

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES

PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS

*"Still a wonderful place to pray & stay."*

7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills. NSW. 2147

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**Parish Priest:** Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran  
**Parish Deacon:** Deacon Thong Nguyen  
**Parish Office Team:** Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Jane Nguyen, 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/>

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

### 23 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:** Vivienne Cameron, Guy Cassar, Murial Chary, Blaise Costa, Irene Dassanayaka, Padmini De Seram, Randy De Silva, Sandra Eichhorn, 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, Suranjith Rebera, Caroline Stevenson, Julius Suseno, Long Thang Tran, Rita Xureb

**Anniversaries:** Mary Alagiah, George Mario Attard, Horace Baptist, Ronald Barley, Romeo Biniahan, Elaine Bosen, Frank & Fortunata Baiada, Denis Brophy, Rosario Cabasa, Catherine Chandra, Aloysean Corera, Mary Camenzuli, Dulcie Duraisamy, John Fernando, Nevis Fernando, M.A Fernando, Anthony Garcia, Francisca Garcia, Teodoro Garcia, Zenaida Garcia, Tarcisio "Archie" Gatt, Christine Gomez, Josephine Gomez, Manul Jafeth, Albert Moroney, Anton Motha, Xavier Motha Jnr, Paul Mula, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kutty, Tony Muscat, Angelita & Gil Opima, Cordula Paiva, Adrian Pereira, John Portelli, John Ratnam, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Michael Sant, Mary Silva, Rosary Silva, Loreta Laberinto Udan, Melchor Usman, Arsenio Laberinto Udan, Dionisio Udan, Mary Vilot, Mody Viray.

**Remembrance:** Neil Amaratunga, France Angseeing, Carmen Attard, Lydia, Peter & Helen Bonnici, Marlene Busac, Barrie Chamberlain, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato & Marlyn Cabasa, Fe Licup Camen, Catarina Camilleri, Dennis Clarke, Myrna Cruz, Saviour Caruana, Tania McGove, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Launcer De Guire, Joseph & Carmena Formosa, Melvyn Fernandes, Nevis Fernando, Mr & Mrs Francis, 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, Norma Tan Gloria, Selvam Irudayaraj, Jonathan Tek Kie, Harold, Marc, Rosine Lafleur, 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, Lourda Motha, Ngan Pin, Louis, Stephen & Joseph Mula, Mary & Francis Muscat, Peter John & Carmelita, Ngan Pin, Roseline Ratnam, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Vinnie Zahra, Mary Zammit  
 \*\*Names will be published for 4 weeks at a time.

#### Funeral Notice

Rita Xureb

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

Wednesday 26th of March, 10.30am

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

#### Our Lady of Lourdes

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



*Amen.*

#### REGULAR COLLECTIONS - First and Second

**FIRST COLLECTION** 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.

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**FIRST READING** *A reading from the book of Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15*

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.'

Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

The word of the Lord.

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**RESPONSORIAL PSALM****(R) The Lord is kind and merciful.**

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings. **(R.)**

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R.)**

3. The Lord does deeds of justice,  
gives judgement for all who are oppressed.  
He made known his ways to Moses  
and his deeds to Israel's sons. **(R.)**

4. The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
For as the heavens are high above the earth  
so strong is his love for those who fear him. **(R.)**

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**SECOND READING** *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12*

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer. All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

The word of the Lord.

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**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

**GOSPEL** *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 13:1-9*

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.'"

The Gospel of the Lord



Dear friends,

I just wonder how many of us still read the newspaper and watch the news or current affair programs on TV these days. I myself, have dropped the habit for a few years since I stopped the paper subscription due to its delivery becoming unreliable. Occasionally, I read news about Australia on the internet and recently I read that one of our former Prime Ministers made headlines here and beyond when he made comments about a current world leader describing him as harassing, bullying, erratic, rude and abusive.

