



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: 18th September 2024
Baptism: 28th July 2024
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.com.au
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 21 July 2024 • Year B



Let us Pray for the Sick

Rico Abadam, Leonila Ahillon, Florence Arinanan, Mary Attard, Rodney Bell, Sarah Bartolo, Rosella Booth, Luke C, Alma Caguimbal, Mary Camilleri, Ronald Fountain, Renuka Fernando, 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
We can also arrange for Holy Communion or a visit if required.

Let us Pray for the Deceased

Recently Deceased: Emma Barriom, Barrie Chamberlain, Murial Chary, Dulcie Duraisamy, Jasmin Fernando, Ricardo Garcia, Francisco Giusa, Andrew Gullota, Stuart Gribbin, Cynthia Lopez, Isidro Monticer, Maria Coi Thi Nguyen, Estelita Solis Palmos, Frances Shepherd (Taiarol), Colin Zahra.

Anniversaries: Fe Abadiano, Frank & Fortunata Baiada, Peter & Helen Bonnici, Nazarene (Ronnie) Borg, Catherine Chandra, Aloysean Corera, Monica, Dominic, Conception D'Souza, John Fernando, Nevis Fernando, M.A Fernando, Juliet Francis, Brian Jordan, Oliver Jordan, Anthony Garcia, Teodoro Garcia, Christine Gomez, Josephine Gomez, Christine Henderson, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kutty, Mary Motha, Tony Muscat, Josefina Lagare, Sheena Landagan, Rita Leon, Albert Mula, Eamon O'Sullivan, Cordula Paiva, Rosita Rival, Jose Reyes, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Michael Sant, Mary Silva, Rosary Silva, John Tenti, 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 & Launcer 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.

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 EFTPOS Terminals are 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

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Jeremiah 23:1-6*

‘Doom for the shepherds who allow the flock of my pasture to be destroyed and scattered – it is the Lord who speaks! This, therefore, is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says about the shepherds in charge of my people: You have let my flock be scattered and go wandering and have not taken care of them. Right, I will take care of you for your misdeeds – it is the Lord who speaks! But the remnant of my flock I myself will gather from all the countries where I have dispersed them, and will bring them back to their pastures: they shall be fruitful and increase in numbers. I will raise up shepherds to look after them and pasture them; no fear, no terror for them any more; not one shall be lost – it is the Lord who speaks!

‘See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will raise a virtuous Branch for David, who will reign as true king and be wise, practising honesty and integrity in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel dwell in confidence. And this is the name he will be called:

The Lord-our-integrity.’

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **(R.)**

3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **(R.)**

2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff,
with these you give me comfort. **(R.)**

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow
me all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for
ever and ever. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 2:13-18*

In Christ Jesus, you that used to be so far from us have been brought very close, by the blood of Christ. For he is the peace between us, and has made the two into one and broken down the barrier which used to keep them apart, actually destroying in his own person the hostility caused by the rules and decrees of the Law.

This was to create one single New Man in himself out of the two of them and by restoring peace through the cross, to unite them both in a single Body and reconcile them with God. In his own person he killed the hostility. Later he came to bring the good news of peace, peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near at hand. Through him, both of us have in the one Spirit our way to come to the Father.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;

I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 6:30-34*

The apostles rejoined Jesus and told him all they had done and taught. Then he said to them, ‘You must come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while’; for there were so many coming and going that the apostles had no time even to eat.

So they went off in a boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But people saw them going, and many could guess where; and from every town they all hurried to the place on foot and reached it before them. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at some length.

The Gospel of the Lord



Dear friends,

As required by the Church law, all priests have to leave everything behind no matter how busy they are and go for a retreat annually, and this is the reason why I disappear for a week every year to stay in a lonely place and to be spiritually recharged through prayers and reflections.

This tradition obviously was inspired by Jesus' example in the Gospel this Sunday as he instructed the apostles to find a lonely place to rest after they returned from their ministries and gave him a report about their works.

