

# 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](mailto: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, Laura Ilioski  
**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:** 20th November 2024  
**Baptism:** 24th November 2024  
**Sacrament Co-Ordinator:** Mrs Artelle Lenthall  
**Parish Website:** [www.olol7hills.com.au](http://www.olol7hills.com.au)  
**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

## 33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 17 November 2024 • Year B



### Let us Pray for the Sick

Rick Abadam, Florence Arinanan, Katie and Sara Bartolo, Tricia Batongbacal, Rodney Bell, Lawrence Charles, Ben Dixon, Alma Caguimbal, Para Dias, Mary Camilleri, Aiden Chan, Lucia Fernando, Renuka Fernando, Chmouneh Hayek, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Mary Jordan, Paul Leong, Melissa Mead, Levi Manga, Bob & Therese Marini, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Carlos Mureno, Willy Ong, Maricar Poblete, Fresnido Ruales, Camy Ratnam, Eustace Ratnam, Sue Tipaldo, Christina Tsui, Natalie Woodward.

If you would like to add to our Sick List or know of any Parishioner who is unwell please contact Father Henry or email the Parish Office: [secretary@olol7hills.com.au](mailto:secretary@olol7hills.com.au)  
We can also arrange for Holy Communion or a visit if required.

### Let us Pray for the Deceased

**Recently Deceased:** Emma Barriom, Vivienne Cameron, Murial Chary, Barrie Chamberlain, Blaise Costa, Padmini De Seram, Dulcie Duraisamy, Sandra Eichhorn, Lena Falzon, Henrieta Fernando, Jasmin Fernando, Ethan Garcia, Ricardo Garcia, Cynthia Lopez, Josephine Lord, Marie Marchand, Etelka Petkovics, Suranjith Reberra, Sria Shami, Michael Scott, Cerino Sorbello, Viliami Kalosipani Siale, Kilini Veamatahau.

**Anniversaries:** Mary Alagiah, Michelle Azzopardi, Horace Baptist, Ronald Barley, Joseph Bartok, Carolina Borg, Elaine Bosen, Peter & Helen Bonnici, Denis Brophy, Catherine Chandra, Simone Commarnond, Aloysean Corera, Ngan Siu Eng, John Fernando, Nevis Fernando, M.A. Fernando, Mr C Francis & Mrs J Francis, Anthony Garcia, Francisca Garcia, Teodoro Garcia, Zenaida Garcia, Christine Gomez, Josephine Gomez, Mary Grech, Martha Joseph, Felicidad & Felina Maglaya, Ngoc Khuong Mai, Xavier Motha Jnr, Cole Ngan, Sr Christina Morrissey, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kutty, Jason Muscat, Tony Muscat, Cordula Paiva, Adrian Pereira, John Portelli, Natalia Prahinog, Cornelio & Illuminada Rondario, Michael Sant, Mary Silva, Rosary Silva, Loreta Laberinto Udan, Melchor Usman, Dionisio Udan, Alison & Jim Vella, Aloysius Welangoda.

**Remembrance:** Fe & Jose Abadiano, Neil Amaratunga, France Angseeing, Carmen Attard, Roy, Edna Bacud, Sam Borg, Fe Licup Carmen, Dennis Clarke, Myrna Cruz, Saviour Caruana, Tania McGove, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Lancer De Guire, Florencio Flores, Melvyn Fernandes, Nevis Fernando, Joseph & Camena Formosa, Sammy Formosa, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Sam Gabo, Mary & Sam Galea, Evangeline Garcia, Leandro Snr Garcia, Jose Garcia, Selvam Irudayaraj, Sheena Landagan, A. Mansoor, Apolinario Maylaya, Pauline Meilak, Mangion & Cini Family, Michael (Mike) McNamee, Maureen & John Mead, Joe and Doris Mifsud, Emilia Mifsud, Mary Mifsud, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Anton & Lourda Motha, Louis, Stephen & Joseph Mula, Mary & Francis Muscat, Paolo Pineda, Peter John & Carmelita, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jonathan Tek Kie, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Vinnie Zahra.

### 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** 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

#### SMART DEVICE TERMINALS

All donations made via these new machines are shared 50/50 with our Diocese.

### 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](http://www.olol7hills.org.au)

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**FIRST READING** *A reading from the prophet Daniel 12:1-3*

At that time Michael will stand up, the great prince who mounts guard over your people. There is going to be a time of great distress, unparalleled since nations first came into existence. When that time comes, your own people will be spared, all those whose names are found written in the Book.

Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting disgrace. The learned will shine as brightly as the vault of heaven, and those who have instructed many in virtue, as bright as stars for all eternity.

The word of the Lord.

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**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**(R) Keep me safe, O God: you are my hope.**

1. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;  
it is you yourself who are my prize.  
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:  
since he is at my right hand,  
I shall stand firm. **(R.)**

3. You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence,  
at your right hand happiness forever. **(R.)**

2. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;  
even my body shall rest in safety.  
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,  
nor let your beloved know decay. **(R.)**

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**SECOND READING** *A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 10:11-14, 18*

All the priests stand at their duties every day, offering over and over again the same sacrifices which are quite incapable of taking sins away. Christ, on the other hand, has offered one single sacrifice for sins, and then taken his place for ever, at the right hand of God, where he is now waiting until his enemies are made into a footstool for him. By virtue of that one single offering, he has achieved the eternal perfection of all whom he is sanctifying. When all sins have been forgiven, there can be no more sin offerings.

The word of the Lord.

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**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Be watchful, and pray constantly,  
that you may be worthy to stand before the Son of Man.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 13:24-32*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In those days, after the time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will come falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then too he will send the angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven.

Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. So with you, when you see these things happening: know that he is near, at the very gates. I tell you solemnly, before this generation has passed away all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord



Dear friends,

Climate change and global warming have been the topics we have often heard of and talked about these days whether we like them or not, and these are the issues we simply can't run away from no matter where we go. Pope Francis officially brought them to our attention when he issued his encyclical called *Laudato Si* in 2015 meant to encourage us to join the fight against climate change, a troubled reality proven by scientific evidence.

Though it was thought to be an apocalyptic description of the historical event marking both the Roman attack to flatten the city of Jerusalem in 70AD and the beginning of the great persecution of the Early Church to follow, the brutal event that made Jesus' followers then to think of the end time, this Gospel account invites us to observe the world around us, to take into account whatever happens in it and have our appropriate responses, just like forecasting the summer season based on our observation of the growth of a fig tree from twigs to leaves.

It's helpful to keep in mind the cosmic changes the evangelist recounted in the Gospel story, such as the darkened sun, the fading moon, the fallen stars, these are typical motifs of the apocalyptic genre of literature found in the Bible to report certain horrible events that made the oppressors feel unthreatened and the oppressed feel like they were facing the end of the world.

More importantly, this Gospel also means to remind us that we are coming to the end of another liturgical year, and so approaching the end time as well. We need to remember that we are not here on this earth forever and this world will come to an end one day, therefore we must prepare ourselves at all times and place our trust solely in Jesus whose words will not pass away, though this world of ours will.

As we celebrate this last Sunday in Ordinary Time today, let us pray (1) for the wisdom to show us ways to better care for our sister Earth, our common home as St Francis calls us to do, and (2) the grace to help prepare ourselves ready at all times for the moment we are summoned to see the Lord face to face, and the strength to remain strong in our faith in Jesus.

Have a grace-filled week,

*Fr Henry*

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## PARISH NEWS...

### PARISH BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE AND NOVEMBER ENVELOPES

Throughout this month of remembrance our parishioners are invited to enter the names of the deceased in the Parish Book of Remembrance which can be found at the Baptismal Font before Mass and placed in front of the Altar during Mass. Please don't forget to write down the names of those you would like to pray for on the November envelopes and put them in the Intention bowl on the Altar.

### REPORT FROM THE PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

We continued to reflect upon the various ways presented in the Pastoral Plan for a Synodal Church of the diocese and have lot of discussions about them. Our revised Welcoming group and Parish Family group are our concrete responses to the plan.

### OVER 50'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The over 50's Christmas Lunch is on next Thursday the 21st of November at Seven Hills RSL. Please arrive at 11.30am. Those members not at the last meeting wishing to attend, cost is \$20, contact Don Kennedy 0418 463 168 or Christine Woodward 0411 882 295. Final RSVP date is Monday 18th November.

### MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2025

Roster Forms to update your latest contact information and availability to serve in various ministries for the next 6 months are now available at the back Sacristy. Alternatively you can send or print a form from our OLOL Web Page under Parish Directory > Parish Forms.

### LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE RETURNS IN 2025

Those interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar, the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2025. Enrolment forms can be found in front of the back sacristy.

### PARISH THANK YOU DINNER

As a Parish tradition, all our ministers and volunteers are invited to join our Parish Thank You dinner at 6.30pm on Friday the 29th November 2024 in our Parish Hall. Please RSVP on the clipboard available at the rear of the church for catering purposes.

### FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT (FGM) AT OLOL

For those families who had registered, a "Formation Day" for a meet-n-greet session was held on Sunday the 10th of November 2024 from 10:30-11:30am in the parish hall. It was a lovely occasion for the parishioners to mingle and introduce themselves to one another. As the next step, the "Divine Rainbow" group agreed to gather on 23rd November and the "Joyful Journey" group is planning to meet on 1st of December (TBC). We welcome parishioners to register your interest for this new initiative. Please fill out the form and drop it into the Communication box at the rear of the church. Coordinated by Frank Paiva and Edward Pieris.

### HOLY COMMUNION HOME VISITS

A gentle reminder to those who minister Holy Communion home visits, even to their own family members, to please fill out the register each time. This can be found in the Sacristy.

### PRESENTATION OF THE "CHRISTMAS STORY"

Dear Parents and Guardians, Thank you for allowing your children to participate in the presentation of the "Christmas Story" on Tuesday the 24th December at the 6pm Family Mass. Please note some changes to the practise schedule, we will practise on the following Sundays during the 9.30am mass: Sunday 24th Nov- Sunday 8th December - Sunday 22nd December (we may need an extra 10-15 minutes so we can practise in the Church). On Tuesday 24th December, please be at Church between 5 -5.30pm so we can organise the children in their costumes. In order for your children to feel confident when performing, we ask they commit to the above practice dates. Practice will go for about 20-25 minutes during Mass. If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office. Many thanks, Jem Demeterio Children's Liturgy Coordinator



## DIOCESAN NEWS

### Positions Vacant:

- Management and Systems Accountant –

**Applications close 17 November**

More details at: [parracatholic.org/about/jobs/](http://parracatholic.org/about/jobs/)

### ADVENT BIBLICAL STUDIES

Presented by Fr Joseph Lam, PhD STD.

Christmas: Folktale or Truth? Some people think that the nativity story is historically inaccurate.

Rather, it is an adaption of pagan myths. Is it so? How did the authors of the Four Gospels and Paul see the birth of Jesus? Come and explore the biblical-theological dimension of the Nativity Tuesdays the 3rd, 10th & 17th of December from 7.30PM at the Parish of Baulkham Hills, St Michael, 'Downey Room' Places are limited. Please pre-register your attendance via [admin@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au](mailto:admin@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au)

### Annual Mass for Deceased Clergy: 19 November

The Diocese of Parramatta invites you to the annual Mass for our Deceased Clergy on Tuesday 19 November at 9am at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, St Marys, followed by prayers at the gravesites of clergy buried in St Marys Cemetery. All are welcome to attend and give your gift of prayer to those whose lives were dedicated to bringing us all closer to Christ.

### MET Annual Bishop Vincent Vatican II Lecture:

**20 November**

You are invited to Bishop Vincent's annual lecture on Vatican II on Wednesday 20 November, 6:30pm – 8:30pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion Street Blacktown, cnr Flushcombe Road. Register for limited seating via <https://parracatholic.org/events/vatican-ii-lecture/> for more information contact [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org)

### Free Theology books: Clearing of Bishop Bede Heather Centre library

As the Bishop Bede Heather Centre will be undergoing renovations, the library books are available for collection, free of charge. There are many books in all categories – biblical studies, philosophy, ethics, spirituality, ministry, homiletics, parish renewal, liturgy, sacraments and MORE. You are welcome to visit on the following days, from 10 AM to 4 PM: Wednesday 6 November, Tuesday 12 November and Friday 22 November. Contact [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org) for more information.

