

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: 15th November 2023
Baptism: 12th November 2023
Children's Liturgy Mass: 19th November 2023, 9.30am
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.com.au
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/LOL7Hills/>

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time 5 November 2023 • Year A



Let us Pray for the Sick

Leonila Ahillon, Julia Arriola, Mary Attard, Cynthia Avery, Barrie Chamberlain, Rosella Booth, Alfredo Fernandez, Anthony Janicska, Fiona Mahon, Carlos Moreno, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, 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: Mansour Ahmad, Ronald Bailey, David Claridge, Brian Coates, Gladys Fernando, John Lionel, Joan Falzon, Vilma Flores, Joy Hayward, Alfredo Fernandez, Ranjan Fernando, Jonathan Tek Kie, Mary Mifsud, Anthony & Evangelista Micallef, Solomon Morias, Lyn Morrissey, Josephine Muscat, Mary Paz Novilla, John O'Rourke, Pacienza Piscopo, Mercedes Yu, Maria Fely Sebastian, Jose Soriano, Joseph & Theresa Vella. John-William Zaren.

Anniversaries: Fredy Alphonse, Mansour Ahmad, Mary Alagiah, Michelle Azzopardi, Josephine & Family Calleja, Mervyn Costello, Conchita Deloso, Ngan Siu Eng, Antonia, Josephine Francis, Charles Francis, Sheela Franklin, Francisca Garcia, Charlie Gravina, Francis Xavier Ignatious, Martha Joseph, Felina A. Maglaya, Felicidad A. Maglaya, Tomas Magpayo, Jason Muscat, Philippa & Jim Muscat, Sr Christina Morrissey RSS, Romeo Magda Palmos, Alberto Nahoy, Ignacio Nonato Snr, Sam Silvia, Rohan Senanayke, Cordula Paiva, John Portelli, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Caroline Susainathan, Melchor Usman.

Remembrance: Jose Abadiano, Neil Amaratunga, France Angseeing, Lourdes P. Arriola, Carmen Attard, Joseph Azzopardi, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Eveillino Bhundoo, Sam Borg, Brian Carrebine, Lina Cabaero, Valentina Carlos, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Joe, Lonsan, Jimmy & Tony De Guarie, Melvyn Fernandes, Constance Gaycroft, Christine Gomez, Joshymon & Sophia, Harold, Sheena Landagan, Soledad M. Leong, Apolinario A. Maglaya, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Tomasa Magpayo, Elenoa Matavesi, 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, Jose Sanchez, Joyce & John Sutari, Bibiano Villanueva, Shane Vaz, Domingo Villarta Jnr, Stevenson Upulasi, 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

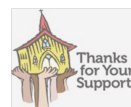
On behalf of the Parish Community, I would like to thank you very much for your ongoing support, which has been absolutely vital in keeping our Parish going strong. Projects completed include the Hall Kitchen renovation, Parish Meeting Room painting, Parish Office and Meeting Room Roof painted, Church 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.olol7hills.org.au

FIRST READING A reading from the prophet Malachi 1:14 – 2:2. 8-10

I am a great king, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration.

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

1. O Lord, my heart is not proud
nor haughty my eyes.
I have not gone after things too great
nor marvels beyond me. **(R.)**

2. Truly I have set my soul
in silence and peace.
A weaned child on its mother's breast,
even so is my soul. **(R.)**

3. O Israel, hope in the Lord
both now and for ever. **(R.)**

SECOND READING A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 2:7-9. 13

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good News to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You have one Father, your Father in heaven;
you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 23:1-12

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

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,

Not long after my Priestly Ordination Mass more than 28 years ago, a friend of mine said to me that he was most impressed with the message bishop Bede preached in the homily that night, which was 'believe what you read, teach what you believe, and put into practice what you teach, and that wasn't for me as a priest but also for him as a lay person as well.' Perhaps my friend meant to remind me then to take to my heart such an important message throughout my ministry and I should never forget that.

Anyway, the part of the homily my friend mentioned above was part of the standard homily every bishop is expected to preach at every Ordination Mass to remind those who were about to be ordained priests of their duty both to teach and lead others by example what they preach.

