

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

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

PENTECOST SUNDAY 19 May 2024 • Year B



Let us Pray for the Sick

Leonila Ahillon, Florence Arinanan, Mary Attard, Sarah Bartolo, Rosella Booth, Penny Briscoe, Lovela Davis, Para Dias, Ronald Fountain, Renuka Fernando, Ronald Gomez, Chmouneh Hayek, Clare Kinsley, Anthony Janicska, Odette James, Mary Jordan, Paul Leong, Damian & Roslyn McNally, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Carlos Moreno, Sharon O'Keefe, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Eustace Ratnam, Sue Tipaldo, 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
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, Bonosa Enfesia, Jasmin Fernando, Cynthia Lopez, Domenica Lucchese, Marie Marchand, Ariston Marabe, Emmanuel Melocoton, Joseph Mifsud, Gleno Motha, Agustin Ngalongalay, Bernalou Palmos Perl Perera, Harold Brian Routley, Magelende Sapinosa, Domingo Villarta Snr.

Anniversaries: T.F. Augustine, Peter & Helen Bonnici, Rolily Burac, Elizabeth & James Daly, Catherine Chandra, Stella Cini, Aloysean Corera, Georgina & Mark Falzon, John Fernando, M.A Fernando, Juliet Francis, Rita Hili, Teodoro Garcia, Christine Gomez, Josephine Gomez, Helen Hili, Cameron Jones, Oliver Jordan, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kutty, Gwyn & James McNally, Rita Leon, Gil Opina, John O'Sullivan, Thomas Morrissey, Thoai, Loi & Nga Nguyen, Custodio Palmos Jnr, Heliodore Paiva, Cordula Paiva, John Portelli, Jose Reyes, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Rosary Silva, Arsenio Laberinto Udan, Melchor Usman, Domingo Villarta Jnr, Pastora Villarta.

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Lisette & Joe Aristobil, France Angseeing, Gregorio Almodovar, Carmen Attard, Elezabeth & Emanuel Azzopardi, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Sam Borg, Saviour Caruana, Fe Licup Carmen, Myrna Cruz, Tania McGove, Sam & Silvia Debatista, Carmen, Jimmy, Tony, Tania, Vivian, Joe & Lancer De Guire, Ngan Siu Eng, Nevis Fernando, Carmen & Joseph Formosa, Sammy Formosa, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Sam Gabo, Jeffrey Hunter, Marian & John, Melvyn Fernandes, Evangeline Garcia, Leandro Garcia Snr, Jose Garcia, Mary & Sam Galea, Constance Gaycroft, Frans Gutajar, Selvam Irudayaraj, Felina Maglaya, Maureen & John Mead, Pauline Meilak, Mangion Family, Maria Menezes, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Mary Mifsud, Joseph Mifsud, Emilia & William Mifsud, Maria Reyes, Anton & Lourda Motha, Louis, Stephen & Joseph Mula, Mary & Francis Muscat, Maria Palmira, Thiruchelvem Philomina, Connie Redman, John & Roseline Ratnam, Choling Sabale, Jose Sanchez, Cua Sing, Jonathan Tek Kie, Jim Vella, Sharmane, Shane Vaz, Vinnie Zahra, William & Zarenu.

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

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

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.

KEEP UP TO DATE

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



FIRST READING *A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11*

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome - Jews and proselytes alike - Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

1. Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are,
How many are your works, O Lord!
The earth is full of your riches. **(R.)**

3. May the glory of the Lord last for ever!
May the Lord rejoice in his works!
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
I find my joy in the Lord. **(R.)**

2. You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Galatians 5:16-25*

If you are guided by the Spirit you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence, since self-indulgence is the opposite of the Spirit, the Spirit is totally against such a thing, and it is precisely because the two are so opposed that you do not always carry out your good intentions. If you are led by the Spirit, no law can touch you. When self-indulgence is at work the results are obvious: fornication, gross indecency and sexual irresponsibility; idolatry and sorcery; feuds and wrangling, jealousy, bad temper and quarrels; disagreements, factions, envy; drunkenness, orgies and similar things. I warn you now, as I warned you before: those who behave like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. What the Spirit brings is very different: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control. There can be no law against things like that, of course. You cannot belong to Christ Jesus unless you crucify all self-indulgent passions and desire.

Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the first holy Gospel according to John 15:26-27; 16:12-15*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Advocate comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who issues from the Father, he will be my witness. And you too will be witnesses, because you have been with me from the outset. I still have many things to say to you but they would be too much for you now. But when the Spirit of truth comes he will lead you to the complete truth, since he will not be speaking as from himself but will say only what he has learnt; and he will tell you of the things to come. He will glorify me, since all he tells you will be taken from what is mine. Everything the Father has is mine; that is why I said: All he tells you will be taken from what is mine.'

The Gospel of the Lord



Dear friends,

In the book Tobit, recounting the story of Tobit, a Jew from the north of Palestine, of the tribe of Naphtali, exiled to Assyria, Tobit himself mentioned a Jewish celebration called the feast of the Seven Weeks also known as the feast of Pentecost, meaning 'the fiftieth day' in Greek, since it took place 50 days after the Passover.

This Jewish feast however has been turned into a Christian one thanks to the extraordinary event reported by the writer of the first reading this Pentecost Sunday describing how the Holy Spirit came down and rested upon each of the Apostles like tongues of fire while they were having a meeting in a room for their traditional Pentecost. The visit of the Holy Spirit did transform the Apostles from a group of fearful and defeated men into a force of fearless and zealous individuals miraculously filled with new gifts and talents among which was the gift of the tongue or speech allowing them to preach in the language people from different places and cultures gathered in Jerusalem for the occasion of the feast could understand.

Apart from the gift of speech, the Apostles also received other gifts traditionally known as the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, including: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord, which in turn bear the fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control as St Paul pointed out in the second reading.

Jesus himself described the Holy Spirit as the Advocate sent by him from his Father and his role is (1) to bear witness to the Son of God, and (2) to advocate for us, support us, defend us, plead in favour of us before the Father, and eventually lead us to the complete truth in our calls to be witnesses to Jesus, the Son of God.

As a people led and supported by the Spirit of the truth on a journey towards the complete truth, we are expected to be authentic, truthful and transparent in all what we do and say. We can't claim to be witnesses to Jesus while our life is everything but the reflection of Jesus' commandment of love.

As we celebrate the feast of the Pentecost this year, let us give praise and thanks to God for giving us the Advocate to defend and support us as we walk our earthly journey, and pray for the grace of the Holy Spirit to renew his gifts within each of us, so that we shall be able to fulfil our witnessing roles as Jesus' authentic disciples.

Have a Spirit-filled week,

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ST VINCENT DE PAUL DONATIONS NEEDED

Donations of long life milk, pasta sauces and biscuits are currently in need by St Vinnie's. If you could please place these in the basket located at the back of the church. Your kind generosity is much appreciated.

BECOME A CATECHIST AN SRE VOLUNTEER!

SRE's are parish volunteers who: Teach and share their faith with children who attend government schools; Have an hour per week to prepare and share their time with young people. OLOL SRE's go into Seven Hills, Seven Hills North, Bert Oldfield, Vardys Road State primary schools & The Hills Sports High School. New volunteer SRE's will be given support, training and teaching materials. For further enquiries please contact Deacon Thong in the parish office.

NETWORK OF FAITH COMMUNITIES

On Saturday the 25th of May, Blacktown Network of Faith Communities of which Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Seven Hills is a member, will march in the Streets Alive and Parade Day (Blacktown City Council). If you would like to join please contact Ian Epondulan on 0401161264.

CONFIRMATION 2024

Please pray for the children as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday the 31st of May 2024. May God bless them on this sacred and special day and may the commitment they make continue to sustain and strengthen them on their personal Faith Journey. Amen.

