

# 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:** 16th April 2025  
**Baptism:** 27th April 2025  
**Sacrament Co-Ordinator:** Mrs Artelle Lenthall  
**Youth Co-Ordinator:** Diana Park  
**Parish Website:** [www.olol7hills.org.au](http://www.olol7hills.org.au)  
**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

### 30 March 2025 • Year C



#### Let us Pray for the Sick

Florence Arinanan, Sarah Bartolo, Max Barrett, Lawrence Charles, Ben Dixon, Alma Caguimbal, Para Dias, Mary Camilleri, Pope Francis, Lucia Fernando, Renuka Fernando, Philippe Honore, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Anthony Janicska, Odette James, Mary Jordan, Klare Kinsley, Paul Leong, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Maricar Poblete, Veronica Portelli, Camy Ratnam, Olivia, 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](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:** John Borg, Vivienne Cameron, Guy Cassar, Murial Chary, Blaise Costa, Irene Dassanayaka, Padmini De Seram, Randy De Silva, Sandra Eichhorn, Bonosa Enfesta, Henrieta Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Jasmin Fernando, Ethan Garcia, Ricardo Garcia, Gilbert Inoceto, Nerissa Legaspi, Cynthia Lopez, Richard Monreal, Jennifer Morrissey, Francisca Naorbe, Leo Ngan, Aida Paguntalan, Etelka Petkovics, Eustace Ratnam, Mangala Ratnam, Suranjith Rebera, Caroline Stevenson, Julius Suseno, Rita Xuereb.

**Anniversaries:** Mary Alagiah, George Mario Attard, Elvina Barnaba, Horace Baptist, Ronald Barley, Romeo Biniahian, Elaine Bosen, Frank & Fortunata Baiada, Denis Brophy, Rosario Cabasa, Catherine Chandra, Joseph Chary, Audrey & Herman Chillah, Aloysean Corera, Mary Camenzuli, Dulcie & Sammy Duraisamy, John Fernando, Nevis Fernando, M.A Fernando, Anthony Garcia, Francisca Garcia, Teodoro Garcia, Zenaida Garcia, Christine Gomez, Josephine Gomez, Manul Jafeth, April Marabe, Albert Moroney, Xavier Motha Jnr, Paul Mula, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kutty, Tony Muscat, Angelita & Gil Opima, Cordula Paiva, Adrian Pereira, John Portelli, Estileta Riveral, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Michael Sant, Mary Silva, Rosary Silva, Loretta Laberinto Udan, Melchor Usman, Arsenio Laberinto Udan, Dionisio Udan, Mody Viray.

**Remembrance:** Neil Amaratunga, France Angseeing, Carmen Attard, Lydia, Peter & Helen Bonnici, Richard Bowely, Marlene Busac, Barrie Chamberlain, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato & Marilyn Cabasa, Fe Licup Carmen, Catarina Camilleri, Dennis Clarke, Myrna Cruz, Saviour Caruana, Tania McGove, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Launcer De Guire, O. Francis, J. Francis, Joseph & Carmena Formosa, Melvyn Fernandes, Nevis Fernando, Sammy Formosa, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Sam Gabo, Mary & Sam Galea, Evangeline Garcia, Leandro Snr Garcia, Jose Garcia, Teodoro Garcia, Constance Gaycroft, Charlie Gauci, Selvam Irudayaraj, Jonathan Tek Kie, Harold, Marc, Rosine Lafluer, Sheena Landagan, A. Mansoor, Apolinario & Felina Maglaya, John & Maureen Mead, Pauline Meilak, Mary Nichola, Cole Ngan, Mangion & Cini Family, William & Emilia Mifsud, Joseph & Doris Mifsud, Mary Mifsud, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Anton & Lourda Motha, Ngan Pin, Louis, Stephen & Joseph Mula, Mary & Francis Muscat, Peter John & Carmelita, Ngan Pin, John & Roseline Ratnam, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Vinnie Zahra, Robert & Leila Zammit, Mary Zammit *\*\*Names will be published for 4 weeks at a time.*

#### Our Lady of Lourdes

Ever Immaculate Virgin, Mother of mercy, health of the sick, refuge of sinners, comfort of the afflicted, you know my needs, my troubles, my sufferings; cast on me a look of pity. By appearing in the grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, from which you dispense your favours, and already many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and physical. I come, therefore, with the most unbounded confidence to implore your maternal intercession. Obtain most loving mother, my requests, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.



