

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, 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: 19th February 2025
Baptism: 23rd February 2025
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.com.au
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 22nd December 2024 • Year C



Let us Pray for the Sick

S.R Anesley, Florence Arinanan, Rodney Bell, Lawrence Charles, Ben Dixon, Alma Caguimbal, Para Dias, Mary Camilleri, Lucia Fernando, Renuka Fernando, Chmouneh Hayek, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Mary Jordan, Paul Leong, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Jennifer Morrissey, Carlos Mureno, Maricar Poblete, 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

We can also arrange for Holy Communion or a visit if required.

Let us Pray for the Deceased

Recently Deceased: Emma Barriom, Ann Byrne, Vivienne Cameron, Murial Chary, Barrie Chamberlain, Romeo Condes, Blaise Costa, Padmini De Seram, Randy De Silva, Dulcie Duraisamy, Sandra Eichhorn, Bonosa Enfesta, Henrieta Fernando, Rienze Fernando, Jasmin Fernando, Ethan Garcia, Ricardo Garcia, Zac Jordan, Ingga Leysa, Cynthia Lopez, Richard Monreal, Eloise Nagallo, Teresita Ngalongalay, Gerard Noval, Etelka Petkovics, Suranjith Rebera, Sria Shami, Michael Scott, Linda Villavicencio.

Anniversaries: Mary Alagiah, Horace Baptist, Ronald Barley, Elaine Bosen, Peter & Helen Bonnici, Denis Brophy, Catherine Chandra, Aloysean Corera, Mary Camenzuli, Philomena Corera, Ivan Elisher, Rita de Silva, John Fernando, Nevis Fernando, M.A Fernando, Anthony Garcia, Francisca Garcia, Teodoro Garcia, Zenaida Garcia, Christine Gomez, Josephine Gomez, Mary Grech, Harold Thomas Hancock, Bill & Helen Hill, Prudencio Moner, Thelma Morrissey, Anton Motha, Xavier Motha Jnr, Sr Christina Morrissey, Paul Mula, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kutty, Jason Muscat, Tony Muscat, Aurora Nonato, Cordula Paiva, Adrian Pereira, John Portelli, Bernabe Quinto, Roseline Ratnam, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondaraj, Michael Sant, Mary Silva, Rosary Silva, Loreta Laberinto Udan, Melchor Usman, Dionisio Udan, Alison Vella, Jim Vella.

Remembrance: Fe & Jose Abadiano, Neil Amaratunga, France Angseeing, Carmen Attard, Annie Azucenas, Sam Borg, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato & Marilyn Cabasa, Toufic, Dede & Bede Diab, Fe Licup Carmen, Dennis Clarke, Myrna Cruz, Saviour Caruana, John Soo Choon, Tania McGove, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Marcel, Monsen & Peter Diab, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Lancer De Guire, Melvyn Fernandes, Nevis Fernando, Joseph & Carmena Formosa, Zaren & William Formosa, Sam Formosa, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Sam Gabo, Mary & Sam Galea, Evangeline Garcia, Leandro Snr Garcia, Jose Garcia, Teodoro Garcia, Rita Hill, Selvam Irudayaraj, Sheena Landagan, A. Mansoor, Apolinario Maylaya, Pauline Meilak, Mangion & Cini Family, Felina Mayuyo, Michael (Mike) McNamee, Maureen & John Mead, William & Emilia Mifsud, Joe & Doris Mifsud, Mary Mifsud, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Lourda Motha, Louis, Stephen & Joseph Mula, Mary & Francis Muscat, Peter John & Carmelita, Jesus Oplencia, Natalia Prahinog, John Ratnam, Jose, Maria, Laureano, Yolanda & Karen Reyes, Sem Sema, Jonathan Tek Kie, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Colin Zahra, Vinnie Zahra.

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



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 or contact Maryse Augseeing on 0467 701 010.

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Micah 5:1-4*

The Lord says this: You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **(R.)**

3. May your hand be on the man you have
chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your
name. **(R.)**

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 10:5-10*

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 1:39-44*

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

The Gospel of the Lord

FROM FR. HENRY



Dear friends,

I know a couple who both are music teachers, and I used to be in a choir with them many years ago. I remember when the lady was pregnant with her children: two girls and a boy, she had always put classical music as some sort of career preference for them, and as it turned out, all three of them have chosen music as their profession.

