

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES

PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS

*"Still a wonderful place to pray & stay."*

7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills. NSW. 2147

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**Parish Priest:** Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran  
**Parish Deacon:** Deacon Thong Nguyen  
**Parish Office Team:** Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang Jane Nguyen  
**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:** 17th April 2024  
**Baptism:** 25th February 2024  
**Sacrament Co-Ordinator:** Mrs Artelle Lenthall  
**Parish Website:** [www.olol7hills.com.au](http://www.olol7hills.com.au)  
**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 25th February 2024 • Year B



### Let us Pray for the Sick

Rico Valentine Abadam, Leonila Ahillon, Mary Attard, Cynthia Avery, Rosella Booth, Barrie Chamberlain, Penny Briscoe, Para Dias, Anthony Janicska, Paul Leong, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Carlos Moreno, Maricar Poblete, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Eustace Ratnam, Sue Tipaldo, Guza Schembri, Sr Colleen O'Sullivan, Wally Villanueva, Bob & Therese Marini, 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@olol7hills.com.au](mailto:secretary@olol7hills.com.au)**  
**We can also arrange for Holy Communion or a visit if required.**

### Let us Pray for the Deceased

**Recently Deceased:** Anastacia Monica Cormio, Michael Ellis, Jasmin Fernando, Chalie Gauci, Gloria Hansen, Cathy Howard, Vinnie Zahra.

**Anniversaries:** Beena Abraham, Fredy Alphonse, Carsal & Tamasin Castana, Audrey & Herman Chillia, Conception, Dominic & Monica D'Souza, Joe Falzon, John Fernando, M.A Fernando, Emily Galea, E & Sheela Franklin, Josephine Gomez, Harold Lafleur, Apolinario Maglaya, Jason Muscat, Joseph Nguyen, Mile Perak, Cordula Paiva, Maria Reyes, Jose Reyes, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Helen Tanti, Maria Trinh, Alison Vella, Melchor Usman.

**Remembrance:** Neil Amaratunga, Carmen Attard, Sydney Azie, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, France Angseeing, Rolily Burac, Miriam Busutill, John Cini, & Cini Family, Sam & Silvia Debatista, Carmen DeGuarie, Joe & Launcer Deguarie, Jimmy Deguarie, Tony DeGuarie, Tania Deguire, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Melvyn Fernandes, Mary Galea, Sam Gabo, Jean, Elsie, Karl & Gervais Garrick, Tino & Mana Kama, Elizabeth Jean Hancock, Flordeliza Limuangco—Labancz, Norma Lorenzo, Apolinario and Felina Maglaya, Mangion Family, Tania McGove, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Pauline Meilak, Mary Mifsud, Emilia & William Mifsud, Anton & Lourda Motha, Louis & Stephen Mula, Mary & Francis Muscat, Ngan Pin, Elizabeth Pinter, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jonathan Tek Kie, Shane Vaz, Jim & Alison Vella.

### Funeral Notices

*May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen*

### THE PILGRIM STATUE OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

The Statue of Virgin Mary is available for home visitation and will reside with you for a week, being Sunday to Saturday. If you are wishing to participate, please leave your name and address at the Parish Office or contact Maryse Augseeing on 0467 701 010.

### Our Lady of Lourdes

Ever Immaculate Virgin, Mother of mercy, health of the sick, refuge of sinners, comfort of the afflicted, you know my needs, my troubles, my sufferings; cast on me a look of pity. By appearing in the grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, from which you dispense your favours, and already many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and physical.

I come, therefore, with the most unbounded confidence to implore your maternal intercession.

Obtain most loving mother, my requests, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

*Amen.*



### REGULAR COLLECTIONS - First and Second

**FIRST COLLECTION and Matt's Point** is for the support of Priests throughout the Diocese.

#### ON-LINE BANK DONATIONS

**Account name:** Parramatta Diocesan Clergy  
**BSB:** 067 950  
**ACC:** 00 00 4265  
**Reference:** Seven Hills - 6035

### SECOND COLLECTION or Planned Giving Program

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

#### ON-LINE BANK DONATIONS

**Account Name:** Seven Hills Catholic Church.  
**BSB:** 067 950  
**ACC:** 000552  
**Reference:** (Your Planned Giving envelope number or for a one off donation, 'DONATION')

#### IN-PERSON BANK DEPOSIT (at a Bank Inst / Branch)

**Account Name:** Seven Hills Catholic Church  
**BSB:** 062 315  
**ACC ID #** 00901486  
**AGENT #** 660



### KEEP UP TO DATE

By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more - a great way to stay up to date with what's on in our parish Visit [www.olol7hills.org.au](http://www.olol7hills.org.au)

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**FIRST READING** A reading from the book of Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called.' Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.