This is something the Pharisees failed to do as leaders of the community, and Jesus didn't let it go away without saying something. He took no time to point out the areas, such as hypocrisy and vanity, that the Pharisees often fell into. He summed up their multiple problems in just a few words, that 'they do not practice what they preach,' and asked people and the disciples not to follow their bad examples, and just listen to their message instead.

Furthermore, Jesus also issued the warning about the Pharisees' arrogant attitude and thirst for titles and recognition from the community, such as rabbi, master, father, and teacher. Some people even rely on this text to argue against the practice in the Church addressing priests as Fathers. However, to be fair to Jesus he had no intention to deliver this message for such a purpose.

Most importantly, Jesus shows us a pastoral model known to us today as the Humble Servant inviting all his followers to humbly serve others, as Pope Francis said in his response to the Dubia given to him by five cardinals, that 'we are not masters but humble stewards of the Sacraments that nourish the faithful.' Jesus literally led them by example by bending down to wash the feet of the disciples and humbly accepted the death on the cross. He has left us a lasting image to look up and follow along the path of humble service. He actually practiced what he preached.

Let us pray today for the grace to help us become authentic witnesses to our humble Lord by living out the Gospel message we preach and humbly serving others around us starting from our families and this Parish community. Have a humility-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 what we can do to offer support to those struggling in faith, and help them become productive.

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 THANK YOU DINNER

As a Parish tradition, all our Parish ministers and volunteers are invited to join our Parish Thank You dinner at 6.30pm on Friday the 24th November 2023 in our Parish Meeting Room. Food and drinks will be supplied so for catering purposes, it is important for you to please write your name, phone number and numbers attending on the RSVP sheets at the BACK of the church.



LOURDES OVER 50's 'MELBOURNE CUP SPECIAL'

Please join us at our next meeting that will be held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday the 7th of November for Melbourne Cup Day from 10.15am to 1pm. There will be a sweepstake for the horses.

A PRAYER FOR GAZA AND UKRAINE

'Let our sons flourish like saplings grown tall and strong from their youth, Our daughters graceful as columns, adorned as though for a palace. Let our barns be filled to overflowing with crops of every kind; our sheep increasing by thousands, myriads of sheep in our fields, our cattle heavy with young, No ruined wall, no exile, no sound of weeping in our streets.' (Psalm 143)

NOVEMBER BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

As our Parish tradition, the Book of Remembrance will be available at the baptismal font for our parishioners to enter the names of the deceased, and placed in front of the altar during all Masses throughout November. Please feel free to do so.

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'll receive lot of support, such as training and materials for the ministry to nurture the faith of children at public schools.

TOGETHER WE CAN KEEP THE FAITH ALIVE- AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED (ACN)

Did you know that across the world tens of millions of Christian families are in exile following persecution because of their faith? Aid to the Church in Need is a spiritual and pastoral charity which seeks to keep the flame of faith alive in those places where it is at risk of extinction. This weekend we welcome to our parish Kylie Cullen, an ACN speaker who will share with us about the work of Aid to the Church in Need and how we can help our suffering and persecuted brothers and sisters.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Celebrating Catholic Unity: Inside the Diocese of Parramatta's Historic First Synod!

Our Diocese concluded its first-ever Synod over the weekend of 13 – 15 October 2023. It was a momentous event that brought together 280 faithful from across Western Sydney, the Blue Mountains, and beyond to discuss the future of the local Church. Experience the historic culmination of our Diocese's inaugural Synod in this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PltRCgSPLng>. To stay updated visit parracatholic.org/synod2023

Bishop Vincent presents Christopher White: 9 November

Vatican correspondent and Pope Francis expert Christopher White is coming to the Diocese of Parramatta as part of the Diocese of Parramatta's 'Bishop Vincent Presents' series. His public lecture "Will our faith have children? Reflections on the health and dynamism of global Catholicism after the October 2023 Synod on Synodality" will be held in Parramatta on Thursday 9 November at Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta from 6pm. Places are strictly limited, so register today at <https://parracatholic.org/christopherwhite/>

Donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Appeal

Caritas Australia is supporting partner agencies on the ground in Gaza to provide emergency cash, shelter, and psycho-social support to those affected by the violence. The efforts of these partner agencies are expected to support 17,000 displaced families, representing around 100,000 of the 1 million people displaced. To support Caritas Australia's Gaza Appeal, call 1800 024 413 toll free or visit www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/gaza-crisis/

Table Talk with People Seeking Asylum: 8 November

St Patrick Cathedral Parish, Parramatta, Jesuit Refugees Service and the Diocese of Parramatta are organising a Table Talk event with people seeking asylum on Wednesday 8 November from 7pm to 9pm at the Cathedral Hall. We will hear from people with lived experience, reflect on our own values and see how we can be part of a positive change. To register, visit <https://events.humanitix.com/talk-talk-with-people-seeking-asylum>

Parramatta Street Feast: 11 November

You are invited to the Parramatta Street Feast, Saturday 11 November 2023. Come and share a meal, company and entertainment with members of our community who are on the margins of society. This free event will be held in a spirit of solidarity and friendship at the Cloister Hall, St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, 10:30AM to 1:30PM. The Street Feast is a collaboration between the Diocese of Parramatta, PAYCE Foundation, Paynter Dixon and St. Merkorious Charity.

Youth Mass 'Round the Diocese: 11 November

Looking for some young adults to worship with? Hunting for an excuse to catch up with Jesus and friends? Wondering what goes on around our Diocese? Mass 'Round the Diocese is just that! Our young people are visiting different churches around the Diocese for Mass and fellowship afterwards with new and known friends. The first Mass will be at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Kellyville, on Saturday 11 November for 6pm Mass. For more information, please contact youthgroupolor@gmail.com

125th 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 125th anniversary of St Patrick's Cathedral Organ. The Concert will be held on Sunday 12 November 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

Mass and prayers for deceased clergy: 17 November

The Diocese of Parramatta invites you to its second annual Mass for our deceased clergy on Friday 17 November at 10.30am at St Aidan's Parish, Rooty Hill, followed by prayers at the gravesites of clergy buried in Pinegrove Cemetery. All are welcome to attend and give your gift of prayer to those whose lives were dedicated to bringing us all closer to Christ. We encourage each parish to offer a Mass for the deceased priests who have served in your own parish on the same day, to unite in prayer for this special intention.

Local World Youth Day and Leaders Commissioning Mass: 26 November

Catholic Youth Parramatta invites all youth leaders, new school leaders and young people to the annual Local World Youth Day & Leaders Commissioning Mass, which will be held on Sunday 26 November (Feast of Christ the King) at 3.30pm at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes. The Youth Mass will give thanks for the Youth ministry year so far and bless all leaders for their 2024 ministry year. Family, friends and community members are all invited to join in this celebration. For catering purposes, please RSVP to met@parracatholic.org.

Marriage Preparation Courses in 2024

Getting married in 2024? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit www.parracatholic.org/pmp to view 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 or phone Karin on 0419 242 435 or Marisa on 0412 280 017.

Applications open for 2024/25 Australian Young Catholic Women's Fellowship

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's National Centre for Evangelisation has opened applications for the 2024/2025 Australian Young Catholic Women's Fellowship. The Fellowship supports eight young women aged between 25-35 years to be intellectually, spiritually, emotionally and personally formed for effective leadership roles in the communities in which they engage. Applications close Thursday 16 November. A more detailed outline of the Fellowship can be found at www.nce.catholic.org.au/womensfellowship. If you would like to learn more, contact Sharon Brewer via info@nce.catholic.org.au

Positions Vacant:

- Facilitator – Marriage – Mission Enhancement Team, Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 10pm Monday 13 November 2023.**
- Youth Coordinator (part-time) - St Bernadette's Parish, Castle Hill – **Applications close Thursday 30 November 2023.**

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment



POPE FRANCIS' ANGELUS

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

Today's Gospel speaks to us about the *greatest of the commandments* (cf. *Mt* 22:34-40). A doctor of the law questions Jesus about this and He responds with the "great commandment of love": "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind (...) and (...) your neighbour as yourself" (vv. 37.39). Love of God and neighbour are inseparable from each other. So, let us pause a bit to reflect on this.