Just like us today, the people in Jesus' time also had their interest in current affair stories and some obviously were in tune with the latest developments in the country as recounted by the evangelist in the Gospel this Sunday. They came to Jesus and told him two pieces of news: the first was about how Pilate massacred some Galileans and mingled their blood with the one from their sacrifices, and the second about 18 victims crushed to death because of the fall of the Siloam tower. These peoples even provided their own interpretation of those deadly incidents which they considered as some sort of divine punishments for those involved.

Jesus, of course, refused to subscribe to such a simplistic viewpoint and he made it very clear those victims were not sinners at all and they died because their time was up, rather than because they had sinned. 'They were not, I tell you,' twice he repeated this message to the crowds.

Instead of focusing on the death toll, Jesus was more interested in the positive response of his listeners to those misfortunes, and encouraged them to think of those incidents as opportunities for others to repent from their sinfulness and return to God. Just like the fig tree, the symbol for each of us he used in the second part of the Gospel, planted in the vineyard but failed to bear any fruit, the owner of the vineyard, the symbol of God, wanted to cut it down, but the gardener, the symbol of Jesus pleaded with him to give it an extra time for more care and fertilization in order to become productive.

This is the message Jesus seems to send to each of us in this Lenten time, that this is the time for us to get ourselves fertilized with God's grace through prayers, works of self-sacrifice, works of charity, and pray that we will grow and bear fruits of goodness and newness of life in Jesus.

Have a grace-filled week,

Fr Henry

## PARISH NEWS...

### CONGRATULATIONS

On behalf of the Parish, I would like to congratulate Hye Han, Darryl Green, Manna Kama, Jacqueline Mai, Rommel Lagare, Jesse and Alexandra Franco for completing the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses they enrolled to do, and thank them for offering their times and skills to serve our Parish.

### OUR LADY OF LOURDES JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

Last Sunday was our first session of our new junior youth group 'The Grotto'. We had 21 youth attend and had fun with games and pizza as well as a discussion about how Jesus knows all of us by name. Details about the next group session will be released soon.

### 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.

### GROUNDS CLOSURE NOTICE FRIDAY 28TH MARCH

Friday 28th March 2025, the school will run a fundraising event for Caritas Australia that will be held on the parish grounds. Please note, the Grantham Road and Olive Street gates will be locked from 12-2pm to ensure the safety of all children. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

### NOEL RICHARDSON FAREWELL WITH ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Noel Richardson is retiring after serving as a St Vincent de Paul volunteer for 59 years! To celebrate this momentous occasion we will be having a dinner at the Toongabbie Sports Club on Monday 31st March at 6:30pm. If you would like to be there to celebrate with Noel please RSVP by Thursday the 27th March by calling or messaging Daniel on 0403 888 303.

### TONGAN MASS

We warmly invite you to join us in a Tongan Mass with Fr. Taliai 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.

### PARISH RETREAT THANK YOU

We would like to thank Fr Kevin Walsh for accepting our invitation to come and bring joy to our recent retreat, and our Parish staff for helping to prepare such a bountiful morning tea and lunch for all retreatants.

### LENTEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday 28<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.

### BISHOP'S GOOD SAMARITAN APPEAL NEXT WEEKEND

The Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal will be next weekend. Your kind donation will help our chaplains at Catholic Care continue their pastoral works.

### SACRAMENTAL PROCESS 2025

A gentle reminder that the Reconciliation Fifth Meeting will be Wednesday the 26th of March at 6.30pm in the Parish Hall, if you miss this, a repeat will follow on the Saturday 29th March at 4.30pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

### PROGAM PASSPORT SIGNING

All children doing the Sacramental Program this year have received a passport to be signed as they attend Sunday Mass. For those who happen to go to Mass somewhere else, please ask the celebrant there to sign the passport.