### PJE Table Talk “Disability – Unemployment – Seeking Asylum: Navigating Multiple Challenges in Australia”: 28 November

Please join us for our final diocesan table talk to hear and discuss powerful stories from people affected by overlapping challenges. Participate in small group conversations and learn how you can play a part in creating positive change: 28 November 2024, 6pm – 8:30pm, Bishop Bede Heather Centre in Blacktown. A light dinner will be served on arrival. Find out more and register at [parracatholic.org/pjetabletalk](http://parracatholic.org/pjetabletalk)

### FREE Men's Retreat “A Path to Sexual Freedom”: 30 November

Simon Carrington will facilitate a FREE Men's retreat, “A Path To Sexual Freedom” at St Patrick's Blacktown on November 30th from 9am to 4pm. This retreat is for men aged 16 years old and above. There will be two talks and an opportunity for adoration and confession. Free lunch will be provided. To register and for more information, please email [admin@mqofblacktown.org.au](mailto:admin@mqofblacktown.org.au)

### Epiphany Pilgrimage and Fiesta: 2-9 January 2025

Commit the first fruits of your new year to Christ with the 2025 Epiphany Pilgrimage. Enjoy 7 days of bushwalking, fellowship and prayer as we journey from Emu Plains to the top of the Blue Mountains, experiencing the hospitality of parish communities along the way. Day 1 is a family-friendly day, with the option for a children's pilgrimage finishing with the Finnies Fiesta at St Finbars, Glenbrook. For any further information and to register for all or part of the journey, visit [www.epiphanypilgrimage.org](http://www.epiphanypilgrimage.org)

### Medjugorje Pilgrimage 2025

Join David and Angeline Wilkes from St Aiden's Parish on a spiritual journey to Medjugorje from April 1st to 9th, 2025. This is their third pilgrimage, and the group will be staying with visionary Mirjana Soldo, guided by her long-time English interpreter, Miki Musa. Fr Neil Bulathsinhala will also be accompanying the group as the Chaplain. Places are limited, so if you feel called to experience the peace and grace of Medjugorje, please contact Angeline Wilkes at 0410 665 306 or visit [saintlytravel.com.au](http://saintlytravel.com.au) for more details.

### Calix Society: 12 Step Recovery and Catholic Spirituality

Are you or a loved one troubled by addiction or alcoholism? The Calix Society is a way to recovery that incorporates 12 Step recovery and Catholic Spirituality. Sydney Unit meets Monthly at St Joseph, Enfield. Mass (5:30pm) and “About Calix” talk (6:30 - 7:30pm). We also meet weekly via zoom and have an annual retreat. Contact: Tim 0401 600 422 or Kevin 0435 668 382 or [calixsydney@outlook.com](mailto:calixsydney@outlook.com). See: <https://www.calixsociety.org/>

## LOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

### Supporting the Safety of Our Community

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Seven Hills and The Diocese of Parramatta take the safeguarding of children and vulnerable persons seriously. This includes past or present forms of abuse. Safeguarding those who are vulnerable is part of the mission that Jesus Christ entrusts to our Church. We all have a role to play in safeguarding those who are vulnerable. Concerns about safeguarding may be referred to Fr Henry, our Parish Priest, or directly to the: Office for Safeguarding and Professional Standards Ph (02) 8838 3419 or via Email: [safeguarding@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguarding@parracatholic.org).

### Face to Face Renewal Safeguarding Training at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.

If missed any of the face to face training held at our parish, you can complete these modules independently at times convenient to you via <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>.

### Children and Young People's Participation

LOL Parish community values and celebrates ALL our Children and Young People for who they are and the great contributions they make to our parish. We therefore have an obligation to uphold their human and spiritual rights. This is achieved at LOL by: 1. Providing ministries, services and programs that are relevant for Children and Young People including those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and who have a disability; 2. Committing to zero tolerance to any attitude and activity that makes Children and Young People feel less safe; 3. Enhancing relationships between leaders, community members, Children and Young People; and 4. Creating a new perspective to invigorate renewal. We also ensure all our volunteers and staff have an up to date WWCC and completed all safeguard training.

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## POPE FRANCIS' ANGELUS

*Dear brothers and sisters, good Sunday!*

Today the Gospel of the liturgy (cf. *Mk* 12:38-44) tells us about Jesus who, in the temple of Jerusalem, denounces before the people the hypocritical attitude of some scribes (cf. vv. 38-40).

These latter were accorded an important role in the community of Israel: they read, transcribed and then interpreted the Scriptures. Therefore, they were held in high esteem and people revered them.

