

# 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@olol7hills.com.au](mailto:secretary@olol7hills.com.au)

**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 July 2024

**Baptism:** 28th July 2024

**Sacrament Co-Ordinator:** Mrs Artelle Lenthall

**Parish Website:** [www.olol7hills.com.au](http://www.olol7hills.com.au)

**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 28 APRIL 2024 • Year B



### Let us Pray for the Sick

Leonila Ahillon, Florence Arinanan, Mary Attard, Rosella Booth, Penny Briscoe, Para Dias, Ken Faulkner, Ronald Fountain, Renuka Fernando, Ronald Gomez, Anthony Janicska, Odette James, Mary Jordan, Paul Leong, Damian & Roslyn McNally, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Carlos Moreno, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Eustace Ratnam, Sue Tiplado, 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:** Emma Barriom, Barrie Chamberlain, Dulcie Duraisamy, Jasmin Fernando, Charlie Gauci, Cynthia Lopez, Peter Mazzell, Agustin Ngalongalay, Sr Colleen O'Sullivan, Perl Perera, Magelende Sapinosa, Ron Sciortino, Chain Singh, John Spiteri, Joseph Tamt.

**Anniversaries:** Honesto Jr & Jaime Cabrera, Catherine Chandra, Aloysean Corera, John Fernando, M.A Fernando, Patrick U. Fischer, Christine Gomez, Josephine Gomez, Helen & Bill Hili, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kutty, Jasmine McElevey, Rita Leon, Gil Opina, Thomas Morrissey, Emanuella Pozzolungo, Cordula Paiva, Jose Reyes, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Rosary Silva, Maria Trinh, Melchor Usman, Arsenio Laberinto Udan, Amalia Dominga M. Usman, Pastora Villarta, Jane Zammit.

**Remembrance:** Neil Amaratunga, France Angseeing, Carmen Attard, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Sam Borg, Saviour Caruana, Fe Licup Carmen, Tania McGove, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Tony, Tania, Vivian, Joe & Launcer De Guire, Nevis Fernando, Carmen & Joseph Formosa, Sammy Formosa, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Sam Gabo, Melvyn Fernandes, Mary & Sam Galea, Constance Gaycroft, Frans Gutajar, Selvam Irudayaraj, Pauline Meilak, Mangion Family, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Mary Mifsud, Emilia & William Mifsud, Maria Reyes, Anton & Lourda Motha, Louis & Stephen Mula, Mary & Francis Muscat, Natalia & Felicisimo Prahinog, John & Roseline Ratnam, Maria & Nichola Saliba, Jose Sanchez, Jonathan Tek Kie, Amalia M. Usman, Shane Vaz, Vinnie Zahra.

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

### 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 Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31*

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

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**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**(R)** I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

1. My vows I will pay before those who fear him.  
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.  
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.  
May their hearts live for ever and ever! **(R.)**

3. And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him. They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come, declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn: 'These things the Lord has done.' **(R.)**

2. All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,  
all families of the nations worship before him.  
They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the  
dust. **(R.)**

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**SECOND READING** *A reading from the first letter of St John 3:18-24*

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything.

My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

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**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;  
my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** *A reading from the first holy Gospel according to John 15:1-8*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me.

I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

The Gospel of the Lord



Dear friends,

In the early 60s of the last century, when the first president of Vietnam was in the peak of his power and on the road to bring reforms to the country, lead the fight against communism and preserve the independence from foreign interference, he gathered a group of good people around to help him carrying out his reform agenda. Unfortunately, he failed to screen crooked officers infiltrating in his administration, ultimately these men then caused damages to his presidency which finally led to his assassination.

For instance they had kept trying to deceive him by planting banana trees around his inspecting areas, the old man was so impressed seeing how beautiful the country side was that he had no idea these trees were nothing but clever tricks to please his ego and shall be quickly wither and die not long after his trip.

I can't help to relate this story to what Jesus said in the Gospel this Sunday about the need for a branch to remain in unity with the vine in order to stay alive and bear fruits, otherwise it can't survive and face with self-extermination.

