

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/>

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

16 June 2024 • Year B



Let us Pray for the Sick

Rico Abadam, Leonila Ahillon, Florence Arinanan, Mary Attard, Rodney Bell, Sarah Bartolo, Rosella Booth, Penny Briscoe, Alma Caguimbal, Mary Camilleri, Minda Camat Robles, Para Dias, Ronald Fountain, Renuka Fernando, Ronald Gomez, Eggay Gopez, Chmouneh Hayek, Anthony Janicska, Mary Jordan, Clare Kinsley, Paul Leong, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Carlos Moreno, Sharon O'Keefe, Maricar Poblete, 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, Jasmin Fernando, Cynthia Lopez, Christita Montehermoso, Rudolfo Noble, Dina Sahagun, Sr Colleen O'Sullivan, Mely Palero, Perl Perera, Maria Teresa Tiu, Wilhelmino Villaneuva.

Anniversaries: Romualdo Austria Snr, Peter & Helen Bonnici, Catherine Chandra, Aloysean Corera, Laraine de Silva, Marcel Diab, Melvyn Fernandes, John Fernando, Nevis Fernando, M.A Fernando, Juliet Francis, Helen Gatt, Teodoro Garcia, Christine Gomez, Josephine Gomez, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kutty, Kathleen McNamee, Albert Moroney, Cayetan Mula, Mary Muscat, Tony Muscat, Sheena Landagan, Rita Leon, Salvatore & Fr. Lorenzo Loria, Angelita & Gil Opina, Cordula Paiva, Jose Reyes, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Pauline & Santan Soares, Mary Silva, Rosary Silva, Anna & Evelyn Talary, Arsenio Laberinto Udan, S. Susainathan, Melchor Usman, Priscilla Villanueva.

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, France Angseeing, Carmen Attard, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Sam Borg, Saviour Caruana, Fe Licup Carmen, Myrna Cruz, Tania McGove, Sam & Silvia Debatista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonio, Tania, Vivian, Joe & Launcer De Guire, Nevis Fernando, Carmen & Joseph Formosa, Sammy Formosa, Ngan Siu Eng, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Sam Gabo, Mary & Sam Galea, Evangeline Garcia, Leandro Snr Garcia, Jose Garcia, Constance Gaycroft, Frans Gutajar, Selvam Irudayaraj, Norma Lorenzo, Apolinario Maglaya, Pauline Melak, Felina Maglaya, Mangion & Cini Family, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Maureen & John Mead, Mary Mifsud, Joseph Mifsud, Emilia & William Mifsud, Angelo Pasco, Maria Reyes, Anton & Lourda Motha, Louis, Stephen & Joseph Mula, Francis Muscat, Felicisimo & Natalia Prahinog, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose Sanchez, Jonathan Tek Kie, Bibiano Villanueva, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Vinnie Zahra, 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

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 Angseeing 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 prophet Ezekiel 17:22-24*

'From the top of the cedar, from the highest branch I will take a shoot and plant it myself on a very high mountain. I will plant it on the high mountain of Israel. It will sprout branches and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar.

Every kind of bird will live beneath it, every winged creature rest in the shade of its branches. And every tree of the field will learn that I, the Lord, am the one who stunts tall trees and makes the low ones grow, who withers green trees and makes the withered green. I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning
and your truth in the watches of the night. **(R.)**

2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar. **(R.)**

3. Planted in the house of the Lord
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just.
In him, my rock, there is no wrong. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 5:6-10*

We are always full of confidence when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight – we are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord.

Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing him. For all the truth about us will be brought out in the law court of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 4:26-34*

Jesus said to the crowds, 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time; he starts to reap because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.'

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it.

He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.

The Gospel of the Lord



GOSPEL REFLECTION - 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time Mark 4:26-34

People are naturally reluctant to change their minds about traditional beliefs and the Jewish people in Jesus' day were no different from anyone else. They, too, were set in their ways and were reluctant to abandon their long held convictions, especially religious doctrines pertaining to the messiah.

