

# 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 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:** 28th April 2024  
**Sacrament Co-Ordinator:** Mrs Artelle Lenthall  
**Parish Website:** [www.lol7hills.com.au](http://www.lol7hills.com.au)  
**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/LOL7Hills/>

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER 7 APRIL 2024 • Year B



### Let us Pray for the Sick

Leonila Ahillon, Florence Arinanan, Mary Attard, Rosella Booth, Penny Briscoe, Para Dias, Ronald Fountain, Ronald Gomez, Anthony Janicska, Paul Leong, Damian & Roslyn McNally, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Carlos Moreno, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Eustace Ratnam, Sue Tiplado, 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:** Emma Bariom, Barrie Chamberlain, Ben Benjabutr, Dulcie Duraisamy, Jasmin Fernando, Mally S. Hatch, Agustin Ngalongalay, Vinh Hoa Nguyen, Perl Perera, Magelende Sapinosa

**Anniversaries:** Fe Licup Carmen, Catherine Chandra, Rosario Cabasa, Aloysean Corera, John Fernando, M.A Fernando, Zoltan Gartner, Rita Leon, Josephine Gomez, Leonie Jordan, Rosine Lafleur, Albert Moroney, Gil Opina, Thomas Morrissey, Cordula Paiva, Emanuella Pozzolongo, Jose Reyes, Comelio & Iluminada Rondario, Maria Trinh, Melchor Usman, Arsenio Laberinto Udan, Tegeneroso & Modesta Viray, Pastora Villarta.

**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, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Sam Gabo, Melvyn Fernandes, Mary & Sam Galea, Constance Gaycroft, Selvam Irudayaraj, Pauline Meilak, Mangion Family, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Maureen & John Mead, Mary Mifsud, Emilia & William Mifsud, Anton & Lourda Motha, Louis & Stephen Mula, Mary & Francis Muscat, John & Roseline Ratnam, Eamon & John O'Sullivan, Maria Reyes, Jonathan Tek Kie, Shane Vaz, Alloysius Welangoala, Vinnie Zahra, The Holy Souls in Purgatory.

*\*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 Augseeings 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.lol7hills.org.au](http://www.lol7hills.org.au)



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**FIRST READING** *A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35*

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

The word of the Lord.

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**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**(R)** Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

1. Let the sons of Israel say:  
'His love has no end.'  
Let the sons of Aaron say:  
'His love has no end.'  
Let those who fear the Lord say:  
'His love has no end.' **(R.)**

3. The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes.  
This day was made by the Lord;  
we rejoice and are glad. **(R.)**

2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed;  
his right hand raised me up.  
I shall not die, I shall live  
and recount his deeds.  
I was punished, I was punished by the Lord,  
but not doomed to die. **(R.)**

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**SECOND READING** *A reading from the first letter of St John 5:1-6*

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith.

Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth.

The word of the Lord.

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**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;  
happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** *A reading from the first holy gospel according to John 20:19-31*

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord



Dear friends,

I used to live in an authoritarian country where the government kept promising this and that to its people and never delivered anything, consequently a lot of people became so disillusioned to the point that many decided to run away, though half of them had the chance to survive, and those who stayed back chose to protest in passive ways.

For instance, people had a saying aimed to sarcastically respond to the lip service attitude of the government, that 'without seeing, without belief, and I believe when I see.' This, I guess, is the same attitude Thomas probably had when the disciples told him about Jesus' first appearance. John chose not to share with us the reason why Thomas was absent while the other ten were present, and we have good reason to speculate that Thomas might have lost hope in Jesus whom he thought as impossible to resurrect from death despite his multiple predictions. In his account of Jesus' Resurrection we had for the Easter Sunday Mass last week, John also admitted that both he and Peter failed to understand what the Scripture foretold about Jesus' rising from the dead.