This story reminds me so much of what happened with John the Baptist in the Gospel account today, as Elizabeth let Mary know that she wasn't the only one who was happy to see her, the baby in her womb also jumped for joy at Mary's greetings. It is significant for us to pay attention to the place of the Holy Spirit in this account, for Luke deliberately told us that it was the Holy Spirit who inspired Elizabeth to respond in such a way, and this same Spirit did come upon Mary and help her to conceive Jesus when the angel Gabriel appeared to her at the Annunciation. This is the reason why biblical scholars sometimes call Luke's Gospel, the Gospel of the Holy Spirit.

Furthermore, it could be worth to dig deep into the background of the term 'the fruit of your womb' Elizabeth said to Mary today. This expression came from the ancient belief that life was like a seed containing life within itself, and just like a farmer planted the seed in the ground, a life began when a man planted the seed in the woman's womb, the garden where the seed would take root and grow.

As we light the fourth candle of the wreath today, also known as the Angel's candle symbolising love and the message of God's love that the angel announced at Jesus' birth, let us ask the Lord to re-kindle the fire of love within each of us and re-fill our hearts with joy, so with the grace we receive from the Eucharist this week we will make the love and joy of Christmas alive in our life and ready to share with all those around us.

Have a joy-filled week,

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ADVENT WREATH

It is usually constructed around a circular base. This circular base is traditionally taken to symbolise the ever-renewing cycle of the seasons, and the four candles, represent the four Sundays of Advent. The fourth candle, the "Candle of Love," reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth.



PARISH SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Individual confessions: 24 December from 9.00 – 10.30am

MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church this weekend for Ministers of the Eucharist, Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers and Welcomers who would like to serve at one of our Christmas Masses.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AT THE PIETY SHOP

The Piety Shop has a lovely range of ideas for Christmas, come have a browse at the back of the Church.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2025

Ministry rosters for February - July 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.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS & BULLETIN

Our Parish office will close between Christmas and New Year and there will be no bulletins throughout the month of January 2025 to allow our Parish staff to take a break. However, I will be around in the Parish office as usual.

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 at the back sacristy.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

In this joyful time of the year, I would like to thank each of you for your support throughout the year and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the Lord fill your hearts with joy and hope and help you share them with people around you both in this Parish community and beyond.

PRESENTATION OF THE "CHRISTMAS STORY"

Final practice for those children participating in the Christmas Story will be this Sunday 22nd December during the 9.30am mass followed by an extra 10-15 minutes afterwards so we can practice in the Church. On Tuesday 24th December, please be at Church between 5 -5.30pm so we can organise the children in their costumes. If you have any questions, contact the Parish Office. Many thanks, Jem Demeterio the Children's Liturgy Coordinator

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve 6pm & 9.00pm
Christmas Day midnight, 8am & 9.30am



CHILDREN'S LITURGY—CHRISTMAS STORY

Thank you to the children who have volunteered to act out the Christmas Story this year. This will take place during the 6pm mass on the 24th December. For those children who are not participating but attending the mass, you are invited to dress up as angels or shepherds.

LOURDES PLAYGROUP

Please note that Lourdes Playgroup has ended for the year. Thank you to the families that have supported it during 2024 and we wish all a Blessed & Joyous Christmas. Playgroup will resume in 2025, school term 1.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant:

Faith Enrichment Role Vacancy – Our Lady Queen of Peace, Greystanes

Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish is seeking a suitably qualified and experienced person for a Faith Enrichment role, working 16 hours per week onsite. Key responsibilities include:

- Facilitating and resourcing parents as they guide their children in sacraments and faith.
- Liaising with key faith enrichment ministries.
- Assisting in opportunities for faith inquiry and parishioners' spiritual enrichment.
- Sharing relevant administrative and technical tasks with the parish team.

For more information and details on how to apply, please contact parishoffice@olqp.org.au.