Some Jewish people in first-century Palestine believed the messiah would conquer the world and, through him, God would then restore the world to what it was like before man and woman sinned. This is what the Jews called the reign or kingdom of God.

Some Jews believed the reign of God would come quickly once the messiah appeared and that it would be only for the Jewish people. Jesus challenges these ideas with the parables in today's Gospel.

Jesus compares the reign of God to a seed and in the first parable, he stresses how slowly a seed grows. First there's the blade, then the ear, and finally the ripe wheat in the ear. Just as this process takes time and doesn't occur overnight, the reign of God will also take time and will not happen all at once.

In the second parable, Jesus says that the reign of God is like a mustard seed that grows into a huge plant in which the birds of the air build their nests. Notice that Jesus does not say the birds were only sparrows, or only robins, or only blue jays. Just as all birds build their nests in the tree, the reign of God will be for all people, not only for the Jews.

Knowing the people in his audience were likely to cling stubbornly to their cherished beliefs, Jesus usually chose not to come right out and tell them they were wrong. That method wouldn't succeed. Instead, Jesus used parables because he knew people were more likely to remember them and share them with family and friends, discussing the meaning of each parable as they did so. In this way Jesus got them to re-examine their traditional beliefs and challenged them to think in a new direction without threatening them.

For Reflection -

Each time we pray the Our Father, we pray for God's kingdom to come. We pray for the day when God will conquer the devil and restore the world to what it was like before man and woman sinned. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us to be patient. He will defeat the devil, but it will take time.

PARISH NEWS...

SALE AT THE PIETY SHOP

The Piety Shop is having a clearance sale as a means to refresh stock. Sale only items range from free to \$2. Please come have a browse after mass.

CATHOLIC OUTLOOK MAGAZINE

Your free copy of the winter edition of Catholic Outlook is now available in the Church.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Please kindly note that there will be no children's liturgy while Fr Henry is on his annual leave. Children's liturgy will resume as per normal upon Fr Henry's return, every first and third Sunday of the month during 9.30am mass. All children from ages 5 yrs and up are invited to participate.

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.

PARISH BIN ROSTER - VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

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

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.

WELCOME OUR VISITING CLERGY TO SEVEN HILLS

Fr Henry is on annual leave from the 1st of June till the end of the first week of July. During his leave this year, Frs Viet Nguyen SVD, Huong Nguyen SDB, Huy Nguyen SJ will help us with all Weekend Masses and Frs Gerarld O'Demsey OFM Cap and Albino Dos Santos will be available to cover all weekday Masses. Please make them feel welcome in our Parish community.

LOURDES: LUMINATE YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

All are welcome to join us for the next group night Friday the 21st June from 6.30pm till 9pm in the Parish Hall. If you would like more information please kindly contact Laura Bellissimo youthlol7h@gmail.com or search 'Our Lady of the Hills Young Adults' on Facebook. Please bring food to share.

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.

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 the Parish office and you will be contacted.

Cardinal Marengo Meet and Greet: 22 June

As part of his Australian visit through Catholic Mission, the Diocese of Parramatta is hosting Cardinal Giorgio Marengo IMC, Apostolic Prefect of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, Saturday 22 June. Cardinal Marengo will celebrate the Vigil Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta followed by a conversation about his mission and service. The event is free, but registration is essential via <https://parracatholic.org/cardinalmarengo>

Adult Confirmation 2024 Formation Day: 24 August

The Office for Worship will host a Catechesis and Formation Day for those candidates (16+) interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. This will be on Saturday 24 August from 9.30am – 2.00pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. A light lunch will be provided on the day. It is recommended that all sponsors attend the catechesis day. A contribution of \$25 is suggested from the candidates to assist in covering the Catechesis Day.

For more information please contact Lucy Woodbury via lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795.

CYP LIFTED Retreats:

Catholic Youth Parramatta's annual LIFTED Retreat is back with a twist! This year LIFTED Retreat has transformed into 3 separate retreats, each catering to different age groups and providing opportunities for community, prayer and formation!