### PROJECT COMPASSION THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Lam is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Through the I-SHINE program Lam completed a six month course developing his graphic design skills. He now runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income. 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

### Positions Vacant

• Administration Assistant: Holy Spirit Parish, St Clair

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

### Nominations open for the 2025 Papal & Diocesan Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2025 Papal & Diocesan Awards, recognising individuals and groups—both religious and lay—who have made outstanding contributions to the Catholic Church and its community. Do you know someone who deserves to be recognised? Nominations close midnight on 31 May 2025. For information or to submit a nomination, visit [parracatholic.org/contribute/papal-diocesan-awards/](http://parracatholic.org/contribute/papal-diocesan-awards/)

### The FaithFeed: 29 March

Have questions about life & faith? Join with others on the search at The FaithFeed live studio audience - hosted by Baulkham Hills Parish in the Hills Deanery, all are welcome! The FaithFeed will be held on Saturday 29 March. Doors open 7:00PM for a 7:30PM start. The night will feature faith stories, live music, activities and great conversation. RSVP via [parracatholic.org/events-faithfeed](http://parracatholic.org/events-faithfeed)

### 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/)

### Office of Tenebrae: 14 April

All are welcome to attend the annual Office of Tenebrae at St Patrick's Cathedral on Monday 14 April at 7:30pm. The Office of Tenebrae is a HolyWeek reflection liturgy including Scripture, psalm chanting and motets and will feature the Cathedral Choir. As the Diocese and the global Church prepares for Holy Week, the Tenebrae service is a reminder of the eternal light and hope brought into the world through Christ's Resurrection. Catholics are invited to attend the Office of Tenebrae at least once in their life.

## LOLO 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).

### Children and Young People's Participation

A Safeguarding culture for Children and Young People is fostered and sustained at OLOL by our parish community being committed to living the Gospel by serving the most vulnerable. Here at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Seven Hills we implement all Arch/Diocesan policies, procedures and community standards that are Child and Young Person centred to lift barriers so their voices can be heard and their participation valued.

### Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal for Catholic Care's chaplaincy services

This Lent, will you be a pilgrim of hope to people who may break in the face of suffering? Your kind-hearted gift and prayers will help our chaplains at Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains offer pastoral care, comfort and Christian companionship that can bring healing and transformation. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal at [parracatholic.org/appeal](http://parracatholic.org/appeal) or scan this QR code. Thank you.

### 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.



### Global Mission: No age limit!

Ever thought volunteering overseas was beyond you? IT'S NOT. Palms always values our older participants for the wisdom they share in communities! Palms is celebrating Seniors Week with a special [online session](#) showcasing older volunteers' experience from the mission field. Explore our [opportunities](#) and match your life experience to the experience of a lifetime!

**Venue:** Online via Zoom- Scan the QR or register at [palms.org.au/events](http://palms.org.au/events)

**Date:** Thursday 27 March 2025

**Time:** 11 am – 12 pm

**02 9560 5333**

[palms@palms.org.au](mailto:palms@palms.org.au)



### Pilgrimage 2025

Fr. Clifford D'souza is inviting you to join him on a pilgrimage to the saints of Portugal, Spain, France and Italy- Fatima, Avila, Loyola, Lourdes, Nevers, Lisieux, Paris, Padova, Assisi and Rome. 31 August-19 September 2025. For more details pls contact Fr. Clifford on [cliff\\_dsouza03@yahoo.com.au](mailto:cliff_dsouza03@yahoo.com.au) or [atitours@atitours.com.au/](mailto:atitours@atitours.com.au)

### 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 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)

## POPE FRANCIS' CONDITION By Vatican News



*On Wednesday evening, the Holy See Press Office released the following update on Pope Francis' health: "The Holy Father's clinical condition is confirmed to be improving. The Holy Father has suspended non-invasive mechanical ventilation and also has less need of high-flow oxygen therapy. Motor and respiratory physiotherapy is continuing to make progress."*

*"This morning, on the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, the Holy Father concelebrated Mass." The Pope's doctors have said that his lung infections are under control, although not eliminated. The values of his clinical analyses are in the normal range, and the Pope continues to be fever-free.*

