

# 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:** 12th November 2023  
**Children's Liturgy Mass:** 19th November 2023, 9.30am  
**Parish Website:** [www.olol7hills.com.au](http://www.olol7hills.com.au)  
**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/LOL7Hills/>

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time 12 November 2023 • Year A



### Let us Pray for the Sick

Leonila Ahillon, Julia Arriola, Mary Attard, Cynthia Avery, Barrie Chamberlain, Rosella Booth, Maximilian Epondulan, Fiona Mahon, Anthony Janicska, Carlos Moreno, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Sue Tipaldo, Sr Colleen O'Sullivan, Natalie Woodward,

**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, David Claridge, Brian Coates, Gladys Fernando, John Lionel, Joan Falzon, Vilma Flores, Joy Hayward, Alfredo Fernandez, Ranjan Fernando, Mary Mifsud, Solomon Morias, Anthony & Evangelista Micallef, Lyn Morrissey, Mary Paz Novilla, Paciona Piscopo, Mercedes Yu, Maria Fely Sebastian, Jose Soriano, Joseph & Theresa Vella, John-William Zaren.

**Anniversaries:** Fredy Alphonse, Mansour Ahmad, Michelle Azzopardi, Carolina Borg, Josephine & Family Calleja, Mervyn Costello, Conchita Deloso, Antonia, Josephine Francis, Charles Francis, Francis, Russell, Sheela Franklin, Francisca Garcia, Charlie Gravina, Francis Xavier Ignatious, Tomas Magpayo, Jason Muscat, Sr Christina Morrissey RSS, Romeo Magda Palmos, Alberto Nahoy, Joseph Thang Nguyen, Ignacio Nonato Snr, Sam Silvia, Cordula Paiva, John Portelli, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Caroline Susainathan, Jim & Alison Vella, 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, Mary Chircop, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Joe, Lonsan, Jimmy & Tony De Guarie, Melvyn Fernandes, Evangeline Garcia, Jose Garcia, Constance Gaycroft, Christine Gomez, Joshymon & Sophia, Harold, Sheena Landagan, 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, Josephine Muscat, Charles Muscat, Philippa & Jim Muscat, Piu Muscat, Adrian Pereira, Lakshman Pereira, John & Rosaline Ratnam, Jose Sanchez, Joyce & John Sutari, Jonathan Tek Kie, Shane Vaz, Domingo Villarta Jnr, Stevenson Upulasi.

*\*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

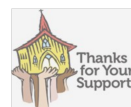
On behalf of the Parish Community, I would like to thank you very much for your ongoing support, which has been absolutely vital in keeping our Parish going strong. Projects completed include the Hall Kitchen renovation, Parish Meeting Room painting, Parish Office and Meeting Room Roof painted, Church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

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**FIRST READING** A reading from the book of Wisdom 6:12-16

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim. By those who love her she is readily seen, and found by those who look for her. Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them. Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates. Even to think about her is understanding fully grown; be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you. She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

The Word of the Lord.

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**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

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

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;  
for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines  
for you like a dry, weary land without water. **(R.)**

3. So I will bless you all my life,  
in your name I will lift up my hands.  
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,  
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **(R.)**

2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary.  
to see your strength and your glory.  
For your love is better than life,  
my lips will speak your praise. **(R.)**

4. On my bed I remember you.  
On you I muse through the night  
for you have been my help;  
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. **(R.)**

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**SECOND READING** A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 4:13-18

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

The Word of the Lord.

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**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Be watchful and ready:  
you know not when the Son of Man is coming.  
Alleluia!

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**GOSPEL** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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**PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

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

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

**Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.**

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

**Never permit me to be separated from you.**

**Amen**



## FROM FR. HENRY DUC



Dear Friends,

In Jesus' time, it was said that wedding celebrations usually took place in the evening. It began with the bridegroom and his friends making their way to the house of the bride. During their procession, they carried torches of oily rags and they needed an extra supply of oil to keep their torches alive.

To make it a pleasant surprise, the groom often tried to keep secret the day and time he chose to claim his bride, and only revealed it at the last minute. He then sent someone ahead to the bride's house to let people know that he was on his way.