- 5-7 July – Ages 18-24 at Carmel House, Varroville. Cost \$150.00.
- 12 July – Ages 16-18 at The Shrine of the Holy Innocents, Kellyville. Free of charge.
- 19-21 July – Ages 25-35 at Mt Schoenstatt, Mulgoa. Cost \$150.00.

Registration is essential! Please head to the website parracatholic.org/events for more details.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend: 28 – 30 June

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love! Join the team on 28 till 30 June 2024 at a Marriage Encounter Weekend at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW. Book online via www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wwme.org.au

Winbourne Kinds of Prayer:

Finding Ways to Pray Reflection Day: 22 June

The Winbourne Edmund Rice Retreat Centre, Mulgoa, is holding a reflection day 'Kinds of Prayer: Finding Ways to Pray' on Saturday 22 June from 9.30am to 3pm. Prayer is communication, relationship addressed, respected and taken further. It is letting God get at you, requiring an open heart and mind. Cost is \$30 per person, BYO Lunch. For more information or to book, contact (02) 4773 5555 or email info@winbourne.org

Fr Greg Boyle SJ 'Tattoos on the Heart' Australian Tour: October 2024

Jesuit Priest Fr Greg Boyle SJ, founder of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, will be visiting Sydney as part of his 'Tattoos on the Heart' tour in October. Fr Greg will be speaking on 'Radical Kinship' for those in pastoral ministry on 12-13

October and 'Boundless Compassion' to secondary students on 14 October, both at St Joseph's Retreat Centre, Baulkham Hills. To register, please visit <https://www.gpbs.com.au/tattoos-on-the-heart/> or scan the QR code.



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

BISHOP'S GOOD SAMARITAN APPEAL FOR CATHOLIC CARE'S PROJECT ELIZABETH

Will you strengthen the dignity of struggling mums? Your compassionate generosity and prayers will provide struggling mums with the practical and emotional support they need to overcome adversity and build a better future for themselves and their families. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal at parracatholic.org/appeal or scan this QR code. Thank you.



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@catholiccarewsbm.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

NOTE UPDATED DETAILS Central Europe Pilgrimage with Fr Joseph Lam OSA: May 2025

Cosmos Tour Operators are organising a Central Europe tour for 15 days from 11 to 25 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 \$5,290 per person, excluding flights. For more information or to register your interest please contact Ruby Travels Worldwide on 0401 895 998, email june.rubytravels@gmail.com or visit the website rubytravelsworldwide.com

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.

Great Saints of Italy Pilgrimage with Fr Chris del Rosario: October 2024

Join Fr Christopher del Rosario on a breathtaking pilgrimage on the footsteps of some of Italy's most well-known saints. Follow their paths etched into our faith heritage, from the great Christian centre of Rome to sacred towns made famous by Padre Pio, St Francis, St Clare, St Catherine and St Anthony. This is an amazing opportunity to deepen our faith and explore the rich tapestry of culture, art and history that Italy has to offer. Pilgrimage commences 21 October 2024.

For more details scan the code or visit www.harvestjourneys.com/tour/great-saints-of-italy/.



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.

Caritas Australia's Papua New Guinea Landslide Disaster

Hundreds of people are displaced and many more affected by a devastating landslide that struck a remote village in Papua New Guinea. Your urgent support is needed now. You can donate online at www.caritas.org.au/png or phone 1800 024 413 or scan the QR Code.



POPE FRANCIS ANGELUS



Dear brothers and sisters, blessed Sunday!

The Gospel of (cf. *Mk* 3:20-35) tells us that Jesus, after beginning His public ministry, faced a twofold reaction: that of his relatives, who were worried and feared He had gone a little mad, and that of the religious authorities, who accused Him of acting under the influence of an evil spirit. In reality, Jesus preached and healed the sick by the power of the Holy Spirit. And it was precisely the Spirit that made him divinely *free*, that is, capable of *loving and serving without measure or conditioning*. Jesus, free. Let us pause a while to

contemplate this freedom of Jesus.

