



# OUR LADY OF LOURDES

PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS

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

7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills. NSW. 2147

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**Parish Priest:** Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran  
**Parish Deacon:** Deacon Thong Nguyen  
**Parish Office Team:** Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Jane Nguyen  
**Office Hours: Monday-Friday:** 9am - 3.00pm  
**WEEKDAY MASS:** Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am  
 Thursday 9.00am  
**WEEKEND MASS:** Saturday Vigil 6pm  
 Sunday 8am & 9.30am

**Parish School:** OLOL 8869 6800  
**Principal:** Ms Keiran Byrnes  
**Reconciliation:** Saturday 4:30-5:30pm  
**Baptismal Preparation:** 17th July 2024  
**Baptism:** 28th July 2024  
**Sacrament Co-Ordinator:** Mrs Artelle Lenthall  
**Parish Website:** [www.olol7hills.com.au](http://www.olol7hills.com.au)  
**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

## 13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 30 June 2024 • Year B



### Let us Pray for the Sick

Rico Abadam, Leonila Ahillon, Florence Arinanan, Mary Attard, Rodney Bell, Sarah Bartolo, Rosella Booth, Alma Caguimbal, Mary Camilleri, Minda Camat Robles, Ronald Fountain, Renuka Fernando, Tracey Galea, Eggay Gopez, Chmouneh Hayek, Anthony Janicska, Mary Jordan, Clare Kinsley, Paul Leong, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Maricar Poblete, Debra Price, Cecilia Quinto, 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](mailto:secretary@olol7hills.com.au)**  
**We can also arrange for Holy Communion or a visit if required.**

### Let us Pray for the Deceased

**Recently Deceased:** Emma Barriom, Dulcie Duraisamy, Jasmin Fernando, Trinidad Faduhilao, Ricardo Garcia, Cynthia Lopez, Faustino Montederamos, Christita Montehermoso, Isidro Monticer, Rudolfo Noble, Dina Sahagun, Monalee Teves, Fred Waltmann.

**Anniversaries:** Romualdo Austria Snr, Peter & Helen Bonnici, Catherine Chandra, Aloysean Corera, Laraine de Silva, Melvyn Fernandes, John Fernando, Nevis Fernando, M.A Fernando, Juliet Francis, Alice George, Brian Jordan, Joseph Joseph, George Joseph, Helen Gatt, Teodoro Garcia, Christine Gomez, Josephine Gomez, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kutty, Albert Moroney, Mary Motha, Mary Muscat, Tony Muscat, Sheena Landagan, Rita Leon, Salvatore & Fr. Lorenzo Loria, Angelita & Gil Opina, Cordula Paiva, Custudio Palmos Snr, Nieves Palmos, Jose Reyes, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Pauline & Santan Soares, Mary Silva, Rosary Silva, S. Susainathan, Melchor Usman, Arsenio Laberinto Udan.

**Remembrance:** Neil Amaratunga, France Angseeing, Carmen Attard, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Sam Borg, Spuru Borg, Barrie Chamberlain, Myrna Cruz, Saviour Caruana, Fe Licup Carmen, Tania McGove, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Camen, Jimmy, Antonio, Tania, Vivian, Joe & Lancer De Guire, Nevis Fernando, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Sam Gabo, Mary & Sam Galea, Evangeline Garcia, Leandro Snr Garcia, Jose Garcia, Constance Gaycroft, Frans Gutajar, Selvam Irudayaraj, Pauline Meilak, Mangion & Cini Family, Maureen & John Mead, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Mary Mifsud, Joseph Mifsud, Emilia & William Mifsud, Maria Reyes, Anton & Lourda Motha, Louis, Stephen & Joseph Mula, Mary & Francis Muscat, Felicisimo & Natalia Prahinog, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose Sanchez, Jonathan Tek Kie, 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\**



