Israel announced a "complete siege" on Gaza, promising to shut off access to electricity, food, water, and gas.

The Pope invited both parties to restraint in hopes of reaching a solution to the war.

"Terrorism and extremism do not help to reach a solution to the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, but fuel hatred, violence, and revenge, causing suffering to both sides," he said.

Pope Francis concluded his appeal for peace in the Middle East with a call for fraternity and dialogue.

"The Middle East does not need war but peace, a peace built on justice, dialogue, and the courage of fraternity," he said.



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## POPE FRANCIS' CATECHESIS

**The passion for evangelization: the apostolic zeal of the believer. *Saint Josephine Bakhita: witness of the transforming power of Christ's forgiveness.***

*Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!*

In our path of catechesis on apostolic zeal – we are reflecting on apostolic zeal - today we will let ourselves be inspired by the witness of Saint Josephine Bakhita, a Sudanese saint. Unfortunately, for months Sudan has been torn by a terrible armed conflict, of which little is spoken today; let us pray for the Sudanese people, so they might live in peace! But the fame of Saint Bakhita has exceeded every boundary and reached all those to whom identity and dignity is denied. Born in Darfur – troubled Darfur! – in 1869, she was abducted from her family at the age of seven, and made a slave. Her abductors called her “*Bakhita*”, which means “fortunate”. She passed through eight masters – each one sold her on to the next. The physical and moral suffering she suffered as a child left her with no identity. She suffered cruelty and violence: on her body she bore more than a hundred scars. But she herself testified: “As a slave I never despaired, because I felt a mysterious force supporting me”. In the face of this, I wonder: what is Saint Bakhita’s secret? We know that often a wounded person wounds in turn: the oppressed easily becomes an oppressor.

Instead, the vocation of the oppressed is that of freeing themselves and their oppressors, becoming restorers of humanity. Only in the weakness of the oppressed can the force of God’s love, which frees both, be revealed. Saint Bakhita expresses this truth very well. One day her tutor gave her a small crucifix and she, who had never owned anything, conserved her treasure jealously. Looking at it, she experienced inner liberation, because *she felt understood and loved* and therefore *capable of understanding and loving*: this is the beginning. She felt understood, she felt loved, and as a consequence capable of understanding and loving others. Indeed, she went on to say: “God’s love has always accompanied me in a mysterious way. The Lord loved me: you have to love everyone.. you have to have pity!”. This is Bakhita’s soul.

Truly, to pity means both to *suffer* with the victims of the great inhumanity in the world, and also to *pity* those who commit errors and injustices, not justifying, but humanizing. This is the caress she teaches us: to humanize. When we enter the logic of fighting, of division between us, of bad feelings, one against the other, we lose our humanity. And very often we think we are in need of humanity, to be more humane. And this is. The work that Saint Bakhita teaches us: to humanize, to humanize ourselves and to humanize others.

Saint Bakhita, who became Christian, was transformed by the words of Christ she meditated on every day: “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do” (Lk 23:34). And so she said: “If Judas had asked Jesus for forgiveness, he too would have found mercy”. We can say that St Bakhita’s life became an *existential parable of forgiveness*. How good it is to say to a person, “he was capable, she was capable of forgiving, always”. And she was always capable of forgiving; indeed, her life is an existential parable of forgiveness. To forgive because then we will be forgiven. Do not forget this: forgiveness, which is God’s caress to all of us. Forgiveness liberated her. Forgiveness first received through God’s merciful love, and then the forgiveness given that made her a free, joyful woman, capable of loving. Bakhita was able to experience service not as slavery, but as an expression of the free gift of self. And this is very important: made a servant involuntarily – she was sold as a slave – she then freely chose to become a servant, to bear on her shoulders the burdens of others. Saint Josephine Bakhita, by her example, shows us the way to finally be free from our slavery and fears. She helps us to unmask our hypocrisies and selfishness, to overcome resentments and conflicts. And she encourages us, always.

Dear brothers and sisters, forgiveness takes away nothing but adds – what does forgiveness add? – dignity: forgives takes away nothing from you but adds dignity to the person, it makes us lift our gaze from ourselves towards others, to see them as fragile as we are, yet always brothers and sisters in the Lord. Brothers and sisters, forgiveness is the wellspring of a *zeal that becomes mercy and calls us to a humble and joyful holiness*, like that of Saint Bakhita.

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### Special Greetings

I extend a warm welcome to the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today’s Audience, especially the groups from England, Scotland, Denmark, Norway, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Canada and the United States of America. I also welcome the distinguished delegation from the NATO Defense College, with prayerful good wishes for their service to the cause of peace. Upon all of you I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you!

