

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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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/>

14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 7 July 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, Ronald Fountain, Renuka Fernando, Tracey Galea, Chmounneh 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
We can also arrange for Holy Communion or a visit if required.

Let us Pray for the Deceased

Recently Deceased: Emma Barriom, Barrie Chamberlain, Muriel Chary, Dulcie Duraisamy, Jasmin Fernando, Trinidad Faduhilao, Ricardo Garcia, Cynthia Lopez, Faustino Montederos, Christita Montehermoso, Isidro Monticer, Rudolfo Noble, Frances Shepherd (Taiarol), 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, Anthony Garcia, Teodoro Garcia, Christine Gomez, Josephine Gomez, Christine Henderson, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kutty, Albert Moroney, Mary Motha, Mary Muscat, Tony Muscat, Sheena Landagan, Rita Leon, Salvatore & Fr. Lorenzo Loria, Cordula Paiva, Custudio Palmos Snr, Nieves Palmos, Jose Reyes, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Pauline & Santan Soares, Mary Silva, Rosary Silva, Melchor Usman, Dionisio Udan.

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, France Angseeing, Carmen Attard, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Sam Borg, Spiru Borg, Myrna Cruz, Saviour Caruana, Fe Licup Carmen, Tania McGove, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, 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, 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, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jonathan Tek Kie, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella, 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 with the Parish Office.



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 2:2-5*

The spirit came into me and made me stand up, and I heard the Lord speaking to me. He said, 'Son of man, I am sending you up to the Israelites, to the rebels who have turned against me.

Till now they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me. The sons are defiant and obstinate; I am sending you to them, to say, "The Lord says this." Whether they listen or not, this set of rebels shall know there is a prophet among them.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy.

1. To you have I lifted up my eyes,
you who dwell in the heavens:
my eyes, like the eyes of slaves
on the hand of their lords. **(R.)**

2. Like the eyes of a servant
on the hand of his mistress,
so our eyes are on the Lord our God
till he shows us his mercy. **(R.)**

3. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
We are filled with contempt.
Indeed all too full is our soul
with the scorn of the rich,
with the proud man's disdain. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 12:7-10*

In view of the extraordinary nature of these revelations, to stop me from getting too proud I was given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to beat me and stop me from getting too proud! About this thing, I have pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me, but he has said, 'My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness.'

So I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me, and that is why I am quite content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and the agonies I go through for Christ's sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 6:1-6*

Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, 'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him?

This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?' And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is only despised in his own country among his own relations and in his own house'; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

The Gospel of the Lord

GOSPEL REFLECTION - 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time Mark 6:1-6

Because people did not have family names in Jesus day, there were three different ways one could distinguish two people who had the same name.

First of all, a common designation was where the person lived. Simon of Cyrene, Joseph of Arimathea, and Mary of Magdala are good examples. A problem occurred, however, if the two people with the same name came from the same place.

In that case, friends and acquaintances may have identified the person by occupation. Simon the fisherman, Joseph the carpenter, and Levi the tax collector are just a few examples. Modern last names such as Baker, Smith, and Cook originated in this way.

Finally, ancient people sometimes distinguished a person by who his father was. One of the apostles was James, the son of Zebedee, and another was James, the son of Alphaeus. This custom also found its way into different foreign languages and led to modern last names such as Janowicz, which is Polish for "son of John," and Fitzgerald, which is Irish for "son of Gerald." Thus, those who knew Jesus called him Jesus of Nazareth (where he grew up), Jesus of Capernaum (where he lived during his public ministry), Jesus the carpenter, Jesus the rabbi, or Jesus the son of Joseph. Any one of these names would have been appropriate.

Jesus left Nazareth as a simple carpenter but he returned as a famous rabbi with his own disciples. People throughout Palestine heard of his reputation and respected him but the people in his home town gave him a lukewarm reception.

In today's Gospel, the people of Nazareth marvel at Jesus' ability to preach and they ask one another if he isn't the carpenter and the son of Mary. Notice that they do not call Jesus the son of Joseph. Either Joseph was already dead or they meant this as an insult. By not recognizing Joseph as the father of Jesus, they may have been implying he was an illegitimate child. Therefore, Jesus' homecoming was less than a big success.

For Reflection-

Its easy for us to remember that Jesus is God but difficult to think of him as also human. Jesus did not walk around with a neon sign on his chest flashing the words "Worship me, I'm God!" Jesus was just as human as you and I are, and he sometimes experienced what it is like to be hurt and rejected. The next time you feel down, go to Jesus with your problems. He knows what you are going through because he went through the same thing himself.