### 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 with the Parish Office.

### Our Lady of Lourdes

Ever Immaculate Virgin, Mother of mercy, health of the sick, refuge of sinners, comfort of the afflicted, you know my needs, my troubles, my sufferings; cast on me a look of pity. By appearing in the grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, from which you dispense your favours, and already many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and physical. I come, therefore, with the most unbounded confidence to implore your maternal intercession. Obtain most loving mother, my requests, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.  
**Amen.**



### REGULAR COLLECTIONS - First and Second

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

#### ON-LINE BANK DONATIONS

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

#### SECOND COLLECTION or Planned Giving Program

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

#### ON-LINE BANK DONATIONS

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

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

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



### KEEP UP TO DATE

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

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**FIRST READING** *A reading from the book of Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24*

Death was not God's doing, he takes no pleasure in the extinction of the living. To be – for this he created all; the world's created things have health in them, in them no fatal poison can be found, and Hades holds no power on earth; for virtue is undying.

Yet God did make man imperishable, he made him in the image of his own nature; it was the devil's envy that brought death into the world, as those who are his partners will discover.

The word of the Lord.

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**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**(R) I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.**

1. I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me and have not let my enemies rejoice over me. O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead, restored me to life from those who sink into the grave. **(R.)**

2. Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him, give thanks to his holy name. His anger lasts but a moment: his favour through life. At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn. **(R.)**

3. The Lord listened and had pity. The Lord came to my help. For me you have changed my mourning into dancing, O Lord my God, I will thank you for ever. **(R.)**

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**SECOND READING** *A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 8:7. 9:13-15*

You always have the most of everything – of faith, of eloquence, of understanding, of keenness for any cause, and the biggest share of our affection – so we expect you to put the most into this work of mercy too. Remember how generous the Lord Jesus was: he was rich, but he became poor for your sake, to make you rich out of his poverty.

This does not mean that to give relief to others you ought to make things difficult for yourselves: it is a question of balancing what happens to be your surplus now against their present need, and one day they may have something to spare that will supply your own need. That is how we strike a balance: as scripture says: The man who gathered much had none too much, the man who gathered little did not go short.

The word of the Lord.

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**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away with death and brought us life through his gospel.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 5:21-43*

When Jesus had crossed in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered round him and he stayed by the lakeside. Then one of the synagogue officials came up, Jairus by name, and seeing him, fell at his feet and pleaded with him earnestly, saying, 'My little daughter is desperately sick. Do come and lay your hands on her to make her better and save her life.' Jesus went with him and a large crowd followed him; they were pressing all round him.

Now there was a woman who had suffered from a haemorrhage for twelve years; after long and painful treatment under various doctors, she had spent all she had without being any the better for it, in fact, she was getting worse. She had heard about Jesus, and she came up behind him through the crowd and touched his cloak. 'If I can touch even his clothes,' she had told herself 'I will be well again.' And the source of the bleeding dried up instantly, and she felt in herself that she was cured of her complaint. Immediately aware that power had gone out from him, Jesus turned round in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my clothes?' His disciples said to him, 'You see how the crowd is pressing round you and yet you say, "Who touched me?"' But he continued to look all round to see who had done it. Then the woman came forward, frightened and trembling because she knew what had happened to her, and she fell at his feet and told him the whole truth. 'My daughter,' he said 'your faith has restored you to health; go in peace and be free from your complaint.'

While he was still speaking some people arrived from the house of the synagogue official to say, 'Your daughter is dead: why put the Master to any further trouble?' But Jesus had overheard this remark of theirs and he said to the official, 'Do not be afraid; only have faith.' And he allowed no one to go with him except Peter and James and John the brother of James.

So they came to the official's house and Jesus noticed all the commotion, with people weeping and wailing unrestrainedly. He went in and said to them, 'Why all this commotion and crying? The child is not dead, but asleep.' But they laughed at him. So he turned them all out and, taking with him the child's father and mother and his own companions, he went into the place where the child lay. And taking the child by the hand he said to her, 'Talitha, kum!' which means, 'little girl, I tell you to get up.' The little girl got up at once and began to walk about, for she was twelve years old. At this they were overcome with astonishment, and he ordered them strictly not to let anyone know about it, and told them to give her something to eat.