Parish Secretary – Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown

Mary, Queen of the Family Parish is seeking a dedicated and enthusiastic Parish Secretary to join the parish team on a part time basis, working from St Patrick's Church Parish Offices at 51-19 Allawah Street, Blacktown. This position is for 4 days per week, Tuesday to Friday, with working hours from 9am to 4pm. This role offers a unique opportunity to support the mission of the Church in Western Sydney.

For job description and details, please email admin@mqofblacktown.org.au

Mass for the Holy Innocents: Saturday 28 December

Join us at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Kellyville, Saturday the 28th December at 9.30am Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Innocents. A procession of the most Blessed Sacrament will then follow Mass to the Shrine of the Holy Innocents. Please bring a plate to share. For information call Br. Louis 0422 028 647

St Paul Feast Day Celebration: 18 January

Come Join the Celebrations at St Paul's Feast. Saturday, 18 January 2025, 5.30pm at St Monica's, Richmond. Followed by procession. Other details Lady Queen of Peace band, BBQ, food, drinks, rides and chocolate wheel.

Thank You for Supporting our Catholic Care's Houses to Homes

Fr Fernando Montano, Parramatta Catholic Foundation, and Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains thank you for your generous support of homeless mothers and children. Our Bishop's Christmas Appeal ensures that Catholic Care can continue to provide homeless mothers and children safety, support, and a place to call home. If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit the website parracatholic.org/appeal Thank you.

Christmas Mass Times around the Diocese

There are many ways to celebrate the Christmas Season across the Diocese. At parracatholic.org you can find our Christmas and New Year Mass times, Reconciliation and Adoration Near Me, and Christmas Carols and Nativity plays. Go to: parracatholic.org/connect/find-a-mass/

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 wonderful 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 Fannies Fiesta at St Finbars, Glenbrook. For more information and to register for all or part of the journey, visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org



CATHOLIC
THEOLOGICAL
COLLEGE



UNIVERSITY
OF DIVINITY

2025 Enrolments are open

Study scripture, theology, pastoral ministry and spirituality

- Introductory or further studies
- Face-to-face or online modes
- Audit, undergraduate or postgraduate level

For more information: view our [2025 Prospectusctc.edu.au/contact/contact-the-registrar/](http://2025Prospectusctc.edu.au/contact/contact-the-registrar/)

LOLO SAFEGUARDING NEWS

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held on Saturday 29 January at St Andrew the Apostle Parish Marayong for Cycle 1 (Module 1). More training opportunities will be available throughout January and February. 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

Visiting Clergy to OLOL

Thank you to Fr. Hoang Viet Nguyen who graciously assisted Fr Henry with mass and reconciliation this week. Visiting clergy all uphold the standards and processes we here at OLOL and the Diocese have put in place to ensure the safety of our community.

Supporting the Safety of Our Community

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.

Photography

Photos may be taken of you whilst volunteering, especially during Christmas. If you do not wish your photo to be used, please inform the person taking the photo or through the Parish Office. Permission from a child's parent/guardian must be sought before taking any photographs of children.

Children and Young People's Participation

LOLO 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 OLOL 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.

POPE FRANCIS' HOMILY AT MASS IN CORSICA *By Francesca Merlo*

As the final public event of his one-day journey to Corsica, Pope Francis presided over Holy Mass in Ajaccio's Place d'Austerlitz. Drawing from the words of John the Baptist, who proclaimed the coming of the Messiah, the Holy Father invited all present to embrace the message of spiritual renewal and conversion. In this season of advent and reflecting on the question posed by the crowd to John the Baptist, "What then should we do?", Pope Francis noted that they remind us to reflect on our actions and attitudes in preparation for the Lord's arrival.

The Pope noted that this question did not arise from those who were seen as righteous, such as the Pharisees and scholars of the law, but rather from those who were often considered "outsiders" such as tax collectors and soldiers. These people, who were tormented by their pasts filled with dishonesty and violence sought to change their ways. They were, in fact, ready to receive the call to transformation. Pope Francis went on to remind the faithful that the Gospel message does precisely this: stirs the conscience of the most vulnerable, including the poor and the outcasts, drawn to Christ to be saved rather than condemned. He noted that in today's world, just as in the past, the call to conversion is always open to all, regardless of past failings. The question "What then should we do?" is one we are all invited to ask ourselves this Advent season, said the Pope, noting that it calls us to prepare with humble hearts for Christ's coming.