I have to say that I was much more fortunate when I was away for my annual retreats compared to the apostles, since I never had to face a situation requiring me to stop a retreat and attend something else, just like the apostles who even had no time to finish their meals as people had kept coming and going and asking for help.

As a result they had to embark on the boat moving to another quiet place with Jesus, and still they weren't left alone as people were able to track them down and went to their next destination ahead of them. This part of the Gospel reminds me of an experience I had in a previous parish where people kept ringing the parish clergy constantly, even in the small hours of the night, consequently the Parish priest became cranky without knowing the cause of the problem and I felt so distressed for having so many sleepless nights.

Anyway, Jesus, true to his merciful nature, had no intention to hide his true emotion towards the crowds searching for spiritual nourishment. Mark used the image of the sheep to describe the crowds following Jesus and the apostles. He compared them with 'sheep without a shepherd' a community without a leader if you like to call. This stressing reality made the Lord feel sorry for them and he had to set aside his need to rest to teach them.

Let us pray today for the grace (1) to help us appreciate our need to find time for a needed spiritual recharge, especially when our Parish annual retreat is offered to the community, and (2) to have a compassion heart like Jesus to encourage us to feel sorry and respond the best we can to support those who are weak in faith or have lost their connection with the Church for whatever reason, especially by means of our exemplary lives.

Have a compassion-filled week,

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

SERVING AS PARISH MINISTERS

Our Diocesan Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses 2024 including Extra-ordinary ministers of Communion, Ministers of Communion to the Sick and Dying, and ministers at the Altar (or Acolytes) will commence from Monday 9 September 2024, our parishioners are encouraged to enrol in your preferred ministries by completing an Enrolment form and returning it to Fr Henry.

For those who wish to become Readers or ministers of the Word, please fill out the Parish Groups form and return to Fr Henry. A Formation course shall be conducted shortly in our parish.

SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST 2024

A reminder that the sacramental meetings begin on the 31st of July. For more information please contact Artelle in the parish office.

MINISTRY ROSTERS

New ministry rosters for 1 August 2024 - 31 January 2025 are now available. You can find a copy at the back Sacristy or on our website under 'Parish Forms'. If you require more copies, please contact the parish office.

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.

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.*

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

At our recent meeting on Wednesday 10 July, we continued the discussion about the Family Group Movement that we are going to introduce to our Parish. We decided to invite Dennis Farrar to come and give a talk at all Masses during the first weekend of September, pending his availability.

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 RESUMES 26TH JULY

Playgroup will resume on the 26th of July and 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. If you are enrolling your child at OLOL school, this is a great way to meet fellow parents and for your child to become familiar with the environment. All are welcome. To attend please register by 3pm the Thursday prior via Facebook under 'Lourdes Play Group' or contact Maria on 0432 174 056.

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 feeling unsure or anxious? Please email any enquiry that you may 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

Vale Bishop Kevin Manning (2 November 1933 – 15 July 2024)

The Diocese of Parramatta mourns the death of Bishop Emeritus Kevin Manning, the second Bishop of Parramatta, who died peacefully on Monday 15 July in Bathurst, NSW, at the age of 90. The Diocese of Parramatta owes much to his leadership and vision, and we pray for the repose of his soul and give thanks to God for his earthly life. The details for Bishop Kevin Manning's funeral at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta will be announced in the coming days. Read more about Bishop Manning on *Catholic Outlook* (catholicoutlook.org).

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/drmymriam

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.

Peace, Justice and Ecology Table Talk – Housing for Everyone: 3 August

Many people in our communities struggle to find a home, due to high prices to rent or buy, lack of availability, or lack of social housing. At this Diocesan Table Talk, you are invited to hear and discuss inspiring stories from people affected and insightful information from an expert: 3 August 2024 from 7pm – 9:30pm (after Mass) at The Good Shepherd Parish, 130-136 Hyatts Rd, Plumpton. Light dinner will be included. Please register at tinyurl.com/housing-table-talk24

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>

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 on Spotify: www.parracatholic.org/resources/soul-food

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.