What happened next obviously helped to clarify the point mentioned above, as he quickly issued the challenge that he will never believe in his Risen Master unless he could manually handle his wounds. To his shock, Jesus appeared again to him and the group eight days later and put the challenge back to Thomas by gently asking him to put his finger in his hands and his hand into his pierced side, discard his doubt and believe in him. This very much highlighted Jesus' compassionate side which we are invited to reflect upon this Sunday, the Divine Mercy one.

Thomas could not say much, only these simple words, 'my Lord and my God.' The next statement from Jesus is extremely significant because it aims not only to Thomas, but to his believers in the future who have faith in him though they have no chance to see him face to face like the disciples then. 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

At the end of the account, the evangelist tells us his readers the reason why he had to record Jesus' Resurrection story as part of many other miraculous signs Jesus carried out during his life, that it is meant to help us to believe in Jesus' Death and Resurrection and this belief is central to our Christian faith and will bring us life in eternity.

Let us offer our prayer of thanksgiving to God for our faith in His Son, and pray that we shall be inspired by his gentleness and compassion to help restore Thomas' faith, try our best to nourish, treasure, and make our faith bear good fruits in our witnessing lives.

Have a faith-filled week,

*Fr Henry*

## PARISH NEWS...

### 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.

### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

A gentle reminder to all members of Our Parish Pastoral Council of our monthly meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday April 10 in the Parish Meeting room.

### LOURDES LUMINATE YOUNG ADULTS GROUP NIGHT

Friday 12 April 2024 6:45PM-9PM in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to a special evening with guest speaker Br Barry Donaghue CFC speaking about "Walking the Labyrinth". Please bring food and drink to share. Please RSVP to Ian Epondulan: [youthlol@gmail.com](mailto:youthlol@gmail.com) or 0401161264.

*BIO:* Barry Donaghue cfc has studied and taught in thirteen countries with primary degrees in arts and teaching, graduate qualifications in education, adult religious education, theology, group dynamics. He holds a doctorate in ministry. Br. Barry was executive director of Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Centre in Iowa and Providence Spirituality Centre in Indiana. He is both a retreat and spiritual director and is certified as a labyrinth presenter by the Worldwide Labyrinth Movement, San Francisco.

### 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.

### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER THANK YOU

Many thanks to our ministers and volunteers for their very generous contributions to make our Lent, Holy Week and Easter liturgies wonderful celebrations for our parishioners to pray and celebrate.

### EASTER OFFERINGS

Envelopes for Easter offerings are available in the church as usual, thank you so much for your generous support to the Parish.

### LOURDES OVER 50s GROUP

Over 50s meeting Thursday 11th April 2024, 10.30am- 1pm in the Parish Hall. Please bring a plate to share. Look forward to seeing you there.

### 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.

### 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*



## 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](http://parracatholic.org/synod)

### Glenbrook Parish Roof Restoration Fundraising Concert: 14 April

St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, invite you to a fundraising concert with the Sydney Male Choir on Sunday 14 April at 2pm in the parish church. Come and enjoy the music and at the same time, support the restoration of the Church roof, with at least \$5 going to St Finbar's Roof Restoration Fund for every ticket sold. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased online at [www.sydneychoir.com](http://www.sydneychoir.com) or at the door.

### Youth Mass 'Round the Diocese: 21 April

Looking for some young adults to worship with? Hunting for an excuse to catch up with Jesus and friends? Wondering what goes on around our Diocese? Mass 'Round the Diocese is just that! Our young people are visiting different churches around the Diocese for Mass and fellowship afterwards with new and known friends. The next Mass will be at The Good Shepherd Parish, Plumpton, on Sunday 21 April for 6pm Mass. For more information, please contact Sr Christine Ramada CSFN on [csfn.cristina@gmail.com](mailto:csfn.cristina@gmail.com)

### 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.



## Thank You!

Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2024. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) and donate online.

**Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty.**

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations.**



You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by calling 1800 024 413 or by Visiting: [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)

## Easter | Autumn 2024 Catholic Outlook Magazine out now!

The Easter | Autumn 2024 edition of the Catholic Outlook Magazine is out now! This edition invites us to practice silence, deepen our interior lives and pray for a Gospel change of heart, how our communities celebrate Easter, seminarians preparing to 'go out into the deep', a handy Holy Week Mass Times guide, plus so much more. Pick up your free copy from parishes and offices across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains today or read it online via [catholicoutlook.org/magazine](http://catholicoutlook.org/magazine)

## 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)

## MET FaithLIFE Theology Short Course: from 16 April

Considering learning about theology? Wanting to expand your language for expressing your faith? Seeking ways to deepen the way you put your faith into practice? Sign up now for the 3-session FaithLIFE Theology short course with Dr John Collins on Tuesdays 16, 23 & 30 April! Registration and more dates and details 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).

## Marriage Preparation Courses in 2024

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

## Get your feed on the Soul Food Podcast:

**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)

## Christ the King Primary Jubilee Celebrations

Staff, students, families and parishioners past and present are invited to celebrate the golden jubilee of Christ the King Primary School, North Rocks.

- A Jubilee Family Picnic will be held on Sunday 19 May at Don Moore Reserve, NorthRocks, from 11.30am. You can RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/k6hua7LiwZKBMP3o6>
- A Jubilee Dinner (over 18s) will be held on 29 June at The Epping Club, Epping, from 6pm. Cost is \$99 per person and includes food and beverages. Tables are of 10-12 attendees. You can RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/hmeBwoEM9qusMhG87>

For any further information, please contact Erin Wynne, at [ewynne@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ewynne@parra.catholic.edu.au) or the school office on (02) 8846 2700 or email [northrocks@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:northrocks@parra.catholic.edu.au)



## POPE FRANCIS' HOMILY FOR EASTER VIGIL MASS 2024

The women go to the tomb at daybreak, yet they still feel the darkness of night. They continue to walk, yet their hearts remain at the foot of the cross. The tears of Good Friday are not yet dried; they are grief-stricken, overwhelmed by the sense that all has been said and done. A stone has sealed the fate of Jesus. They are concerned about that stone, for they wonder: "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" (Mk 16:3). Yet once they arrive, they are taken aback when they see the amazing power of the Easter event: "When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back"

Dear brothers and sisters, let us stop and reflect on these two moments, which bring us to the unexpected joy of Easter. At first, the women anxiously wonder: *Who will roll away the stone from the tomb?* Then, at a second moment, *looking up*, they see that it *had already been rolled back*.

First, there is the question that troubles their grieving hearts: *Who will roll away the stone from the tomb?* That stone marked the end of Jesus' story, now buried in the night of death. He, the life that came into the world, had been killed. He, who proclaimed the merciful love of the Father, had met with no mercy. He, who relieved sinners of the burden of their condemnation, had been condemned to the cross. The Prince of Peace, who freed a woman caught in adultery from a vicious stoning, now lay buried behind a great stone. That stone, an overwhelming obstacle, symbolized what the women felt in their hearts. It represented the end of their hopes, now dashed by the obscure and sorrowful mystery that put an end to their dreams.

Brothers and sisters, it can also be that way with us. There are times when we may feel that a great stone blocks the door of our hearts, stifling life, extinguishing hope, imprisoning us in the tomb of our fears and regrets, and standing in the way of joy and hope. We encounter such "tombstones" on our journey through life in all the experiences and situations that rob us of enthusiasm and of the strength to persevere. We encounter them at times of sorrow: in the emptiness left by the death of our loved ones; we encounter them in the failures and fears that hold us back from accomplishing the good we mean to do. We encounter them in all the forms of self-absorption that stifle our impulses to generosity and sincere love, in the rubber walls, the real rubber walls, of selfishness and indifference that hold us back in the effort to build more just and humane cities and societies; we encounter them in all our aspirations for peace that are shattered by cruel hatred and the brutality of war. When we experience these disappointments, do we also have the sensation that all these dreams are doomed to failure, and that we too should ask ourselves in anguish: "Who will roll away the stone from the tomb?"