Amen.

#### REGULAR COLLECTIONS - First and Second

**FIRST COLLECTION** 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.



#### 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 book of Joshua 5:9-12*

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.' The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day.

From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

The word of the Lord.

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**RESPONSORIAL PSALM****(R) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad. **(R.)**

2. Glorify the Lord with me.  
Together let us praise his name.  
I sought the Lord and he answered me;  
from all my terrors he set me free. **(R.)**

3. Look towards him and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.  
This poor man called; the Lord heard him  
and rescued him from all his distress. **(R.)**

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**SECOND READING** *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 5:17-21*

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled.

So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

The word of the Lord.

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**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:  
Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.  
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**GOSPEL** *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 15:1-3. 11-32*

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them: 'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

The Gospel of the Lord



Dear friends,

This Sunday we have a Gospel story about a family relationship involving a father and his two children, in which the younger one asks for his inheritance by the father. The son then goes and throws away all he had been given through a decadent lifestyle.

After losing all the money, he really hit rock bottom, to the point of becoming a pig feeder in a pig farm where he felt so sorry for what he had done while seeing the pigs had plenty to eat and he had nothing. He began to toss the idea of going home to say sorry to his dad, and prepared this script in his mind, 'father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants.' This part is important and we will come back to it later.

The run-away boy finally made the decision to come home, and more than he could imagine, his father had longed for him to come back, so when he spotted him from afar, he ran towards him and embraced him in his arms and showered him with tender kisses. The son said to his father what he planned to tell him and despite what he said about treating him like a paid servant, his father was more than happy to forgive his past and reinstate his filial position by giving him the best robe to dress, a ring to wear, sandals to walk around and a fatten calf to celebrate his return.

However, the older brother was not ready to forgive and welcome his younger sibling back, he complained and refused to join the welcome home party. His father had to come out and plead with him to join the celebration.

Significantly, this Gospel is known either as the Prodigal Son symbolizing all of us or as the Forgiving Father symbolizing God, our heavenly Father depending on which ever angle we approach it, and basically highlights these two points: number one, God is always ready to show us his love and forgiveness no matter how sinful we are, and number two, we need to stand up to come to God and ask for forgiveness through the sacrament of Confession whenever we go wrong by committing sin.

In contemporary theology, the horizontal dimension of sin as an offense against those around us is also emphasized apart from its vertical dimension as an offense against God, this is exactly what Jesus seemed to remind us through the words of the Prodigal son to his father recognizing that he sinned both against heaven and against his father.

Let us ask for the humility to know that we are sinners before God and the courage to ask for the divine mercy every time we say I Confess at Mass, and especially through the sacrament of Reconciliation when we have a chance to go to.

Have a reconciliation- oriented week,

Fr Henry

## PARISH NEWS...

### SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION

There will be 44 children in our parish going to make their First Reconciliation on Wednesday the 2nd of April. We haven't seen this many doing this sacrament for a long time and it's wonderful to see, so please keep them in your prayers and don't forget to sign in their Prayer cards.

### PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES FOR OUR PARISH MINISTERS AND CONGRATULATIONS

We would like welcome our new Parish ministers: Hye Han, Darryl Green, Manna Kama, Jacqueline Mai, Rommel Lagare, Jesse and Alexandra Franco who are to receive their certificates at the 9.30 Mass this Sunday and thank them for offering their times and skills to serve our Parish.

### CONFIRMATION 2025 INFORMATION NIGHT

Parents wishing to enrol their Year 6 (or above) child in the 2025 Confirmation Process, are invited to attend an information and enrolment meeting on Tuesday 8th of April at 6.30pm in the Parish Hall. Those who already have the Sacramental Program 2025 flyer that the date listed is incorrect.

### CHRISTIAN LIFE PROGRAMS

Couples for Christ (CFC) and Singles for Christ (SFC) would like to open an invitation to OLOL Parishioners to attend their Christian Life Programs that are being held in our parish hall. Further details can be found on the notice board flyers or contact Judith via [ajcdeloso@gmail.com](mailto:ajcdeloso@gmail.com)

### TONGAN MASS

We warmly invite you to join us in a Tongan Mass with Fr. Tali'ai Hausia at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Seven Hills on Sunday, 6th April 2025 from 2:00 PM till 3:00 PM. Join us for this unique celebration and experience the rich traditions of the Tongan community.