The first: the fact that love for the Lord comes first reminds us that *God always precedes us*, he anticipates us with his infinite tenderness (cf. *1 Jn* 4:19), with his closeness, with his mercy, for He is always near, tender and merciful. A baby learns to love on their mommy's and daddy's knees, and we learn it in God's arms. The Psalm says, "Like a weaned child in the arms of its mother" (cf. 131:2). This is how we should feel in God's arms. And there, we absorb the Lord's affection; there, we encounter the love that impels us to give ourselves generously. Saint Paul recalls this when he says that the charity of Christ possesses a power that propels toward loving (cf. *2 Cor* 5:14). And everything originates in Him. You cannot truly love others if you do not have this root, which is love of God, love for Jesus.

And now the second aspect that emerges from the commandment of love. It connects love for God to love for neighbour: it means that by loving our brothers and sisters, we reflect the Father's love like mirrors. *To reflect God's love*, this is the point – to love Him whom we do not see through the brother/sisters whom we do see (cf. *1 Jn* 4:20).

One day, Saint Teresa of Calcutta responded to a journalist who asked her if she had illusions about changing the world by which she was doing, "I no, I never thought I could change the world! I only wanted to be a drop of clean water, through which God's love could shine" (Meeting with journalists after receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, Rome, 1979). This is how she, who was so little, was able to do so much good – by reflecting God's love like a drop. And if at times, looking at her and other saints, we might be moved to think that they are heroes that cannot be imitated, let us think again about that small drop: love is a drop that can change many things. And how can this be done? Taking the first step, always. Sometimes it is not easy to take the first step, to forget things..., to take the first step – let's do that. This is the drop – to take the first step.

So, dear brothers and sisters, thinking about God's love that always precedes us, we can ask ourselves: Am I grateful to the Lord that he loves me first? Do I feel God's love and am I grateful to him? And do I try to reflect His love? Do I strive to love my brothers and sisters, and take this second step?

May the Virgin Mary help us live the great commandment of love in our daily life: to love and to allow God to love us, and to love our brothers and sisters.

After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters,

I thank all those who -- in so many places and in various ways -- united themselves to the day of fasting, prayer and penance that we lived last Friday, imploring peace for the world. Let us not stop. Let us continue to pray for Ukraine, as well as for the serious situation in Palestine and Israel, and for other regions at war. Particularly, in Gaza, may space be opened to guarantee humanitarian aid, and may the hostages be released right away. Let no one abandon the possibility that the weapons might be silenced – let there be a ceasefire. Father Ibrahim Faltas, whom I heard recently on the program *A Sua Immagine*, Father Ibrahim was saying: "Let the arms cease! Let the arms cease!" He is the vicar of the Holy Land. With Father Ibrahim, let us too say: let the arms cease. Stop, brothers and sisters! war is always a defeat — always!

I am near to the population in the area of Acapulco, in Mexico, hit by a very powerful hurricane. I am praying for the victims, for their families and for those who have sustained serious harm. May the Virgin of Guadalupe sustain her children in this hardship.

I greet all of you, people from Rome and pilgrims from Italy and from many parts of the world. In particular, I greet the parents of "children in Heaven" from Torano Nuovo, members of the faithful from Campana, the vocational group "Talità Kum" from the parish of Saint John of the Florentines in Rome, the boys and girls from the Confirmation class who have come from Slovenia and those from Gandosso, as well as the pilgrimage of the Children of Saint Camillus and the Ministers of the Sick.

I hope all of you enjoy your Sunday. Please, do not forget to pray for me.

Enjoy your meal and *arrivederci!*



POPE FRANCIS' RESPONSE TO DUBIA (DOUBTS) SUBMITTED BY A GROUP OF CARDINALS

Dear brothers,

Although I believe it is not always prudent to respond to questions directly addressed to me, and it would be impossible to answer all of them, in this case, given the proximity of the Synod, I have deemed it appropriate to do so.....