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, 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.

LOURDES OVER 50s GROUP

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

SECOND LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE OF 2024

Those interested in serving in the parish as a Liturgical Minister such as a Reader, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, Minister to the Sick & Dying or a Minister at the Altar, new enrolment forms are now available at the back Sacristy or scan this QR Code. Alternatively, please contact the parish office.



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.

LOURDES PLAYGROUP IS BACK 26TH JULY!

Congratulations to Maria who runs our playgroup on the birth of her baby girl earlier this year. After a short break, Maria is back to open up playgroup every Friday during school term, 9.00am—11.00am in the Parish Meeting Room, children aged 0 to 5 years old and their carers are welcome to come along during any part of that time for a play, chat and cuppa. ALL ARE WELCOME. Please register by 3pm the Thursday prior via Facebook under 'Our Lady of Lourdes Play Group' or contact Maria on 0432 174 056.

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

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

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!

- 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.

Tri-Diocesan Social Justice Evening: 25 July

You are invited to a Tri-Diocesan Social Justice Evening with keynote speaker John Lochowiak, Chair of NATSICC. The event will reflect on the 2023-24 Social Justice Statement "Listen, Learn, Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People", and is hosted by the Diocese of Broken Bay, together with the Diocese of Parramatta and Archdiocese of Sydney: 25 July 2024, 6pm, The Epping Club (45-47 Rawson St, Epping). Please register by 17 July at trybooking.com/ctcfo

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

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 or call 0460 037 795.

ACBC Absent from the Table Survey

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is undertaking a research project aimed at investigating why some Catholics do not participate in regular weekly Sunday Mass. The survey, for those who self-identify as Catholics and are 18 years and over and who do not regularly attend weekly Mass on Sunday, is anonymous and will close on 20 August. The survey and information about the project can be found at <https://bit.ly/AbsentFromTheTableSurvey>

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Sunday: 7 July

On this first weekend in July, the Catholic Church in Australia celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday to acknowledge and celebrate the gifts of Australia's First Peoples. The 2024 theme is "Keep the Fire Burning: Strong in Faith". A booklet with information and resources is available at <https://www.natsicc.org.au/2024-atsi-sunday.html>.

Emerton Parish NAIDOC Week Celebration: 11 July

To commemorate NAIDOC Week, which is celebrated from 7-14 July, you are warmly invited to a family-friendly NAIDOC celebration hosted by Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt, Catholic Care, Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation and other partners on Thursday 11 July from 10am to 3pm at the Holy Family site, 252 Luxford Rd, Emerton. All are welcome to attend.

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.

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 or call 0460 037 795.

Jesuit Refugee Services Refugee Showcase Evening: 19 July

In the spirit of Refugee Week, please join us for a special event featuring a showcase by leaders with lived experience from the JRS Australia Refugee Leadership Program. The event will be held on Friday 19 July in the St Patrick's Cathedral Hall from 6pm. Attendance is free and all are welcome. An optional \$30 donation is available for those able to contribute. RSVP to secure your place at <https://events.humanitix.com/refugee-week>

Catholic Care Circle of Security Parenting Series: Begins 24 July

Catholic Care are hosting the Circle of Security Parenting series for parents and caregivers of children up to 18 years age. Learn how to understand your child's emotional world, support your child's ability to manage emotions and ensure your child feels secure. Sessions will be held over eight weeks from 24 July to 11 September from 10am – 12.30pm. Cost is \$105 or \$5 for concession card holders. To book, call (02) 8843 2500 or email enquiries@catholiccarewsbm.org.au

Catholic Care Keeping Kids in Mind Parenting Course: Begins 13 August

Parenting after separation can be difficult for you and your child. This Catholic Care course over five weeks is designed to assist you in supporting your child following family separation. The sessions are held every Tuesday online from 13 August to 10 September from 10am – 12.30pm. Cost is \$150 or \$50 for concession card holders. A certificate of attendance is issued on completion of the course. To book, call (02) 8843 2500 or email enquiries@catholiccarewsbm.org.au



Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday!

The Gospel of today's liturgy tells us about two miracles that seem to be connected to each other. As Jesus is on His way to the house of Jairus, one of the synagogue leaders whose daughter is gravely ill, a woman suffering from hemorrhages touches His cloak along the way. He stops to heal her. Meanwhile, we are told that Jairus' daughter has died, but Jesus does not stop. He arrives at the house, goes into the girl's room, takes her by the hand, and raises her, bringing her back to life (Mk 5:21-43). Two miracles, one of which is a healing and the other a resurrection.