Suspicion or joyful expectation The Pope went on to highlight two very different ways of waiting for the Messiah. The first, with suspicion, and the second with joyful expectation. Speaking first of suspicion, which the Pope described as being rooted in anxiety, distrust and a focus on worldly concerns, he said, prevents us from experiencing joy. The more we focus on ourselves, he said, the more we lose sight of God's providence. The remedy to this attitude, Pope Francis emphasised, lies in faith and prayer. Speaking then of waiting for the Messiah with joy, the Pope encouraged the faithful to embrace a joyful expectation of the Lord's coming. Christian joy, he explained, "is neither shallow nor ephemeral". On the contrary, it is a joy rooted in the heart and built on a solid foundation. He recalled the words of the prophet Zephaniah, who called his people to rejoice because the Lord was in their midst, bringing victory and salvation. "The Lord's coming brings us salvation: that is the reason for our joy", he said. This joy, the Pope explained, is not about forgetting life's hardships but rather finding strength and peace in the presence of God. **The work of the local community** Bringing his homily to a close, Pope Francis acknowledged the great work of the local community of Ajaccio and in particular the Confraternities, whose charitable actions and devotion enrich the Church's life. He urged the faithful to continue serving the needy, embodying the joyful spirit of Christ in their works of mercy. As the Advent season progresses, Pope Francis urged the faithful to cultivate peace and hope, particularly for young people preparing for Baptism and the sacraments. He reminded them that joy is the "style" of the Church's proclamation, bringing the light of Christ into a world that so desperately needs it. In frequent off-the-cuff remarks, the Pope invited the faithful to always look after the elderly, who carry the wisdom of the people. And commenting on the number of children present at the Mass, he also asked for particular care for the young, noting the many young people suffering from wars across the world, and in particular the children of Ukraine whom, the Pope says, "have forgotten how to smile". **The joy of Christ amid every affliction** In closing, the Holy Father addressed the challenges facing today's world. "There are many reasons for sorrow and despair in today's world", he said, listing "extreme poverty, wars, corruption and violence". Nevertheless, he continued, the word of God never fails to encourage us. Despite the suffering, "the Church proclaims an unshakable hope that does not disappoint", for the Lord is near, and in His presence, we find the strength to work for peace and justice. Joy in Christ, the Pope concluded, remains the source of our joy "in every time and amid every affliction".

POPE FRANCIS TO FILIPINO COMMUNITY IN SPAIN: WE MUST BUILD A WELCOMING HOME *By Kielce Gussie*

Speaking to representatives of the Filipino community residing in Spain, Pope Francis expressed his joy at their visit to the Vatican. He began by complimenting the word they have chosen as the title of their mission in Madrid: "*Tahanan*," which translated means "home." The Pope stressed that it well represents the universal Church because "wherever we go, is for us a home, warm and welcoming."

A place of welcome

For the more than 200,000 Filipino nationals in Spain, the community has a headquarters in Madrid at the parish of *Nuestra Señora del Espino*, or "Our Lady of the Thorn." While they may have a safe place to call home, the Pope commented on the reality of so many migrants, who, rather than finding a "warm and welcoming home," find "countless difficulties and misunderstandings, which rise up like thorns against them."

Why celebrate

The private audience marked the 25th anniversary of the canonical establishment of the personal parish of the Immaculate Conception and St. Lorenzo Ruiz in the city of Barcelona. Pope Francis described St. Lorenzo as a "very beautiful figure" who speaks to us about the integration of cultures." Reflecting on the 17th-century saint, the Pope highlighted his Chinese and Filipino ancestry and their Spanish heritage, which brought faith to that part of the world. However, St. Lorenzo Ruiz was forced to leave his homeland of the Philippines because of injustice—"in his case, defamation." Pope Francis likened his struggle with that of the millions of people "forced to emigrate today to save their lives or seek a better future." After leaving the Philippines, St. Lorenzo was called "to testify to his faith through the ultimate act of love: giving his life." Concluding his message to the representatives, Pope Francis called on them to imitate St. Lorenzo and his example "of a life dedicated to serving God in others." By doing this, the Pope said, "we too can build our '*tahanan*'" and be a warm, welcoming home to others.