When the groom arrived at her place with the groomsmen, the bride joined the procession to come to the groom's house accompanied with singing and dancing. During this time, people came out of their homes and into the streets to join the wedding festivities and congratulate the couple.

Once the procession arrived at the home of the groom, only the invited guests went inside. At this point, the main door was barred shut with a heavy beam to keep all the ceremonies and reception private.

This information provides the back-drop for the Gospel account this Sunday, in which Jesus utilised a wedding celebration with ten bridesmaids waiting for the arrival of the groom. Five of them were described as foolish for bringing no extra oil for their lamps and the other five as sensible for taking extra oil just in case their lamps run out of oil.

While they got tired and fell asleep, they were told that the groom was about to come, and they all got up to trim their lamps to welcome him. The foolish bridesmaids then found out that their lamps ran out of oil at this crucial time, they of course got into a panic and turned to their friends to lend them some oil, but were advised to go to the shop and buy it.

Unfortunately while they were out to look for more oil, the groom had arrived with his groomsmen, and all present entered the wedding room, and the door of the house was closed and got bolted. When the foolish bridesmaids came back, they begged to get in, but it was too late. The Lord, host of the party, refused to let them in, and they had to stay out, while others began to celebrate.

Jesus concluded this parable with the message telling us exactly what he meant to teach us, that we have to stay awake for the time of the Lord, which is unknown. We should get ready at all times like the sensible bridesmaids with our lives filled with the oil of God's grace and merits, otherwise we shall be sorry to miss the heavenly banquet, just as the foolish bridesmaids missed the wedding reception.

Let us ask the Lord to help us to heed and appreciate the message he aimed to convey to us today, and pray for the grace to support us in our efforts to fill our lives with the oil of goodness through what we do and say.

Have a lovely week filled with lot of good works.

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 6 about the problems our Faith community has to face with these days.

### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

At the meeting last Wednesday night, members of the Council spent some time to reflect upon the Chat APT-based results of our recent survey relating to question 4 about how we can help each other to grow in faith.

After the monthly reports from various Parish groups, the Council had a discussion about our Parish Feast Day on Sunday 11 February, 2024.

### PARISH WINDOWS

We all know that our church has been more 60 years old, and so its windows. Unfortunately some of them have been broken and waiting to be fixed at the moment, so please be gentle to our aging windows when you need to open them. Thank you for not pushing them all the way out, as you might damage them.

### MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE:

A friendly reminder to submit your roster update details for the next 6 months. Roster Forms are available in front of the back Sacristy, alternatively you can send or print a form from our OLOL Web Page.

### 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.

### 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.

### PARISH THANK YOU DINNER

As a Parish tradition, all our 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. Please sign the clipboard available at the rear of the church for catering purposes.

### CATHOLIC MISSION APPEAL

Thank you for supporting this year's Catholic Mission Parish Appeal, your generosity raised \$1382 that will go towards supporting life changing missions like the Maria Auxiliadora Clinic in Venilale, Timor-Leste.

### OVER 50'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The over 50's Christmas Lunch is on next Thursday the 16th of November at Seven Hills RSL. Please arrive at 11.30am. Those member not at the last meeting wishing to attend, cost is \$33, contact Don Kennedy, John Lyons or Chris Woodward to confirm numbers ASAP.

## DIOCESAN NEWS

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### **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](http://parracatholic.org/synod2023)

### **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/](http://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/gaza-crisis/)

### **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.

### **World Day of the Poor – A Message of Hope: 19 November**

The World Day of the Poor, established by Pope Francis, serves as a direct call to action inspired by the Gospel's message of compassion and service to those less fortunate. It is a reminder of our Christian duty to reach out to the poor and marginalized and engage in acts of charity, love, and inclusion. Read Pope Francis' message for the World Day of the Poor here: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/poveri/documents/20230613-messaggio-vii-giornatamondiale-poveri-2023.html>