The Gospel of the Lord

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## GOSPEL REFLECTION - 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time Mark 5:21-43

Today's Gospel reading contains two very different miracle stories. In one, a woman suffering from a hemorrhage experiences a healing when she touches Jesus' clothing and, in the other, Jesus brings a twelve year old girl back to life. As different as these two miracles are, they do have one thing in common. Each miracle required faith.

Having touched Jesus, the woman feels she has been healed. Being aware that healing power has gone from him, Jesus turns around and asks who touched him.

After the woman admits she is the one, Jesus says she has been healed because of her faith. She didn't regain her health because of what she did but because she believed in Jesus' power to heal her.

Something similar happens in the story about Jesus bringing the little girl back to life. When the messengers from the synagogue official's house bring word that the girl is dead, Jesus responds by telling them that fear is useless and that they need to learn to trust (have faith) in him.

When he arrives at the synagogue official's house, Jesus hears people crying and carrying on because, according to custom, the family probably hired professional mourners to help them express their grief.

Flute players usually accompanied these professional mourners because ancient people associated the flute's ominous sound with death and tragedy.

Another Jewish mourning custom involved tearing a piece of one's clothing upon hearing the news of the death of a friend or relative. The tear was on the left side when the deceased was one's parent and on the right side for everyone else. The Jews believed this expression of grief was an outward and visible sign of the damage death did to the mourner's relationship with the deceased. Just as the piece of clothing would never be the same again, the mourner's life also could never be as it was before the person died. Hassidic and Orthodox Jews continue this practice even today.

The Gospel story ends when Jesus enters the room where the little girl is lying and tells her to get up. She immediately stands up and walks around. Faith again makes a miracle possible.

### For Reflection -

In the Gospels, there is only one example of Jesus not being able to perform a miracle.

Look up the story in Mark 6:1-6. What reason does Mark give for Jesus' inability to heal in this instance?

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## PARISH NEWS...

### BECOME A CATECHIST AN SRE VOLUNTEER!

*"If we don't teach our children to follow Christ, the world will teach them not to." 1 John 5:19*

We are in urgent need of catechists!

Are you thinking of becoming a catechist, but are feeling unsure or anxious? Please email any enquiry you have to [secretary@olol7hills.com.au](mailto:secretary@olol7hills.com.au), or call the parish office on 96222920 where we can arrange for you to speak with other current catechists available and ask any questions you may have. No experience needed. All training provided.

*'We practise faith through teaching others' Matthew 28:19-20*

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL THANK YOU

St Vinnie's would like to very much thank our Parishioners who donated blankets and knitted blankets. Also a big thank you to the OLOL school community for all the food and toiletries so generously donated during their Vinnies Winter Appeal.

### PARISH PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPE PROGRAM

All those who have registered for 2024/2025 envelopes they are now available to pick up from the back of the Church. If you wish to continue donating online, please add your planned giving number or for a one off donation, ref. Donation. Thank you most sincerely for your contribution to our Parish.

### ROSARY PRAYERS

Please join us for Rosary prayers on every Tuesday and Wednesday morning after Mass at 8.30am and every Thursday morning before Mass at 8.30am.

### THE PIETY SHOP

Thank you for supporting the Piety Shop sale. Over the next coming weeks new and inspirational items will be available for purchase or order. Please continue to come have a browse each week after mass.

### 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.

### 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.

### CHRIST COMMUNITY PRAYER GROUP

You are invited to hear the Word of God at length every Thursday at 9.30am in the Parish Meeting Room. It only takes about an hour of your time to get a better understanding of the Gospel and we sing songs. For more information, please contact Olivia on 0423 890 978.