Jesus was free in relation to wealth: therefore He left the security of His village, Nazareth, to embrace a poor life full of uncertainties (cf. *Mt* 6:25-34), freely taking care of the sick and whoever came to ask Him for help, without ever asking for anything in exchange (cf. *Mt* 10:8). The gratuitousness of Jesus' ministry is this. And it is also the gratuitousness of every ministry.

He was free with regard to power: indeed, despite calling many to follow Him, He never obliged anyone to do so, nor did He ever seek out the support of the powerful, but always took the side of the last, teaching His disciples to do likewise, as He had done (cf. *Lk* 22:25-27).

Finally, Jesus was free of the quest for fame and approval, and for this reason He never gave up speaking the truth, even at the cost of not being understood (cf. *Mk* 3:21), of becoming unpopular, even to the point of dying on the cross, not allowing Himself to be intimidated, nor bought, nor corrupted by anything or anyone (cf. *Mt* 10:28).

Jesus was a free man. He was free in the face of wealth, free in the face of power, free in the face of the quest for fame. And this is important for us too. Indeed, if we let ourselves be conditioned by the quest for pleasure, power, money or consensus, we become slaves to these things. If instead we allow God's freely-given love to fill us and expand our heart, and if we let it overflow spontaneously, by giving it back to others, with our whole selves, without fear, calculation or conditioning, then we grow in freedom, and spread its good fragrance around us too.

So we can ask ourselves: am I a free person? Or do I let myself be imprisoned by the myths of money, power and success, sacrificing my serenity and peace, and that of others, to these things? In the places where I live and work, do I spread the fresh air of freedom, sincerity and spontaneity?

May the Virgin Mary help us live and love like Jesus taught us, in the freedom of the children of God (cf. *Rom* 8:15,20-23).

After the Angelus

The day after tomorrow, in Jordan, an international conference will be held on the humanitarian situation in Gaza, convened by the King of Jordan, the President of Egypt and the Secretary General of the United Nations. While I thank them for this important initiative, I encourage the international community to act urgently, by all means, to come to the aid of the people of Gaza, exhausted by the war. Humanitarian aid must be able to reach those in need, and no one can prevent it.

Yesterday marked the tenth anniversary of the invocation of peace in the Vatican, attended by the Israeli President, the late Shimon Peres, and the Palestinian President Abu Mazen. That meeting showed that joining hands is possible, and that it takes courage to make peace, far more courage than to wage war. Therefore I encourage the ongoing negotiations between the parties, even though they are not easy, and I hope that the proposals for peace, a ceasefire on all fronts and the freeing of hostages will be accepted immediately for the good of Palestinians and Israelis.

And let us not forget the tormented Ukrainian people who, the more they suffer, the more they long for peace. I greet this Ukrainian group with the flags who are over there. We are close to you! It is a desire, this desire for peace, so I encourage all efforts that are being made so that peace can be built as soon as possible, with international help.

And let us not forget Myanmar.

I greet you, Romans and pilgrims from many countries, in particular the teachers from the "Saint John Paul II" Gymnasium in Kyiv, Ukraine – *Slava Isusu Khrystu!* (Praise be to Jesus Christ) – whom I encourage in their mission in this difficult and painful time. I greet the teachers and students of the "Cardenal Cisneros" diocesan school of the diocese of Sigüenza-Guadalajara in Spain, as well as the faithful of Assemini, Cagliari, the children of the "Giovanni Prati" School of Padua, and the young people from the parish of *Sant'Ireneo* of Rome.

I reiterate my greeting to the chorists who have come to Rome from all over the world to participate in the fourth International Meeting of Choirs. Dear friends, with your singing you will always be able to give glory to God and to transmit the joy of the Gospel!

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

Enjoy your lunch, and *arrivederci!*

Special Greetings

I extend a cordial welcome to the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's Audience, especially the groups from the United Kingdom, China, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, and the United States of America. I invoke upon you and your families the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you!