### **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](mailto:met@parracatholic.org).

### **Are you interested in becoming a pastoral and professional supervisor?**

Transforming Practices offers a rich formation in Pastoral Supervision. Supervision Formation comprises of 5 two day Modules, held over 7 months. The next Portfolio of Learning Day will be held on Friday 3 February 2024 (with sufficient applicants). For those proceeding – an Introductory Day will be held on Friday 5 April 2024. All training days may be held on Zoom, face to face or in dual mode depending on successful applicant's location. For program prerequisites, please visit [www.transformingpractices.org](http://www.transformingpractices.org). For further information, please contact the Registrar, Mary Pearson via email [marypearson@gmail.com](mailto:marypearson@gmail.com)

### **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](http://www.nce.catholic.org.au/womensfellowship). If you would like to learn more, contact Sharon Brewer via [info@nce.catholic.org.au](mailto:info@nce.catholic.org.au)

### **Divine Retreat Centre offerings in November**

The Divine Retreat Centre in Somersby, NSW is hosting a variety of single-day and weekend retreats throughout November, including its healing services and its monthly one-day pilgrimage. For more information and bookings, please contact (02) 4372 1598 or email [drcsydney@gmail.com](mailto:drcsydney@gmail.com) to confirm attendance. Visit [www.divineretreatcentre.org](http://www.divineretreatcentre.org) for more information.

### **60<sup>th</sup> Year of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy Commemorative Mass: 4 December**

Bishop Vincent invites all to join him in a commemorative Mass to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *Sacrosanctum Concilium* (The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy) to be held at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta on Monday 4 December at 7.30pm. Please RSVP for catering purposes to 0460 037 795 or Hannah Portelli [hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org](mailto:hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org)

### **Sydney Summer School of Evangelisation: 7 – 14 January 2024**

Summer School is a week-long, live-in, life-changing retreat at the Mt Carmel Retreat Centre in Varroville NSW, featuring praise and worship, inspiring talks, engaging liturgy, time to chill & learn and more in the midst of a community of 150+ young people aged 16-35. Registrations open 31 October. Register by 30 November to receive early bird rates (concession \$525/adult \$625). More info: [contact@summerschool.org.au](mailto:contact@summerschool.org.au). Bookings: [summerschool.org.au](http://summerschool.org.au)

### **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 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.

### **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](http://parracatholic.org/employment)





## POPE FRANCIS' ANGELUS

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

From the Gospel of today's liturgy, we hear some of Jesus' words about the scribes and pharisees, the religious leaders of the people. Regarding these people in authority, Jesus uses very severe words, "for they preach, but do not practice" (Mt 23:3) and "they do all their deeds to be seen by others" (v. 5). This is what Jesus says – they preach and don't practice and everything they do they do to be seen.

So, let us pause on these two aspects: *the distance between saying and doing*, and *the primacy of the exterior over the interior*. *The distance between saying and doing*. Jesus contests the duplicity of the lives of these teachers of Israel, who claimed to teach others the Word of God and to be respected as Temple authorities. They preached one thing, but then lived another. These words of Jesus recall those of the prophets, in particular the prophet Isaiah: "This people draw near with their mouth and honour me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me" (Is 29:13). This is the danger to be on guard for: duplicity of heart. We too have this danger. This duplicity of heart puts the authenticity of our witness as well as our credibility as persons and as Christians at risk.

Because of our weakness, we all experience a certain distance between what we say and what we do. But having a duplicitous heart is something else instead. It is living with "one foot on both sides of the fence" without any problem. Let us remember this, especially when we are called to exercise a role of responsibility – in life, in society or in the Church – no to duplicity! This rule is always valid for a priest, a pastoral worker, a politician, a teacher, or a parent: be committed to living first yourself what you say, what you preach to others. To be authentic teachers, we first need to be credible witnesses.

The second aspect follows as a consequence: *the primacy of the exterior over the interior*. In fact, living in duplicity, the scribes and pharisees were concerned about having to hide their inconsistency to save their outward reputation. Indeed, if the people knew what was truly in their hearts, they would have been ashamed, losing all credibility. And so, they performed works to appear righteous, to "save face", as we say. This trick is very common – they put make-up on their faces, make-up on their life, make-up on their hearts... And these "made-up" people do not know how to live the truth. And many times, even we experience the temptation of duplicity.

Brothers and sisters, accepting this warning from Jesus, let us too ask ourselves: Do we try to practice what we preach, or do we live duplicitously? Do we say one thing and do something else? Are we concerned only about showing how impeccable we are on the outside, made-up, or do we also cultivate our interior life in sincerity of heart?