The first Filipino venerated in the Church

Born around the year 1600 near Manila, Philippines, Lorenzo served as an altar server and calligrapher at his local parish. When he was a young man, he entered the Dominican Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary. In 1636, he was accused of murdering a Spaniard, and he fled to Japan. At the time, Japan was persecuting Christians and soon after his arrival, Lorenzo was arrested for being a Christian. Eventually he was tortured and killed for the faith. Beatified on February 18, 1981 in the Philippines, it was the first beatification ever held outside the Vatican. Six years later, he was canonized and became the patron saint of Filipino youth, the Philippines, people working overseas, and altar servers.

POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE TO NEW CARDINALS *By Linda Bordon*

Pope Francis on Saturday encouraged the group of twenty-one new cardinals from across the globe to “walk in the way of Jesus: together, with humility, wonder and joy.” Presiding at Holy Mass for the Ordinary Public Consistory for the Creation of New Cardinals in St. Peter’s Basilica, the Pope reminded the prelates receiving the red hat, that just as Jesus’ ascent to Jerusalem was not an ascent to worldly glory but to the glory of God, they too must put the Lord at the centre and be builders of communion and unity. Pope Francis announced the Consistory at the beginning of October pointing to the fact that the origins of the cardinal-elects “express the universality of the Church, which continues to proclaim God’s merciful love to all people on earth.”

Stand before God in humility

Recalling the Gospel of Mark, the Pope said that in Jerusalem, Jesus would die on the cross to restore us to life. He took a “difficult uphill path that would lead him to Calvary,” he explained, while the disciples were thinking of a “smooth downhill path for the triumphant Messiah.” The Pope noted that the same thing can happen to us: “Our hearts can go astray, allowing us to be dazzled by the allure of prestige, the seduction of power, by an overly human zeal for the Lord.” “That is why,” he continued, “we need to look within, to stand before God in humility and ask: Where is my heart going? Where is it directed? Have I perhaps taken the wrong road?”

Return to the heart

The Holy Father focused the rest of his homily on how the new Cardinals are called to make every effort *to walk in the path of Jesus*. “*To walk in the path of Jesus* means above all *to return to him and to put him back at the centre of everything*,” he said, warning them to look out for secondary things and external appearances that can overshadow what truly counts.

The very word “Cardinal”, he explained, refers to a hinge inserted into a door to secure, support and reinforce it.

[Dear brothers: Jesus is our true support, the “centre of gravity” of our service, the “cardinal point” which gives direction to our entire life.]

A passion for encounter

“*To walk in the path of Jesus* also means *to cultivate a passion for encounter*,” Pope Francis continued, noting that “Jesus never walked alone.” Jesus came, he added, “to heal our wounded humanity, to lighten the burdens of our hearts, to cleanse the stain of sin and to shatter the bonds of enslavement.” On his path, the Pope said, he “encountered the faces of those who were suffering and those who had lost hope”. He raised the fallen and healed the sick and the broken-hearted.

Builders of communion and unity

“*To walk in the path of Jesus means*, in the end, *to be builders of communion and unity*,” the Pope said, warning against “the worm of competition” and “the dividing wall of hostility” that prevents us from seeing ourselves as children of the same Father. He urged the new cardinals – whom he noted come from different backgrounds and cultures, and represent the catholicity of the Church – to be “witnesses of fraternity, artisans of communion and builders of unity.” Quoting St Pope Paul VI’s address during a consistory, Pope Francis said: “It is our desire that everyone feel at home in the ecclesial family, that there will be no exclusion or isolation, which proves so harmful to our unity in charity, or efforts to make some prevail to the detriment of others.” Concluding, he told the 21 new cardinals to “Love one another with fraternal love and be servants to one another, servants of the Gospel.”