Here Jesus took up the symbol of the branch and the vine, probably very familiar with a lot of his listeners coming from agricultural backgrounds, to talk about something metaphysical and theological namely the relationship between him and his followers. He means to tell us, his followers that we no matter what must always stay united with him through his grace given to us by means of the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist and his life living Word, if we wish to remain spiritually healthy and productive on our earthly journey, just like the unity between the branch and the vine, otherwise there will be no chance for us stay spiritually alive.

Apart from our inseparable link to him, we are also required to improve ourselves constantly in the area of spiritual development through a process of self-examination and self-enrichment. We need to prune ourselves from whatever vices that would threaten our growth in grace, such as envy, jealousy, greed, hatred, judgement, selfishness, and so on.

Unless we keep carrying out a regular process of spiritual pruning and unless we remain as one with Jesus in grace, we are surely doomed to face with a spiritual self-destruction, let alone bearing any fruit.

So, let us pray today for the grace to keep us always in unity with Jesus, our Vine and the wisdom to see the areas we need to prune, so that we will continue to be productive as Jesus' branches bearing plenty of fruits of charity through the way we conduct our everyday lives.

Have a spiritually fruitful week,

*Fr Henry*

## PARISH NEWS...

### CONFIRMATION PROCESS 2024

The Enrolment Mass for parents wishing to enrol their Year 6 (or above) child in the 2024 Confirmation Process will be on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 9.30am. Parents and children attend this Mass. The 4 week process of instruction begins on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May (or at repeated meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup>) concluding with the Sacrament of Confirmation celebrated on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May this year.

### PROJECT COMPASSION BOX

Please return your Project Compassion box to the parish and if possible, you would help the Parish a great deal if you could count your donation and change it to bank notes to make it easier for our counters to handle. Thank you so much for your generosity.

### 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*

### PLANNED GIVING 2024/25 ENVELOPES

Thank you to all 2nd Collection givers for 2023/24. We will be ordering our envelopes for the next financial year shortly and would like to make sure all our details are correct. If you need to change address or bank details or if your family would like to join our planned giving for the next year please contact the Parish Office on 9622 2920 or complete a New Parishioner Form and we can include you. We really appreciate the generosity by all our Parishioners.

### BISHOP'S GOOD SHEPHERD APPEAL

Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal for our Holy Spirit Seminarians. Will you support our seminarians to "go out into the deep" and serve? Your compassionate generosity and prayers will help our future priests cast their nets wide to nurture faith and meet the spiritual and pastoral needs of our community. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal at [yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal) or scan this QR code. Thank you.



### REPORT FROM OUR RECENT PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

As usual we started the meeting with a reflection upon the article entitled 'Hey, You! Stop Being So Critical' by Chris McDonnell from La Croix International dealing with the issue of constructive criticism in the Church. According to the writer, it is the sign of a sound measure of real friendship and should be welcomed, instead of a silent disregard if its intention is sincere, or charitable if you want to say.

Amongst the reports from various groups in the parish, the one relating to the Family group that we intend to introduce to our community obviously stood out, and please be prepared to welcome the co-ordinator of our diocesan Family Groups to come and speak to us.

### 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, place it in the collection plate or return it to Fr Henry, and the Parish office will contact you.

### 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.

## Synod 2023 Update:

### Local Think Tank Sessions from May-June

Parishes and other local faith communities across the diocese are holding local Think Tank Sessions, giving local leaders and anyone involved in ministry to offer feedback on the Draft of the Diocesan Plan for a Synodal Church, and contribute ideas for the practical implementation of our Diocesan Plan. To inquire about our local Think Tank session visit [parracatholic.org/synod](https://parracatholic.org/synod)

## Adult Faith Formation opportunities in 2024

- Preparing for marriage or know couples who are?
- Looking to learn more about the Bible, spirituality, theology or practical skills for ministry?
- Searching for encouragement and growth by listening to life & faith stories from adults in their 20s, 30s and 40s?

