

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: 18th September 2024
Baptism: 11th August 2024
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.com.au
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 4 August 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, Ben Dixon, Alma Caguimbal, Mary Camilleri, Para Dias, Ronald Fountain, Renuka Fernando, Chmouneh Hayek, Anthony Janicska, Mary Jordan, Clare Kinsley, Paul Leong, Blago Milicevic, Rynan Michael, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Maricar Poblete, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Eustace Ratnam, Sue Tipaldo, Vivian Tomines, 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, Vivienne Cameron, Barrie Chamberlain, Murial Chary, Grace Caruana, Florencia Dela Cruz, Anna Maria De Palma, Dulcie Duraisamy, Henrieta Fernando, Jasmin Fernando, Ricardo Garcia, Francisco Giusa, Cynthia Lopez, Estelita Solis Pamos, Edwin Tabone, Frances Shepherd (Taiarol), David Waring, Colin Zahra.

Anniversaries: Fe Abadiano, Vic Azzopardi, Frank & Fortunata Baiada, Giovanni Barnaba, Peter & Helen Bonnici, Nazarene (Ronnie) Borg, Rose Camilleri, Joseph Caruana, Terry Caruana, Catherine Chandra, Aloysean Corera, Monica, Dominic, Conception D'Souza, John Fernando, Nevis Fernando, M.A Fernando, Juliet Francis, Oliver Jordan, Anthony Garcia, Teodoro Garcia, Zenaida Garcia, Christine Gomez, Josephine Gomez, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kutty, Edouard Mahomudally, Tony Muscat, Josefina Lagare, Sheena Landagan, Rita Leon, Albert Mula, Laurence Morrissey, Eamon O'Sullivan, Cordula Paiva, Rosita Rival, Jose Reyes, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Michael Sant, Mary Silva, Rosary Silva, Natalie Spiteri, Lawrence Stanton, John Tenti, Melchor Usman, Dionisio Udan.

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, France Angseeing, Carmen Attard, Roy, Mary & Des Barney, Sam Borg, Zeferino Cabasa, Myrna Cruz, Saviour Caruana, Fe Licup Carmen, Tania McGove, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Camen, 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, Constance Gaycroft, Frans Gutajar, Selvam Irudayaraj, Pauline Melak, Mangion & Cini Family, Antonio Mancina, Maureen & John Mead, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Mary Mifsud, Joseph Mifsud, Emilia & William Mifsud, Laureano Reyes, Maria Reyes, Anton & Lourda Motha, Louis, Stephen & Joseph Mula, Mary & Francis Muscat, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jonathan Tek Kie, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, 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



Funeral Notice

David Waring

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

Wednesday 7th of August, 12.30pm

May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen

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

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 or contact Maryse Angseeing on 0467 701 010.

FIRST READING *A reading from the book of Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15*

The whole community of the sons of Israel began to complain against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness and said to them, 'Why did we not die at the Lord's hand in the land of Egypt, when we were able to sit down to pans of meat and could eat bread to our hearts content! As it is, you have brought us to this wilderness to starve this whole company to death!'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Now I will rain down bread for you from the heavens. Each day the people are to go out and gather the day's portion; I propose to test them this way to see whether they will follow my law or not.'

'I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel. Say this to them, "Between the two evenings you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have bread to your hearts content. Then you will learn that I, the Lord, am your God."' And so it came about: quails flew up in the evening, and they covered the camp; in the morning there was a coating of dew all round the camp. When the coating of dew lifted, there on the surface of the desert was a thing delicate, powdery, as fine as hoarfrost on the ground. When they saw this, the sons of Israel said to one another, 'What is that?' not knowing what it was. 'That' said Moses to them 'is the bread the Lord gives you to eat.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

1. The things we have heard and understood,
the things our fathers have told us,
we will tell to the next generation:
the glories of the Lord and his might. **(R.)**

3. Mere men ate the bread of angels.
He sent them abundance of food.
He brought them to his holy land,
to the mountain which his right hand had
won. **(R.)**