POPE FRANCIS TO BANKERS: ‘INVEST IN HOPE NOT IN SPECULATION AND WAR.’ *By Lisa Zengarini*

Pope Francis has again warned against financial speculation that prioritizes profit over people, resulting in exploitation and social inequalities. “When finance tramples on people, fuels inequalities, and distances itself from the life of territories, it betrays its purpose” and “becomes uncivilized economy”, he said.

The Pope was addressing delegations of some Italian Banking Institutes whom he received in audience on Monday.

The ethical responsibilities of finance

In his remarks the Pope reflected on the ethical responsibilities of finance and its impact on society, emphasizing its potential for fostering inclusion and sustainability while cautioning against its detachment from human needs. Drawing on historical examples, he highlighted how the Church has long contributed to socially conscious banking initiatives, such as the Monti di Pietà established in Italy the 15th century to provide credit to those who could not afford it, and the cooperative credit systems created in the late 19th-century inspired by Pope Leo XIII’s social Encyclical *Rerum Novarum*. The intent of these initiatives, he noted, “has always been to give opportunities to those who otherwise would have none”, showing that finance can help social well-being.

Negative modern-time banking practices prioritizing profit

The Pope opposed these ethical financial practices to some banking practices of our time which instead prioritize profit over people’s needs, fostering “uncivilized” economic behaviour. He cited multinational companies relocating to exploit cheaper labour, usurious practices benefiting the already privileged and neglecting those in need, and some financial systems collecting funds in one place to invest them elsewhere with the sole aim of increasing their gains. This disconnect, the Pope warned, leaves vulnerable groups feeling exploited and abandoned.

Finance should prioritize human development, not speculation

Pope Francis praised the Italian institutions present for embodying a more humane approach to banking. Describing finance as the “economy’s circulatory system”, he insisted that “without adequate financial systems capable of inclusion and promoting sustainability, integral human development would not be possible”.

Hence the need for banks to avoid speculative and destructive investments such as those that harm the environment and promote wars.

Debt forgiveness to restore hope

Looking ahead to the upcoming Jubilee of Hope, Pope Francis reiterated his plea for debt forgiveness: “This,” he said, “is the condition for generating hope and a future in the lives of many people, especially the poor.”

Quoting Don Primo Mazzolari, Pope Francis concluded by encouraging banks to uphold social justice recalling that they have “great responsibilities to encourage inclusive logic and to support an economy of peace”

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 13th February 2025, 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 Wednesday 8th January 2025. If you would like more information please 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 9.00am-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 abel24@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.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE DECEMBER 2024

24	Children/Family Christmas Mass	6.00pm
24	Christmas Vigil Mass	9.00pm
25	Christmas Midnight Mass	12.00am
25	Christmas Day Masses	8.00 & 9.30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

21/22 December

Acolytes	Vigil: James Dinning 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Eugene Miu
Ministers	Vigil: A. Bellissimo, M. Simic 8am: C. Gonzales, F. Paiva 9.30am: A. Walker, C. Brooks
Readers	Vigil: L. Bellissimo, J. Sarmiento 8am: B. Motha, A. McNally 9.30am: R. Epondulan, A. Hye Rin Han
Altar Servers	Vigil: H. Winter, M. Gluvic, J. Hoang 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: Volunteers
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group
Flowers	Annette & Mary B.
Church Cleaning	19 Dec Cathy Hutchings Annette Peatman Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Helen Gonzales 9.30am: Georgina Basili

28/29 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Ernie Gartner 9.30am: Ramzee Michael
Ministers	Vigil: T. Perak, M. Mifsud 8am: E. Gartner, F. Paiva 9.30am: M. Aquino, M. Michael
Readers	Vigil: A. Punch, N. Do Rosario 8am: P. Ferriols, M. Santos 9.30am: N. Arambulo, F. Kennedy
Altar Servers	Vigil: S. Costello, S. Costello, L. Costello 8am: K. Maruthanayagam, C. Bellamin 9.30am: A. Melki, C. Attard
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council
Musicians	Vigil: Shaun's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale
Flowers	Team
Church Cleaning	2 Jan Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Urge 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Kathy Chamberlain