4. Dubium regarding the support of pastors and theologians for the theory that "the theology of the Church has changed," and thus, the sacramental ordination of women can be conferred.

Following the statements of some prelates, which have neither been corrected nor retracted, claiming that with Vatican II, the theology of the Church and the meaning of the Mass have changed, it is asked whether the dictum of the Second Vatican Council is still valid, which states that the common priesthood of the faithful and the ministerial priesthood differ essentially and not only in degree (*Lumen gentium*, 10), and that priests, by the "sacred power of the order to offer sacrifice and forgive sins" (*Presbyterorum ordinis*, 2), act in the name and person of Christ the Mediator, through whom the spiritual sacrifice of the faithful is made perfect? It is also asked whether the teaching of St. John Paul II's Apostolic Letter *Ordinatio sacerdotalis* is still valid, which teaches as a truth to be held definitively the impossibility of conferring priestly ordination on women, so that this teaching is no longer subject to change or free discussion by pastors or theologians.

Pope Francis's Response to the Fourth Dubium

a) "The common priesthood of the faithful and the ministerial priesthood differ essentially" (Second Vatican Council, Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen gentium*, 10). It is not appropriate to assert a difference in degree that implies considering the common priesthood of the faithful as something of a "second class" or of lesser value ("a lower grade"). Both forms of priesthood illuminate and support each other.

b) When St. John Paul II taught that we must affirm "definitively" the impossibility of conferring priestly ordination on women, he was in no way denigrating women and giving supreme power to men. St. John Paul II also affirmed other things. For example, when we speak of priestly authority, "we are in the realm of function, not of dignity and holiness" (St. John Paul II, *Christifideles laici*, 51), words that we have not sufficiently embraced. He also clearly held that while the priest alone presides at the Eucharist, the tasks "do not favour the superiority of one over the other" (St. John Paul II, *Christifideles laici*, note 190; cf. Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Declaration *Inter insigniores*, VI). He also stated that if the priestly function is "hierarchical," it should not be understood as a form of domination but "is totally ordered to the holiness of the members of Christ" (St. John Paul II, *Mulieris dignitatem*, 27). If this is not understood, and practical consequences are not drawn from these distinctions, it will be difficult to accept that the priesthood is reserved only for men, and we will not be able to recognize the rights of women or the need for them to participate in various ways in the leadership of the Church.

c) On the other hand, to be rigorous, let us recognize that a clear and authoritative doctrine on the exact nature of a "definitive statement" has not yet been fully developed. It is not a dogmatic definition, and yet it must be adhered to by all. No one can publicly contradict it and yet it can be a subject of study, as with the case of the validity of ordinations in the Anglican Communion.

5. Dubium regarding the assertion that "forgiveness is a human right" and the insistence of the Holy Father on the duty to absolve everyone always, so that repentance is not a necessary condition for sacramental absolution.

It is asked whether the teaching of the Council of Trent, which states that contrition of the penitent, consisting of detesting the sin committed with the purpose of not sinning again, is necessary for the validity of sacramental confession, is still in force, such that the priest must defer absolution when it is clear that this condition is not met.

Pope Francis's Response to the Fifth Dubium

a) Repentance is necessary for the validity of sacramental absolution and implies a resolution not to sin. But there is

b) not mathematics here, and once again I must remind you that the confessional is not a customs house. We are not masters but humble stewards of the Sacraments that nourish the faithful because these gifts of the Lord, more than relics to be preserved, are aids of the Holy Spirit for people's lives.

b) There are many ways to express repentance. Often, in people who have a very wounded self-esteem, declaring themselves guilty is a cruel torment, but the very act of approaching the confessional is a symbolic expression of repentance and of seeking divine help.

c) I also want to recall that "sometimes we find it hard to make room for the unconditional love of God" in pastoral care (*Amoris laetitia*, 311), but we must learn to do so. Following St. John Paul II, I maintain that we should not demand from the faithful overly precise and certain resolutions of amendment, which ultimately become abstract or even narcissistic, but that even the predictability of a new fall "does not prejudice the authenticity of the purpose" (St. John Paul II, Letter to Card. William W. Baum and participants in the annual course of the Apostolic Penitentiary, March 22, 1996, 5).

d) Finally, it must be clear that all the conditions usually attached to confession are generally not applicable when a person is in a situation of agony, or with very limited mental and psychological capacities.