The Word of the Lord.

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**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**(R)** I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

1. I trusted, even when I said:

'I am sorely afflicted.'

O precious in the eyes of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful. **(R.)**

3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil

before all his people,

in the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem. **(R.)**

2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;  
you have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:

I will call on the Lord's name. **(R.)**

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**SECOND READING** A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:31-34

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The Word of the Lord.

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**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard:

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

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**GOSPEL** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 9:2-10

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus.

Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord.





Dear friends,

It was said that Infant sacrifice was a common practice in Ancient time, especially in Phoenicia and its surrounding countries and meant for the removal of sin or the making of covenants, and in the first reading from the book of Genesis this Sunday the Lord uses it as a means to test Abraham's faith.

In this case, he was asked to sacrifice Isaac his only son, and despite his great love for the son, he showed no intention to resist God's request by raising the knife to turn Isaac into a sacrificial offering.

Touched by Abraham's obedience to Him, God ordered him not to harm his son, and killed the ram caught in the bush as the sacrifice instead, then promised to shower upon him a lot of blessings and make his descendants as many as the heavenly stars and the sea sands.

The sacrificial narrative of the first reading then helps connect us with the self-sacrifice of Jesus mentioned in the Gospel story, when the evangelist recalls Jesus' instruction asking Peter, James and John to keep his Transfiguration for themselves till he was risen from his death.

While Isaac was spared of his death as a sacrificial offering, it was a different story with Jesus who died on the Cross, buried in the tomb and raised up from the dead as a sacrifice to deliver us from sin, and hence lift us up to the divine world, the one he gave the disciples a glimpse into, the one where he was transfigured, his clothes became shiny white, and the one the disciples didn't want to leave behind.

Jesus revealed such a wonderful world to us through the disciples, and seemed to tell us that this special world will be ours one day given we listen to what he teaches us as God said to the three disciples then. More importantly, we know that his teachings is summed up in the love of God and the love of humanity. This dual love truly matters to Jesus and unless we put it into practice, there is no chance for us to enter such a beautiful world.

Let us give praise and thanks to God today for the salvation giving sacrifice that Jesus offered to the Father to deliver us from sin, and pray for the grace to help us faithfully follow the way of love as committed witnesses to Jesus in this particular faith-community.

Have a joyful week filled with our love for God and others around us.

*Fr Henry*

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## PARISH NEWS...

### DRIVING CONCERNS

One of our neighbours has sent to our Parish Office an email reminding our parishioners of two important matters as following:

- 1/ Please put the indicators on to indicate which way to go when we exit the carpark,
- 2/ Elizabeth Lane is a NO STOPPING area, so we should never stop there.

Thank you all for your co-operation.

Fr Henry

### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Our PPC met last week and as usual Council members dedicated some time to go through the recent document called Fiducia Supplicans (The Supplicating Trust) recently released by the dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith and discussed the point about the non-liturgical blessing for people in irregular relationships. The Council also talked about the possibility to introduce the Family group to our Parish community. We are interested in hearing from you of any experience you might have about this group.

### LENT PRAYER GROUP

Lent is a time to focus on prayer, to open our hearts and minds to God who loves us. You are invited to experience God's peace and love by slowing down and reflecting in a small group each week on a Thursday morning at 9.30am in the Parish Meeting Room. For further enquiries, please call Olivia on 0423 890 978.

### SERVING AS PARISH MINISTERS

In response to popular requests from the community to serve as lectors, Extraordinary ministers of Communion, Acolytes and so on, I would like to invite you to pick up the form available in our Parish Directory, tick your preferred ministry, write down your name and contact number, and place it in the collection plate or return it to Fr Henry, and the Parish office will contact you.