### CATHOLIC OUTLOOK MAGAZINE

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

### 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.*

### **Bishop Vincent presents Dr Myriam Wijlens: 5 August**

Internationally recognised Dutch theologian, ecumenist and consultant to several Vatican bodies, Dr Myriam Wijlens will be coming to Australia to deliver a series of free public lectures on the topic of 'The prophetic voice of the laity in the renewal of the Catholic Church.' Dr Myriam will be hosted by the Diocese of Parramatta as part of its "Bishop Vincent Presents" series on Monday 5 August at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta, from 6pm. To register, please visit [parracatholic.org/drmyriam](https://parracatholic.org/drmyriam)

### **Safeguarding Kids Art Competition**

As part of our commitment to zero tolerance for any form of abuse or harm to children or any person, the Diocese of Parramatta is running our first Art competition for children and young people! Children & young people aged between 5 and 19 are invited to produce an artwork around the theme "My Church community is a safe place for me". Entries close on Friday 26 July. For more information and to enter, please visit [parracatholic.org/artcompetition](https://parracatholic.org/artcompetition)

### **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](https://parracatholic.org/events) for more details.

### **MET Worship A Journey of Faith RCIA Seminars: Beginning 31 July**

The MET Worship team are holding a series of seminars for RCIA coordinators to come together to learn and ask questions about how to run an RCIA program in their parish. The sessions will be held on Wednesdays (and one Tuesday) from 31 July to 28 August at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Participants may attend as many workshops as they are interested in. For more information and to register, please visit <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=rcia-seminars> or contact [lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org](mailto:lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org) or call 0460 037 795.

### **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](mailto:lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org) or 0460 037 795.

### **Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities**

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held on Saturday 27 July at St John XXIII Parish, Glenwood-Stanhope Gardens for Modules 1-3. More training opportunities will be available throughout August and September. 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)

**Thank You for Supporting our Catholic Care's Project Elizabeth**  
Fr Fernando Montano, Parramatta Catholic Foundation, and Catholic Care thank you for your generous support of mothers during tough times. Our Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal ensures Catholic Care can continue to help uphold the dignity and sanctity of human life, so more families facing challenges can flourish and live life to the full. If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit [parracatholic.org/appeal](https://parracatholic.org/appeal) or scan this QR code. Thank you.



### **MET Worship Music Copyright Workshop: 30 July or 1 August**

Calling all Parish musicians and members of our parish communities who create slides and booklets for our masses. Mr Eric Grella will be holding a workshop on THE IMPORTANCE OF COPYRIGHT. Bring all your questions to the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown, 30 July or to St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith on 1 August at 7pm. RSVP via <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=office-for-worship> or email [lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org](mailto:lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org).

### **MET Worship Serving at the Altar Seminar: 3 August**

The Office for Worship are hosting a seminar for Acolytes and Ministers of the Altar (Senior Servers) on "Back to Basics of Serving at the Altar" on Saturday 3 August from 9.30am to 3pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Chris Ohlsen will present the seminar, which will revisit some of the basic principles in serving at the altar. Refreshments and lunch will be provided. To RSVP by 31 July, please contact [lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org](mailto:lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org) or call 0460 037 795.

### **Catholic Care Bringing Up Great Kids Parenting Group: Begins 3 September**

Parents and caregivers are welcome to join a parenting group designed by the Australian Childhood Foundation run over four sessions at Catholic Care's Mamre House, Orchard Hills, from Thursday 3 September from 10am to 1pm. The course is supported by the free Mamre Creche. Numbers are limited, so express your interest by contacting (02) 8843 2500 or 0439 97 129 by 15 August.

### **Winbourne Learning How to See Reflection Day: 13 July**

The Winbourne Edmund Rice Retreat Centre, Mulgoa, is holding a reflection day 'Kinds of Prayer: Finding Ways to Pray' on Saturday 13 July from 9.30am to 12.30pm. One of the keys to wisdom is that we must recognise our own biases, our own preoccupations and those things to which, for some reason, we refuse to pay attention. Cost is \$15 per person. For more information or to book, contact (02) 4773 5555 or email [info@winbourne.org](mailto:info@winbourne.org)

### **Upper Blue Mountains Parish Carlo Acutis First-Class Relic visit: 5 – 7 July**

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish, Upper Blue Mountains, will host a First Class Relic and the International Exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles by Blessed Carlo Acutis from Friday 5 to Sunday 7 July at St Canice's Church, Katoomba. The exhibition is free, but a donation can be made to help with the upkeep of the exhibition. The exhibition will be open from 1pm – 3pm on Friday and 10am – 3pm on Saturday and Sunday. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 4782 2804 or email [bluemountains@parracatholic.org](mailto:bluemountains@parracatholic.org)

**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](https://www.caritas.org.au/png) or phone 1800 024 413 or scan the QR Code.