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### Appeals of the Holy Father

I continue to follow what is happening in Israel and Palestine with tears and apprehension: many people killed, others injured. I pray for those families who have seen a feast day transformed into a day of mourning, and I ask that the hostages be released immediately. It is the right of those who are attacked to defend themselves, but I am very concerned about the total siege under which the Palestinians are living in Gaza, where there have also been many innocent victims. Terrorism and extremism do not help reach a solution to the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, but fuel hatred, violence, revenge, and only cause each to other suffer. The Middle East does not need war, but peace, a peace built on dialogue and the courage of fraternity. I address a special thought to the population of Afghanistan, suffering following the devastating earthquake that struck, claiming thousands of victims, including many women and children, and displaced persons. I invite all people of good will to help this people, already sorely tried, contributing in a spirit of fraternity to alleviating the sufferings of the people and supporting the necessary reconstruction.

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### Summary of the Holy Father’s words

Dear brothers and sisters: In our 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 once more to Africa and to the powerful witness of Saint Josephine Bakhita. Born in Darfur in Sudan, Josephine was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery. Despite the violence and terrible sufferings she endured, she never despaired. In the cross of Christ she discovered the source of a merciful love that affirms our innate dignity as God’s children, brings true freedom and enables us to forgive and indeed love those who wrong us. The experience of God’s mercy and forgiveness inspired Josephine to devote herself to Christ as a religious and to serve others humbly and selflessly in Italy, her new country. The life of Saint Josephine Bakhita reveals the power of God’s grace to transform lives, to resolve conflicts and to bring about the justice, reconciliation and peace so greatly needed in our time. Let us entrust ourselves to her prayers and ask especially for the gift of peace for our brothers and sisters in war-torn Sudan and in so many other parts of our world.

## 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/>

### 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 Tuesday 7th November.  
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](mailto: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.

### FREE ZUMBA CLASSES

Every Tuesday and Thursday 6.00pm-7.00pm in the Hall. Everyone Welcome!

### 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

### OCTOBER

21/22	Catholic Mission Appeal	All Masses
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### NOVEMBER

1	All Saints Day Mass	9.15am
4/5	Aid to the Church Mass Presentation	All Masses
10	Lourdes: Luminate Young Adults Group Night	6.45pm

## OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

### 14/15 October 2023

Acolytes	Vigil: Daniel La Guidara 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am Eugene Miu
Ministers	Vigil: C. Janaz, L. La Guidara 8am: A. McNally, VOLUNTEER 9.30am: G. Basili, B. Chandler
Readers	Vigil: A. Punch, C. Rodrigues 8am: J. Cabasa, VOLUNTEER 9.30am: S. Manamperi, E. Vioth Pieris
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. Bagatella, A. La Guidara, C. La Guidara 8am: S. Park, P. Park 9.30am : C. Attard. M. Pieris, J. Pieris
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council
Musicians	Vigil: Karen Thoms & Chris Woodward 8am: Maximilian's Chorale 9.30am: Maximilian's Chorale
Flowers	Fennie & Judith
Church Cleaning	19 Oct Cathy Hutchings Annette Peatman
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Urge 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: Sastina Pieris

### 21/22 October 2023

Acolytes	Vigil: James Dinning 8am: Jane Seaman 9.30am Ian Epondulan
Ministers	Vigil: B. Motha, VOLUNTEER 8am: H.Gonzales, C. Gonzales 9.30am: C.Brooks, P. Gow
Readers	Vigil: J. Sarmiento, M. Simic 8am: N. Arambulo, P. Ferriols 9.30am: A. Hye R. Han, A. Walker
Altar Servers	Vigil: M. Gluvic, L. Sadipoor, B. Spadaro 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am : L. Culili, A. Melki
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Fr Henry 9.30am: Nina's Group
Flowers	Fennie & Rani
Church Cleaning	25 October Jessie Borg Anne McNally
Welcomers	Vigil: VOLUNTEER 8am: Suzy Nemorin 9.30am: Kathy Chamberlain



# The Kids' Bulletin

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
October 15th, 2023



The king sent his servants to call all the people in the street to his son's wedding. Follow the road on the map from the castle's courtyard all the way to the farmland. The people in the houses next to the road you pass are invited to the wedding.

You can colour in the houses if you like.  
Who was invited to the feast?

Invited  
Wedding

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

PARABLES	STREET	INVITED	BANQUET
GUESTS	HEAVEN	KINGDOM	CORNERS
SERVANTS	CATTLE	COME	OXEN
FILLED	REFUSED	WEDDING	DINNER

## The Wedding Banquet

So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. Matthew 22:10

Enter the correct words in the boxes based on the shape of the letters.



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- 
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- 
- 
- 
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people	servants	invite	king	guests
parable	dinner	wedding	come	streets

Draw food  
on the plate.