*He spent his day receiving treatment, praying, and doing some work. No decision has yet been made regarding who will preside over liturgies during Holy Week.*

*Since the Pope's condition is stable, the next update on his health is expected no earlier than next week. The Holy See Press Office will give some general information to journalists on Friday, and again on Monday.*

*The last update on the Pope's health had come on Monday evening. On that occasion, the Holy See Press Office had said that "the Pope's condition is stable, with slight improvements thanks to respiratory and motor therapy."*

*"He is using high-flow oxygen therapy with nasal cannulas less frequently," the press office added, "and at times he does not require oxygen therapy. At night, he uses non-invasive mechanical ventilation."*

*Pope Francis has been receiving treatment for bilateral pneumonia at Rome's Gemelli hospital since the 14th February.*

**Let us continue to pray for our Holy Father, Pope Francis so that he will get well very soon and return to resume his papal office.**

## POPE FRANCIS' ANGELUS FROM THE HOSPITAL

*Dear brothers and sisters,*

**Text prepared by the Holy Father**

*Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday!*

Today, the second Sunday of Lent, the Gospel tells us about the Transfiguration of Jesus (Lk 9:28-36). Having climbed to the top of a mountain with Peter, James and John, Jesus immerses Himself in prayer and becomes radiant with light. In this way, He shows the disciples what is hidden behind the gestures He performs in their midst: the light of His infinite love.

I am sharing these thoughts with you while I am facing a period of trial, and I join with so many brothers and sisters who are sick: fragile, at this time, like me. Our bodies are weak but, even like this, nothing can prevent us from loving, praying, giving ourselves, being for each other, in faith, shining signs of hope. How much light shines, in this sense, in hospitals and places of care! How much loving care illuminates the rooms, the corridors, the clinics, the places where the humblest services are performed! That is why I would like to invite you, today, to join me in praising the Lord, who never abandons us and who, in times of sorrow, places people beside us who reflect a ray of His love.

I thank you all for your prayers, and I thank those who assist me with such dedication. I know that many children are praying for me; some of them came here today to "Gemelli" as a sign of closeness. Thank you, dearest children! The Pope loves you and is always waiting to meet you.

Let us continue to pray for peace, especially in the countries wounded by war: tormented Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Myanmar, Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

And let us also pray for the Church, required to translate into concrete choices the discernment made in the recent Synodal Assembly. I thank the General Secretariat of the Synod, which over the coming three years will accompany the local Churches in this undertaking.

May the Virgin Mary keep you and help you to be, like Her, bearers of Christ's light and peace.

## THE VOICE OF POPE FRANCIS AND THE MAGISTERIUM OF FRAGILITY By Andrea Tornielli

On the twelfth anniversary of his election to the papacy, our Editorial Director reflects on the magisterium of fragility Pope Francis has shown as he continues to recover in Rome's Gemelli Hospital.

This year, the twelfth anniversary of his pontificate falls at a particular moment for Pope Francis, who has been living in his hospital room on the tenth floor of Gemelli Hospital for almost a month. The news coming from the latest medical bulletins is encouraging, his prognosis is no longer guarded, and hopefully he will be able to return to the Vatican soon. Still, what the Pope is going through at this time undoubtedly makes this anniversary of the beginning of his pontificate very unusual. The same year that has seen Pope Francis' longest intercontinental journey (to Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, and Singapore); the conclusion of the Synod on Synodality; and the opening of the Holy Door that inaugurated the Jubilee, now witnesses this delicate passage. The Successor of St Peter, sick among the sick, suffers and prays for peace, accompanied by the chorus of prayers of so many people around the world. He, who in these twelve years has never concluded a meeting, a catechesis or an Angelus without the words, "Please do not forget to pray for me", today feels the embrace of so many believers and non-believers who care deeply for him.