These two healings are told in the same episode. Both occur through physical contact. Indeed, *the woman touches Jesus' cloak*, and *Jesus takes the girl by the hand*. Why is this physical contact important? It is because these two women are considered impure and cannot, therefore, be physically touched—one because she suffers from blood loss and the other because she is dead. Yet, *Jesus allows Himself to be touched and is not afraid to touch*. Jesus allows Himself to be touched and is not afraid to touch. Even before He carries out a physical healing, He challenges the false religious belief that God separates the pure, placing them on one side, from the impure on another. Instead, God does not make this kind of separation, because we are all His children. Impurity does not come from food, illness, or even death; impurity comes from an impure heart.

Let us learn this lesson: in the face of bodily and spiritual sufferings, of the wounds our souls bear, of the situations that crush us, and even in the face of sin, God does not keep us at a distance. God is not ashamed of us; God does not judge us. On the contrary, He draws near to let Himself be touched and to touch us, and He always raises us from death. He always takes us by the hand to say: daughter, son, arise! (cf. Mark 5:41). Walk forward; strive ahead! "Lord I am a sinner"—"Strive forward; I became sin for you, to save you" — "But you, O Lord, are not a sinner" — "No, but I have endured all the consequences of sin to save you." This is beautiful!

Let us fix the image that Jesus offers us in our hearts. It is God who takes you by the hand and raises you up again. It is He who lets Himself be touched by your pain and touches you to heal you and give you life again. He does not discriminate against anyone because He loves everyone.

Thus, we can ask ourselves: do we believe that God is like this? Do we let ourselves be touched by the Lord, by His Word, by His love? Do we relate to our brothers and sisters by offering them a hand to lift them up, or do we keep our distance and label people based on our tastes and preferences? We label people. Let me ask you a question: Does God, the Lord Jesus, label people? May everyone answer this question. Does God label people? And do I live by constantly labelling people?

Brothers and sisters, let us look to the heart of God, so that the Church and society may neither exclude nor treat anyone as "impure," so that each person, with their own particular past, is welcomed and loved without labels, prejudices, or adjectives.

Let us pray through the Holy Virgin. May She who is the Mother of tenderness intercede for us and for the whole world.

After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters,

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

I especially greet the children of the "*Misyjna Jutrzenka*" Missionary Circle from Skoczów, Poland; and the faithful from California and Costa Rica.

I greet the religious sisters of the Daughters of the Church, who in these days have been on a pilgrimage following in the footsteps of their foundress, Venerable Maria Oliva Bonaldo, together with a group of lay people. I also greet the young people from Gonzaga, near Mantua.

Today we remember the Roman Protomartyrs. We too live in a time of martyrdom, one that is even more so than in the early centuries. Many of our brothers and sisters in various parts of the world suffer discrimination and persecution because of their faith; they thus bring fecundity to the Church. Others face a "white-glove" martyrdom. Let us support them and be inspired by their testimony of love for Christ.

On this last day of June, let us implore the Sacred Heart of Jesus to touch the hearts of those who desire war, that they may be converted to plans of dialogue and peace.

Brothers and sisters, let us not forget martyred Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, Myanmar, and many other places where there is so much suffering due to war!

I wish everyone a good Sunday. Please, do not forget to pray for me. Have a good lunch and *arrivederci*! Thank you.

HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

Saint Peter's Basilica

Saturday, 29 June 2024

Let us look at the two Apostles, Peter and Paul: the fisherman from Galilee whom Jesus made a fisher of men, and the Pharisee who persecuted the Church but was transformed by grace into an evangelizer of the nations. In the light of God's word, let us draw inspiration from their story and from the apostolic zeal that marked their lives. In encountering the Lord, they experienced a true passover: they were set free: *the doors to a new life opened before them*.

Brothers and sisters, on the eve of the Jubilee Year, let us reflect on that image of the *door*.

The Jubilee will be a time of grace during which we will open the Holy Door so that everyone may cross the threshold of that living sanctuary who is Jesus and, in him, experience the love of God that confirms our hope and renews our joy.

In the story of Peter and Paul, several doors open.