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## POPE FRANCIS ANGELUS



*Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday!*

Today the Gospel presents us with Jesus on the boat with the disciples, on Lake Tiberias. A strong storm arrives unexpectedly, and the boat is in danger of sinking. Jesus, who was asleep, wakes up, threatens the wind and everything becomes calm again (cf. *Mk* 4:35-41).

But really, He doesn't wake up, they awaken Him! With great fear, it is the disciples who awaken Jesus.

The evening before, it was Jesus Himself who told the disciples to get on the boat and cross the lake. They were experts, they were fishermen, and that was their living environment, but a storm could put them in difficulty. It seems that Jesus wants to put them to the test. However, He does not leave them alone; He stays with them on the boat, calm; indeed, He even sleeps. And when the storm breaks, He reassures them with His presence, He encourages them, He incites them to have more faith and accompanies them beyond the danger. But we can ask this question: why does Jesus act in this way?

To *strengthen the faith* of the disciples and to make them *more courageous*. Indeed, they – the disciples come out of this experience more aware of the power of Jesus and His presence in their midst, and therefore stronger and readier to face obstacles, difficulties, including the fear of venturing out to proclaim the Gospel. Having overcome this trial with Him, they will know how to face many others, even to the cross and martyrdom, to bring the Gospel to all peoples.

And Jesus does likewise with us too, in particular in the Eucharist: He gathers us around Him, He gives us His Word, He nourishes with His Body and His Blood, and then He invites us to set sail, to transmit everything we have heard and to share what we have received with everyone, in everyday life, even when it is difficult. Jesus does not spare us contrarities but, without ever abandoning us, He helps us confront them. He makes us courageous. So we too, overcoming them with His help, learn more and more to hold onto Him, to trust in His power, which goes far beyond our capacities, to overcome uncertainties and hesitations, closures and preconceptions, and He does this with courage and greatness of heart, to tell everyone that the Kingdom of Heaven is present, it is here, and that with Jesus at our side we can make it grow together, beyond all barriers.

Let us ask ourselves, then: in times of trial, can I remember the times when I have experienced, in my life, the presence and help of the Lord? Let us think about it... When a storm arrives, do I let myself be overwhelmed by the turmoil or do I cling to Him – these inner storms, no? – do I cling to Him to find calm and peace, in prayer, silence, listening to the Word, adoration and fraternal sharing of faith?

May the Virgin Mary, who welcomed God's will with humility and courage, give us, in difficult moments, the serenity of abandonment in Him.

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### **After the Angelus**

Dear brothers and sisters,

I greet you all, Romans and pilgrims from Italy and various countries.

In particular, I greet the faithful of Sant Boi de Llobregat, Barcelona, and those of Bari. I greet the participants in the "Choose life" demonstration, the "Edelweiss" Choir of the Alpine Section of Bassano del Grappa, and the cyclists from Bollate, who have come by bicycle.

Let us continue to pray for peace, especially in Ukraine, Palestine, and Israel. I can see the flag of Israel...

Today I saw it on the balcony of your house when I was coming from the Church of the *Santi Quaranta Martiri* – it is a call for peace! Let us pray for peace! Palestine, Gaza, the North of the Congo let us pray for peace! And peace in tormented Ukraine, which suffers greatly, let there be peace!

May the Holy Spirit enlighten the minds of governors, inspire wisdom and a sense of responsibility in them, to avoid any action or word that may fuel confrontation, and instead strive resolutely for a peaceful resolution of conflicts.

It takes negotiation.