It is revealing: it is a time to consider the nature of the Church and the mission of the Bishop of Rome, which is so different from that of the general manager of a multinational corporation. Twelve years ago, the then Cardinal Bergoglio addressed the General Congregations, quoting Henri De Lubac's opinion that "the worst evil" the Church can incur is "spiritual worldliness": The danger of a Church that "believes she has light of its own", that counts on her own strength, her own strategies, her own efficiency, and thus ceases to be the "mysterium lunae", that is, no longer reflecting the light of Another, no longer living and acting only by the grace of the One who said: "Without me you can do nothing".

Remembering those words once again, today, we look with affection and hope at the windows of the tenth floor of Gemelli Hospital. We thank Pope Francis for this magisterium of fragility, for that still feeble voice of his that has joined the Rosary in St Peter's Square in recent days—a fragile voice that continues to implore peace and not war, dialogue and not oppression, compassion and not indifference. Happy anniversary, Pope Francis! We still need your voice so much.

Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025. Jesus Christ our hope II. The life of Jesus.

The encounter 1. Nicodemus. “You must be born from above” (Jn 3:7b)

*Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!*

With this catechesis we will begin to contemplate some of the encounters narrated in the Gospels, to understand the way Jesus gives hope. Indeed, they are encounters that enlighten life and bring hope.

It can happen, for example, that someone helps us to see a difficulty or a problem we are experiencing from a different perspective; or it can happen the someone simply gives us a word that makes us feel that we are not alone in the pain we are going through. At times there can even be silent encounters, in which one does not say anything, and yet those moments help us to get back on track.

The first encounter I would like to look at is that of Jesus with Nicodemus, narrated in chapter 3 of the Gospel of John. I will start with this episode because Nicodemus is a man who, with his history, shows that it is possible to emerge from darkness and find the courage to follow Christ.

Nicodemus goes to Jesus at night: it is an unusual time for a meeting. In John’s language, temporal references often have symbolic value: here the night probably refers to what is in the heart of Nicodemus. He is a man who finds himself in the darkness of doubt, in that darkness that we experience when we no longer understand what is happening in our lives and do not see clearly the way forward.

If you are in the dark, of course you seek the light. And John, at the beginning of his Gospel, writes: “The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world” (1:9). Nicodemus therefore seeks Jesus because he has sensed that He can illuminate the darkness of his heart.

However, the Gospel tells us that Nicodemus does not immediately understand what Jesus is saying to him. And so we see that there are many misunderstandings in this dialogue, and also a lot of irony, which is a characteristic of the evangelist John. Nicodemus does not understand what Jesus is telling him because he continues to think with his own logic and categories. He is a man with a well-defined personality; he has a public role, he is one of the leaders of the Jews. But probably something no longer adds up for him. Nicodemus senses that something no longer works in his life. He feels the need to change, but he does not know where to begin. This happens to all of us in some phases of life. If we do not accept to change, if we close ourselves up in inflexibility, in habits or our ways of thinking, we risk dying. Life resides in the capacity to change to find a new way to love.

Indeed, Jesus speaks to Nicodemus of a *new birth*, which is not only possible, but even necessary at certain moments in our journey. To tell the truth, the expression used in the text is already ambivalent in itself, because *anōthen* (ἀνωθεν) can be translated as either “*from above*” or “*again*”. Slowly, Nicodemus will understand that these two meanings go together: if we allow the Holy Spirit to generate new life in us, we will be born again.

We will rediscover that life, which was perhaps fading in us.

I chose to begin with Nicodemus also because he is a man who, with his very life, shows that this change is possible.

Nicodemus is able to do it: in the end he will be among those who go to Pilate to ask for the body of Jesus (cf. Jn 19:39)! Nicodemus has finally *come to the light*, he is reborn, and he no longer needs to stay in the night.

Changes sometimes frighten us. On the one hand they attract us, at times we desire them, but on the other we would prefer to remain in comfort. Therefore the Spirit encourages us to face these fears.