### 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.

### BISHOP'S GOOD SAMARITAN APPEAL

The Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal is this weekend.

Your donation will help our chaplains at Catholic Care continue their pastoral works. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal at [parracatholic.org/appeal](http://parracatholic.org/appeal) or scan this QR code.



### LENTEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm.

### IMPORTANT NOTES FOR LENT

- Lent begins from Ash Wednesday.
- In Lent there is no Alleluia at Mass.
- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence for healthy Catholics.
- Lent is a penitential time of prayer, self-denial and helping others.

### DAY LIGHT SAVINGS END 6TH APRIL

A reminder that daylight saving ends next Sunday the 6th of April. Please ensure you place your clocks backward 1 hour.



### MINISTERS FOR HOLY WEEK MASSES

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church from this weekend for Ministers of the Eucharist, Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers and Welcomers who would like to serve at one of our Holy Week Masses. Please make note of practise times.

### PROJECT COMPASSION FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Irene lives in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and faced immense challenges after losing her father to war and raising her children in poverty. With support from Caritas Australia, Irene received vocational training in sewing and farming and can now support her whole family.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or by calling: 1800 024 413



## DIOCESAN NEWS

### Music Workshop 'Exploring Music for the Solemnities': 8 May

Musicians from the Diocese of Parramatta and beyond are invited to attend this workshop led by MET Music Formation Facilitator Eric Grella. The workshop will outline suggested hymns and explore music new and old for the many Solemnities and Feasts that occur in the period of Eastertide. Bring any music related questions along on Thursday 8 May to the Bishop Bede Heather Centre 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown at 7pm. Please RSVP by 2 May via [parracatholic.org/events/OFW](http://parracatholic.org/events/OFW). For enquiries, please contact [ofw@parracatholic.org](mailto:ofw@parracatholic.org) or 0488 000 211.

## Enrolling Now for Kindergarten 2026



## OUR LADY OF LOURDES PRIMARY

**You're invited to join our community!**  
Enquire, enrol or take a tour

7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills 2147  
T: 8869 6800 [ololshills.catholic.edu.au](http://ololshills.catholic.edu.au)



### Young Adult Faith Formation Session on St Anthony of Padua: 6 April

Young Adult Faith Formation sessions continue on Sunday 6 April 2025 at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall, South Mt Druitt (9 Ropes Creek Rd Mt Druitt) at 7pm. The speaker is **Rev Dr Paschal Corby OFM Conv.** who will talk about and lead discussion on St Anthony of Padua. 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.

### Adult Jubilee Pilgrimage Information Session: 9 April

Thinking about joining the Diocese of Parramatta's Adult Jubilee Pilgrimage? Come to our information session to learn more about this life-changing journey. The night will include travel details, costs, and spiritual preparation. Don't miss this opportunity to ask questions and discern if this pilgrimage is for you! Join us on Wednesday, April 9 at the Bishop Bede, Heather Centre from 6.30pm – 8.30pm. For questions or enquiries contact [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org)

### Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers: 13 May

In this Jubilee Year of Hope all liturgical ministers - readers, servers and extra ordinary ministers are invited to join us for our Annual Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers. Families and friends are also invited. This celebration will take place 7:30pm on 13 May 2025, at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. To register your attendance and guests please visit the website: [parracatholic.org/events/liturgical-ministers-commissioning-mass/](http://parracatholic.org/events/liturgical-ministers-commissioning-mass/)

### Marriage Enrichment Weekend: 23-25 May

We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love! Come and join us on 23-25 May at a Marriage Encounter Weekend in a Covid safe environment at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW a stunning & tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney. Book online at [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au) or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or [nswbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:nswbookings@wwme.org.au)

## OLOL 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).

### Safeguarding the Elderly Project

Are you interested in sharing and listening to ideas about how we can meet the needs of older people in our Parish communities? You are invited to host a morning tea with your parish or ministry team. Those involved in ministries such as Ministers of Communion to the Sick and Pastoral Care Groups, are invited to share their experiences and reflections. For more information, please contact Maria Kervin (Manager, Prevention, Healing & Support) at: [mariakervin@parracatholic.org](mailto:mariakervin@parracatholic.org)

### Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities:

#### 3 April

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Renewal Training will be held on Thursday 3rd April at St Aidan's Parish Centre, Rooty Hill for Cycle 2 (Modules 4-5). More training opportunities will be available throughout May. Please register directly for this training or for other 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](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org)

### Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities:

#### 3 May

Face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Renewal Training will be held on Saturday 3 May at Holy Family Church, Emerton for Cycle 2 (Modules 4-5). More training opportunities will be available throughout May. 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](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org)

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## POPE FRANCIS WAS DISCHARGED FROM HOSPITAL



Doctor Alfieri, flanked by the Pope's personal physician, Doctor Sergio Carbone, explained that the decision to discharge the Pope follows steady and rapid medical improvements in his clinical condition and the lifting of the prognosis.

He noted that the past week has seen significant improvements. He confirmed that when the Pope was admitted to hospital on 14 February, he was suffering an acute respiratory insufficiency due to a polymicrobial infection that resulted in bilateral pneumonia. This, he explained, necessitated a combined pharmacological treatment.

Answering questions put to him by reporters, Alfieri reiterated that the bilateral pneumonia has been successfully treated, but time is needed for a complete recovery.

Thus, the Pope has been prescribed at least two months of convalescence, during which he will be receiving medical care and will be taking an adequate period of rest.

Alfieri noted that the Holy Father's health is improving steadily, and the hope is he will soon be able to resume a work schedule. This however, he pointed out, does not mean he will immediately be able to start meeting with people and groups as he did before.

The doctor also reiterated, as medical bulletins informed during the Pope's entire period of hospitalization, that Pope Francis has proved to be a "good" and collaborative patient, always heeding the indications of the medical team.

He also confirmed that during this time the Pope suffered two critical episodes, during which his life was in danger. He was given non-invasive mechanical ventilation and high-flow oxygen therapy, but he was never intubated and was always alert and oriented.

He said that a temporary "loss of voice" after bilateral pneumonia and its treatment is normal, and he said Pope Francis does not suffer from diabetes.

Asked what the life of the Pope will be like when he gets home, Alfieri said that with the continuing rehabilitation therapy, hopefully he will soon be able to resume his normal activities.

Pointing out that throughout his time in the hospital, the doctor said Pope Francis has always stayed in touch with current events, both church-related and political, and – as we have seen – has continued to dedicate himself to work activities.

He is happy to be discharged, he reiterated, and as all doctors agree, "the best way to recover is to do so at home."

## POPE FRANCIS' ANGELUS FROM THE HOSPITAL

### **Text prepared by the Holy Father**

*Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday!*

The parable in today's Gospel tells us about the patience of God, who urges us to make our life a time of conversion. Jesus uses the image of a barren fig tree, which has not borne the anticipated fruit and which, nevertheless, the farmer does not want to cut down: he wants to fertilize it again since "it may bear fruit in the future" (Lk 13:9). This patient farmer is the Lord, who works the soil of our lives with care and waits confidently for our return to Him.

In this long period of my hospitalization, I have had the opportunity to experience the Lord's patience, which I also see reflected in the tireless care of the doctors and healthcare workers, as well as in the care and hopes of the relatives of the sick. This trusting patience, anchored in God's unfailing love, is indeed necessary in our lives, especially when facing the most difficult and painful situations.

I am saddened by the resumption of heavy Israeli bombing on the Gaza Strip, causing many deaths and injuries. I call for an immediate halt to the weapons; and for the courage to resume dialogue, so that all hostages may be released and a final ceasefire reached. In the Strip, the humanitarian situation is again very serious and requires urgent commitment from the conflicting parties and the international community.

On the other hand, I am pleased that Armenia and Azerbaijan have agreed on the final text of the peace agreement. I hope that it may be signed as soon as possible, and may thus contribute to establishing lasting peace in the South Caucasus.

You are continuing to pray for me with great patience and perseverance: thank you very much! I pray for you too. And together, let us pray for an end to wars and for peace, especially in tormented Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Myanmar, Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

May the Virgin Mary keep you and continue to accompany us on our journey towards Easter.

**Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025. Jesus Christ our Hope. II. The life of Jesus. The encounters 2. The Samaritan Woman. "Give me a drink!" (Jn 4:7)**

*Dear brothers and sisters,*

After contemplating the encounter between Jesus and Nicodemus, who went in search of Jesus, today we will reflect on those moments in which it seems that He is in fact waiting right there, at that crossroads in our life. They are encounters that surprise us, and at the beginning we are perhaps even a little diffident; we try to be prudent and to understand what is happening.

This was probably also the experience of the Samaritan woman, mentioned in chapter four of John's Gospel (cf. 4:5-26). She did not expect to find a man at the well at noon; indeed she hoped to find no one at all. In fact, she goes to fetch water from the well at an unusual hour, when it is very hot. Perhaps this woman is ashamed of her life, perhaps she has felt judged, condemned, not understood, and for this reason she has isolated herself, she has broken off relations with everyone.

To go to Galilee from Judea, Jesus would have had to choose another road and not pass through Samaria. It would also have been safer, given the tense relations between the Jews and the Samaritans. Instead, He wants to pass through there, and stops at that very well, right at that time! Jesus waits for us and lets Himself be found precisely when we think that there is no hope left for us. The well, in the ancient Middle East, is a place of encounter, where at times marriages are arranged; it is a place of betrothal. Jesus wants to help this woman understand where to find the true answer to her desire to be loved.

The theme of desire is fundamental to understanding this encounter. Jesus is the first to express His desire: "Give me a drink!" (v. 10). For the sake of opening a dialogue, Jesus makes Himself appear weak, in order to put the other person at ease, making sure that she is not frightened. Thirst is often, even in the Bible, the image of desire. But Jesus here thirsts first of all for the woman's salvation. "He who was asking drink", says Saint Augustine, "was thirsting for the faith of the woman herself".

Whereas Nicodemus had gone to Jesus at night, here Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at midday, the time when there is most light. It is indeed a moment of revelation. Jesus makes Himself known to her as the Messiah and also sheds light on His life. He helps her to reread her history, which is complicated and painful: she has had five husbands and is now with a sixth who is not a husband. The number six is not accidental, but usually indicates imperfection. Perhaps it is an allusion to the seventh bridegroom, the one who will finally satiate this woman's desire to be truly loved. And that bridegroom can only be Jesus.

When she realizes that Jesus knows her life, the woman shifts the conversation to the religious question that divided Jews and Samaritans. This happens sometimes to us too when we pray: at the moment in which God is touching our life, with its problems, we lose ourselves at times in reflections that give us the illusion of a successful prayer. In reality, we have raised barriers of protection. However, the Lord is always greater, and to that Samaritan woman, to whom according to cultural precepts He should not even have spoken, He gives the highest revelation: He speaks to her of the Father, who is to be adored in spirit and truth. And when she, once again surprised, observes that on these things it is better to wait for the Messiah, He tells her: "I am he, the one who is speaking with you" (v. 26). It is like a declaration of love: the One you are waiting for is Me; the One who can finally respond to your desire to be loved.

At that point the woman runs to call the people of the village, because mission springs precisely from the experience of feeling loved. And what proclamation could she have brought, if not her experience of being understood, welcomed, forgiven? It is an image that should make us reflect on our search for new ways to evangelize.

Just like a person in love, the Samaritan forgets her water jar, leaving it at Jesus' feet. The weight of that jar on her head, every time she returned home, reminded her of her condition, her troubled life. But now the jar is left at Jesus' feet. The past is no longer a burden; she is reconciled. And it is like this for us too: to go and proclaim the Gospel, we first need to set down the burden of our history at the feet of the Lord, to consign to Him the weight of our past. Only reconciled people can bring the Gospel.

Dear brothers and dear sisters, let us not lose hope! Even if our history appears burdensome, complicated, perhaps even ruined to us, we always have the possibility of consigning it to God and setting out anew on our journey.

God is merciful, and awaits us always!

## 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 meeting Thursday 10th April 2025, 10.30am– 1pm in the Parish Hall. Please bring a plate to share. Look forward to seeing you there.

### Lourdes: Luminare Young Adults Group

The next group night will be in April. 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 [rabel24@gmail.com](mailto:rabel24@gmail.com).