2. He commanded the clouds above
and opened the gates of heaven.
He rained down manna for their food,
and gave them bread from heaven. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 4:17, 20-24*

I want to urge you in the name of the Lord, not to go on living the aimless kind of life that pagans live. Now that is hardly the way you have learnt from Christ, unless you failed to hear him properly when you were taught what the truth is in Jesus. You must give up your old way of life; you must put aside your old self, which gets corrupted by following illusory desires. Your mind must be renewed by a spiritual revolution so that you can put on the new self that has been created in God's way, in the goodness and holiness of the truth.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 6:24-35*

When the people saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into boats and crossed to Capernaum to look for Jesus. When they found him on the other side, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?'

Jesus answered:

I tell you most solemnly, you are not looking for me because you have seen the signs but because you had all the bread you wanted to eat. Do not work for food that cannot last, but work for food that endures to eternal life, the kind of food the Son of Man is offering you, for on him the Father, God himself, has set his seal.

Then they said to him, 'What must we do if we are to do the works that God wants?' Jesus gave them this answer, 'This is working for God: you must believe in the one he has sent.' So they said, 'What sign will you give to show us that we should believe in you? What work will you do? Our fathers had manna to eat in the desert; as scripture says: He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' Jesus answered:

I tell you most solemnly, it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven, it is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven, the true bread; for the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' 'Sir,' they said 'give us that bread always. Jesus answered:

I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst.

The Gospel of the Lord



Dear friends,

At the end of the Gospel last week, Jesus after making a big miracle to provide food for more than five thousand hungry followers of his with five barley loaves and two fish, slipped through the highly spirited crowds keen to turn him into a royal figure, and retreated to a quiet place by himself.

People, however, didn't leave him alone, they kept searching for him, found him again and he used this occasion to catechize them based on their recent experience of the miracle.

Jesus was very straightforward with these followers by telling them that they were after him not because they believed in him, but rather because they had food that they had no need to work for. He then challenged them not to work for any perishable food, but try their best to get the eternal-life giving food, the one he alone can offer them.

Trapped in their mundane thoughts, they of course failed to reach the level of thought Jesus meant to lift them up to. They were confused and began to argue with Jesus. During the course, they happened to recall the story we heard in the first reading this Sunday about the event in which God sent down Manna to the Israelites in the desert as they complained with Moses about their lack of food and comfort. Keep in mind what Moses told the crowds when they made the query, 'That is the bread the Lord gives you to eat,' said Moses.

Jesus utilized the manna concept familiar with his listeners to bring them up to what is known to us now as the sacramental dimension when he began to talk about the bread from heaven, the true bread, and the bread of God which are the names we have used to call the Body of Christ in the Eucharist.

Most significantly Jesus referred to himself as the bread of life which shall satisfy our hunger and thirst for ever. This is exactly the bread we receive every time we partake in the Holy Communion, the one providing nourishment for our body and soul on our earthly journey to reach our heavenly homeland.

Today let us give praise and thanks to Jesus for making himself ever available to us through the Eucharist as the Bread from heaven to nourish us and give us strength to walk our earthly walk. Pray that we prepare ourselves worthily for the precious gift the Lord has given for us.

Have a wonderful Communion with the Holy One this Sunday,

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.

LOURDES OVER 50s GROUP

Over 50's meeting this Thursday 8th August, 10.30am– 1pm in the Parish Hall and during this time we will be joined by the students of OLOL with some special performances. Look forward to seeing you there. Please bring a plate to share.

FEAST OF ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP

Thursday, 8th of August 9am mass will be led by our parish school for the Feast of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop. All are welcome to join.

MINISTRY ROSTERS

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 or notice any discrepancies, please kindly contact the parish office.

CANDLE WAX ON THE CHURCH CARPET

Please do not try to remove candle wax on the church carpet by yourselves, for you might make it worse. Instead let our staff know and we ask our carpet cleaners to treat it.

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.