Jesus reminds Nicodemus – who is a teacher in Israel – that even the Israelites were afraid when they were walking in the desert. And they focused so much on their worries that at a certain point those fears took the form of venomous snakes (cf. Nm 21:4-9). In order to be freed, they had to look at the copper serpent that Moses had placed on a pole, that is, they had to look up and stand before the object that represented their fears. Only by looking into the face of that which frightens us can we begin to be set free.

Nicodemus, like all of us, can look at the Crucified One: the One who defeated death, the root of all our fears.

Let us also lift our gaze to the One they pierced, let us also be met by Jesus. In Him we find the hope to face the changes in our lives and be born again.

## 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.

#### MARCH 2025

23	Youth Leaders Meeting	2.00pm
26	5th Meeting—Sacramental Program	6.30pm
28	Stations of the Cross	7.30pm
29	5th Meeting—Sacramental Program RPT	4.30pm
APRIL		
2	First Reconciliation Liturgy	7.00pm

## LOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

### 22/23 March

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am: Ramzee Michael	
Ministers	Vigil: M.Simic, N.Shami 8am: L.Fernandes, F.Paiva 9.30am: F.Kennedy, A.Walker	
Readers	Vigil: N.Do Rosario, R.Saldanha 8am: A.Pushparajan, K. Walker 9.30am: Z.Smith, R.G. Nigli	
Altar Servers	Vigil: A.Monteiro, C.P. Bellamin, 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: M.Glucic, Volunteers	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Fr Henry & Chris Woodward 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary	
Church Cleaning	26 March	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Georgina Basili	

### 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	

# The Kids' Bulletin

Third Sunday of Lent  
March 23rd, 2025

## The Parable of the Fig Tree



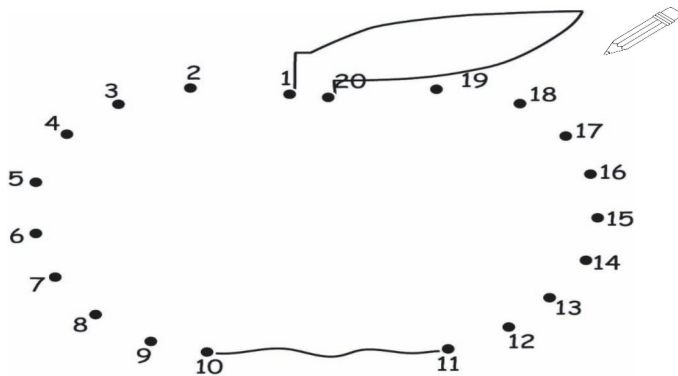
"Sir," the man replied, "leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down." Luke 13:8-9 (NIV)

Choose the word that best matches the definition.

- \_\_\_ 1. A simple story teaching a moral or religious lesson.  
A. fig B. parable C. tree D. fertilize
- \_\_\_ 2. The sweet, pear-shaped, fruit of a plant found in Bible lands.  
A. vineyard B. parable C. fig D. fruit
- \_\_\_ 3. A large plant with a trunk, limbs, branches, and leaves.  
A. parable B. fruit C. tree D. soil
- \_\_\_ 4. The usually sweet-tasting part of a tree which can be eaten.  
A. fruit B. soil C. tree D. fig
- \_\_\_ 5. An area of ground planted with vines and fruit trees.  
A. vineyard B. dig C. fruit D. tree
- \_\_\_ 6. The top layer of the earth's surface favorable to plant growth.  
A. dig B. soil C. fig D. vineyard
- \_\_\_ 7. To spread a something on land or plants to help plants grow.  
A. fruit B. fertilize C. soil D. fig
- \_\_\_ 8. To break up and move dirt using a shovel.  
A. tree B. parable C. dig D. vineyard



What's wrong with this fig tree?  
See what the two men want to do with it by reading what they say in a mirror.



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



YEARS	THREE	LOOK	LEAVE	FRUIT
DOWN	FIND	VINEYARD	MAN	TOLD
PLANTED	USE	SOIL	ALONE	FIG
FERTILIZE	DIG	PARABLE	TREE	CUT