Beyond appearances, however, their behaviour often did not correspond to what they taught. They were not consistent. Some, in fact, on the strength of the prestige and power they enjoyed, looked down on others “from above” – this is very ugly, looking down on another person from above – they put on airs and, hiding behind a façade of feigned respectability and legalism, arrogated privileges to themselves and even went so far as to commit outright theft to the detriment of the weakest, such as widows (cf. v. 40). Instead of using the role they were invested with to serve others, they made it an instrument of arrogance and manipulation. And it happened that even prayer, for them, was in danger of no longer being a moment of encounter with the Lord, but an occasion to flaunt respectability and feigned piety, useful for attracting people's attention and gaining approval (cf. *ibid.*).

Remember what Jesus says about the prayer of the publican and the pharisee (cf. *Lk* 18:9-14).

They – not all of them – behaved like corrupt people, feeding a social and religious system in which it was normal to take advantage of others behind their backs, especially the most defenceless, committing injustices and ensuring impunity for themselves.

Jesus warned to stay away from these people, to “beware” of them (cf. v. 38), not to imitate them. Indeed, with His word and His example, as we know, He taught very different things about authority. He spoke about it in terms of self-sacrifice and humble service (cf. *Mk* 10:42-45), of maternal and paternal tenderness towards people (cf. *Lk* 11:11-13), especially those most in need (*Lk* 10:25-37). He invites those invested with it to look at others from their position of power, not to humiliate them, but to lift them up, giving them hope and assistance.

So, brothers and sisters, we can ask ourselves: how do I behave in my fields of responsibility? Do I act with humility, or do I vaunt my position? Am I generous and respectful with people, or do I treat them in a rude and authoritarian way? And with my most fragile brothers and sisters, am I close to them, do I know how to bow to help lift them up?

May the Virgin Mary help us fight the temptation of hypocrisy in ourselves – Jesus tells them they are hypocrites, hypocrisy is a great temptation –, and help us to do good, simply and without ostentation.

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### After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters!

Don Giuseppe Torres Padilla, co-founder of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Company of the Cross, was proclaimed Blessed in Seville yesterday. He lived in nineteenth-century Spain, and distinguished himself as a priest confessor and spiritual guide, bearing witness to great charity with those in need. May his example sustain priests in their ministry. A round of applause for the new Blessed!

Three years ago, the *Laudato si' Action Platform* was launched. I thank those who work in support of this initiative. In this regard, I hope that the COP29 Climate Change Conference, which will begin tomorrow in Baku, may make an effective contribution for the protection of our common home.

I am close to the population of the Island of Flores in Indonesia, struck by a volcanic eruption; I pray for the victims, their relatives and the displaced. And I reiterate my remembrance for the inhabitants of Valencia and other parts of Spain, who are facing the consequences of the flood. I will ask you a question: have you prayed for Valencia? Have you thought about making some contribution to help those people? It is just a question.

The news from Mozambique is worrying. I invite everyone to engage in dialogue, tolerance and the tireless search for just solutions. Let us pray for the entire Mozambican population, that the present situation does not cause them to lose faith in the path of democracy, justice and peace.

And let us continue, please, to pray for tormented Ukraine, where even hospitals and other civilian buildings have been struck; and let us pray for Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Myanmar, and Sudan. Let us pray for peace in all the world.

Today the Italian Church celebrates Thanksgiving Day. I express gratitude to the agricultural sector, and I encourage the cultivation of the land in a way that preserves its fertility also for future generations.

I affectionately greet you all, Romans and pilgrims, and the young people of the *Immacolata*. In particular, the faithful from Kazakhstan, Moscow, New York, Bastia in Corsica, Beja and the Algarve in Portugal, Warsaw, Lublin and other parts of Poland. I greet the Committee for the promotion of the Global Educational Compact, with the representatives of numerous Catholic universities; I greet the Confirmands from Empoli; the volunteers from the Food Bank and the Italian Band of the Transports and Materials Corps. Let us hope that the band will play something beautiful for us!

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

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## POPE FRANCIS' CATECHESIS

**Cycle of Catechesis. The Spirit and the Bride. The Holy Spirit guides the people of God towards Jesus our hope. 8. «They were all filled with the Holy Spirit» The Holy Spirit in the Acts of the Apostles**

*Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!* In our itinerary of catechesis on the Holy Spirit and the Church, today we will refer to the Book of the Acts of the Apostles.

The account of the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost begins with a description of some preparatory signs – the rush of wind and the tongues of fire but finds its conclusion in the affirmation that “*they were all filled with the Holy Spirit*” (Acts 2:4). Saint Luke who wrote the Acts of the Apostles emphasizes that the Holy Spirit is He who ensures the *universality* and *unity* of the Church. The immediate effect of being “filled with the Holy Spirit” is that the Apostles “began to speak in other tongues”, and came out of the Upper Room to proclaim Jesus Christ to the crowd (cf. Acts 2:4 et seq.).