SRCs – CATECHISTS RECRUITMENT WEEKEND

Thank you Marilyn Hancock, Head of CCD and Jill Franco, Regional Coordinator of Catechists for sparing their time to come and speak to us about the Catechist ministry at the 6pm Vigil Mass and the 9.30am Sunday Mass this week. Please take this opportunity to ask them any questions you may have.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING IN AUGUST

All members of our Parish Pastoral Council are invited to meet on Wednesday 14 August at 7.30pm in the Parish Meeting room.

TOONGABBIE LEGAL CENTRE NOT-FOR –PROFIT

Toongabbie Legal Centre (TLC) operates from the Community Hall at St Anthony's church in Toongabbie. TLC volunteers will be selling raffle tickets this weekend, along with some merchandise. All proceeds will directly support their free legal clinic provided for over 16 years to disadvantaged, marginalised and vulnerable people of Western Sydney. Tickets are \$2.00 each or \$20 for a book of 10 tickets. Prizes include Tasmania with 5 x \$50 Restaurant Food voucher plus \$300 towards airfare*, 1 week accommodation in Cairns plus \$300 toward airfare*, Jabra GN – Evolve 2 75 speaker phone, Fitbit – Smartwatch, Samsung Tablet.

LOURDES PLAYGROUP

Playgroup is on 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 'Ourdes Play Group' or contact Maria on 0432 174 056.

Vale Bishop Kevin Manning

On Friday 2 August, the Diocese of Parramatta bid a fond farewell to Bishop Emeritus Kevin Manning, the second Bishop of Parramatta, during a moving service at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Visit catholicoutlook.org for stories, images and video from Bishop Manning's funeral.

We continue to pray for the repose of his soul and give thanks to God for his earthly life.

Bishop Vincent presents Dr Myriam Wijlens: 5 August

Internationally recognised Dutch theologian, ecumenist and consultor 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 17 August at St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish, Kenthurst, for Modules 4-5. 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

Diocesan Season of Creation Mass: 1 September

The Diocese of Parramatta's Laudato Si' Action Team and Sacred Heart Parish Blackheath invite you to Mass with Bishop Vincent Long to launch the Season of Creation 2024 (1 September – 4 October) on Sunday 1 September at Sacred Heart Church, Blackheath, at 9.30am. Morning tea will be served after Mass. Let us join in praise and celebrate the gifts and wonders that God bestows on us.

Diocesan Season of Creation Gathering: 14 September

You are invited to a Diocesan Season of Creation gathering on Saturday 14 September from 10am to 4pm at Winbourne Retreat Centre, Mulgoa. This event is part of Catholic Earthcare's national Season of Creation Convocation from 12-14 September. Cost is \$50 for the Diocesan gathering only, or \$100 for the full Convocation (with days 1 and 2 online). For program details, please visit tinyurl.com/soc-gathering24. Register for the Convocation by 12 August at caritas.org.au/soc-convocation.

Winbourne Being Peaceful Change Reflection Day: 17 August

The Winbourne Edmund Rice Retreat Centre, Mulgoa, is holding a reflection day on 'Being Peaceful Change' on Saturday 17 August from 9.30am to 12.30pm. "Before you speak of peace, you must first have it in your heart" (St Francis of Assisi). How might we achieve this unity and carry it forward? Cost is \$15 per person. For more information or to book, contact (02) 4773 5555 or email info@winbourne.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/events/landing/1171377>. All enquiries, call 0403 962 181.

Launch of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan for a Synodal Church

The Diocese of Parramatta is excited to announce that the launch and release of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan for a Synodal Church is only 1 week away, on Saturday the 10th August. The pastoral plan represents the culmination of our Synod journey, where we have come together to listen, discern, and envision a path forward for our diocese over the past 15 months. Further information, visit parracatholic.org/synodality.

Young Adults Faith Formation: 4 August

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

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

Australian Catholic Historical Society Talk: 18 August

The next event for the Australian Catholic Historical Society will be held in the crypt of St Patrick's, Church Hill at 2pm on Sunday 18 August on "The decline of Australian Catholic intellectual life" with Gerard Windsor, novelist and reviewer. Members, their guests, and visitors are most welcome and there is no charge. Details of the program of the ACHS as well as resources on church history are on the website <https://australiancatholichistoricalsociety.com.au/>. Enquiries may be directed to secretaryachs@gmail.com

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

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.**



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>

POPE FRANCIS' ANGELUS



Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday!