### ALTAR SERVERS RECRUITMENT

If your child has completed their First Holy Communion and is in year 4 or higher, they are invited to serve Mass. Please see Fr Henry before or after Mass to get a form and come along to a training session on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March and attend the Installation Mass at 9.30am on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2024.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday during lent at 7.30pm.

### LENTEN BOOK CLUB

A group of parishioners are gathering for an hour on five Tuesday evenings during Lent to share thoughts on "Opening Doors - A Seeker's Reflection on the Rooms of Christian Living" by Dr Kevin Treston, an author and educator living in Brisbane. We start in the Meeting Room on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm. Zoom also available. If you would like to join us please call Adrian on 0408 649 327

### CANDLE WAX ON THE CHURCH CARPET

Please do not try to remove candle wax on the church carpet by yourselves, for you might make it worse. Instead let our staff know and we ask our carpet cleaners to treat it.

### LOURDES PLAYGROUP IS BACK 1st MARCH

Every Friday during school term, 9.00am—11.00am in the Parish Meeting Room, children aged 0 to 5 years old and their carers are welcome to come along during any part of that time for a play, chat and cuppa. ALL ARE WELCOME.

### PARISH BIN ROSTER - VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

We are seeking volunteers to assist 4 times a year to place the Parish bins on the kerbside (Grantham Road) once a week on Tuesday. Please contact the Parish Office if you are able to help out. *Thank you.*



### Synod 2023 Update:

#### Decree issued and Development of Diocesan Plan Begins

In January, the Synodal Decree from our inaugural Diocesan Synod was issued, enabling us to move forward in the development of a Diocesan Plan. Join us in the next phase of our journey, as we discern a new path forward for our local Church in Western Sydney and Blue Mountains. The Diocesan Plan for a Synodal Church will launch at the Diocesan Gathering Saturday 10 August. Learn more at [parracatholic.org/synod](https://parracatholic.org/synod)

### Celebrating Holy Week:

#### Formation for Ministers of the Altar: 9 March

The Office for Worship presents 'Celebrating Holy Week' – a workshop for current Acolytes and Ministers at the Altar presented by Chris Ohlsen. It will be held Saturday 9 March from 9:30am to 3pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. To register or for more information, please contact [lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org](mailto:lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org) or call (02) 8838 3456 by 5 March 2024.

#### Filipino Chaplaincy Feast of St Joseph Celebrations: 16 March

The Filipino Chaplaincy of the Diocese of Parramatta invites you to join Holy Mass to celebrate the Feast of St Joseph, the Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Saturday 16 March at 10:30AM at St Patrick's Church, Blacktown. There will be Novena Masses in preparation for the Feast from March 6 to 14 at 7:30PM (except on March 6 and 13 at 8:00PM) at St Michael's Church, Blacktown South.

#### Women in the Gospels Retreat: 3 – 10 May

The Sisters of the Good Samaritan are hosting a *Women in the Gospels Retreat* with Elizabeth Dowling RSM from 3-10 May. The retreat will explore a selection of stories from across the Gospels, focusing on the characterisation of women in these stories. Women's discipleship, faith and initiative will be highlighted. The venue is the Santa Casa retreat centre at Queenscliff in Victoria. For information visit <https://sgslibrary.goodsams.org.au/liberty/libraryHome.do> and click on 'Upcoming events'.

### Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunity for Cycle 1

Have you had a chance to complete your first three Mandatory Safeguarding Modules as yet? Face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre Blacktown on Tuesday mornings in March.

Module 1: Tuesday 5 March (10.00am – 11.00am)

Module 2: Tuesday 12 March (10.00am – 11.30am)

Module 3: Tuesday 19 March (10.00am – 11.30am)

To register, please visit <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?topic=safeguarding>

### Glenbrook Parish Lenten Biblical Studies: 12 and 19 March

St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, is hosting two Biblical Studies sessions on the Passion of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark on Tuesday 12 and 19 March at the parish hall from 7.30pm. Parish Priest Fr Joseph Lam OSA will lead the sessions. To RSVP and for more information, please contact [secretary@stfinbars.org.au](mailto:secretary@stfinbars.org.au)

### Light to the Nations (LTTN) Easter Youth Pilgrimage: 28 – 31 March

LTTN is an Easter Pilgrimage event held biannually for Catholics (singles and families) aged 16+. Camp under the open skies with up to 1,000+ as we celebrate the Easter Triduum. The event will be held on the grounds of Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville from 28 – 31 March 2024.