The day before yesterday, Father Manuel Blanco, a Franciscan who had lived in the Church of *Santi Quaranta Martiri e San Pasquale Baylon* in Rome for forty-four years, passed away. He was a superior, a confessor, a man of counsel. In remembering him, I would like to remember so many Franciscan brothers, confessors, preachers, who honoured and honour the Church of Rome. Thanks to all of them!

And I wish you all a good Sunday. Please do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your meal and *arrivederci!*

### **Catechesis. On the occasion of the International Day. Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking**

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning! I can't hear you!

Today marks *International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking*, established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1987. This year's theme is *The evidence is clear: Invest in prevention*.

St. John Paul II affirmed, "Drug abuse impoverishes every community where it exists. It diminishes human strength and moral fibre. It undermines esteemed values. It destroys the will to live and to contribute to a better society." This drives the abuse of drugs and the use of drugs. At the same time, however, let us remember that each addict "has a unique personal story and must be listened to, understood, loved, and, insofar as possible, healed and purified... They continue to possess, more than ever, a dignity as children of God." [2] Everyone has dignity.

However, we cannot ignore the evil intentions and actions of drug dealers and traffickers. They are murderers. Pope Benedict XVI used stern words during a visit to a therapeutic community. This is what Pope Benedict said: "I therefore urge the drug dealers to reflect on the grave harm they are inflicting on countless young people and on adults from every level of society: God will call you to account for your deeds. Human dignity cannot be trampled upon in this way." [3] And drugs trample on human dignity.

A reduction in drug addiction is not achieved by liberalizing drug use this is a fantasy! as has been proposed by some, or has already implemented, in some countries. It's like this: you liberalize and drugs are consumed even more. Having known so many tragic stories of drug addicts and their families, I am convinced that it is a moral duty to end the production and trafficking of these dangerous substances. How many traffickers of death there are because drug traffickers are traffickers of death! – how many traffickers of death there are, driven by the logic of power and money at any cost! And this scourge, which produces violence and sows suffering and death, demands an act of courage from our society as a whole. Drug production and trafficking also have a destructive impact on our common home. This has become increasingly evident, for example, in the Amazon basin.

Another key way to counter drug abuse and trafficking is through prevention, which is done by promoting greater justice, educating young people in values that build personal and community life, accompanying those in need, and giving hope for the future.

In my journeys in different dioceses and countries, I have been able to visit several recovery communities inspired by the Gospel. They are a strong and hopeful witness to the commitment of priests, consecrated men and women, and lay people to put into practice the parable of the Good Samaritan. So too, I am comforted by the efforts undertaken by various bishops' conferences to promote just legislation and policies regarding the treatment of people addicted to drug use, and prevention to stop this scourge.

As an example, I point to the network of *La Pastoral Latinoamericana de Acompañamiento y Prevención de Adicciones* (PLAPA). The charter of this network recognizes that "addiction to alcohol, psychoactive substances, and other forms of addiction (pornography, new technologies, etc.) is a problem that affects us indiscriminately, beyond geographical, social, cultural, religious and age differences. Despite the differences we want to organize as a community: to share experiences, enthusiasm, difficulties."

I also mention the Bishops of southern Africa, who in November 2023 convened a meeting on "*Empowering youth as agents of peace and hope*." Youth representatives present at the meeting recognized that assembly as a "significant milestone geared toward healthy and active YOUTH throughout the region." They have also made a promise. Their promise goes like this: "We accept the role of being Ambassadors and Advocates who are going to fight against the use of substances. We plead with all young people to always be empathetic to one another at all times."

Dear brothers and sisters, faced with the tragic – it is tragic, isn't it? – the tragic situation of drug addiction of millions of people around the world, faced with the scandal of the illicit production and trafficking of such drugs, "we cannot be indifferent. The Lord Jesus paused, drew near, healed wounds. In the style of His closeness, we too are called to act, to pause before situations of fragility and pain, to know how to listen to the cry of loneliness and anguish, to stoop to lift up and bring back to life those who fall into the slavery of drugs." [6] And we pray, too, for these criminals who spend and give drugs to the young: they are criminals, they are murderers. Let us pray for their conversion.