Today the Gospel of the Liturgy tells us about the miracle of the loaves and fishes (cf. *Jn* 6:1-15). A miracle, that is a “sign”, a “sign”, whose protagonists perform three gestures that Jesus will come to repeat at the Last Supper. What are these gestures? *Offering, giving thanks, and sharing.* The first: *to offer.* The Gospel tells us about a boy who has five loaves and two fish (*Jn* 6:9). It is the gesture with which we acknowledge we have something good to give, and we say our “yes”, even if what we have is too little compared to what is needed.

This is emphasized, during the Mass, when the priest offers the bread and wine on the altar, and each person offers himself, his own life. It is a gesture that may seem small, when we think of the immense needs of humanity, just like the five loaves and two fish in front of a crowd of thousands; but God makes it the material for the miracle, the greatest miracle there is – that in which He Himself makes Himself present among us, for the salvation of the world. And so, we understand the second gesture: *giving thanks* (cf. *Jn* 6:11). The first gesture is *offering*, the second is *giving thanks*. It is saying to the Lord humbly, with also with joy: “All that I have is your gift, Lord, and to thank you I can only give back to you what You gave me first, together with your Son Jesus Christ, adding what I can; every one of us can add a little something. What can I give to the Lord? What little thing can I give? My feeble love”. To give... to say to the Lord, “I love you”; but we, poor things, our love is so small, but if we give it to the Lord, the Lord receives it. *Offering, giving thanks, and the third gesture is sharing.* In the Mass, it is the Communion, when together we approach the altar to receive the Body and Blood of Christ: the fruit of everyone’s gift transformed by the Lord into food for all. It is a beautiful moment, that of communion, which teaches us to live every gesture of love as a gift of grace, both for those who give it and those who receive it. Brothers, sisters, let us ask ourselves: do I truly believe that, by the grace of God, I have something unique to give to my brothers and sisters, or do I feel anonymously “one among many”? Am I active in giving good? Am I grateful to the Lord for the gifts with which He continuously manifests His love? Do I live sharing with others as a moment of encounter and mutual enrichment? May the Virgin Mary help us to live every Eucharistic celebration with faith, and to recognize and savour every day the “miracles” of God’s grace.

After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters! I assure my prayer for the victims of the major landslide that has swept through a village in the south of Ethiopia. I am close to that sorely tried population, and to those who are bringing relief. And while there are many people in the world who suffer due to disasters and hunger, we continue to produce and sell weapons and burn resources fueling wars, large and small. This is an outrage that the international community should not tolerate, and it contradicts the spirit of brotherhood of the Olympic Games that have just begun. Let us not forget, brothers and sisters: war is defeat! Today we celebrate World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, on the theme “Do not cast me off in my old age” (cf. Psalm 71:9). The abandonment of the elderly is indeed a sad reality to which we must not grow accustomed. For many of them, especially in these summer days, loneliness risks becoming a difficult burden to bear. The Day calls us to listen to the voice of the elderly who say, “Do not abandon me!”, and to answer, “I will not abandon you!”. Let us strengthen the alliance between grandparents and grandchildren, between young people and the elderly. Let us say “no” to the loneliness of the elderly! Our future depends a great deal on how grandparents and grandchildren learn to live together. Let us not forget the elderly! And a round of applause for all the grandparents, all of them! I greet you all, Romans and pilgrims from various parts of Italy and the world. In particular, I greet the participants in the General Congress of the Union of the Catholic Apostolate; the young people of Catholic Action of Bologna, and those of the Riviera del Po-Semide pastoral unit, in the diocese of Mantua; the group of eighteen-year-olds from the diocese of Verona; and the animators of the “Carlo Acutis” Oratory of Quartu Sant’Elena. I send my greeting to those who are taking part in the conclusion of the Feast of the Madonna del Carmine in Trastevere: this evening there will be the procession of the Madonna “fiumarola” on the River Tiber. Let us learn from Mary, our Mary, how to put the Gospel into practice in everyday life! I wish you all a good Sunday. And please, do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your lunch, and *arrivederci!*