Visit [www.lttan.org.au](http://www.lttan.org.au) for more information and register today. Contact [rego@ltnn.org.au](mailto:rego@ltnn.org.au) or Therese MGL on 0432 228 250.

### Positions Vacant:

Parish Cook (part-time) - St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Parramatta – **Applications close 4 March**  
More details at: [parracatholic.org/about/jobs/](https://parracatholic.org/about/jobs/)

Enrolling Now for Kindergarten  
**2025**



### Second Sunday of Lent 24th & 25th February Please donate to Project Compassion

After the birth of her children, 22-year-old Ronita was at risk of having to leave school permanently. With the support of Caritas Australia's partners in the Philippines, she resumed her studies and secured a job at a call centre to support her family. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges and build a better tomorrow *for all future generations*. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes, scan the QR code below, via envelopes available from your parish, call 1800 024 413 or visit [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)



### OUR LADY OF LOURDES PRIMARY

**OPEN DAYS** 28 February 6pm - 7:30pm  
4 March 6pm - 7:30pm

7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills  
T: 8869 6800 [ololshills.catholic.edu.au](http://ololshills.catholic.edu.au)





Today, first Sunday of Lent, the Gospel presents us with Jesus tempted in the desert (cf. *Mk* 1:12-15). The text says: "He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan". We too, during Lent, are invited to "enter the wilderness", that is, silence, the inner world, listening to the heart, in contact with the truth. In the desert, today's Gospel adds, Christ "was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him" (v. 13). *Wild beasts* and *angels* were His company. But, in a symbolic sense, they are our company too: indeed, when we enter the inner wilderness, we can encounter *wild beasts* and *angels* there.

*Wild beasts*. In what sense? In the spiritual life we can think of them as the disordered passions that divide the heart, trying to take possession of it. They entice us, they seem seductive, but if we are not careful, we risk being torn apart by them. We can give a name to these "beasts" of the soul: the various vices, the coveting of wealth, which imprisons us in connivance and dissatisfaction, the vanity of pleasure, which condemns us to restlessness and solitude, and the craving for fame, which gives rise to insecurity and a continuous need for confirmation and prominence – let us not forget these things that we can encounter within – covetousness, vanity and greed. They are like "wild" beasts, and as such they must be tamed and fought; otherwise, they will devour our freedom. And let helps us to enter the inner wilderness to correct these things.

And then, in the desert, there were the *angels*. These are God's messengers, who help us, who do us good: indeed, their characteristic, according to the Gospel, is *service* (cf. v. 13): the exact opposite of *possession*, typical of the passions.

Service against possession. The angelic spirits instead recall the good thoughts and sentiments suggested by the Holy Spirit. While temptations tear us apart, the good divine inspirations unify us and let us enter into harmony: they quench the heart, infuse the taste of Christ, "the flavour of Heaven". And in order to grasp the inspiration of God, one must enter into silence and prayer. And Lent is the time to do this.

We can ask ourselves, first, what are the disordered passions, the "wild beasts" that agitate in my heart?

Second question: to permit the voice of God to speak to my heart and to preserve it in goodness, am I thinking of retreating a little into the "wilderness", am I trying to dedicate space in the day to this?

May the Holy Virgin, who kept the Word and did not let herself be touched by the temptations of the evil one, help us on our Lenten journey.

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### After praying the Angelus the Holy Father continued:

Dear brothers and sisters!

Ten years have passed now since the outbreak of the armed conflict in Sudan, which has caused a very grave humanitarian situation. I once again ask the conflicting sides to stop this war, which inflicts a great deal of harm to the people and the future of the country. Let us pray that paths of peace can be found soon, to build the future of dear Sudan.

The violence against defenceless populations, the destruction of infrastructure, and insecurity are again rampant in the province of Cabo Delgado, Mozambique, where the Catholic mission of Our Lady of Africa in Mazezeze was also set on fire in recent days. Let us pray for peace to return to that tormented region. And let us not forget so many other conflicts that stain the African continent and many parts of the world with blood: also Europe, Palestine, Ukraine...