View and share a copy of the 2024 adult faith formation calendar (link: <https://shorturl.at/grLV3>) OR get in touch with the team to learn about more formation opportunities via [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org)

## Exploring Music for the Solemnities following Easter: 30 April and 2 May

All are invited to the next music workshop organised by the Office for Worship and presented by Eric Grella. This workshop is perfect for all parish musicians and also for anyone who wishes to learn more about music for the Solemnities after Easter. As there has been a large interest in these workshops there will be 2 locations!!

- 30 April at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown from 7pm
  - 2 May at St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith from 7pm
- RSVP by 28 April to [lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org](mailto:lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org) or 0460 037 795.

## Christian Meditation Introduction and Renewal Day: 19 May

You are invited to a Christian Meditation Introduction and Renewal Day on Sunday 19 May from 10am to around 3pm at St Benedict's Monastery, 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia. There will be an introduction to Christian Meditation for newcomers with periods of meditation for ongoing meditators, presentations and prayer with the monks. Mass will be celebrated in the afternoon. Morning tea will be provided, but please bring your own picnic lunch. Donations are welcome. For enquiries, please contact Ann Lomas on [atlomas@bigpond.com](mailto:atlomas@bigpond.com) or call 0437 340 250.



## Caritas Australia Sudan Crisis Appeal

Following the outbreak of conflict in Sudan a year ago, 25 million people - including 14 million children - now need humanitarian assistance and support, according to the [United Nations](#). Caritas partners in Sudan have distributed food, as well as delivering cash assistance, water and hygiene services and gender-based violence protection. Please donate to Caritas Australia's Sudan Crisis Appeal.

You can donate online [www.caritas.org.au/sudan](http://www.caritas.org.au/sudan) or phone 1800 024 413.



**SUDAN CRISIS APPEAL**

25 million people including 14 million children are in dire need of humanitarian assistance.

**DONATE NOW**

[www.caritas.org.au/sudan](http://www.caritas.org.au/sudan)  
1800 024 413

## Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held on Saturday 27 April at Our Lady of the Way Parish, Emu Plains, for Modules 4 and 5. More training opportunities will be available throughout May. Please register directly for this training or for other convenient dates and locations by clicking on the training event at:

<https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>  
For more information, please email: [safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org)

## CCD Formation Opportunities: May and June 2024

SRE catechists and all members of our faith communities are invited to participate in a series of formation opportunities organised by the Diocesan Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD). Delve into St John's Gospel with a scripture expert, Dr Laurie Woods, over 5 weeks on 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 May. Continue your Journey of Faith for 5 weeks with Marilyn Hancock (Head, CCD) on 7, 14, 21, 28 June and 5 July.

## Holy Hour for Vocations: 17 May

Please join us across the Diocese of pray for more vocations to the priesthood. Join us at St Thomas Aquinas Parish, Springwood with Fr Chris del Rosario, on Friday 17 May from 7pm. If you are interested in becoming a priest or would like more information, please contact our Director for Priestly Vocations, Fr Galbert Albino on (02)47734321, 0450821812 or email [galbert.albino@parracatholic.org](mailto:galbert.albino@parracatholic.org)

## Peace Justice Ecology Table Talk "Laudato Si' Week - Seeds of Hope": 20 May

You are invited to an engaging conversation about caring for God's creation: Hear and discuss inspiring stories from lived experience, and play a role in creating positive change in the spirit of Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si'. Join this Diocesan Table Talk on Monday 20 May, 6pm - 8:30pm, St Finbar's Parish Glenbrook. Light dinner will be provided on arrival. Please register by 12 May and find out more at [tinyurl.com/laudatosi-table-talk](http://tinyurl.com/laudatosi-table-talk)

## Diocesan Pentecost Scripture Reflection Evening: 15 May

What does the Holy Spirit look like in your life? How can Scripture stretch our imagination when comes to Pentecost and the Holy Spirit? Register for the Diocesan Pentecost Scripture Reflection Evening with Dr Michele Connolly rsj on Wednesday 15 May 2024, 6:30PM -8:30PM. RSVP via QR or get in touch with the team via [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org)



## Central Europe Pilgrimage with Fr Joseph Lam OSA: May 2025

Cosmos Tour Operators are organising a Central Europe tour for 17 days from 8 to 24 May 2025, travelling through Germany, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Austria and Czechia, accompanied by Fr Joseph Lam OSA from St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook. Prices start from \$5,076 per person, excluding flights. For more information, or to register your interest, please contact the parish office on [secretary@stfinbars.org.au](mailto:secretary@stfinbars.org.au).

## Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend: 18 - 19 May

How prepared are you for marriage? Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life. We give you a chance to spend time together to strengthen and enrich your relationship. The next Engaged Encounter Weekend will be held on 18-19 May, with future dates in August and November 2024.

For further information and to register, please visit [www.engagedencounter.org.au/](http://www.engagedencounter.org.au/)

**Do you find life & faith inspiration by listening to the experiences of others?** The Mission Enhancement Team's *Soul Food Podcast* features life & faith stories of people from our diocesan family. Listen now for FREE via our website or on Spotify: [www.parracatholic.org/resources/soul-food](http://www.parracatholic.org/resources/soul-food)



## POPE FRANCIS' REGINA CAELI

*Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday!*

This Sunday, is dedicated to Jesus the Good Shepherd. In today's Gospel (cf. *Jn* 10:11-18), Jesus tells us that, "The good shepherd *lays down his life* for the sheep" (v. 11). He highlights this aspect so much that He repeats it three times (cf. vv. 11, 15, 17). But in what sense, I ask myself, does the shepherd *give his life* for the sheep?

Being a shepherd, especially in Christ's time, was not just a job, it was a way of life: it was not an occupation which took up a defined amount of time, but it meant sharing entire days, and even nights, with the sheep, living- I would say- in symbiosis with them. Indeed, Jesus explains that He is not a hired man who cares nothing for the sheep (cf. v. 13), but a man who knows them (cf. v. 14): He knows the sheep. This is the way things are, He, the Lord, the shepherd of us all, calls us by our name and, when we are lost, He looks for us until He finds us (cf. *Lk* 15:4-5). Moreover, Jesus is not just a good shepherd who shares the life of the flock; Jesus is the Good Shepherd who has sacrificed His life for us and, has given us His Spirit through His resurrection.

This is what the Lord wants to tell us with the image of the Good Shepherd: not only that He is the guide, the Head of the flock, but above all that He thinks about every one of us, and that He thinks of each of us as *the love of His life*. Consider this: for Christ, I am important, He thinks of me, I am irreplaceable, worth the infinite price of His life. And this is not just a way of speaking: He truly gave His life for me, He died and rose again for me. Why? Because He loves me and He finds in me a beauty that I often do not see myself.

Brothers and sisters, how many people today think of themselves as inadequate or even wrong! How many times do we think that our value depends on the goals we achieve, on whether we succeed in the eyes of the world, on the judgments of others! And how many times do we end up throwing ourselves away for trivial things!

Today Jesus tells us that we are always infinitely worthy in His eyes. So, in order to find ourselves, the first thing to do is to place ourselves in His presence, allowing ourselves to be welcomed and lifted up by the loving arms of our Good Shepherd.

Brothers, sisters, let us ask ourselves: am I able to find the time, every day, to embrace this assurance that gives value to my life? Am I able to find the time for a moment of prayer, of adoration, of praise, to be in the presence of Christ and to let myself be caressed by Him? Brother, sister, the Good Shepherd tells us that if you do this, you will rediscover the secret of life: you will remember that He gave His life for you, for me, for all of us. And that for Him, we are all important, each and every one of us.

May Our Lady help us to find in Jesus what is essential for life.

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### **After the Regina Caeli**

*Dear brothers and sisters,*

Today we celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, which has as its theme "Called to sow hope and build peace." It is a good opportunity to rediscover the Church as a community characterized by an orchestra of charisms and vocations in the service of the Gospel. In this context, I extend my heartfelt greetings to the new priests of the Diocese of Rome, who were ordained yesterday afternoon in St. Peter's Basilica. Let us pray for them!