### OFFERTORY PROCESSION FOR OUR WEEKEND MASSES

With the intention to help our community to get more involved at Mass and better appreciate our share in the priesthood of the faithful, meaning our call to be priests, prophets and kings or queens of Jesus through baptism that Fr David Orr reminded us in our Parish retreat, I would like to invite all our parishioners to take part in the offertory procession, especially families that have some special celebrations in the families, such as baptisms, birthdays, wedding anniversaries, or death anniversaries. Please see Fr Henry or Ernie before Mass to arrange it.

#### APRIL 2025

2	First Reconciliation Liturgy	7.00pm
4	Stations of the Cross	7.30pm
6	Tongan Mass	2.00pm
8	Confirmation 2025 information meeting	6.30pm
10	Lourdes Over 50's Meeting	10.30am

## LOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

### 29/30 March

Acolytes	Vigil: Daniel La Guidara 8am: Ernie Gartner 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: L. La Guidara, T. Perak 8am: Edith Gartner, M. Santos 9.30am: Kamela Huihui, B. Chander	
Readers	Vigil: A. Punch, N. Sumcad 8am: P. Ferriols, F. Paiva 9.30am: M. Aquino, J. Nonato	
Altar Servers	Vigil: C & A. La Guidara, J. Hoang 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: L. Sadipoor, J & O Martinez	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Maximilian Chorale	
Musicians	Vigil: Shaun Jyostna & Chris 8am: Fr Henry 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Siani & Fenty	
Church Cleaning	3 April	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

### 5/6 April

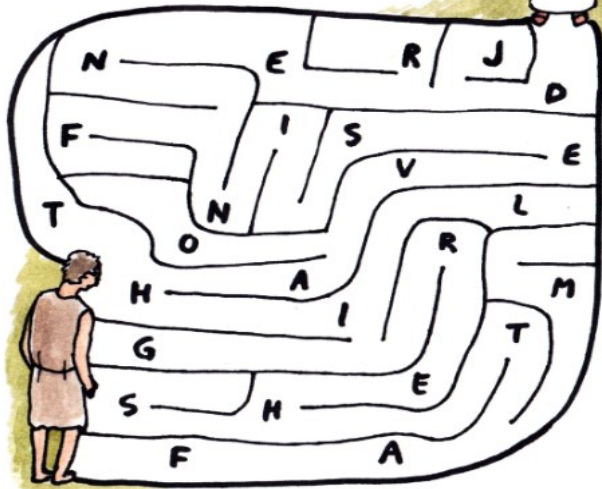
Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Frank Paiva 9.30am: Ryan Epondulan	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Mifsud, J. Sarmiento 8am: A. McNally, B. Motha 9.30am: P. Gow, C. Brooks	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, Yxavel Dino 8am: J. Mai, J. Irudayaraj 9.30am: A. Han, E. Pieris	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Leonardo, Sebastian & Saoirse Costello 8am: Harrison Winter 9.30am: Majerin & Jenolin Pieris, A. Melki	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Tongan Choir	
Musicians	Vigil: Christine Clarke 8am: Fr Henry 9.30am: Couples for Christ	
Flowers	Fenty & Liz	
Church Cleaning	12 April	Tongan Community Edgardo Barcelon Edgar Cabrera
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Ugre 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Sastina Pieris	

# The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Lent  
March 30th, 2025

What did the son in today's Gospel reading say to show his father he was sorry?

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32



As you go through the maze, use only the letters in the right path to fill in the blanks:

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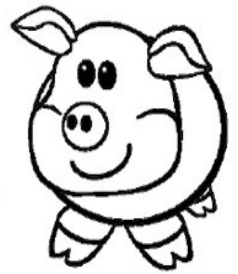
Connect the dots.



## Our Father forgives us.

Like the father in the story of the prodigal son, God rejoices when we return to Him.

# The Parable of the Lost Son



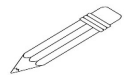
'Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. Luke 15:23-24 (NIV)

Enter the correct words in the boxes based on the shape of the letters.

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

father	wealth	pigs	lost
sons	starving	kissed	found

Son



Father

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

WEALTH	ESTATE	COUNTRY	PIGS	FOOD
COMPASSION	HIRED	FOUND	FEED	RING
CELEBRATE	STARVING	PROPERTY	FEAST	SONS
KISSED	FATHER	STOMACH	SPENT	LOST