Cycle of Catechesis. The Spirit and the Bride. The Holy Spirit guides the people of God towards Jesus our hope. 3. "All Scripture is inspired by God". Knowing God's love through God's words.

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning, welcome!

Let us continue the catechesis on the Holy Spirit who guides the Church towards Christ our hope. He is the guide. Last time we contemplated the work of the Spirit in creation; today we will see it in *revelation*, in which the *Sacred Scripture* is witness inspired by God and authoritative.

The Second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy contains this statement: "*All Scripture is inspired by God*" (3:16). And another passage in the New Testament says: "*Men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God*" (2 Pt 1:21). This is the doctrine of the divine inspiration of the Scripture, that which we proclaim as an article of faith in the Creed, when we say that the Holy Spirit "has spoken through the prophets". The divine inspiration of the Bible.

The Holy Spirit, who inspired the Scriptures, is also He who explains and makes them perennially living and active. From *inspired*, He makes them *inspiring*. The Sacred Scriptures "as inspired by God", says Vatican Council II, "and committed once and for all to writing ... impart the word of God Himself without change, and make the voice of the Holy Spirit resound in the words of the prophets and Apostles" (21). In this way the Holy Spirit continues, in the Church, the action of the Risen Jesus who, after Easter, "opened their minds to understand the Scriptures" (Lk 24:45).

Indeed, it can happen that in a certain passage of the Scripture, that we have read many times without particular emotion, one day we read it in an atmosphere of faith and prayer, and then that text is unexpectedly illuminated, it speaks to us, it sheds light on a problem we are living, it makes God's will for us clear in a certain situation. To what is this change due, if not to an enlightenment of the Holy Spirit? The words of the Scripture, under the action of the Spirit, become luminous; and in those cases, we touch with our own hands how true is the statement in the Letter to the Hebrews: "*The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword*" (4:12).

Brothers and sisters, the Church is nourished by the spiritual reading of the Sacred Scripture, that is, by reading under the guidance of the Holy Spirit that inspired it. At its centre, like a beacon that illuminates everything, there is the event of the death and resurrection of Christ, which fulfils the plan of salvation, realizes all the figures and the prophecies, unveils all the hidden mysteries and offers the true key to reading the entire Bible. The death and resurrection of Christ is the beacon that illuminates all the Bible, and it also illuminates our life. Revelation describes all of this with the image of the Lamb that breaks the seals of the book "written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals" that is, the Scripture of the Old Testament. The Church, Bride of Christ, is the authorized interpreter of the inspired text of the Scripture; the Church is the mediator of its authentic proclamation. Since the Church is gifted with the Holy Spirit – this is why she is the interpreter – she is the "pillar and bulwark of the truth" (1 Tm 3:15). Why? Because she is inspired, held steady by the Holy Spirit. And the task of the Church is to help the faithful and those who seek the truth to interpret the biblical texts correctly.

One way of conducting spiritual reading of the word of God is that which is called the *lectio divina*, a word whose meaning we perhaps do not understand. It consists of dedicating a time of the day to the personal and meditative reading of a passage of the Scripture. And this is very important: every day, take the time to listen to, to contemplate, reading a passage from the Scripture. And therefore, I recommend you always to have a pocket edition of the Gospel and keep it in your bag, in your pocket. So, when you are travelling, or have a little free time, take it and read it. This is very important for life. Get a pocket Gospel and during the day read once, twice, when you have the chance. But the quintessential spiritual reading of the Scripture is the community reading in the Liturgy in the Mass. There, we see how an event or a teaching, given by the Old Testament, finds its full expression in the Gospel of Christ. And the homily, that comment by the celebrant, must help to transfer the Word of God from the book to life. But for this, the homily must be brief: an image, a thought and a sentiment. The homily must not go on for more than eight minutes, because after that, with time attention is lost and the people fall asleep, and they are right. A homily must be like that. And I want to say this to priests, who talk a lot, very often, and one does not understand what they are talking about. A brief homily: a thought, a sentiment and a cue for action, for what to do. No more than eight minutes. Because the homily must help transfer the Word of God from the book to life. And among the many words of God that we listen to every day in Mass or in the Liturgy of the Hours, there is always one that is meant specially for us.