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 Tuesday 7th November, 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, 10th of November, 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.

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

NOVEMBER

| 7 | Over 50's Meeting 'Melbourne Cup Special' | 10.30am |
|----|--|---------|
| 10 | Lourdes: Luminate Young Adults Group Night | 6.45pm |
| 15 | Baptismal Preparation | 7.30pm |
| 19 | Children's Liturgy | 9.30am |
| 24 | Parish Volunteers Dinner | 6.30pm |

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

4/5 November 2023

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--|------------------|
| Acolytes | Vigil: Daniel La Guidara 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am Fayelene Kennedy | |
| Ministers | Vigil: L. La Guidara, F. Paiva 8am: A.McNally, S. Nemorin 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui, G. Basili | |
| Readers | Vigil: B. Motha, J. Sarmiento 8am: P.Ferriols, K. Walker 9.30am: K. Huihui, A. Walker | |
| Altar Servers | Vigil: A. La Guidara, C. La Guidara, E.Reardon 8am: S.Park, P.Park 9.30am: C.Attard, F.Wanandy | |
| Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass) | Tongan Choir | |
| Musicians | Vigil: Youth for Christ 8am: Fr Henry 9.30am: Christine Clarke/Tongan Choir | |
| Flowers | Fenty & Liz | |
| Church Cleaning | 11 November | Tongan Community |
| Welcomers | Vigil: Ram Urge 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: VOLUNTEER | |

11/12 November 2023

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 16th November 2020 | | |
| Acolytes | Vigil: James Dinning 8am: Ernie Gartner 9.30am Ryan Epondulan | |
| Ministers | Vigil: M. Mifsud, M. Simic 8am: Edith Gartner, M. Santos 9.30am: C. Brookes, B. Chandler | |
| Readers | Vigil: A. Punch, C. Rodrigues 8am: N. Arambulo, J. Cabasa 9.30am: A. Hye Rin Han, Edward Pieris | |
| Altar Servers | Vigil: M. Gluvic, L. Sadipoor, B. Spadaro 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am: M. Pieris, J. Pieris. | |
| Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass) | Young Adults Group | |
| Musicians | Vigil: Maximilian's Chorale 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Couples for Christ | |
| Flowers | Claudette & Judith | |
| Church Cleaning | 16 November | Cathy Hutchings & Annette Peatman |
| Welcomers | Vigil: VOLUNTEER 8am: VOLUNTEER 9.30am: Sastina Pieris | |