ZUMBA CLASS TIME CHANGE

During these colder months, please note that Zumba will change from a 6pm start to 5.30pm start. Our instructor has asked for day flexibility some weeks due to her availability, messages will be sent out by the class organiser. Please register your contact details with her upon arrival of these free classes.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

During our last meeting, Dennis Farrar, diocesan co-ordinator of the Family Group Movement came and gave a talk about what the Family Group Movement is about. This is the group members of our Parish Pastoral Council have considered to introduce to our Parish community with the hope it will help to bring families of ours together and since improve the sense of belonging. We will arrange a date for Dennis to return and talk to us at all Masses one weekend.

TEXTA MARKING ON PEWS

With all the excitement of doing the back page of the bulletin, a gentle reminder for parents to ensure children don't draw on the seats and are careful with Texta marking the wooden pews. Thank you for your co-operation.

SCAM ALERT

Please be aware of a scam emails circulating throughout the Diocese referencing parish priest names asking to be contacted. Please delete and don't click on any links. If you need to verify the source call the Parish Office.

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.

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.

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 for more.

Celebrate *Laudato Si'* Week: Seeds of Hope

16-24 May

Are you ready to sow "Seeds of Hope"? Join the Catholic Church around Australia and worldwide in celebrating *Laudato Si'* Week: 16 to 24 May 2024. This annual commemoration of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* encourages us to care more deeply for God's creation. You can find useful resources at linktr.ee/met.pje

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

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 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. Email marriage@parracatholic.org or Marisa on 0412 280 017.

Divine Retreat Centre offerings in 2024

The Divine Retreat Centre in Somersby, NSW is hosting a variety of single-day and weekend residential retreats throughout 2024. For more information and bookings, please contact (02) 4372 1598 or email drcetreatreg@gmail.com to confirm attendance. Visit www.divineretreatcentre.org for more information.



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](https://www.un.org/). 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 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
1800 024 413



Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities

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

Expression of Interest: Ministry to the Sick in Hospitals

Are you interested in bringing Communion to the Sick in the Hospitals of the Diocese? You will receive formation and information necessary for this ministry. Note you will not be required to do this every week but will be placed on a roster. For more information, please contact Bernard Ellis via email bernard.ellis@catholiccarenewsbm.org.au by 15 June 2024. "The Eucharist is essential for us: it is Christ who wishes to enter our lives and fill us with his grace." - Pope Francis

Grace & Silence Retreat for Young Women: 2 June

The Mount Schoenstatt Girls and Young Women ministry invite single women aged 20 to 40 discerning a vocation to marriage and family, single life or consecrated life to a silent retreat day on Sunday 2 June 9.30am to 4.30pm at Bethany, 301 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa. Cost is \$25.

For catering purposes, registrations close a week prior to each event. For details, contact Hannah on 0433 443 384.

Young Adult Faith Formation: 2 June

Young Adult Faith Formation sessions continue on Sunday 2 June at The Hustle (Unit 4, 4-6 Purdy Rd Minchinbury) at 7pm. The speaker is Fr Jeff Miller SDB who will talk about and lead discussion on The Holy Trinity. All adults 18-35 are encouraged to come along and enjoy some faith formation, pizza and fellowship! If you have any questions, please call Mark on 0477 004 678.

St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust Applications open

The St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust offers scholarships to enable lay people to further their understanding and skills in leadership/ministry or a specialised activity, such as promoting faith enhancement, social justice and pastoral care. More information and application forms are available on their website pallottine.org.au/svpscholarship. Applications close 31 July 2024.

Lectio Divina Facilitating Manual out now!

Sr Antonia Curtis OSB from the Benedictines at Jamberoo Abbey, NSW, has released a new manual for facilitating *Lectio Divina* prayer sessions in your parish, school or local communities. This is a fantastic resource for parish teams, catechists, youth leaders, teachers and spiritual directors. The cost of the manual is \$40, with an additional notebook for participants available for \$10. To purchase your copy, visit their online shop at www.jamberooabbey.org.au.

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.