The first reading tells of the deliverance of Peter from prison; it is filled with images reminiscent of Passover. The event takes place during the feast of Unleavened Bread. Herod recalls the figure of the Pharaoh of Egypt. The deliverance takes place at night, as it did for the Israelites. The angel gives Peter the same instructions once given to Israel: he tells Peter to rise quickly, gird himself and put on his sandals (cf. *Acts 12:8; Ex 12:11*). The account, then, is that of a *new exodus*. God delivers his Church, frees his people who are in chains, and once again reveals himself as the God of mercy who sustains them on their journey.

On that night of deliverance, the doors of the prison are first miraculously opened. Then, we are told that when Peter and the angel accompanying him came to the iron gate leading into the city, "it opened to them of its own accord" (*Acts 12:10*). They did not open the door; it opened by itself. It is God who opens doors; he is the one who sets us free and opens the way before us. Jesus, as we heard in the Gospel, entrusted the keys of the Kingdom to Peter, yet Peter realizes that it is the Lord who opens doors; he always goes before us. This point is significant: the doors of the prison were opened by the Lord's strength, but Peter then found it hard to enter the house of the Christian community. The woman who went to the door thought that it was a ghost and did not open the door (cf. *Acts 12:12-17*). How many times have communities not learned this wisdom of the need to open the doors!

The journey of the Apostle Paul is also, primarily, a passover experience. First, he is changed by his encounter with the Risen Lord on the road to Damascus and then, fervently contemplating the crucified Christ, discovers the grace of weakness. When we are weak, he tells us, it is then that we are strong, because we no longer rely on ourselves, but on Christ (cf. *2 Cor 12:10*). Seized by the Lord and crucified with him, Paul can write, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" (*Gal 2:20*). Yet this does not lead to a consoling, inward-looking religiosity – like that found in a few movements in the Church today – on the contrary, the encounter with the Lord ignites in the life of Paul a burning zeal for evangelization. As we heard in the second reading, at the end of his life, he could say: "The Lord stood by me and gave me strength to proclaim the message fully, that all the Gentiles might hear it" (*2 Tim 4:17*).

In describing how the Lord gave him so many opportunities to preach the Gospel, Paul employs the image of open doors. He journeyed to Antioch with Barnabas, and we read that "when they arrived, they gathered the church together and declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles" (*Acts 14:27*).

In a similar way, in writing to the community in Corinth, he says, "a wide door for effective work opened to me" (*1 Cor 16:9*). Writing to the Colossians, he urges them: "Pray for us also, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ" (*Col 4:3*).

Brothers and sisters, the Apostles Peter and Paul both experienced this grace. They witnessed first-hand the work of God, who opened the doors of their interior prisons but also the actual prisons into which they were thrown because of the Gospel. The Lord also opened before them the doors of evangelization, so they could have the joy of encountering their brothers and sisters in the fledgling communities and bring the hope of the Gospel to all. Now, this year we also are preparing to open the Holy Door.

Brothers and sisters, today the Metropolitan Archbishops appointed in the last year receive the pallium.

In communion with Peter and following the example of Christ, the gate for the sheep (cf. *Jn 10:7*), they are called to be zealous shepherds who open the doors of the Gospel and, through their ministry, help to build a Church and a society of open doors.

With fraternal affection, I greet the delegation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, whom I thank for coming to manifest the shared desire for full communion between our Churches. I also send heartfelt cordial greetings to my dear brother Bartholomew.

May Saints Peter and Paul help us to open the door of our lives to the Lord Jesus. May they intercede for us, for this City of Rome and for the whole world. Amen.

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 in July. 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.

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 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

July

| | | |
|----|---------------------------------|---------|
| 10 | Parish Pastoral Council Meeting | 7.30pm |
| 11 | Lourdes Over 50's Meeting | 10.30am |
| 17 | Baptism Meeting | 7.30pm |
| 23 | School resumes for Term 3 | |