Let us turn to the Holy Virgin. May she who lived in integrity and humility of heart according to the will of God help us to become credible witnesses of the Gospel.

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## POPE FRANCIS INVITES CHILDREN TO TEACH WORLD THROUGH THEIR JOY AND PURITY

Pope Francis meets with 7,500 children from 84 countries in the Vatican, and emphasises the importance of learning from their innate joy and the unity they represent. *By Francesca Merlo*

Pope Francis welcomed children from around the world to the Vatican's Paul VI Hall to share a few moments of joy and laughter during a meeting themed "Let's Learn from Boys and Girls."

Addressing the young audience, the Pope expressed his gratitude to the children, those who accompanied them, and the organisers of the event, including Cardinal José Tolentino and the Dicastery for Culture and Education, as well as Father Enzo Fortunato, who made the event possible. He also acknowledged all the other families and organisations whose contributions were essential to this event taking place.

### Learning from children

Pope Francis began his address by acknowledging the theme as being a particular one, "Learn from children?" he asked. "Aren't children the ones who should learn?"

He responded to this question by emphasising the importance of learning from children, as they continually offer valuable lessons to the world. The Pope described how children embody the beauty of life in its simplicity and the joy of being together, two gifts from God that should be cherished.

"We need to learn from you," stressed the Pope. "I am always happy when I meet you because you teach me something new every time." Pope Francis then urged the children to proclaim together: "Life is a gift! God loves us! We are all brothers and sisters!"

### A family gathering

The Holy Father went on to note that this gathering of children from all corners of the world was just like a reunion of siblings in a "big house" that Jesus has provided, symbolising the universal Church's embrace to all.

He highlighted the importance of creating an environment where children, no matter where they come from, always feel welcomed, loved, and accepted. Expressing his desire to personally greet each child, Pope Francis acknowledged that due to the large number present this would but be possible, but he did ensure that his words and blessings were extended to every child and, through them, to children worldwide. Pope Francis then shared his compassion for those children suffering due to war, hunger, disease, climate disasters, and poverty.

### The gift of life

The Pope encouraged his young audience to always remember that life is a beautiful gift, that God loves them dearly, and that it is a wonderful experience to be together, to communicate, to share, and to give.

He reminded them to pray to the Blessed Virgin Mary. "Our Lady will help you," he said. "Always pray to the Blessed Virgin Mary." The Pope then invited the children to come forward with their own questions, which ranged from how to care for the environment and do good in our world.

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## **'LIFE, MY STORY THROUGH HISTORY': A NEW BOOK ON LIFE OF POPE FRANCIS**

**By Vatican News**

"Life, My Story Through History", is the title of Pope Francis' new book in which he recounts for the first time the story of his life through the events that have marked the world, from the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 when he was almost three years old, to the present day.

The book will be published by HarperCollins Publishers, which made the announcement on 7 November.

Developed with HarperCollins Italy, the book represents a global project for the publisher that will come out in the spring of 2024 in Italy, the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Brazil, France, Germany, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, Spain and South America.

### **Events that changed the world**

This is the first time New York-based publisher HarperCollins has published a book by Pope Francis.

"Life, My Story Through History," citing a HarperCollins Italy press release of 7 November "is an extraordinary journey through the decades to retrace the most significant moments of our times, through the personal memories of the Pope. These include: the fall of the Berlin Wall, Videla's coup d'état in Argentina, the moon landing in 1969 and even the 1986 World Cup where Maradona scored the goal that went down in history as the 'mano de Dios.'"

The publication consists of memoirs of a priest who, from his very personal point of view, recounts the years of the Nazi extermination of the Jews, the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the great economic recession of 2008, the collapse of the Twin Towers, the pandemic, the resignation of Benedict XVI and the conclave that elected him Pope with the name of Francis. Events that," one reads, "intertwine with the life of the 'Callejero Pope' who exceptionally reopens the treasure chest of his memories to recount, with his trademark frankness, those moments that changed the world."