It is with concern and also with grief that I am continuing to follow the situation in the Middle East. I renew my appeal not to give in to the logic of vengeance and war. May the paths of dialogue and diplomacy, which can do so much, prevail. I pray every day for peace in Palestine and Israel, and I hope that these two peoples may stop suffering soon. And let us not forget martyred Ukraine, the martyred Ukraine which suffers so much because of the war.

It is with sorrow, that I have received the news of the death, in an accident, of Father Matteo Pettinari, a young missionary of the *Consolata* in the Ivory Coast. He was known as the "tireless missionary," who left a great testimony of generous service. Let us pray for his soul.

I extend a warm welcome to all of you people of Rome and pilgrims from Italy and from many countries. I greet the Apostoline Sisters with affection: thank you for your joyful service in the ministry for vocations! I greet the faithful from Viterbo, Brescia, Alba Adriatica, and Arezzo; as well as the *Rotary Club Galatina Maglie e Terre d'Otranto*, the young people from Capocroce, the young candidates for Confirmation from Azzano Mella, and the parish of *Sant'Agnese* in Rome. I wish you all a good Sunday. And I greet the students of the *Immacolata*, well done!

Please, do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your lunch, and *arrivederci!*



## POPE FRANCIS' AUDIENCE Cycle of Catechesis. Vices and Virtues. 16. *The life of grace according to the Spirit*

*Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!*

In recent weeks we have reflected on the cardinal virtues: prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance. They are the four cardinal virtues. As we have emphasized several times, these four virtues belong to a very ancient wisdom that predates even Christianity. Even before Christ, honesty was preached as a civic duty, wisdom as the rule for actions, courage as the fundamental ingredient for a life that tends towards the good, and moderation as the necessary measure not to be overwhelmed by excesses. This patrimony that is so ancient, the patrimony of humanity has not been replaced by Christianity, but focused on, enhanced, purified, and integrated in the faith. There is therefore in the heart of every man and woman the capacity to seek the good. The Holy Spirit is given so that those who receive it can clearly distinguish good from evil, have the strength to adhere to good by shunning evil, and, in so doing, achieve full self-realization. But in the journey that we are all making towards the fullness of life, which belongs to the destiny of every person – the destiny of each person is fullness, to be full of life – the Christian enjoys special assistance from the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus. It is implemented through the gift of *three other, distinctly Christian virtues*, which are often mentioned *together* in the New Testament writings. These fundamental attributes, which characterize the life of the Christian, are three virtues that we often speak of together: *faith, hope and charity*. Let's say it together: [together] faith, hope... I don't hear anything! Louder! [together] Faith, hope, and charity! Good job! Christian writers soon called them "theological" virtues, insofar as they are received and lived out in relationship with God, to differentiate them from the other four, called "cardinal" insofar as they constitute the "hinge" [It., "cardine"] of a good life. These three are received in Baptism and come from the Holy Spirit. The one and the other, both the theological and the cardinal, put together in so many systematic reflections, have thus composed a wonderful septenary, which is often contrasted with the list of the seven deadly sins. This is how the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* defines the action of the theological virtues: "the theological virtues are the foundation of Christian moral activity; they animate it and give it its special character. They inform and give life to all the moral virtues. They are infused by God into the souls of the faithful to make them capable of acting as his children and of meriting eternal life. They are the pledge of the presence and action of the Holy Spirit in the faculties of the human being" (n. 1813). While the risk of the cardinal virtues is of generating men and women who are heroic in doing good, but all alone, isolated, the great gift of the theological virtues is existence *lived in the Holy Spirit*. The Christian is never alone. He does good not because of a titanic effort of personal commitment, but because, as a humble disciple, he walks in the footsteps of Jesus, the Master. He goes forward on the way. The Christian has the theological virtues, which are the great antidote to self-sufficiency. How often do certain morally irreproachable men and women run the risk of becoming conceited and arrogant in the eyes of those who know them! It is a danger that the Gospel rightly warns us against, when Jesus advises the disciples: "You too, when you have done all that you have been commanded, say, 'We are useless servants. We have done what we ought to have done'" (Lk 17:10). Pride is a poison, a powerful poison: a drop of it is enough to spoil a whole life marked by goodness. A person may have performed a mountain of good deeds, may have reaped accolades and praise, but if he has done all this only for himself, to exalt himself, can he still call himself a virtuous person? No! Good is not only an end, but also a means. Goodness needs a lot of discretion, a lot of kindness. Above all, goodness needs to be stripped of that sometimes too cumbersome presence that is our ego. When our "I" is at the centre of everything, everything is ruined. If we perform every action in life only for ourselves, is this motivation really so important? The poor "I" takes hold of everything and thus pride is born. To correct all these situations, which sometimes become painful, the theological virtues are of great help. They are especially so in times of falling, because even those with good moral intentions sometimes fall. We all fall in life, because we are all sinners. Just as even those who practice virtue daily sometimes make mistakes; we all make mistakes in life: intelligence is not always clear, will is not always firm, passions are not always governed, courage does not always overcome fear. But if we open our hearts to the Holy Spirit – the Master of the interior life – He revives the theological virtues in us: then, if we have lost confidence, God reopens us to faith; with the strength of the Spirit, if we have lost confidence, God reopens us to faith; if we are discouraged, God awakens hope in us; and if our heart is hardened, God softens it with His love.