Let us not forget: war is a defeat, always. Wherever there is warfare, the populations are exhausted, they are tired of war, which is always pointless and inconclusive, and brings only death, only destruction, and will never lead to the solution to problems. Instead, let us pray tirelessly, because prayer is effective, and let us ask the Lord for the gift of minds and hearts that dedicate themselves to peace in a concrete way.

I greet the faithful of Rome and of different parts of Italy and the world, especially the pilgrims from the United States of America, the Neocatechumenal Communities of various parishes of the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Spain, students from the "Carolina Coronado" Institute of Almendralejo and the voluntary association "In the footsteps of the Servants – towards the World". And I greet the growers and livestock farmers in the square!

This afternoon, together with collaborators of the Curia, we will begin the spiritual Exercises. I invite the communities and faithful to dedicate specific moments to gather themselves in the presence of the Lord during this Lenten time and throughout this year of preparation for the Jubilee, which is the "Year of Prayer".

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

*Arrivederci!*

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## POPE FRANCIS AT AUDIENCE Cycle of Catechesis. Vices and Virtues. 7. Sorrow

*Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!*

In our itinerary of catechesis on vices and virtues, today we will look at a rather ugly vice, sadness, understood as a despondency of the soul, a constant affliction that prevents people from feeling joy at their own existence.

First and foremost, it must be noted that, with regard to sadness, the Fathers had made an important distinction: There is, in fact, a sadness that befits Christian life, and that by God's grace, can be changed into joy. Obviously, this should not be rejected and is part of the journey of conversion. But there is a second kind of sadness that *creeps into the soul and prostrates it into a state of despondency*: it is this second kind of sadness that must be resolutely and assiduously fought, because it comes from the evil one. This distinction can also be seen in [the letter of] Saint Paul, who wrote to the Corinthians: "godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation and brings no regret, but worldly grief produces death" (2 Cor 7:10).

There is, therefore, a friendly sadness that leads us to salvation. Think of the prodigal son from the parable: when he reaches the depths of his degeneracy, he feels great bitterness, and this prompts him to come to his senses and to decide to return home to his father (cf. Lk 15:11-20). It is a grace to lament over one's own sins, to remember the state of grace from which we have fallen, to weep because we have lost the purity in which God dreamed of us.

But there is a second sadness, which is instead an *ailment of the soul*. It arises in the human heart when a desire or hope vanishes. Here we can refer to the account of the disciples of Emmaus. Those two disciples leave Jerusalem with a disappointed heart, and they confide to the stranger who at one point accompanies them: "We had hoped that he — Jesus — was the one to redeem Israel" (Lk 24:21). The dynamic of sadness is linked to the *experience of loss*. Hopes arise in the heart of man, which are sometimes dashed. It can be the desire to possess something that instead we are unable to obtain, but it can also be something important, such as an emotional loss. When this happens, it is as if man's heart falls from a precipice, and the emotions he feels are discouragement, weakness of spirit, depression and anguish. We all go through ordeals that generate sadness in us, because life makes us conceive dreams that are then shattered. In this situation, after a time of turmoil, some cling to hope, but others wallow in melancholy, allowing it to fester in their hearts. Does one take pleasure in this? See: sadness is like *the pleasure of non-pleasure*; it is like taking a bitter candy, without sugar, unpleasant, and sucking on that candy. Sadness is taking pleasure in non-pleasure.

The monk Evagrius recounts that all vices aim at pleasure, however ephemeral it may be, whereas sadness enjoys the opposite: *lulling oneself into endless sadness*. Some prolonged griefs, in which a person continues to expand the void of one who is no longer there, are not proper to life in the Spirit. Certain bitter resentments, where a person always has a claim in mind that makes them take on the guise of the victim, do not produce a healthy life in us, let alone a Christian one. There is something in everyone's past that needs to be healed. Sadness can turn from being a natural emotion into an evil state of mind.

Sadness is a cunning demon. The Desert Fathers described it as a worm of the heart, which erodes and hollows out its host. This is a good image: it helps us understand. A worm in the heart that consumes and hollows out its host. So what should I do when I feel sad? Stop and look: is this a good sadness? Is it a sadness that is not so good? And react according to the nature of the sadness. Do not forget that sadness can be a very bad thing that leads us to pessimism, that leads us to a selfishness that is difficult to cure.