### **The latest topics and themes**

At the same time, Pope Francis shares important views on the latest topics and current events: social inequality, the climate crisis, war, atomic weapons, racial discrimination, and battles in favour of life.

The Pope's voice alternates with that of narrator, Fabio Marchese Ragona, a '*Vaticanista*' journalist for the Mediaset television group, who in each chapter describes the historical context in which the Pope lived.

### **Remembering to avoid repeating mistakes**

The press release on the book shares some of what the Pope had to say on the book.

"In this book we tell a story, the story of my life, through the most important and serious events that humanity has experienced over the last eighty years. It is a book that sees the light so that, especially the younger generation, can listen to the voice of an elderly man and reflect on what our world has experienced, so as not to repeat the mistakes of the past. Let us think, for example, of the wars that have plagued and still plague the world.

Let us think of the genocides, the persecutions, the hatred between brothers and sisters of different religions!

How much suffering!

Having reached a certain age, it is important, to reopen the book of memories and make remembrance: to learn by looking back, to identify the things that are not good, the toxic things that we have experienced along with the sins we have committed, but also to relive all that God has sent us that is good. It is an exercise in discernment that we should all do, before it is too late!"

### **An honour to share this story**

"We are honoured to publish Pope Francis' book," said Brian Murray, president and CEO of HarperCollins Publishers.

"From his life in Argentina to his election as Pontiff of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis has lived an exceptional life, witnessing some of the most decisive moments in recent history. We look forward to bringing his story to readers around the 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 Christmas Lunch Thursday 16th November 2023, at Seven Hills RSL, arrive 11.30am. 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](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

### NOVEMBER

	NOVEMBER	
15	Baptismal Preparation	7.30pm
16	Lourdes Over 50's Meeting & Christmas Lunch	10.30am
19	Children's Liturgy Mass	9.30am
20	St Vincent de Paul Meeting	7.00pm
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.**

### 11/12 November 2023

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. Glivic, 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

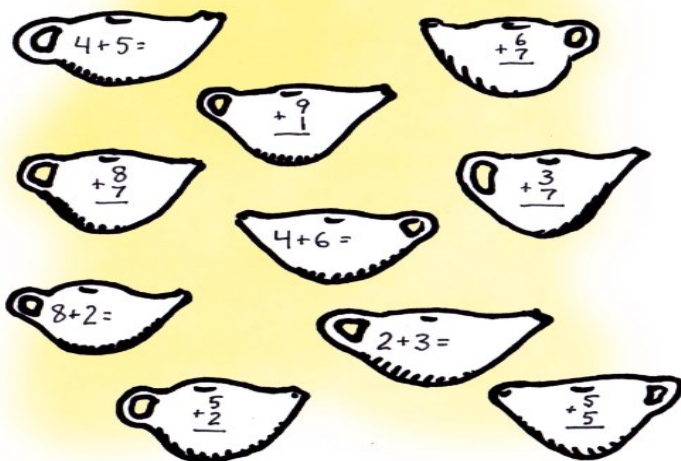
### 18/19 November 2023

Acolytes	Vigil: Daniel La Guidara 8am: Jane Seaman 9.30am Ramzee Michael
Ministers	Vigil: H. Gonzales & L. La Guidara 8am: J. Irudayaraj & E. Mi 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui & M. Michael
Readers	Vigil: B. Motha & J. Sarmiento 8am: A. McNally & K. Walker 9.30am: K. Huihui & A. Walker
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. La Guidara, C. La Guidara & S. Thoms. 8am: VOLUNTEERS 9.30am: L. Culili & A. Melki.
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	16 November Cathy Hutchings & Annette Peatman
Welcomers	Vigil: Chrisha Gonzales 8am: Suzy Nemorin 9.30am: Kathy Chamberlain