## POPE FRANCIS MESSAGE FOR THE RECENT EARTH DAY *By Lisa Zengarini*

As the world marked Earth Day on Monday, April 22, Pope Francis reiterated his urgent plea for bold action for our common home and for world peace. The international Day was established in 1970 to raise awareness about the critical environmental challenges facing our planet, and to mobilize efforts to address them. The observance provides an opportunity for individuals, communities, organizations, and governments to come together and engage in activities to repair and heal ecosystems, combat climate change, and preserve biodiversity so as to preserve the planet for future generations.

**World not doing enough** In a post on his X social media platform (formerly known as Twitter), Pope Francis noted that his generation has bequeathed many monetary riches to later generations, but has done little to protect the planet. He also commented on the link between current environmental problems and the many conflicts raging throughout the world. *"Our generation has bequeathed many riches, but we have failed to protect the planet and we are not safeguarding peace. We are called to become artisans and caretakers of our common home, the Earth which is "falling into ruin." #EarthDay* The Pope's post echoed his words in the 2015 Encyclical *Laudato si'* on care of our common home and its call for individuals, communities and governments to care for nature. **2024 Earth Day for a plastic-free world** Each year, Earth Day has a specific theme to draw global attention on pressing environmental issues. Under the banner "Planet vs. Plastics," this 54th edition is focused on plastic pollution and on the urgent need to reduce its use and production. Beyond its environmental implications, the proliferation of plastics poses a significant threat to human health, akin to the challenges posed by climate change.

**400 million metric tons of plastic produced annually** Humans produce over 400 million metric tons of plastic annually, which is roughly the weight of all human beings on the planet. Only 9 per cent gets recycled, and about 22 per cent of plastic waste worldwide is either not collected, improperly disposed of, or ends up as litter. As plastics degrade into microplastics, they release toxic chemicals into ecosystems, contaminating oceans (where over 1 million metric tons end up every year), food and water sources, and endangering all forms of life.

**Detrimental effects on environment and human health** This year's campaign, therefore, prioritizes spreading awareness about these detrimental effects. It calls for increased research into the health implications of plastic exposure and advocates for transparency in sharing findings with the public. The immediate aim of the campaign is to swiftly eliminate single-use plastics by 2030 and to embed this commitment within the United Nations Treaty on Plastic Pollution by 2024, ensuring global cooperation in tackling this pressing issue. The longer-term aim is to obtain 60 percent reduction in plastic production by 2040 so as to safeguard both human and environment health. To this end the campaign, also emphasizes the importance of investing in innovative technologies and materials to pave the way for a plastic-free 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 9622 2920

### 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 9th May 2024, 10.30am– 1pm in the Parish Hall. Please bring a plate to share. Look forward to seeing you there.