Glenbrook Parish Universal Sisterhood Women's Retreat: 17 August

Universal Sisterhood is hosting a women's retreat on Saturday 17 August from 8.45am to 5.15pm at St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook. This retreat is open to all women 18+ who want to develop a deeper understanding of their faith and are searching for an authentic relationship with the Lord and with other like minded women. Registration is \$100. To register, please visit: <https://www.trybooking.com/eventslanding/1171377>. All enquiries, call 0403 962 181.

Central Europe Pilgrimage with Fr Joseph Lam: May 2025

Final few places are available for the Cosmos tour of Central Europe with Fr Joseph Lam from St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook. The tour runs for 15 days from 11 to 25 May 2025, travelling through Germany, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Austria and Czechia. Prices start from \$5,290 per person, excluding flights. For more information or to register your interest contact Ruby Travels Worldwide on 0401 895 998, email june.rubytravels@gmail.com or via rubytravelsworldwide.com

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

Jesus Light of the World Communities Growth Retreat: 23 - 25 August

The Jesus Light of the World Communities invites you to their Growth Formation Retreat from 23 to 25 August at The Collaroy Centre, Collaroy. The program includes Mass, talks, workshops and discussions and an hour of empowerment. Prices are \$450 per person for single, or \$360 per person twin share. For more information, please contact Helen on 0433 455 114 or email jlowcommunity@gmail.com

Are you up for fun, fitness, and fellowship? Get #Active4Vocations in the City2Surf on Sunday 11 August

Join the Parramatta Catholic Foundation #Active4Vocations team. Walk, stroll, jog, or run with our Holy Spirit seminarians, deacons, priests, and community. Scan this QR code or visit tinyurl.com/Active4Vocations to register or donate. Funds raised support our Diocese's seminarians to become priests. **Thank you for getting #Active4Vocations.**



Divine Retreat Centre offerings in 2024

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

POPE FRANCIS' ANGELUS

Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday!

Today the Gospel tells us about Jesus who sends His disciples on the mission (cf. *Mk* 6:7-13). He sends them "two by two", and recommends something important: to take with them only what is necessary.

Let us pause a moment on this image: the disciples are sent *together*, and must take with them *only what is necessary*. We do not proclaim the Gospel alone, no: it is proclaimed together, as a community, and to do this it is important to know how to preserve sobriety: to know how to be sober in the use of things, sharing resources, capacities and gifts, and doing without the superfluous. Why? In order to be free: the superfluous enslaves you, and also so that we all have what we need to live in a dignified way and to contribute actively to the mission; and then to be sober in thoughts, to be sober in feelings, abandoning our preconceived ideas and abandoning the inflexibility that, like pointless baggage, weigh us down and hinder the journey, fostering discussion and listening instead, and thus making witness more effective. Let us think, for example, of what happens in our families and our communities: when we are content with what is necessary, even with little, with God's help we are able to go forward and get along, sharing what there is, everyone renouncing something and supporting each other (cf. *Acts* 4:32-35). And this is already a missionary proclamation, before and even more than words, because it embodies the beauty of Jesus' message in the tangibility of life. Indeed, a family or a community that lives in this way creates around it an environment rich in love, in which it is easier to open oneself to faith and the newness of the Gospel, and from which one starts out better, one starts out more serene. If, on the other hand, everyone goes his or her way, if only material things count which are never enough if one does not listen, if individualism and envy prevail – envy is something lethal, a poison! – individualism and envy prevail, the air becomes heavy, life becomes difficult, and encounters become an occasion of restlessness, sadness and discouragement, rather than an occasion of joy (cf. *Mt.* 19:22). Dear brothers and sisters, *communion* and *sobriety* are important values for our Christian life: communion, harmony among us, and sobriety are important values, indispensable values for a Church to be missionary at all levels. We can ask ourselves, then: do I taste the pleasure of proclaiming the Gospel, of bringing, where I live, the joy and light that come from an encounter with the Lord? And in order to do this, do I commit myself to walking together with others, sharing ideas and skills with them, with an open mind and with a generous heart? And finally: do I know how to cultivate a lifestyle that is sober, a lifestyle that is attentive to the needs of my brothers and sisters? They are questions that it is good to ask ourselves. May Mary, Queen of Apostles, help us to be true missionary disciples, in *communion* and *sobriety of life*. In communion, in harmony among us and in the sobriety of life.