Mount Schoenstatt Marian May Devotions

Everyone is invited to the Schoenstatt Shrine to pray, sing and honour the Blessed Mother daily in the month of May. All are welcome to join the sisters for half an hour of May Devotions in the Shrine on Sunday to Friday at 5.30pm and Saturdays at 5.15pm. Learn more about the May devotions on their website <https://schoenstatt.org.au/> or Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MtSchoenstattMulgoa/>



Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday!

And now, I would like to wish a happy Sunday to the young people of Genoa. Today, in Italy and in other countries, the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord is celebrated. The Gospel of the Mass states that Jesus, after entrusting the task of continuing His work to the Apostles, "was taken up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God" (*Mk 16:19*). This is what the Gospel says: He "was taken up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God".

Jesus' return to the Father appears to us not as His detachment from us, but rather like preceding us to the destination, which is Heaven. Just as, when in the mountains, one ascends to a summit: one walks, with difficulty, and finally, at a turn in the path, the horizon opens up and one sees the panorama.

Then the whole body finds the strength to tackle the final ascent. The whole body - arms, legs and every muscle tenses up and concentrates to reach the peak. And we, the Church are precisely that body that Jesus, having ascended to Heaven, pulls along with Him, like a roped party. It is He who awakens us and communicates to us, with His Word and with the grace of the Sacraments, the beauty of the Homeland towards which we are headed. Hence, we too, His members - we are the members of Jesus - ascend with joy together with Him, our leader, knowing that the step of one is a step for all, and that no-one must be lost or left behind, because we are but one body (cf. *Col 1:18; 1 Cor 12:12-27*).

Listen carefully: step by step, one rung at a time, Jesus shows us the way. What are these steps that must be taken? Today's Gospel says: "preach the Gospel, baptize, cast out demons, pick up serpents, lay hands on the sick" (cf. *Mk 16:16-18*); in summary, to perform the works of love: to give life, bring hope, steer away from any form of wickedness and meanness, respond to evil with good, be close to those who suffer.

This is the "step by step". And the more we do this, the more we let ourselves be transformed by the Spirit, the more we follow His example, as in the mountains, we feel the air around us become light and clean, the horizon broad and the destination near, words and gestures become good, the mind and heart expand and breathe.

And so we can ask ourselves: is the desire for God, the desire for His infinite love, for His life that is eternal life, alive in me? Or am I a bit dulled and anchored to passing things, or money, or success, or pleasure?

And does my desire for Heaven isolate me, does it seal me off, or does it lead me to love my brothers and sisters with a big and selfless heart, to feel that they are my companions on the journey towards Paradise?

May Mary, She who has already arrived at the destination, help us to walk together with joy towards the glory of Heaven.

After the Regina Caeli

Dear brothers and sisters!

As we celebrate the Ascension of the Risen Lord, who frees us and wants us free, I renew my appeal for a general exchange of all the prisoners between Russia and Ukraine, assuring the willingness of the Holy See to favour any effort in this regard, especially for those who are gravely injured and ill. And let us continue to pray for peace in Ukraine, in Palestine, in Israel, in Myanmar... Let us pray for peace.

Today is World Day of Social Communications, on the theme "Artificial intelligence and the wisdom of the heart". Only by restoring a wisdom of the heart can we interpret the demands of our time and rediscover the way towards a fully human communication. Our thanks go to all communication workers for their work!

Today many countries celebrate Mothers' Day: let us think gratefully of all mothers, and let us also pray for the mothers who have gone to Heaven. And let us entrust mothers to the protection of Mary, our heavenly mother.

A big round of applause to all mothers! I greet the pilgrims from Rome and various parts of Italy and the world, in particular those from Hungary and Malta, students of the *Colégio da São Tomás* of Lisbon, and the musical bands from Austria and Germany, who pay homage to the memory of Pope Benedict XVI. They play well! Thank you.

I also greet the faithful of Pesaro, Cagliari, Giulianova Lido, and those from Ponti sul Mincio who have come by bicycle, the AVIS blood donors, the "Young Mountain" Association of Turin, the candidates for Confirmation from Genoa, and people affected by fibromyalgia, on the Day dedicated to this pathology.