On this World Drug Day, as Christians and church communities, let us pray for this intention and renew our commitment of prayer and work against drugs. Thank you!

### **Special Greetings**

I extend a warm welcome to all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors, especially the groups from England, Germany, Congo, Australia, India, the Philippines, Vietnam and the United States of America. In a particular way, I greet the many student groups, together with their teachers. Upon you and your families I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. May God bless you all!

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### **Summary of the Holy Father's words**

Dear brothers and sisters: Today we celebrate the World Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, which this year concentrates on the need to "Invest in Prevention". Drug addiction is a social scourge, devastating not only to the human dignity of the persons involved, but also to the welfare of society as a whole. Along with combating the illegal drug trade and the evils it spawns, greater efforts are needed to prevent drug abuse and to offer support and assistance to its victims. Today we pay tribute to the efforts of all those individuals and groups who, often inspired by the Gospel, bring healing to those enslaved by substance abuse, establish networks and programmes of recovery, and promote legislative initiatives to check the spread of drug use, especially among the young. As individuals and as a Church, let us offer them the support of our prayers and encourage them in their work.

## GENERAL NOTICES...

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

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

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

### SICK AND/OR HOMEBOUND?

Would you like to receive Communion? Or seriously ill or in danger of death? We have dedicated ministers who can visit and bring you communion. Feel free to approach or call Fr Henry for the Holy Anointing of the Sick. Please call the parish office 9622 2920

### FUNERALS

When a Funeral is to be celebrated, please contact the parish office to organise a meeting with Fr Henry. Funerals are not permitted on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation.

### BAPTISM

Parents desiring Baptism for their children are encouraged to contact the parish office to arrange for the required preparation class for parents.

### MASS INTENTIONS

All Mass intentions must be submitted to the Parish Office on or before Thursday. Names will be published for 4 weeks at a time.



### LOURDES OVER 50s GROUP

Over 50s meeting Thursday 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 in July. 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.

### 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](mailto:rabel24@gmail.com).

### OFFERTORY PROCESSION FOR OUR WEEKEND MASSES

With the intention to help our community to get more involved at Mass and better appreciate our share in the priesthood of the faithful, meaning our call to be priests, prophets and kings or queens of Jesus through baptism that Fr David Orr reminded us in our Parish retreat, I would like to invite all our parishioners to take part in the offertory procession, especially families that have some special celebrations in the families, such as baptisms, birthdays, wedding anniversaries, or death anniversaries. Please see Fr Henry or Ernie before Mass to arrange it.

## OLOL PARISH CALENDAR

### July

5	School Term 2 ends	
10	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	7.30pm
11	Lourdes Over 50's Meeting	10.30am
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.**

### 29/30 June

Acolytes	Vigil: Frank Paiva 8am: Ernie Gartner 9.30am: Ramzee Michael	
Ministers	Vigil: B. Motha, N. Shami 8am: F. Balatbat, Edith Gartner 9.30am: M. Michael, C. Brooks	
Readers	Vigil: A. Punch, J. Sarmiento 8am: P. Ferriols, K. Walker 9.30am: S. Manamperi, A. Walker	
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. Bagatella, E. Reardon 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: C. Attard, L. Cuiili	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: Shaun's Group 8am: Chris Woodward & Nina 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Team	
Church Cleaning	4 July	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Ugre 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: K. Chamberlain, E.Barcelon	

### 6/7 July

Acolytes	Vigil: Derick Soares 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Sandy Manamperi	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Mifsud, R. Soares 8am: B. Motha, F. Paiva 9.30am: G. Basili, B. Chandler	
Readers	Vigil: C. Rodrigues, M. Simic 8am: F. Kennedy, M. Santos 9.30am: N. Arambulo, R. Epondulan	
Altar Servers	Vigil: S. Costello, S. Costello. L. Sadipoor 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: Volunteers	
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 July	Tongan Community, E. Barcelon, E. Cabrera
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