REFLECTIONS OF THREE WOMEN AT THE CENTRE OF C9 MEETINGS *By Alessandro De Carolis*

A reflection not 'on women' but 'with' women about their role in the Church marked the topic of reflection and discussions of the Council of Cardinals, especially on Monday during the first of the two-day work meeting that concluded on Tuesday, when a religious sister and two university professors gave a series of presentations for the Pope and the C9 Cardinals.

A sister and two professors The Holy See Press Office issued a communiqué late on Tuesday, 18 June, noting that the speakers were: Sister Linda Pocher, who introduced the addresses; Valentina Rotondi, a professor at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI) in Lugano and a researcher at Nuffield College specialising in the social sciences at the University of Oxford and the NeuroMI Milan Center for Neuroscience; and Donata Horak, professor of Canon Law at the Alberoni Theological Study in Piacenza, Italy, affiliated with the Pontifical Angelicum University.

The guest speakers In her talk, the Vatican note reads, Professor Rotondi "highlighted a vision of the economy as care and good management in the context of a profound intergenerational relationship," while for her part Donata Horak pointed out "various antinomies, such as justice and mercy, consultative power and deliberative power, hierarchical principle and ecclesiology of communion, democratisation and monarchical model, in the context of a broader reflection on Canon Law."

Cardinal Ambongo: valuing motherhood in the Church The speeches also brought about input from the Cardinals present and two of them, at the conclusion of the C9 meeting, shared with Vatican media ideas that emerged on the topic during the meeting. The Cardinal Archbishop of Kinshasa, Fridolin Ambongo Besungu, recalled how yesterday marked the fourth time a discussion on the role of women in the Church had taken place. "Here in the churches more than half of the people who participate in the celebrations are women," but when we see the responsibilities they hold, "they are few," he noted. After all these meetings, he said it had become clear to us that these responsibilities must grow, but, he points out, not in a "militant" sense but solely because, as the Pope says, "the Church is a woman" and there is a "motherhood" that must be valued in the Church community.

Cardinal Gracias: women's leadership in the Church Cardinal Oswald Gracias, Metropolitan Archbishop of Bombay, agreed on the importance of a role that needs to be increased. "I come from India and in some areas women have little importance, they are 'second class', and for this reason the Church is working" to give them "the right position in the family, in society, in politics." In the Church, in Canon Law itself "there are many possibilities" for a women's leadership profile in the Church, and my experience has shown me "many times" that women were able to address issues with "a point of view that men had not considered. And I have great hope that this will be developed."

Child protection and world crises The second and final day of the C9's work on Tuesday continued with reports by Cardinal O'Malley dedicated "to the prospects opened up by the work of the Commission for the Protection of Minors in the area of safeguarding," the Holy See Press Office statement notes. Cardinal Gracias focused on "the activity and the way in which the bishops' conferences operate" in this area. Finally, discussions focused on "situations in various parts of the world from which the Council's cardinals come, with special attention on conflicts taking place now."

The next C9 meeting is scheduled for December 2024.