Something that touches the heart. Welcomed into the heart, it can illuminate our day and inspire our prayer. It is a question of not letting it fall on deaf ears!

Let us conclude with a thought that can help us to fall in love with the Word of God. Like certain pieces of music, the Sacred Scripture too has a base note that accompanies it from the beginning to the end, and this note is the love of God. "The whole Bible", observes Saint Augustine, "does nothing but tell of God's love". [1] And Saint Gregory the Great defines the Scripture as "a letter from God Almighty to His creature", like a letter from a bridegroom to his bride, and exhorts us to "learn and know the heart of God in the words of God". "Through this revelation", says Vatican Council II again, "the invisible God, out of the abundance of His love, speaks to men as friends and lives among them, so that He may invite and take them into fellowship with Himself"

Dear brothers and sisters, keep reading the Bible! But do not forget the pocket Gospel: carry it in your bag, in your pocket, and at some moment during the day, read a passage. And this will make you very close to the Holy Spirit, who is in the Word of God. May the Holy Spirit, who inspired the Scriptures and now breathes from them, help us to grasp this love of God in the concrete situations of life. Thank you.

Summary of the Holy Father's words

Today, in our continuing catechesis on the Holy Spirit and the Bride, we reflect on the action of the Holy Spirit in Divine Revelation, specifically in Sacred Scripture. God, who inspired Scripture, in turn inspires the Church, the Bride of Christ, through his holy word, making of her its authoritative interpreter. The Spirit also communicates with us personally within this ecclesial reality, whether through *lectio divina*, which is a meditative reading of a Scripture passage, or above all, in the Liturgy. In whatever the setting, there is always one word that is meant especially for us. Like a musical composition, Sacred Scripture carries throughout an underlying theme, which Saint Augustine and Saint Gregory the Great call God's love. May we "learn to know the heart of God through the words of God" and allow them to breathe that love into our daily lives.

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 11th July 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 21st June. If you would like more information please kindly contact Laura Bellissimo: 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.

PIETY SHOP

Located at the back of the church. Please come have a browse after mass.

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.

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

June

21	Lourdes: Luminate Young Adults Group Night	6.30pm
25	St Vincent De Paul Meeting	7.00pm
July		
5	School Term 2 ends	
10	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	7.30pm

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

15/16 June

Acolytes	Vigil: Daniel La Guidara 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Ryan Epondulan	
Ministers	Vigil: J. Dining, L. La Guidara 8am: Frank Paiva 9.30am: C. Brooks, P. Gow	
Readers	Vigil: B. Motha, J. Sarmiento 8am: M. Santos, P. Ferriols 9.30am: N. Arambulo, C. Diaz	
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. La Guidara, C. La Guidara, S. Thoms 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: S. Culili, J. Martinez, L. Sadipoor	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: K. Thoms & C.W 8am: Christine Woodward 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	20 June	Cathy Hutchings Edgardo Barcelon Annette Peatman
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

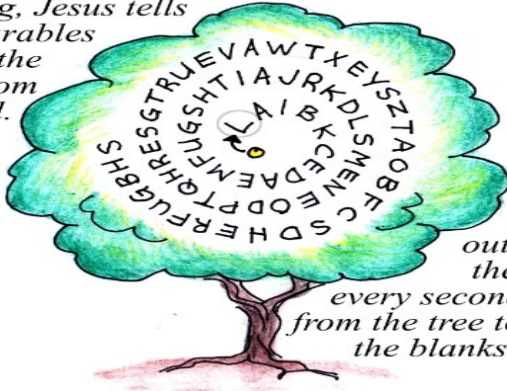
22/23 June

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Ian Epondulan	
Ministers	Vigil: L. Bellissimo, A. Bellissimo 8am: H. Gonzales, C. Gonzales 9.30am: M. Aquino, E. Miu	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rasario, M. Simic 8am: J. Irudayaraj, A. McNally 9.30am: Edward Pieris, Anastatia Han	
Altar Servers	Vigil: M. Glivic, D. Sant, J. Sant 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: A. Melki, M. Pieris, J. Pieris	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Woodward 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary	
Church Cleaning	26 June	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Chrisha Gonzales 9.30am: S. Pieris, E. Barcelon	

The Kids' Bulletin

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time
June 16th, 2024

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells two parables about the Kingdom of God.