POPE FRANCIS to Altar servers: ‘Share Jesus with others’ By Lisa Zengarini

In his address to nearly 50,000 altar servers gathered in St. Peter’s Square, Pope Francis highlighted the deep meaning of the motto chosen for the international event: “With you” (Isa 41:10). This expression, he noted, “encapsulates the mystery of love”, which is the “mystery of our lives.” The altar servers had gathered in the square with the Pope as part of their weeklong pilgrimage to Rome, now in its second day. **Being with God** The Pope remarked that in the liturgy they serve, these two words refer first of all to God who, in the Eucharist, “becomes a real and concrete presence in the Body and Blood of Christ.” “Your experience of serving the liturgy reminds me that the first subject, the agent of this ‘with you’, is God.” “When we receive Holy Communion,” Pope Francis explained, “we experience that Jesus is ‘with us’ both spiritually and physically,” not in words, but with that “act of love, which is the Eucharist.” **Because Jesus is with us, we can truly be with Him** In Communion, the Pope continued, altar servers too “can say to the Lord Jesus, ‘I am with you’”, not in words, “but with your heart and your body, with your love.” By ministering with an attentive mind, heart and body, “the mystery of God who is with you gives you the ability to be with others in a new way” thus carrying out “His commandment to ‘love one another as I have loved you’,” he said. “The ‘with you’ of Jesus, thanks to His love, becomes my, your, our ‘with you’ that we can share with others.” **Being close to our neighbours** Being with Jesus, therefore, implies also being close to our neighbours, “not in words, but in deeds, with gestures, with your heart”, even to “those we might not like”, who are different from us; to foreigners; to those “whom we feel do not understand us”; who never come to church; and who say they do not believe in God. Concluding, Pope Francis, thanked the organisers for choosing such meaningful motto, and the pilgrims for coming to Rome “to share the joy of belonging to Jesus, of being servants of his love, servants of His wounded heart that heals our wounds, that saves us from death, and that gives us eternal life.” **Cardinal Hollerich: Altar serving is ‘a service to God and others’** The audience was introduced Cardinal Jean Claude Hollerich who is accompanying the pilgrims throughout the week. The Archbishop of Luxembourg noted that the motto “With you” is an invitation to be “true friends of all men with the help of Christ”. However, he remarked, we are true friends only when we extend our hands to serve and help those in need: “the poor, the persecuted, the oppressed, the homeless, the unemployed, the refugees or those without a country.” **The celebration** The Pope’s greeting was followed by a liturgy of the Word with six prayer intentions of the faithful introduced by Cardinal Hollerich in German, French, Hungarian, and Portuguese in which participants also prayed for peace in the world. At the end of the celebration Pope Francis greeted each of the bishops accompanying the altar servers and then toured St. Peter’s Square to greet the young pilgrims.

POPE FRANCIS' AUGUST PRAYER INTENTION *By Christopher Wells*

"Politics is one of the highest forms of charity because it seeks the common good," says Pope Francis, quoting his predecessor St Paul VI.

In his prayer intention for the month of August, the Holy Father invites the faithful to join him in prayer "that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and the common good, taking caring of those who have lost their jobs and giving priority to the poorest."

In his video message announcing this month's intention, Pope Francis acknowledges that "politics does not have a very good reputation." Nonetheless, he says, politics properly so-called – as opposed to "politicking" – "listens to what is really going on... is at the service of the poor... is concerned for the unemployed."

"If we look at it in this way," the Pope says, "politics is much more noble than it appears."

So, he says, as we pray for political leaders, we should also be grateful "for the many politicians who carry out their duties with a will to serve, not of power, who put all their efforts toward the common good."

Why pray for political leaders?

Commenting on the Pope's prayer intention for August, the International director of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, Fr Frédéric Fornos, SJ, voices the objection, "Why pray for political leaders?"