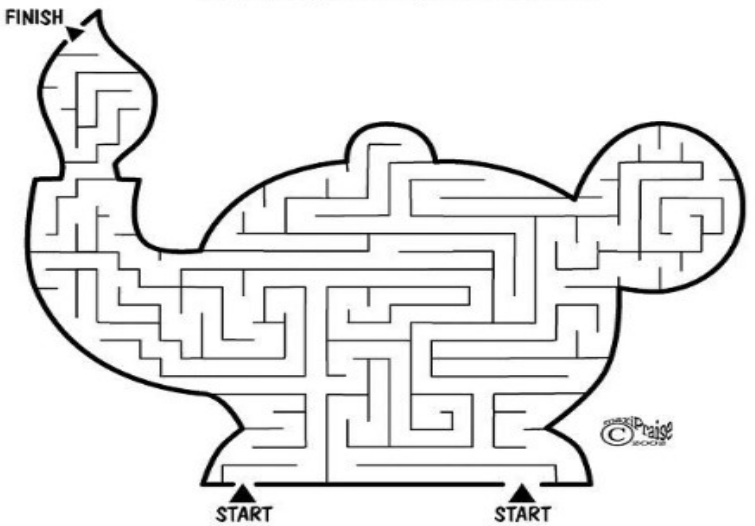
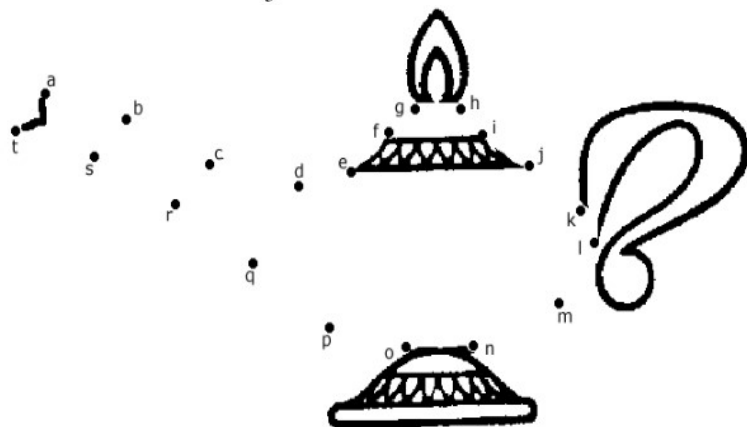


# The Kids' Bulletin

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
November 12th, 2023



*In today's parable, ten bridesmaids are waiting with their lamps. How many of them brought extra oil? Figure out the problems on each lamp. Colour in the ones that equal 10 to find out the answer!*



*Just like the ten bridesmaids who had a choice to take extra oil and be prepared for the coming of the bridegroom, you have a choice of which path to take. One will lead you to the light, the other path to darkness.*



## Give Me Oil in My Lamp

Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. Matthew 25:13 (NIV)

Choose the word that best matches the definition. Answers can be found in Matthew 25:1-13 (NIV)



- \_\_\_ 1. Ceremony in which a man and a woman are married.  
A. wise B. wedding C. oil D. lamps
- \_\_\_ 2. Where God lives  
A. watch B. come C. heaven D. lamps
- \_\_\_ 3. Devices used to produce light  
A. lamps B. asleep C. banquet D. foolish
- \_\_\_ 4. Not awake  
A. asleep B. heaven C. oil D. lamps
- \_\_\_ 5. Made a sound like a bell  
A. rang B. asleep C. lamps D. oil
- \_\_\_ 6. A feast or meal held in recognition of some person or occasion  
A. come B. midnight C. wedding D. banquet
- \_\_\_ 7. To arrive at a particular place; the opposite of go  
A. door B. come C. midnight D. heaven
- \_\_\_ 8. To observe or look at something  
A. wise B. midnight C. watch D. wedding
- \_\_\_ 9. Someone who has good judgment and makes good decisions is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. watch B. wise C. rang D. door
- \_\_\_ 10. Someone who does not use good judgment is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. asleep B. oil C. midnight D. foolish

### ACROSS

5. 12 o'clock at night
6. Not awake
7. A swinging or sliding cover over the place where someone usually enters a room
9. Ceremony in which a man and a woman are married.
10. Someone who does not use good judgment is \_\_\_\_\_.

### DOWN

1. Someone who has good judgment and makes good decisions is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Devices used to produce light
3. A feast or meal held in recognition of some person or occasion
4. To observe or look at something
8. A liquid that is often used to make fuel.

MIDNIGHT	LAMPS	WATCH	OIL	FOOLISH
ASLEEP	DOOR	BANQUET	WISE	WEDDING