Brothers and sisters, we must beware of this sadness and think that Jesus brings us the joy of resurrection. As much as life may be filled with contradictions, defeated desires, unrealized dreams, lost friendships, thanks to Jesus' resurrection we can believe that *all will be saved*. Jesus rose again not only for himself, but also for us, to *redeem all the happiness* that has remained unfulfilled in our lives. Faith casts out fear, and the resurrection of Christ removes sadness like the stone from the tomb. For a Christian every day is an exercise in resurrection. In his famous novel, "The Diary of a Country Priest", Georges Bernanos, has the parish priest of Torcy say this: "Joy is in the gift of the Church, whatever joy is possible for this sad world to share. Whatever you did against the Church, has been done against joy". And another French writer, León Bloy, left us this wonderful phrase: "The only real sadness [...] is not to become a saint."

May the Spirit of the Risen Jesus help us to defeat sorrow with holiness.

### POPE FRANCIS: "Churches should lift our hearts to God" By Devin Watkins

"Like the spires and bell towers, may the gazes of pilgrims be lifted and their voices proclaim with the angels: 'Holy Immortal God'."

Pope Francis offered that reminder to the Construction Board of the Sagrada Familia Basilica in the Spanish city of Barcelona as he met with them in the Vatican on Saturday.

In his address, the Pope dedicated his reflection to the theme prayer, since the Church is currently in the Year of Prayer leading up to the 2025 Jubilee.

"A climate of prayer must not be lost in our temples, and must be one of the priorities for those who, like you, have received the responsibility of their care," he said.

#### Portals of faith, hope, charity

Pope Francis spoke about the three portals that make up the basilica's façade, saying each has a theme illustrated by Scripture passages and framed by a prayer.

The portal of faith—dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and found on the right side of the façade—bears the words of the Trisagion, a hymn from the Divine Liturgy for many Eastern rite Churches.

It also depicts Jesus preaching to the doctors of the law, showing that "preached faith must always become prayer," said the Pope. The left-hand portal is dedicated to St. Joseph and is called the portal of Hope. The central portal is dedicated to Jesus and called the portal of Charity.

Together, they represent the Holy Family and invite pilgrims to raise our gaze "toward the mystery of the Incarnation."

The Pope noted the image of the Rosary that descends through the stained glass and frames the Star of David, as if to say: "Here is our light."

"It is precisely in adoration, in the contemplative prayer of the mysteries," he said, "where we open ourselves to that light, like the window of this temple."

#### Prayerful contemplation of pilgrims

In conclusion, Pope Francis urged the men and women overseeing the Basilica's construction to ensure the contemplative aspect of the masterpiece of the Servant of God Antonio Gaudí.

Prayer, he said, should be the end goal of the Sagrada Familia Basilica.



## 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 Thursday 14th March 2024, 10.30am– 1pm. Please bring a plate to share. Look forward to seeing you there.

### Lourdes: Luminate Young Adults Group

The next group night will be in March. If you would like more information please kindly contact Ian Epondulan: [youtholol7h@gmail.com](mailto:youtholol7h@gmail.com) or search 'Lourdes 7Hills Young Adults' on Facebook.

### 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-11.00am 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

### FEBRUARY

26	St Vincent De Paul Meeting	7.00pm
27	Lenten Book Club	7.30pm
28	4th Sacramental Meeting	6.30pm
29	Finance Committee Meeting	8.00pm

## OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

### 24/25 February 2024












Acolytes	Vigil: Frank Paiva 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: R.Soares, N.Shami 8am: L.Fernandes, E.Gartner 9.30am: P.Gow, M.Michael	
Readers	Vigil: J.Sarmiento, B.Motha 8am: M.Santos, A.McNally 9.30am: A.Han, I.Epondulan	
Altar Servers	Vigil: M.Gluciv, E.Reardon, SUB RQD 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: C.Attard, L.Culli	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Flowers	Team	
Church Cleaning	28 Feb	Jessie Borg Anne McNally
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Urge 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Volunteer	