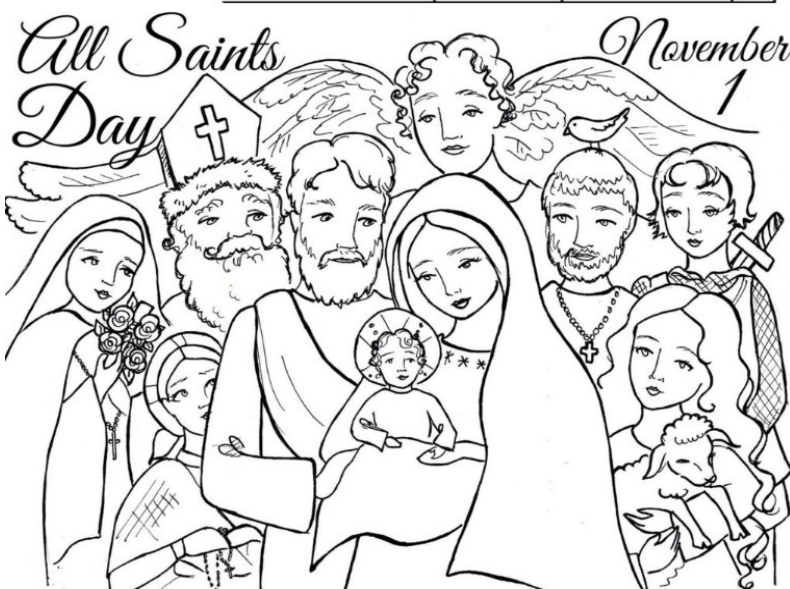
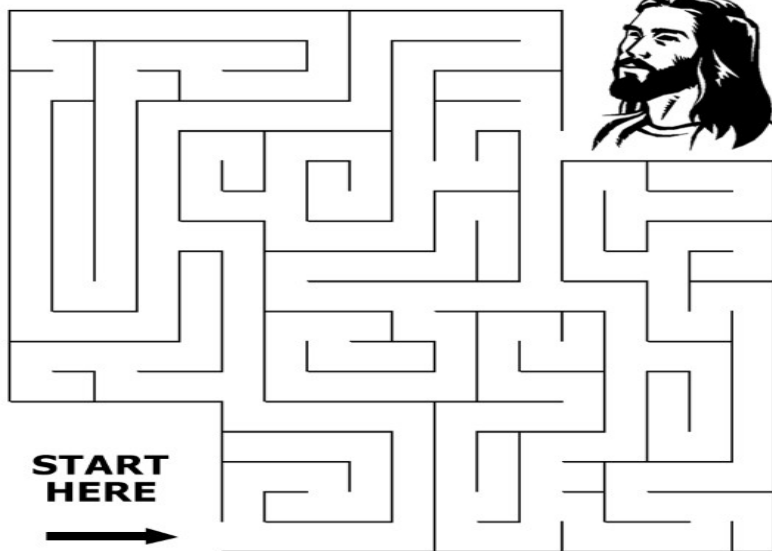
The Kids' Bulletin

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 5th, 2023

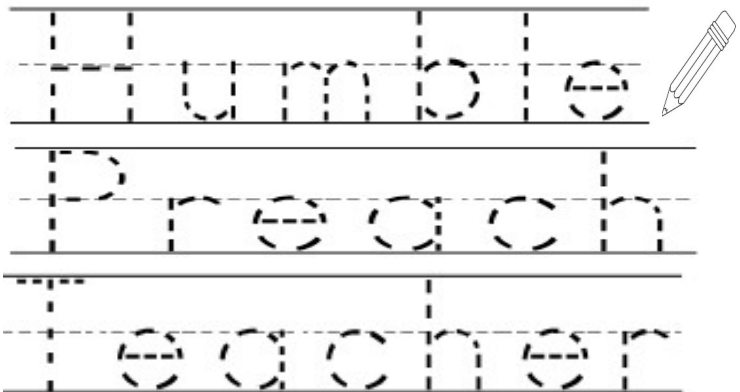
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|-----------|----------|--------|-----------|---------|
| EXALT | LIFT | MASTER | LOADS | TEACHER |
| IMPORTANT | PRACTICE | FINGER | DISCIPLES | HONOR |
| GREATEST | SERVANT | HUMBLE | OBEY | PREACH |



Choose the word that best matches the definition. Answers can be found in Matthew 23:1-12 (NIV)

1. A large gathering of people
A. teacher B. crowd C. banquet D. servant
2. To show high respect or esteem for someone
A. teacher B. humble C. servant D. honor
3. A formal dinner honoring a particular person or occasion
A. greatest B. banquet C. honor D. obey
4. Most important, powerful, or famous
A. greatest B. teacher C. humble D. crowd
5. To consider yourself as having no special importance; not proud
A. humble B. honor C. banquet D. greatest
6. A person hired to work for someone else
A. servant B. banquet C. obey D. honor
7. Someone who trains or instructs other people
A. teacher B. banquet C. crowd D. humble
8. To do what you are told or expected to do
A. greatest B. servant C. honor D. obey



Practice What You Preach
Jumble

| | |
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It is hard to be this when you think you are great!

Words Used

teacher
must
obey
preach
must