### Lourdes: Luminare Young Adults Group

The next group night will be in May. 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 Available To Those In Need

The St Vincent de Paul Society has members and community-focused Vinnies Support Centres right across NSW. They provide people in immediate crisis with assistance. If you need assistance, call 131812 (option 3) to be redirected to your nearest Vinnies Support Centre. To find out more about the support that is available, visit <https://www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/find-help>.

If you'd like to contribute to helping those in need in the local community through the St Vincent de Paul Society, please email Reno Abela at [rabel24@gmail.com](mailto:rabel24@gmail.com).

### 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 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 baptisms, birthdays, wedding anniversaries, or death anniversaries. Please see Fr Henry or Ernie before Mass to arrange it.

## OLOL PARISH CALENDAR

### APRIL

|    |   |        |
|----|---|--------|
| 28 | Lourdes Luminare Youth at Lifted Sports Day | 9.15am |
|----|---|--------|

### MAY

|   |                                  |        |
|---|----------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | School Resumes Term 2            |        |
| 5 | Confirmation 2024 Enrolment Mass | 9.30am |

## OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

### 27/28 April 2024

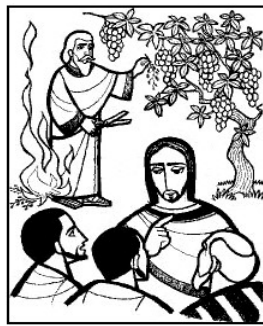
|                                    |  |   |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Acolytes                           | Vigil: Frank Paiva<br>8am: Terry Jordan<br>9.30am: Ian Epondulan                         |   |
| Ministers                          | Vigil: M.Mifsud, E.Miu<br>8am: F.Balatbat, S.Nemorin<br>9.30am: B.Chandler, P.Gow        |   |
| Readers                            | Vigil: J.Sarmiento, A.Punch<br>8am: M.Santos, K.Walker<br>9.30am: R.Epondulan, A.Rin Han |   |
| Altar Servers                      | Vigil: A.Bagatella, A.Laus, E.Reardon<br>8am: Volunteers<br>9.30am: C.Attard, L.Culili   |   |
| Morning tea<br>(after 9.30am Mass) | Couples for Christ   |   |
| Musicians                          | Vigil: Nina's Group<br>8am: Fr Henry<br>9.30am: Nina's Group                             |   |
| Flowers                            | Annette & Mary   |   |
| Church Cleaning                    | 24 April   | Jessie Borg<br>Anne McNally<br>Edgardo Barcelon |
| Welcomers                          | Vigil: Ram Urge<br>8am: Volunteer<br>9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon                            |   |

### 4/5 May 2024

|                                    |  |                                     |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Acolytes                           | Vigil: Abel Do Rosario<br>8am: Louis Fernandes<br>9.30am: Ramzee Michael   |                                     |
| Ministers                          | Vigil: A.Bellissimo, J.Dinning<br>8am: L.Fernandes, C.Gonzales<br>9.30am: C.Brooks, M.Michael                                    |                                     |
| Readers                            | Vigil: L.Bellissimo, N.Do Rosario<br>8am: F.Paiva, J.Irudayaraj<br>9.30am: E.Vinoth Pieris, C.Diaz                               |                                     |
| Altar Servers                      | Vigil: J.Martinez, E.Reardon, B.Spadaro, L.Sadipoor<br>8am: K.Maruthanayagam, Volunteers<br>9.30am: S.Culili, M.Pieris, J.Pieris |                                     |
| Morning tea<br>(after 9.30am Mass) | Tongan Choir   |                                     |
| Musicians                          | Vigil: Youth for Christ<br>8am: Fr Henry<br>9.30am: Couples for Christ   |                                     |
| Flowers                            | Fenty & Liz  |                                     |
| Church Cleaning                    | 2 May  | Lourdes Spiteri<br>Edgardo Barcelon |
| Welcomers                          | Vigil: Volunteer<br>8am: Helen Gonzales<br>9.30am: Sastina Pieris<br>Edgardo Barcelon  |                                     |