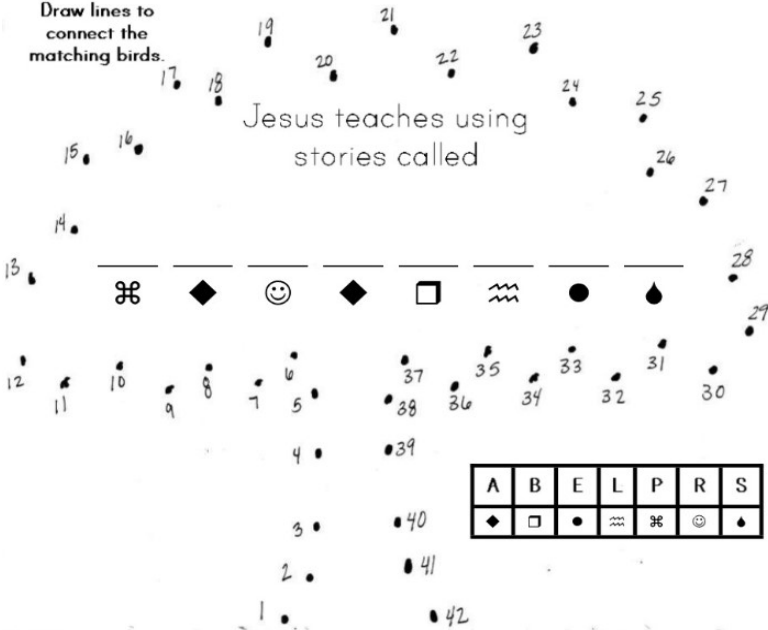
To find out one of them, use every second letter from the tree to fill in the blanks below.

The Kingdom of Heaven is

When it grows up it becomes

Draw lines to connect the matching birds.

Jesus teaches using stories called



T	E	G	B	W	J	C	D	M	F	A	R	L	Q	Y	O	H	X	Z	U	S	V	P	K	I	N
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Each number represents a letter. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the code.

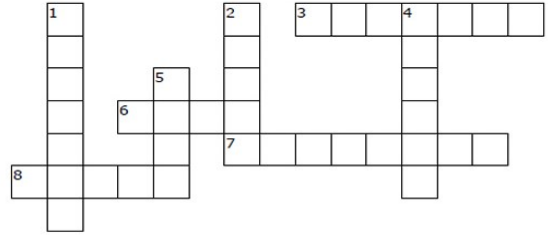
- 23-11-12-11-4-13-2
- 24-25-26-3-8-16-9
- 9-20-21-1-11-12-8
- 21-2-2-8
- 23-13-11-26-1-2-8
- 21-9-11-13-13-2-21-1
- 13-11-12-3-2-21-1
- 23-13-11-26-1-21
- 4-25-12-8-21
- 26-2-21-1

PLANTED SMALLEST	MUSTARD PARABLE	KINGDOM BIRDS	NEST LARGEST	PLANTS SEED
---------------------	--------------------	------------------	-----------------	----------------

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade." Mark 4:30-32 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on Mark 4:30-32



ACROSS

- Bigger than any of the others
- A small grain of a plant placed in the ground for growing another plant
- Not as big as any of the others
- A living thing that grows in the ground, usually with leaves or flowers

DOWN

- A story told by Jesus to help explain his teachings
- An animal that has wings and is covered with feathers
- An area where plants are grown
- The place where birds lay eggs or give birth to their young

SEED SMALLEST	PARABLE NEST	BIRDS GARDEN	LARGEST PLANT
------------------	-----------------	-----------------	------------------