I thank the organizers of the photographic exhibition "*Changes*", on display beneath the Colonnade of Saint Peter's Square. Photographs from all over the world document the beauty of our common home, the gift of the Creator we are required to safeguard.

I invite you to visit this exhibition! I greet all of you, and the young people of the *Immacolata*. I wish everyone a good Sunday, and a good trip to the

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



POPE FRANCIS' CATECHESIS Cycle of Catechesis. Vices and Virtues. 19. *Charity*

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Today we will talk about the third theological virtue, *charity*. The other two, let us remember, were *faith* and *hope*: today we will talk about the third, *charity*. It is the culmination of the entire itinerary we have undertaken with the catecheses on the virtues. To think of charity immediately expands the heart, and it expands the mind, it evokes the inspired words of Saint Paul in the First Letter to the Corinthians. Concluding that wonderful hymn, Saint Paul cites the triad of the theological virtues and exclaims: "So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love" (1 Cor 13:13). Paul addresses these words to a community that is anything but perfect in fraternal love: the Christians of Corinth were rather litigious, there were internal divisions, and there were those who claimed always to be right and did not listen to others, regarding them as inferior. Paul reminds them that knowledge puffs up, whereas charity builds up (cf. 1 Cor 8:1). The Apostle then records a scandal that touches even the moment of maximum union of a Christian community, the "Lord's supper", the Eucharistic celebration: even there, there are divisions, and there are those who take advantage of this to eat and drink, excluding those who have nothing (cf. 1 Cor 11:18-22). In the face of this, Paul gives a stark judgement: "When you meet together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat" (v. 20), you have another ritual, which is pagan, it is not the Lord's supper. Who knows, perhaps in the community of Corinth, no-one thought they had committed a sin, and those harsh words of the Apostle sounded somewhat incomprehensible for them. Probably they were all convinced they were good people, and if questioned on love, they would have answered that love was certainly a very important value for them, just like friendship or the family. In our days too, love is on the lips of many "influencers" and in the refrains of many songs. We speak a lot about love, but what is love? "But the *other* love?", Paul seems to ask to his Christians of Corinth. Not the love that rises, but the one that descends; not the one that takes, but the one that gives; not the one that appears, but the one that is hidden. Paul is concerned that in Corinth - as among us today too - there is confusion and that there is actually no trace of the theological virtue of love, the one that comes to us only from God. And if even in words everyone assures that they are good people, that they love their family and friends, in reality they know very little about the love of God. The Christians of antiquity had several Greek words at their disposal to define love. In the end, the word "*agape*" emerged, which we normally translate as "charity". Because in truth Christians are capable of all the forms of love in the world: they too fall in love, more or less as it happens to everyone. They too experience the benevolence that is felt in friendship. They too feel love for their country and the universal love for all humanity. But there is a greater love, a love which comes from God and is directed towards God, which enables us to love God, to become His friends, and enables us to love our neighbour as God loves him or her, with the desire to share the friendship with God. This love, because of Christ, drives us where humanly we would not go: it is the love for the poor, for those who are not lovable, for those who do not care for us and are not grateful. It is love for what no-one would love, even for one's enemy. Even for the enemy. This is "theological": this comes from God, it is the work of the Holy Spirit in us. Jesus preaches, in the Sermon on the Mount: "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them" (Lk 6:32-33). And he concludes: "But love your enemies" we are used to speaking badly of our enemies "love your enemies and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish" (v. 35). Let us remember this: "Love your enemies and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return". Let us not forget this! In these words, love reveals itself as a theological virtue and assumes the name of charity. Love is charity. We immediately realize that it is a difficult, indeed impossible love to practice if one does not live in God. Our human nature makes us love spontaneously what is good and beautiful. In the name of an ideal or a great affection we can even be generous and perform heroic acts. But the love of God goes beyond these criteria. Christian love embraces what is not lovable, it offers forgiveness how difficult it is to forgive! How much love it takes to forgive! Christian love blesses those who curse, whereas, faced with an insult or a curse, we are accustomed to replying with another insult, with another curse. It is a love so ardent that it seems almost impossible, and yet it is the only thing that will remain of us. Love is the "narrow gate" through which we will pass in order to enter the Kingdom of God. Because at the twilight of life, we will not be judged on generic love; we will be judged precisely on charity, on the real love we had. And Jesus says this to us, which is so beautiful: "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (Mt 25:40). This is the beautiful thing, the greatest thing about love. Onwards and upwards!