In so doing, Luke wished to highlight the universal mission of the Church, as a sign of a new unity between all peoples. We see the Spirit work for unity in two ways. On the one hand, He drives the Church outwards, so that she can welcome an ever-greater number of people and peoples; on the other hand, she gathers them within to consolidate the unity achieved. He teaches her to expand in universality, and consolidate in unity. Universal and one: this is the mystery of the Church.

We see the first of the two movements – universality – in process in Chapter 10 of the Acts, in the episode of the conversion of Cornelius. On the day of Pentecost, the Apostles had proclaimed Christ to all the Jews and observers of the Mosaic law, whatever people they belonged to. It takes another “Pentecost”, very similar to the first, in the house of the centurion Cornelius, to induce the Apostles to expand their horizon and break down the last barrier, the one between Jews and pagans (cf. Acts 10-11). This ethnical expansion is accompanied by a geographical one. Paul – we read again in the Acts of the Apostles (cf. 16:6-10) – wanted to proclaim the Gospel in a new region of Asia Minor; but it is written that they had been “forbidden by the Holy Spirit”; he attempted to enter Bithynia, “but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them”. We immediately discover the reason for these surprising prohibitions of the Spirit: the following night the Apostle received in a dream the order to pass into Macedonia. The Gospel thus left its native Asia and entered into Europe. The second movement of the Holy Spirit that which creates unity is seen in action in Chapter 15 of the Acts, in the proceedings of the so-called Council of Jerusalem. The problem is how to ensure that the universality achieved does not compromise the unity of the Church. The Holy Spirit does not always create unity suddenly, with miraculous and decisive actions, as at Pentecost. He also does so – and in the majority of cases – with discreet work, respecting human time and differences, passing through people and institutions, prayer and confrontation. In, we would say today, a synodal manner. Indeed, this is what happens at the Council of Jerusalem, regarding the matter of the obligations of the Mosaic Law to be imposed on those who converted from paganism. The solution was announced to the entire Church, with the well-known words: “For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us...” (Acts 15:28). Saint Augustine explains the unity achieved by the Holy Spirit with an image, which has become classic: “How the soul is of the body of man is the holy Spirit of the body of Christ, which is the Church” [1]. The image helps us to understand something important. The Holy Spirit does not create the unity of the Church from the outside; He does not limit Himself to commanding us to be united. He Himself is the “bond of unity”. It is He who creates the unity of the Church.

As always, we will conclude with a thought that helps us to pass from the Church as a whole to each one of us. The unity of the Church is the unity between people and is not achieved on the drawing board, but in life. It is implemented in life. We all want unity, we all desire it from the depths of our heart; and yet it is so difficult to attain that, even within marriage and the family, union and concord are among the most difficult things to achieve and even harder to maintain. The reason why unity among us is difficult is that, yes, everyone wants unity, but based on one's own point of view, without considering that the other person in front of him thinks exactly the same thing about his “own” point of view. In this way, unity becomes even more elusive. The unity life, the unity of Pentecost, according to the Spirit, is achieved when one makes the effort to put God, not oneself, at the centre. Christian unity is built in this way too: not waiting for others to reach us where we are, but moving together towards Christ. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to help us be instruments of unity and peace.

## WORLD DAY OF THE POOR: POPE FRANCIS ORGANISES LUNCH FOR AROUND 1,300 PEOPLE *By Francesca Merlo*

As has become customary, Pope Francis will celebrate World Day of the Poor with some of the poor people of Rome, who will join him for lunch after he has presided over mass.

Lunch with some of the poor people of Rome has become tradition for Pope Francis as he, along with the global Church, celebrate World Day of the Poor.

This year will mark the eighth edition, since the Pope established the day in 2017, and it will be no different to the last, as over 1,300 poor people are due to join Pope Francis for lunch.