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

6/7 July

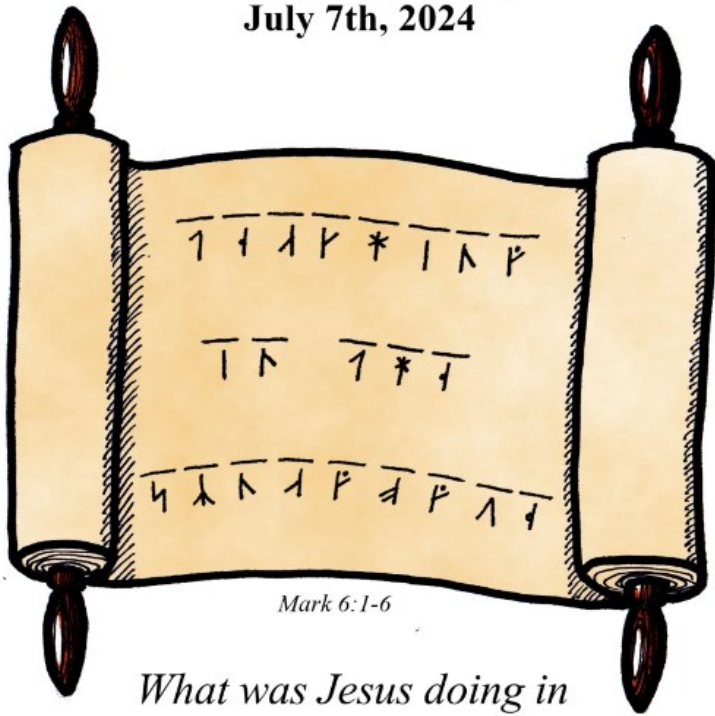
| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Acolytes | Vigil: Derick Soares 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Sandy Manamperi | |
| Ministers | Vigil: M. Mifsud, R. Soares 8am: B. Motha, F. Paiva 9.30am: G. Basili, B. Chandler | |
| Readers | Vigil: C. Rodrigues, 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 | 4 July | Lourdes Spiteri E. Barcelon, |
| Welcomers | Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon | |

13/14 July

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Acolytes | Vigil: Frank Paiva 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am: Eugene Miu | |
| Ministers | Vigil: L.Bellissimo, A.Bellissimo 8am: L.Fernandes, H.Gonzales 9.30am: C.Brooks, P.Gow | |
| Readers | Vigil: B. Motha, A.Punch 8am: A.McNally, K.Walker 9.30am: C.Diaz, A.Hye Rin Han | |
| Altar Servers | Vigil: J.Martinez, B.Spadaro 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: S.Culili, F.Wanandy | |
| Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass) | Tongan Choir | |
| Musicians | Vigil: OFS 8am: Fr Henry, C.Woodward & Nina 9.30am: Tongan Choir | |
| Flowers | Claudette & Judith | |
| Church Cleaning | 13 July | Tongan Community, E. Barcelon, E. Cabrera |
| Welcomers | Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon | |

A Prophet Without Honor

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 7th, 2024



Mark 6:1-6

*What was Jesus doing in today's Gospel reading?
Use the secret code to find out!*

A C E G H I N O S T U Y
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor." Mark 6:4 (NIV)

Match the words in the box with the correct definition.

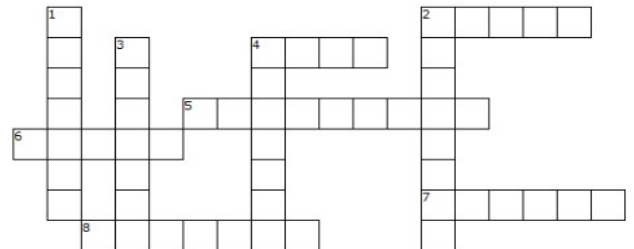


1. _____ An event that can only be done through the power of God
2. _____ The mother of Jesus
3. _____ To treat with great respect
4. _____ To have great trust or belief in something or someone
5. _____ One who is a spokesman for God to man
6. _____ The ability to judge what is true or right
7. _____ The town or city where a person was born or grew up
8. _____ The seventh day of the week, the day of rest and worship for the Jews
9. _____ A person whose job is making and repairing things made from wood
10. _____ A man or boy with the same parents as another person

| | | | | |
|----------|---------|---------|-------|-----------|
| PROPHET | MIRACLE | SABBATH | MARY | CARPENTER |
| HOMETOWN | BROTHER | HONOR | FAITH | WISDOM |



J is for Jesus



ACROSS

2. To treat with great respect
4. The mother of Jesus
5. A person whose job is making and repairing things made from wood
6. To have great trust or belief in something or someone
7. The ability to judge what is true or right
8. One who is a spokesman for God to man

DOWN

1. The seventh day of the week, the day of rest and worship for the Jews
2. The town or city where a person was born or grew up
3. A man or boy with the same parents as another person
4. An event that can only be done through the power of God

| | | | | |
|---------|----------|---------|-------|-----------|
| WISDOM | PROPHET | MIRACLE | MARY | CARPENTER |
| SABBATH | HOMETOWN | FAITH | HONOR | BROTHER |