POPE FRANCIS: KNOWLEDGE MUST BE INCLUSIVE By Lisa Zengarini

Meeting with students at a number of Vatican institutions, Pope Francis warns against the "toxic, unhealthy and violent" information that can lurk in social media. Pope Francis received in audience on Monday some 200 students and teachers of the Vatican School of Paleography, Diplomatic and Archival Studies and of the Vatican School of Library Science as they celebrate their 140th and 90th anniversary of foundation, respectively. Welcoming them in the Clementine Hall, the Pope expressed his gratitude to the two reputed higher education institutions, and underscored the importance of their work of forming people who "do accurate research in all circumstances to reach the truth". "Yours is truly a service to solidity of the teachings you have received, a much-needed solidity in times when news is sometimes spread without checks and research," he said.

Protecting from the toxic information in social media While acknowledging their important achievements, Pope Francis, on the other hand, warned against self-complacency, stressing the need for them to respond to the crucial cultural challenges of our globalized world, including the "the risk of the levelling and devaluation of knowledge"; the complex relationship with technologies; and preserving cultural traditions "that must be cultivated and proposed without mutual impositions." He again highlighted the need "to include and never exclude "anyone from knowledge and, at the same time, to protect from the "toxic, unhealthy and violent" information that can lurk in the world of social media and technological knowledge. This context, he remarked, requires "openness to discussion and dialogue, the willingness to welcome, especially those of marginality and material, cultural and spiritual poverty." "*May studies truly measure up to the fragility and richness of today's men! And this does not only apply to you students, but also to the teachers who guide you.*"

Caring for the past and looking to the future The two prestigious Vatican schools, must therefore continue "to learn and share ideas and experiences, to grow in openness and avoid 'self-referentiality'". While looking with gratitude to their glorious past, they must "look forward, to the future," and have the courage "to rethink themselves in the face of requests coming from the cultural and professional world."

The dangers of ideology Recalling that since their outset they have had an "eminently practical and concrete approach" to research, Pope Francis hence concluded by encouraging the two higher education institutions to continue on this path of "concreteness and openness" so as to transmit to present and future generations the centuries-old heritage that the Archive and the Library have.

GENERAL NOTICES...

NEW TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES? HOW CAN WE SERVE YOU?

Welcome. Wherever you are in your faith journey, it is great to have you. Please visit our website or call the parish office. We're here to serve you. www.olol7hills.org.au

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

SICK AND/OR HOMEBOUND?

Would you like to receive Communion? Or seriously ill or in danger of death? We have dedicated ministers who can visit and bring you communion. Feel free to approach or call Fr Henry for the Holy Anointing of the Sick. Please call the parish office 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 13th June 2024, 10.30am– 1pm in the Parish Hall. Please bring a plate to share. Look forward to seeing you there.

Lourdes: Luminate 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 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 5.30pm-6.30pm 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 rael24@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 | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| MAY | | |
| 22 | Confirmation Meeting | 6.30-7.30pm |
| 25 | Confirmation Meeting RPT | 4.30-5.30pm |
| 31 | Confirmation Mass | 7.00pm |
| 31 | Singles for Christ Evening | 7.00– 10.00pm |