Yet the same women who bore this darkness in their hearts tell us something quite extraordinary. *When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back*. This is the Pasch of Christ, the revelation of God's power: the victory of life over death, the triumph of light over darkness, the rebirth of hope amid the ruins of failure. It is the Lord, the God of the impossible, who rolled away the stone forever. Even now, he opens our hearts, so that hope may be born ever anew. We too, then, should "look up" to him.

The second moment: *let us look up, then, to Jesus*. After assuming our humanity, he descended into the depths of death and filled them with the power of his divine life, allowing an infinite ray of light to break through for each of us. Raised up by the Father in his, and our, flesh, in the power of the Holy Spirit, he turned a new page in the history of the human race. Henceforth, if we allow Jesus to take us by the hand, no experience of failure or sorrow, however painful, will have the last word on the meaning and destiny of our lives. Henceforth, if we allow ourselves to be raised up by the Risen Lord, no setback, no suffering, no death will be able to halt our progress towards the fullness of life. Henceforth, "we Christians proclaim that this history... has meaning, an all-embracing meaning a meaning no longer tainted by absurdity and shadows... a meaning that we call God... All the waters of our transformation converge on him; they do not pour down into the depths of nothingness and absurdity..For his tomb is empty and the One who died has now been revealed as the Living One" (K. RAHNER, *Wie heisst Auferstehung?*).

Brothers and sisters, Jesus is our Pasch. He is the One who brings us from darkness into light, who is bound to us forever, who rescues us from the abyss of sin and death, and draws us into the radiant realm of forgiveness and eternal life. Brothers and sisters, let us look up to him! Let us welcome Jesus, the God of life, into our lives, and today once again say "yes" to him. Then no stone will block the way to our hearts, no tomb will suppress the joy of life, no failure will doom us to despair. Brothers and sisters, let us lift our eyes to him and ask that the power of his resurrection may roll away the heavy stones that weigh down our souls. Let us lift our eyes to him, the Risen Lord, and press forward in the certainty that, against the obscure backdrop of our failed hopes and our deaths, the eternal life that he came to bring is even now present in our midst.

Sister, brother, let your heart burst with jubilation on this night, this holy night! Together let us sing of Jesus' resurrection: "Sing to him, everything sing to him: rivers and plains, deserts and mountains ... Sing to the Lord of life, risen from the tomb, more brilliant than a thousand suns. All peoples beset by evil and plagued by injustice, all peoples displaced and devastated: on this holy night cast aside your songs of sadness and despair. The Man of Sorrows is no longer in prison: he has opened a breach in the wall; he is hastening to meet you. In the darkness, let an unexpected shout of joy resound: He is alive; he is risen! And you, my brothers and sisters, small and great ... you who are weary of life, who feel unworthy to sing... let a new flame be kindled in your heart, let new vitality be heard in your voice. It is the Pasch of the Lord, brothers and sisters; it is the feast of the living" (J-Y. QUELLEC, *Dieu face nord*, Ottignies, 1998, 85-86).

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## POPE FRANCIS' EASTER MESSAGE (URBI ET ORBI)

*Dear brothers and sisters, Happy Easter!*

Today throughout the world there resounds the message proclaimed two thousand years ago from Jerusalem: "Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified, has been raised!" (Mk 16:6).

The Church relives the amazement of the women who went to the tomb at dawn on the first day of the week. The tomb of Jesus had been sealed with a great stone. Today too, great stones, heavy stones, block the hopes of humanity: the stone of war, the stone of humanitarian crises, the stone of human rights violations, the stone of human trafficking, and other stones as well. Like the women disciples of Jesus, we ask one another: "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" (cf. Mk 16:3). This is the amazing discovery of that Easter morning: the stone, the immense stone, was rolled away. The astonishment of the women is our astonishment as well: the tomb of Jesus is open and it is empty! From this, everything begins anew! A new path leads through that empty tomb: the path that none of us, but God alone, could open: the path of life in the midst of death, the path of peace in the midst of war, the path of reconciliation in the midst of hatred, the path of fraternity in the midst of hostility.

Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is risen! He alone has the power to roll away the stones that block the path to life. He, the living One, is himself that path. He is the Way: the way that leads to life, the way of peace, reconciliation and fraternity. He opens that path, humanly impossible, because he alone takes away the sin of the world and forgives us our sins. For without God's forgiveness, that stone cannot be removed. Without the forgiveness of sins, there is no overcoming the barriers of prejudice, mutual recrimination, the presumption that we are always right and others wrong. Only the risen Christ, by granting us the forgiveness of our sins, opens the way for a renewed world. Jesus alone opens up before us the doors of life, those doors that continually we shut with the wars spreading throughout the world. Today we want, first and foremost, to turn our eyes to the Holy City of Jerusalem, that witnessed the mystery of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, and to all the Christian communities of the Holy Land.

My thoughts go especially to the victims of the many conflicts worldwide, beginning with those in Israel and Palestine, and in Ukraine. May the risen Christ open a path of peace for the war-torn peoples of those regions. In calling for respect for the principles of international law, I express my hope for a general exchange of all prisoners between Russia and Ukraine: all for the sake of all! I appeal once again that access to humanitarian aid be ensured to Gaza, and call once more for the prompt release of the hostages seized on 7 October last and for an immediate cease-fire in the Strip.

Let us not allow the current hostilities to continue to have grave repercussions on the civil population, by now at the limit of its endurance, and above all on the children. How much suffering we see in the eyes of the children: the children in those lands at war have forgotten how to smile! With those eyes, they ask us: Why? Why all this death? Why all this destruction? War is always an absurdity, war is always a defeat! Let us not allow the strengthening winds of war to blow on Europe and the Mediterranean. Let us not yield to the logic of weapons and rearming. Peace is never made with arms, but with outstretched hands and open hearts.

Brothers and sisters, let us not forget Syria, which for thirteen years has suffered from the effects of a long and devastating war. So many deaths and disappearances, so much poverty and destruction, call for a response on the part of everyone, and of the international community.

My thoughts turn today in a special way to Lebanon, which has for some time experienced institutional impasse and a deepening economic and social crisis, now aggravated by the hostilities on its border with Israel. May the Risen Lord console the beloved Lebanese people and sustain the entire country in its vocation to be a land of encounter, coexistence and pluralism. I also think in particular of the region of the Western Balkans, where significant steps are being taken towards integration in the European project. May ethnic, cultural and confessional differences not be a cause of division, but rather a source of enrichment for all of Europe and for the world as a whole.

I likewise encourage the discussions taking place between Armenia and Azerbaijan, so that, with the support of the international community, they can pursue dialogue, assist the displaced, respect the places of worship of the various religious confessions, and arrive as soon as possible at a definitive peace agreement.

May the risen Christ open a path of hope to all those who in other parts of the world are suffering from violence, conflict, food insecurity and the effects of climate change. May the Lord grant consolation to the victims of terrorism in all its forms. Let us pray for all those who have lost their lives and implore the repentance and conversion of the perpetrators of those crimes.

May the risen Lord assist the Haitian people, so that there can soon be an end to the acts of violence, devastation and bloodshed in that country, and that it can advance on the path to democracy and fraternity.

May Christ grant consolation and strength to the Rohingya, beset by a grave humanitarian crisis, and open a path to reconciliation in Myanmar, torn for years now by internal conflicts, so that every logic of violence may be definitively abandoned.

May the Lord open paths of peace on the African continent, especially for the suffering peoples in Sudan and in the entire region of the Sahel, in the Horn of Africa, in the region of Kivu in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in the province of Capo Delgado in Mozambique, and bring an end to the prolonged situation of drought which affects vast areas and provokes famine and hunger.

May the Risen One make the light of his face shine upon migrants and on all those who are passing through a period of economic difficulty, and offer them consolation and hope in their moment of need. May Christ guide all persons of good will to unite themselves in solidarity, in order to address together the many challenges which loom over the poorest families in their search for a better life and happiness.