# The Kids' Bulletin

Fifth Sunday of Easter  
April 28th, 2024



"I am the \_\_\_\_\_ vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."  
John 15:5 (NIV)

|       |                      |                      |                      |                      |
|-------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
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| BNUR  | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |                      |
| BAER  | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |                      |
| FIER  | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |                      |
|       | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|       | 1                    | 2                    | 3                    | 4                    |



Put the letters in the numbered squares in the same numbered square at the bottom of the puzzle to reveal the final answer.

### Jumbled Word Clues

1. A sweet food that grows on a tree or a bush.
2. To destroy by fire
3. To produce fruit; it could also be a large brown animal
4. The light and heat produced by a flame.

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.

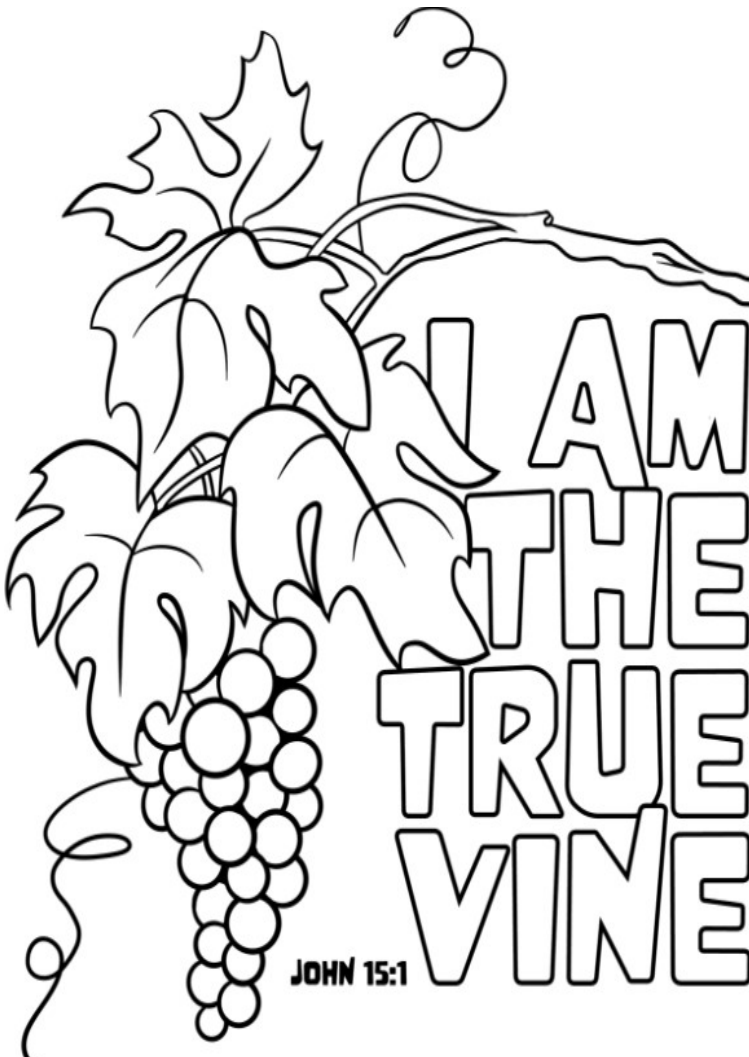


18

19 17  
20 19  
21 21  
22

Jesus tells us that He is the true vine and we are the branches.

But something needs to be done to the branches so that they will bear good fruit. Follow the dots to find out what it is. (Start at the little grapes!)



JOHN 15:1

### The True Vine

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.." John 15:5 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 15:1-8



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

|       |          |        |         |        |
|-------|----------|--------|---------|--------|
| WORDS | GARDENER | REMAIN | BEAR    | GLORY  |
| CLEAN | PRUNES   | THROWN | VINE    | TRUE   |
| FRUIT | BRANCH   | FIRE   | WITHERS | BURNED |