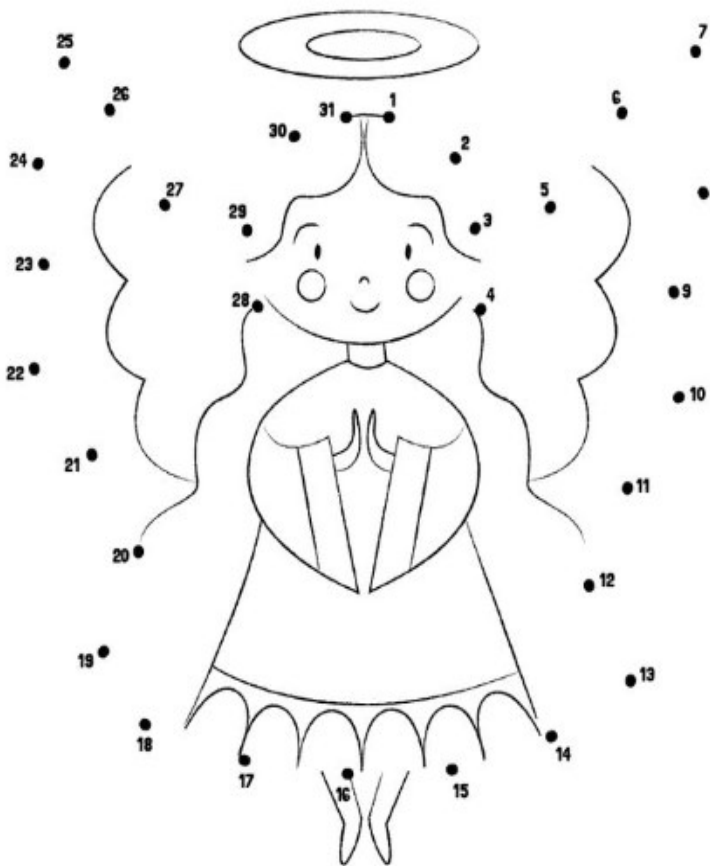
The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22nd, 2024



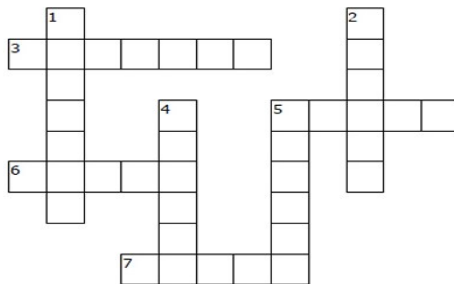
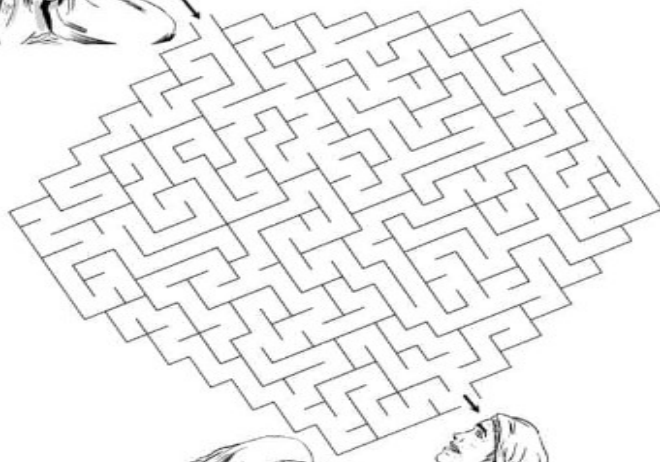
*Elizabeth knew that Mary was the mother of the Messiah.
What did she say to Mary when she came to visit her?
Use the code to find out!*

A B D E G L M N O R S U W Y
▲ ♀ ○ ↑ △ × − □ ● + ! ■ ↓ ●



angel

HELP MARY VISIT ELIZABETH



ACROSS

3. To be joined together as husband and wife
5. A heavenly being; a messenger for God
6. The son who was born to Mary
7. A very young person especially between infancy and youth

DOWN

1. The name of the angel who appeared to Mary
2. A young unmarried woman; a maiden
4. The man to whom Mary was engaged to marry
5. To be filled with fear

JOSEPH GABRIEL	MARRIED CHILD	AFRAID ANGEL	VIRGIN JESUS
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