However, he says, "political leaders are who we make of them. Instead of fuelling contempt for them with our words and our thoughts, let's help them to be the men and women we would like them to be. Let's pray for them, as Pope Francis invites us to do."

Fr Fornos recalls that, although at times politicians can be greedy or power-hungry, there are many political leaders "who truly serve the common good."

For our part, Fr Fornos asks rhetorically, "What are we doing? What would we do in their place?" And he answers, "The least we can do is pray for them"

POPE FRANCIS

BULL OF INDICTION OF THE ORDINARY JUBILEE OF THE YEAR 2025

FRANCIS BISHOP OF ROME SERVANT OF THE SERVANTS OF GOD

TO ALL WHO READ THIS LETTER MAY HOPE FILL YOUR HEARTS

Signs of hope

7. In addition to finding hope in God's grace, we are also called to discover hope in the *signs of the times* that the Lord gives us. As the Second Vatican Council observed: "In every age, the Church has the responsibility of reading the signs of the times and interpreting them in the light of the Gospel. In this way, in language adapted to every generation, she can respond to people's persistent questions about the meaning of this present life and of the life to come, and how one is related to the other". [4] We need to recognize the immense goodness present in our world, lest we be tempted to think ourselves overwhelmed by evil and violence. The signs of the times, which include the yearning of human hearts in need of God's saving presence, ought to become signs of hope.

8. The first sign of hope should be the desire for *peace* in our world, which once more finds itself immersed in the tragedy of *war*. Heedless of the horrors of the past, humanity is confronting yet another ordeal, as many peoples are prey to brutality and violence. What does the future hold for those peoples, who have already endured so much?

How is it possible that their desperate plea for help is not motivating world leaders to resolve the numerous regional conflicts in view of their possible consequences at the global level? Is it too much to dream that arms can fall silent and cease to rain down destruction and death? May the Jubilee remind us that those who are peacemakers will be called "children of God" (Mt 5:9). The need for peace challenges us all, and demands that concrete steps be taken. May diplomacy be tireless in its commitment to seek, with courage and creativity, every opportunity to undertake negotiations aimed at a lasting peace.

9. Looking to the future with hope also entails having enthusiasm for life and a readiness to share it. Sadly, in many situations this is lacking. A first effect of this is the *loss of the desire to transmit life*. A number of countries are experiencing an alarming *decline in the birthrate* as a result of today's frenetic pace, fears about the future, the lack of job security and adequate social policies, and social models whose agenda is dictated by the quest for profit rather than concern for relationships. In certain quarters, the tendency "to blame population growth, instead of extreme and selective consumerism on the part of some, is one way of refusing to face the [real] issues". [5]

Openness to life and responsible parenthood is the design that the Creator has implanted in the hearts and bodies of men and women, a mission that the Lord has entrusted to spouses and to their love. It is urgent that responsible legislation on the part of states be accompanied by the firm support of communities of believers and the entire civil community in all its components. For *the desire of young people to give birth to new sons and daughters* as a sign of the fruitfulness of their love ensures a future for every society. This is a matter of hope: it is born of hope and it generates hope.

Consequently, the Christian community should be at the forefront in pointing out the need for a *social covenant to support and foster hope*, one that is inclusive and not ideological, working for a future filled with the laughter of babies and children, in order to fill the empty cradles in so many parts of our world. All of us, however, need to recover the joy of living, since men and women, created in the image and likeness of God (cf. Gen 1:26), cannot rest content with getting along one day at a time, settling for the here and now and seeking fulfilment in material realities alone.

This leads to a narrow individualism and the loss of hope; it gives rise to a sadness that lodges in the heart and brings forth fruits of discontent and intolerance.