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

| 18/19 May | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Acolytes | Vigil: Derick Soares 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Sandy Manamperi | |
| Ministers | Vigil: M.Mifsud, R.Soures 8am: F.Balatbat, C.Gonzales 9.30am: B.Chandler, M.Michael | |
| Readers | Vigil: B.Motha, C.Rodrigues 8am: J.Irudayara, Jo Cabasa 9.30am: R.Epondulan, F.Kennedy | |
| Altar Servers | Vigil: Saoirse Costello, Sebastian Costello 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: C.Attard, L.Culili, L.Sadipoor | |
| Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass) | Parish Office | |
| Musicians | Vigil: K.Thoms & C.Woodward 8am: Fr Henry 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale | |
| Flowers | Fennie & Angela | |
| Church Cleaning | 16 May | Cathy Hutchings Annette Peatman Edgardo Barcelon |
| Welcomers | Vigil: Ram Urge 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon | |

| 25/26 May | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Acolytes | Vigil: James Dinning 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am: Ian Epondulan | |
| Ministers | Vigil: A. Bellissimo, Frank Paiva 8am: Lorraine Fernandes 9.30am: C. Brooks, P. Gow | |
| Readers | Vigil: L. Bellissimo, A. Punch 8am: K. Walker, M. Santos 9.30am: C. Diaz, A. Han | |
| Altar Servers | Vigil: M. Gluovic, J. Martinez, B. Spadaro 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: S. Culili, A. Melki | |
| Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass) | Couples for Christ | |
| Musicians | Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Fr Henry 9.30am: Nina's Group | |
| Flowers | Annette & Mary | |
| Church Cleaning | 22 May | Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon |
| Welcomers | Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon | |

The Kids' Bulletin

The Power Source

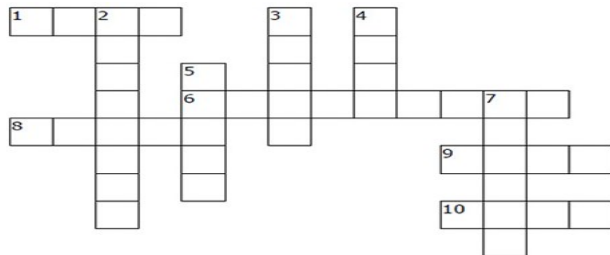
Pentecost Sunday
May 19th, 2024

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.
Acts 2:4 (NIV)

Based on Acts 2:1-8



Who came to the Apostles on Pentecost Sunday?
Fill in the blanks with the letters in the flames:
go around the Apostles clockwise,
skipping every other letter. Start at Mary's.



ACROSS

1. Something that is pure and good, such as God's Word
2. The day the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles
3. A building which people live in
4. Make something to be full
5. Blowing air, especially that which would move the leaves on a tree

DOWN

1. Means of communication used by the people of a particular country
2. Something that can be heard
3. A destructive burning
4. To say words, to use the voice
5. A being that cannot be seen, like a ghost

| | | | | |
|----------|-----------|-------|-------|--------|
| LANGUAGE | PENTECOST | FIRE | HOUSE | SPIRIT |
| SPEAK | HOLY | SOUND | WIND | FILL |

Jumble



WNID 3
IFER 2
SIRITP 8 1 4
SEKPA 5
CDORW 6 7

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 4

Unscramble each word and then place the numbered letters in the numbered boxes at the bottom to reveal the "Final Answer."

Puzzle Clues

Check your answers by looking them up in the Bible.

(Clues are from the NIV)

1. A sound like the blowing of a violent _____ came from heaven. (Acts 2:2)
2. They saw what seemed to be tongues of _____. (Acts 2:3)
3. All of them were filled with the Holy _____. (Acts 2:4)
4. They began to _____ in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. (Acts 2:4)
5. Peter stood up and spoke to the _____ of people. (Acts 2:14)

FINAL ANSWER: All of these events took place on the day of _____. (Acts 2:1)

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

| | | | | |
|--------|-----------|---------|-------|----------|
| SPIRIT | PENTECOST | HOLY | FIRE | LANGUAGE |
| SOUND | WIND | TONGUES | HOUSE | HEAVEN |
| HEAR | DAY | OTHER | SPEAK | FILLED |