On this day when we celebrate the life given us in the resurrection of the Son, let us remember the infinite love of God for each of us: a love that overcomes every limit and every weakness. And yet how much the precious gift of life is despised! How many children cannot even be born? How many die of hunger and are deprived of essential care or are victims of abuse and violence? How many lives are made objects of trafficking for the increasing commerce in human beings?

Brothers and sisters, on the day when Christ has set us free from the slavery of death, I appeal to all who have political responsibilities to spare no efforts in combatting the scourge of human trafficking, by working tirelessly to dismantle the networks of exploitation and to bring freedom to those who are their victims. May the Lord comfort their families, above all those who anxiously await news of their loved ones, and ensure them comfort and hope.

May the light of the resurrection illumine our minds and convert our hearts, and make us aware of the value of every human life, which must be welcomed, protected and loved.

A happy Easter to all!



## 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 11th April 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 the 12th of April. 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 <https://www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/find-help/vinnies-support-centres> or <https://www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/find-help/assistance-with-food-and-everyday-essentials>

### 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

10	Fr Henry's birthday	
10	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	7.30pm
11	Over 50's Group Meeting	10.30am
12	Lourdes: Luminare Young Adults Group Meeting	6.30pm
17	Baptism Meeting	7.30pm

## OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

### 6/7 April 2024

Acolytes	Vigil: James Dinning 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am Ryan Epondulan	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Mifsud, F. Paiva 8am: F. Balatbat, M. Santos 9.30am: B. Chandler, P. Gow	
Readers	Vigil: A. Punch, Jemma Sarmiento 8am: K. Walker, P. Ferriols 9.30am: A. H. R.Han, N. Arambulo	
Altar Servers	Vigil: S. Costello, S. Costello, J. Martinez 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: C. Attard, L. Cullili	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Tongan Choir	
Musicians	Vigil: Youth for Christ 8am: Fr.Henry 9.30am: Couples for Christ	
Flowers	Fenty & Liz	
Church Cleaning	13 April	Tongan Community
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Ugre 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Volunteer	

### 13/14 April 2024

Acolytes	Vigil: Derrick Soares 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: A. Bellissimo, H. Gonzales 8am: L. Fernandes, S. Nemorin 9.30am: M. Aquino, C. Brooks	
Readers	Vigil: L. Bellissimo, B. Motha 8am: F. Paiva, J. Irudayaraj 9.30am: C. Diaz, E. V. Pieris	
Altar Servers	Vigil: M. Gluvic, E. Reardon, B. Spadaro 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: S. Cullili, M. Pieris, J. Pieris	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Young Adults Group	
Musicians	Vigil: OFS 8am: Fr Henry, Nina & C.W 9.30am: Tongan Choir	
Flowers	Claudette & Judith	
Church Cleaning	18 April	Cathy Hutchings Annette Peatman
Welcomers	Vigil: Chrisha Gonzales 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Sastina Pieris	

# The Kids' Bulletin

Multiple Choice

Second Sunday of Easter  
Divine Mercy Sunday  
April 7th, 2024

## Believe It or Not!



But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." John 20:25

Choose the word that best matches the definition. Answers can be found in John 20:19-31 (NIV)