(to be continued)

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 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

August

7	Sacramental (Eucharist) 2nd Meeting	6.30-7.30pm
8	Feast of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop School Mass	9.00am
8	Over 50's Group Meeting	10.30am
10	Sacramental (Eucharist) 2nd Meeting RPT	4.30-5.30pm
11	Mass & Eucharist Talk	11.00am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

3/4 August

Acolytes	Vigil: Derick Soares 8am: Ernie Gartner 9.30am: Eugene Miu
Ministers	Vigil: Rosey Soares, M. Mifsud 8am: H. Gonzales, C. Gonzales 9.30am: B. Chandler, G. Basili
Readers	Vigil: Tom Perak, C. Rodrigues 8am: Raul Nigli, Pepito Ferriols 9.30am: Kamela Huihui, A. Han
Altar Servers	Vigil: C. Bellamin, Ellie Reardon 8am: K. Cassaniti, H. Winter 9.30am: J. Martinez, O. Martinez
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Tongan Choir
Musicians	Vigil: C. Woodward, N. Emmanuel, B. Phua 8am: Fr. Henry 9.30am: Christine Clarke
Flowers	Fenty & Liz
Church Cleaning	1 Aug Lourdes Spiteri, Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon

10/11 August

Acolytes	Vigil: Daniel La Guidara 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am: Sandy Manamperi
Ministers	Vigil: L. La Guidara, A. Do Rosario 8am: B. Motha, L. Fernandes 9.30am: M. Aquino, P. Gow
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, J. Irudayaraj 8am: F. Paiva, F. Kennedy 9.30am: Tom Perak, E. Pieris
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. Monteiro, A. La Guidara, C. La Guidara 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: J. Pieris, M. Pieris
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Young Adults Group
Musicians	Vigil: Shaun's Group 8am: Fr. Henry 9.30am: Tongan Choir
Flowers	Claudette & Judith
Church Cleaning	10 Aug Tongan Community, Edgardo Barcelon, Edgar Cabrera
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Sastina Pieris

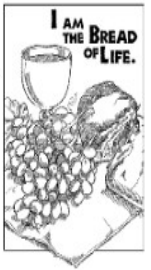
The Kids' Bulletin

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 4th, 2024

Looking for a Sign

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. John 6:35 (NIV)

Based on John 6:24-35 (NIV)



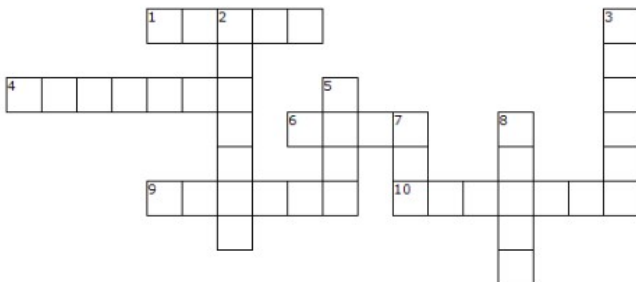
Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15

In today's first reading the people of Israel were starving in the desert. When Moses prayed to God He sent them food. What was it?
Sort out the letters by their numbers to find out!

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

Choose the word that best matches the definition.

- ___ 1. To accept something as being true
A. think B. hope C. believe D. wish
- ___ 2. To have a desire for water.
A. hungry B. thirsty C. tired D. weary
- ___ 3. To last forever; to be without end
A. eternal B. short C. long D. brief
- ___ 4. The period between birth and death
A. youth B. life C. childhood D. adult
- ___ 5. A signal that something exists or might happen in the future
A. picture B. word C. sign D. believe



ACROSS

1. A food made from flour and water, mixed together and baked
4. To accept something as being true
6. The period between birth and death
9. The place where God and the angels live
10. To have a desire for water.

DOWN

2. To last forever; to be without end
3. To have a desire for food
5. A signal that something exists or might happen in the future
7. To put food into your mouth, chew it, and swallow it
8. The earth with its inhabitants

HEAVEN	ETERNAL	WORLD	HUNGRY	SIGN
EAT	THIRSTY	BREAD	BELIEVE	LIFE

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

LIFE	HEAVEN	LOAVES	TRUTH	FATHER
ETERNAL	TRUE	MANNA	DESERT	MOSES
SIGNS	FILL	THIRSTY	LAKE	BREAD
RABBI	BELIEVE	LIFE	HUNGRY	FOOD