1. *SPES NON CONFUNDIT*. “Hope does not disappoint” (*Rom* 5:5). In the spirit of hope, the Apostle Paul addressed these words of encouragement to the Christian community of Rome. Hope is also the central message of the coming Jubilee that, in accordance with an ancient tradition, the Pope proclaims every twenty-five years. My thoughts turn to all those *pilgrims of hope* who will travel to Rome in order to experience the Holy Year and to all those others who, though unable to visit the City of the Apostles Peter and Paul, will celebrate it in their local Churches. For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the “door” (cf. *Jn* 10:7.9) of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere and to all as “our hope” (*1 Tim* 1:1). Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring. Even so, uncertainty about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confident trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from firm conviction to hesitation and doubt. Often we come across people who are discouraged, pessimistic and cynical about the future, as if nothing could possibly bring them happiness. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God’s word helps us find reasons for that hope. Taking it as our guide, let us return to the message that the Apostle Paul wished to communicate to the Christians of Rome.

A word of hope

2. “Since we are justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing in the glory of God... Hope does not disappoint, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us” (*Rom* 5:1-2.5). In this passage, Saint Paul gives us much to reflect upon. We know that the Letter to the Romans marked a decisive turning point in his work of evangelization. Until then, he had carried out his activity in the eastern part of the Empire, but now he turns to Rome and all that Rome meant in the eyes of the world. Before him lay a great challenge, which he took up for the sake of preaching the Gospel, which knows no barriers or confines. The Church of Rome was not founded by Paul, yet he felt impelled to hasten there in order to bring to everyone the Gospel of Jesus Christ, crucified and risen from the dead, a message of hope that fulfils the ancient promises, leads to glory and, grounded in love, does not disappoint.

3. Hope is born of love and based on the love springing from the pierced heart of Jesus upon the cross: “For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life” (*Rom* 5:19). That life becomes manifest in our own life of faith, which begins with Baptism, develops in openness to God’s grace and is enlivened by a hope constantly renewed and confirmed by the working of the Holy Spirit.

By his perennial presence in the life of the pilgrim Church, the Holy Spirit illumines all believers with the light of hope. He keeps that light burning, like an ever-burning lamp, to sustain and invigorate our lives. Christian hope does not deceive or disappoint because it is grounded in the certainty that nothing and no one may ever separate us from God’s love: “Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril or the sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (*Rom* 8:35.37-39). Here we see the reason why this hope perseveres in the midst of trials: founded on faith and nurtured by charity, it enables us to press forward in life. As Saint Augustine observes: “Whatever our state of life, we cannot live without these three dispositions of the soul, namely, to believe, to hope and to love”.

4. Saint Paul is a realist. He knows that life has its joys and sorrows, that love is tested amid trials, and that hope can falter in the face of suffering. Even so, he can write: “We boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope” (*Rom* 5:3-4). For the Apostle, trials and tribulations mark the lives of those who preach the Gospel amid incomprehension and persecution (cf. *2 Cor* 6:3-10).

Yet in those very contexts, beyond the darkness we glimpse a light: we come to realize that evangelization is sustained by the power flowing from Christ’s cross and resurrection. In this way, we learn to practise a virtue closely linked to hope, namely *patience*. In our fast-paced world, we are used to wanting everything now. We no longer have time simply to be with others; even families find it hard to get together and enjoy one another’s company. Patience has been put to flight by frenetic haste, and this has proved detrimental, since it leads to impatience, anxiety and even gratuitous violence, resulting in more unhappiness and self-centredness.

Nor is there much place for patience in this age of the Internet, as space and time yield to an ever-present “now”. Were we still able to contemplate creation with a sense of awe, we might better understand the importance of patience. We could appreciate the changes of the seasons and their harvests, observe the life of animals and their cycles of growth, and enjoy the clarity of vision of Saint Francis. In his *Cantic of the Creatures*, written exactly eight hundred years ago, Francis saw all creation as a great family and could call the sun his “brother” and the moon his “sister”.

A renewed appreciation of the value of patience could only prove beneficial for ourselves and for others. Saint Paul often speaks of patience in the context of our need for perseverance and confident trust in God’s promises. Yet, before all else, he testifies to God’s own patience, as “the God of all patience and encouragement” (*Rom* 15:5).