### 2/3 March 2024

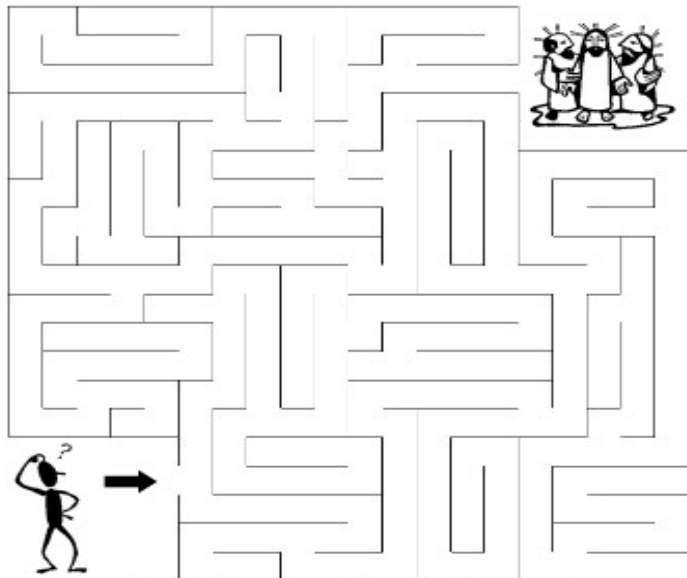
Acolytes	Vigil: Abel De Rosario 8am: Jane Seaman 9.30am Fayelene Kennedy	
Ministers	Vigil: H. Gonzale, F. Pavia 8am: S. Nemorin, C. Gonzales 9.30am: M. Aquino, A. Walker	
Readers	Vigil: C. Rodrigues, N. Do Rosario 8am: J. Irudayaraj, Pepito Ferriols 9.30am: N. Arambulo, S. Manamperi	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Saoirse Costello, S. Costello, E. Reardon 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: S. Culili, J. Kingston, A. Melki	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Tongan Choir	
Flowers	Fenty & Liz	
Church Cleaning	9 March	Tongan Community
Welcomers	Vigil: Chrisha Gonzales 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Kathy Chamberlian	

# The Kids' Bulletin

Second Sunday of Lent  
February 25th, 2024

 took Peter, James and John up a . Suddenly His  became dazzling white, like the .  began to speak with Moses and Elijah, who appeared beside Him.  were terrified. Peter said, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. Shall we build : one for You, one for Moses and one for Elijah?" Then a  came over them, and a voice came out of it and said, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him." Then only  was there with them. Coming down the , He told  not to tell anyone what happened until after He rose from the dead.

Use the pictures to help read the story from today's Gospel reading!



Can you find the way to Jesus, Moses, and Elijah on the mountain?

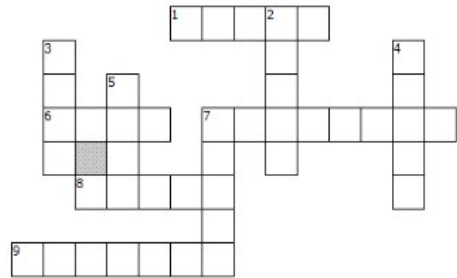
I P E T E R Z Z K E M T F F K  
B P S Q Q R A B B I L A Y P Z  
Q Q A H E L J E P J T I V H R  
G M G N W F G G K V K G J O L  
S I O G O Z N J O O J O M A X  
H L B S R I L O Z I P O O G H  
A B Y T L V K H C C C D O K Z  
M A L Z D A W N W E Q Z E L T  
D O Z E J M P B W H I T E X K  
S A U M A Q O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

DAYS	JOHN	APPEARED	CLOTHES	BLEACH
HIGH	RABBI	MOSES	GOOD	VOICE
PETER	WHITE	LOVE	SIX	ALONE
ELIJAH	WORLD	DAZZLING	MOUNTAIN	JAMES

## On the Mountain Top

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. Mark 9:2

Based on Mark 9:2-9



### ACROSS

- The sound produced by the vocal organs; what we use to speak
- Something that is pleasing, enjoyable, or of high quality
- A raised part of the earth's surface, larger than a hill
- The Son of God
- Articles of apparel such as pants, shirts, dresses, etc.

### DOWN

- A white or gray mass of very small drops of water that floats in the sky
- Having a great distance from top to bottom
- The color of snow or milk
- To have a strong feeling of affection for someone
- Jewish leader who received the Ten Commandments

CLOTHES	MOUNTAIN	WHITE	LOVE	VOICE
MOSES	CLOUD	JESUS	HIGH	GOOD