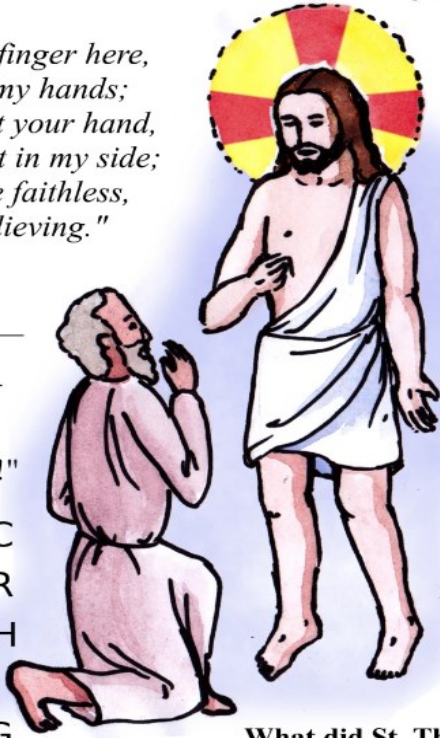
- \_\_\_ 1. The body parts at the end of the arms  
A. feet B. hands C. toes D. legs
- \_\_\_ 2. To be undecided or unbelieving that something is true  
A. doubt B. see C. faith D. touch
- \_\_\_ 3. Free from conflict; getting along with others; opposite of war  
A. angry B. peace C. fight D. doubting
- \_\_\_ 4. To break God's law  
A. believe B. life C. sin D. peace
- \_\_\_ 5. To be in a state of pleasure, satisfaction, joy or delight  
A. doubting B. believing C. forgiving D. happy
- \_\_\_ 6. The disciple who would not believe without seeing  
A. Peter B. Thomas C. Andrew D. John
- \_\_\_ 7. A thin piece of metal with one pointed end and one flat end which you hit with a hammer  
A. cross B. nail C. door D. lock
- \_\_\_ 8. Not open  
A. room B. door C. closed D. nail
- \_\_\_ 9. To believe in something for which there is no proof  
A. door B. faith C. closed D. doubt
- \_\_\_ 10. An entrance into a building or room  
A. side B. nail C. door D. lock

"Put your finger here,  
and see my hands;  
and put out your hand,  
and place it in my side;  
do not be faithless,  
but believing."

" M \_ \_

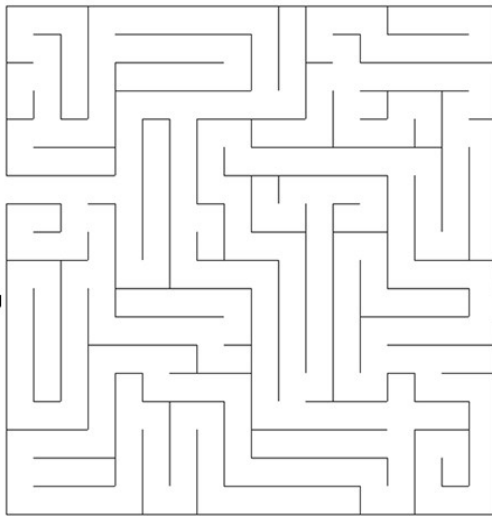
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A M B Y C  
L D O E R  
F D G A H  
N I D J  
M K Y L G  
M O N D O



What did St. Thomas reply to Jesus? Use every second letter to fill in the blanks!

Stop Doubting and Believe

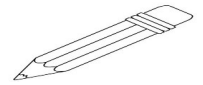


From Doubting



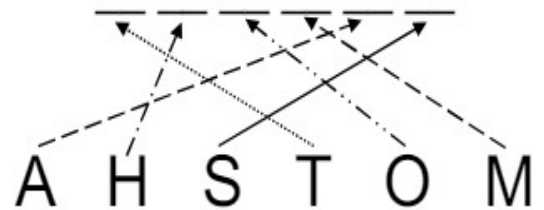
To Believing

believe



Jesus

Put the letters in the right place to reveal his name.



R	O	F	D	E	I	S	A	M	D
K	E	E	K	E	E	W	H	O	E
E	S	A	E	L	S	A	F	H	R
V	O	R	S	A	M	O	H	T	F
E	C	A	E	P	R	T	L	H	I
I	S	E	H	G	T	H	A	C	N
L	K	R	I	O	N	G	I	G	G
E	E	V	O	I	L	I	F	I	R
B	E	W	R	O	N	E	F	E	E
E	L	H	A	N	D	S	S	O	S

WEEK DOORS CLOSED  
FEAR PEACE HANDS  
FORGIVE THOMAS HOLES  
FINGER EIGHT BELIEVE