Patience, one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit, sustains our hope and strengthens it as a virtue and a way of life.

May we learn to pray frequently for the grace of patience, which is both the daughter of hope and at the same time its firm foundation.

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 8th August 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 August. 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 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

23	School resumes for Term 3	
26	Grandparents Day School Mass	11.15am
27	Finance Committee Meeting	8.00pm
31	Sacramental (Eucharist) 1st Meeting	6.30pm

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

20/21 July

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Ramzee Michael
Ministers	Vigil: C. Gonzales, SUB RQD 8am: Edith Gartner 9.30am: M. Michael, E. Miu
Readers	Vigil: M. Simic, N. Do Rosario 8am: SUB RQD, P. Ferriols 9.30am: E. Pieris, M. Aquino
Altar Servers	Vigil: M. Gluvic, D. Sant, J. Sant 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: A. Melki, M. Pieris, J. Pieris
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council
Musicians	Vigil: K. Thoms, C. Woodward 8am: Fr Henry 9.30am: Maximillian Chorale
Flowers	Fennie & Angela
Church Cleaning	18 July C. Hutchings, A. Peatman, E. Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Helen Gonzales 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: S. Pieris, E. Barcelon

27/28 July

Acolytes	Vigil: James Dinning 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Ryan Epondulan
Ministers	Vigil: F. Paiva, J. Sarmiento 8am: F. Balatbat, M. Santos 9.30am: S. Manamperi, A. Walker
Readers	Vigil: B. Motha, A. Punch 8am: K. Walker, J. Irudayaraj 9.30am: I. Epondulan, F. Kennedy
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. Bagatella, A. Laus, E. Reardon 8am: K. Maruthanayagam 9.30am: C. Attard, L. Culili, J. Kingston
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Fr Henry 9.30am: Nina's Group
Flowers	Annette & Mary B.
Church Cleaning	24 July J. Borg, A. McNally, E. Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Ugre 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: K. Chamberlain, E. Barcelon

The Kids' Bulletin

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday July 21st, 2024



*In today's Gospel reading,
Jesus wanted to take the tired apostles
across the lake to rest in a quiet place.
But the people saw where Jesus was going
and ran ahead.
See if you can find their path through the maze.*

Mark 6:30-34

Sheep without a Shepherd

When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. Mark 6:34 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on Mark 6:30-34

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

SHEPHERD	APOSTLES	BOAT	SOLITARY
TEACHING	CROWD	PLACE	REST
COMPASSION	JESUS	PEOPLE	SHEEP

Psalm 23 Word Puzzle

Who is this Psalm about?
Unscramble the letters in blanks and use the ones in circles to fill in the answer at the bottom!

In (EGRNE) pastures
he gives me repose;
beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my (LOSU)
He guides me in right paths
 (FRO) his name's sake.



Even though I walk
in the (AKRD) valley
I fear no evil, for you are at my (IEDS)

with your rod and your staff
 (HATT) give (EM) courage.
You (EADSRP) the table

before me
in the (HGTSI) of my foes;
you anoint my (EAHD) with oil;
my cup (FOWLVOESR)

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell
in the house of the (DOLR)
for years to come.



This Psalm tells us about the



From the words provided for each clue, provide the letter of the word which best matches the clue.

- ___ A small, usually white, wooly animal
A.cow B.camel C.sheep D.dog
- ___ Giving knowledge and skills to others
A.teaching B.crowd C.compassion D.rest
- ___ Free from noise or activity
A.busy B.teaching C.crowd D.quiet
- ___ To take a break from activity
A.teaching B.work C.rest D.crowd
- ___ A large group of people
A.teaching B.quiet C.boat D.crowd
- ___ A person who takes care of sheep
A.apostle B.shepherd C.gardener D.teacher
- ___ A small vessel for travel on water
A.wagon B.auto C.boat D.airplane
- ___ To understand the suffering of others and want to do something about it
A.shepherd B.work C.rest D.compassion