### A project of help and hope

Falling on the third Sunday of November, this year the day will be celebrated on the 17th and will officially begin with Holy Mass, presided over by Pope Francis, in St Peter's Basilica

However, shortly prior to the Eucharistic celebration, the Pope will have blessed 13 keys, each symbolically representing thirteen countries where the Vicentians will be inaugurating their “13 Houses” project. The project consists in building new homes for disadvantaged people in thirteen different countries. There, various charitable initiatives will take place, such as covering utility bills for low-income families through parish connections. One of the countries welcoming this new project is Syria, which has been forgotten by much of western media as it continues to suffer the devastating effects of almost two decades of conflict.

### Why should politics cause poverty?

In his message for the 2024 World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis noted that war-driven “bad politics” generates new poverty and innocent victims. He urged everyone to pray with and for the poor, and highlighted that volunteers continue to devote themselves to serving the poorest in our cities, embodying God's response to the cries of those in need.

### The quest for justice

This year, in particular, the motto chosen by the Pope is taken from the book of Sirach: “The prayer of the poor rises to God” (Sirach 21:5). This motto emphasises that the poor hold a special place in God's heart. He hears their prayers and becomes “impatient” in their suffering until justice is done. The Book of Sirach confirms that “God's judgment will be in favour of the poor” (21:5).

The World Day of the Poor encourages the Church to “step outside” its walls and engage with poverty in its many forms in today's world. And with this lunch, that is precisely what Pope Francis will be doing.



## GENERAL NOTICES...

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

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

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

### SICK AND/OR HOMEBOUND?

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

### FUNERALS

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

### BAPTISM

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

### MASS INTENTIONS

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



### LOURDES OVER 50s GROUP

Over 50s Christmas Lunch Thursday 21st November 2024. Details to follow.

### Lourdes: Luminate Young Adults Group

The next group night will be in November. If you would like more information please contact Ian Epondulan: [youtholol7h@gmail.com](mailto:youtholol7h@gmail.com) or search 'Lourdes 7Hills Young Adults' on Facebook.

### LOURDES PLAYGROUP

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish playgroup is a fun playtime for children aged 0 to 5 years old and their carers. It is held every Friday morning during school terms 9.00am-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](mailto: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

#### November

20	Baptism Meeting	7.30pm
21	Over 50's Christmas Party	11.30am
24	Children's 'Christmas Story' Practice	9.30am
29	Parish Volunteers Dinner	6.30pm

## OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

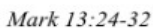
### 16/17 November

Acolytes	Vigil: Daniel La Guidara 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Fayelene Kennedy
Ministers	Vigil: T. Perak, L. La Guidara 8am: M. Santos, S. Manamperi 9.30am: C. Brooks, E. Miu
Readers	Vigil: A. Punch, M. Simic 8am: J. Cabasa, K. Walker 9.30am: E. Pieris, M. Aquino
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. La Guidara, C. La Guidara, L. Sadipoor 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: J. Pieris, M. Pieris, C. Attard
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Office
Musicians	Vigil: K. Thoms & C. Woodward 8am: Fr. Henry 9.30am: Christine Clarke & Christine Woodward
Flowers	Fennie & Angela
Church Cleaning	27 Nov Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Ugre 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Sastina Pieris

### 23/24 November

Acolytes	Vigil: James Dinning 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am: Ian Epondulan
Ministers	Vigil: A. Do Rosario, M. Mifsud 8am: L. Fernandes, Edith Gartner 9.30am: Paul Gow, Sub Req.
Readers	Vigil: C. Rodrigues, N. Do Rosario 8am: F. Paiva, A. McNally 9.30am: E. Miu, A. Han
Altar Servers	Vigil: D. Sant, J. Sant, E. Reardon 8am: H. Winter, K. Cassaniti, 9.30am: J. Martinez, O. Martinez
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Fr. Henry & Eugene 9.30am: Nina's Group
Flowers	Annette & Mary B.
Church Cleaning	5 Dec Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon

**33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**November 17th, 2024**



*In today's Gospel reading Jesus tells the disciples what will happen at the end of time.*

*The sun and moon will become dark and the stars will fall down from the sky, and then Jesus will come back.*

*What else does he say?  
Use this code to find out!*

A B D E H I L M N O P R S T U V W Y  
 ○ ✱ C D ☼ ☆ † ★ ☿ ✱ ● ✱ ☾ ☾ ☼ ★ ☿



Angels

"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." Mark 13:32 (NLT)



The puzzle is based on Mark 13:24-32

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

GATHER	POWER	MOON	POWER	UNKNOWN
GLORY	HOUR	SUN	ANGELS	GLORY
STARS	SUN	ELECT	DAY	CLOUDS