

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

6 April 2025 • Year C



Let us Pray for the Sick

Florence Arinanan, Lorenzo Balabat, Sarah Bartolo, Max Barrett, Lawrence Charles, Ben Dixon, Alma Caguimbal, Para Dias, Mary Camilleri, 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, Debra Price, 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
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, John Doxey, Sandra Eichhorn, Bonosa Enfesta, Henrieta Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Jasmin Fernando, Ethan Garcia, Ricardo Garcia, Jean, Elsie, Karl, Gervais Garrick, Cynthia Lopez, Richard Monreal, Jennifer Morrissey, Leo Ngan, Etelka Petkovics, Eustace Ratnam, Mangala Ratnam, Suranjith Reberra, Caroline Stevenson, Julius Suseno, Rita Xuereb.

Anniversaries: Mary Alagiah, Elvina Barnaba, Horace Baptist, Ronald Barley, Romeo Biniahan, Elaine Bosen, Frank & Fortunata Baiada, Denis Brophy, Rosario Cabasa, Catherine Chandra, Joseph Chary, Audrey & Herman Chillah, Aloysean Corera, Mary Camenzuli, Dulcie & Sammy Duraisamy, Luiga Farugia, Taniela Funaki, John Fernando, Nevis Fernando, M.A Fernando, Anthony Garcia, Francisca Garcia, Teodoro Garcia, Zenaida Garcia, Zoltan Gartner, Christine Gomez, Josephine Gomez, April Marabe, Albert Moroney, Xavier Motha Jnr, Paul Mula, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kuty, Tony Muscat, Cordula Paiva, Adrian Pereira, John Portelli, Estileta Riveral, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Michael Sant, Mary Silva, Rosary Silva, Loreta Laberinto Udan, Melchor Usman, Arsenio Laberinto Udan, Dionisio Udan.

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 & Lancer De Guire, O. Francis, J. Francis, Joseph & Camena 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, 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, Anton & Lourda Motha, Ngan Pin, Louis, Stephen & Joseph Mula, Mary & Francis Muscat, Peter John & Carmelita, Ngan Pin, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose & Maria Reyes, Helen & Bill Tili, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Vinnie Zahra, Robert & Leila Zammit, Mary Zammit.

Funeral Notice

John Doxey
 Our Lady of Lourdes Church
 Friday 11th of April, 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.

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 43:16-21*

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick: No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds. The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. **(R.)**

3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. **(R.)**

2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels
the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. **(R.)**

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippian 3:8-14*

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith.

All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
With all your heart turn to me,
for I am tender and compassionate.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 8:1-11*

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger.

As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

The Gospel of the Lord



Dear friends,

In the flight back to Rome from Brazil in 2013, a journalist asked Pope Francis a question about gender treatment and the Holy Father came up with this answer, 'if someone is gay, and he searches for the Lord and has good will, who am I to judge?' His who-am-I-to-judge response, immediately made headlines around the world, and a lot of people gave credit to the pope for the quote without knowing that it was a passage from the letter of

St James (cf. 4.12) which the pope and anyone who prays the breviary everyday should know, since it is one of the readings there. St James, as we know was surely inspired by the 'don't-judge' advice of Jesus (cf. Mt 7.1; Lk 6.37), and perhaps by the way Jesus responded to the scribes and Pharisees in the Gospel of John this Sunday as they brought to him a woman caught cheating on her husband.

They played the game of innocence by taking the woman before Jesus and telling him what Moses' law instructed them to do in her case, namely a stoning execution, and then asking for Jesus' opinion. 'What have you to say?' they asked him.

These were the nastiest people, as they put Jesus in a deadly dilemma to which he could say neither yes nor no: if he agreed with the law, he contradicted himself with his own teaching of love and forgiveness, and if he chose to stand with his commandment of love, he breached the law.

Instead of giving them a black and white answer as they expected, Jesus decided to do something different by bending down to write on the ground with his finger. Though John told us nothing about what Jesus was writing, we incline to think that he probably wrote down the list of sins committed by accusers of the woman, and this helps explain why they all began to go away one after another. They felt extremely shameful to see their secret sins exposed in public, so they had to run away as quick as they could, and left the woman alone with Jesus. The last words Jesus said to the woman really reflect his 'don't judge' stand that 'neither do I condemn you, go away and don't sin anymore.' In other words, he probably meant to tell her 'I don't judge you, try to be a better person from now.'

Let us pray today for the strength to follow Jesus' footsteps by not judging people around us and showing them our compassion and understanding instead.

Have a lovely week filled with compassion and understanding.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION

Congratulation to 44 children in our parish who made their First Reconciliation recently, and continue the journey to prepare for their First Holy Communion in September.



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.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

A gentle reminder that the next Parish Pastoral Council meeting is on Wednesday night the 9th of April at 7.30pm.

LOURDES OVER 50s GROUP

Our over 50s meeting is next Thursday the 10th of April, 10.30am– 1pm in the Parish Hall. Please bring a plate to share. Look forward to seeing you there.

HOLY COMMUNION HOME VISITS

We are seeking ministers for Holy Communion home visits. If you are available to volunteer some of your time and join our team, please contact Deacon Thong on 0452 210 951 or the parish office.

PROJECT COMPASSION FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

The life-changing work of Caritas Australia is only made possible by the unwavering generosity of our supporters and the dedication of our local partners on the ground. They are true heroes, working tirelessly on the frontlines every day to transform lives and build brighter, more hopeful futures for their communities.

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

Or by calling: 1800 024 413



LENTEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday 11th April at 7.30pm.

SAMARITAN APPEAL THANK YOU

Thank you for your generous support given to the Bishop's Samaritan Appeal last weekend, and if you haven't had the chance to contribute to the appeal last week, you are most welcome to do so this weekend.

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.

APRIL - HOLY WEEK		
13	Palm Sunday	Vigil, 8.00am, 9.30am
15	Parish Reconciliation 2 nd Rite	7.30pm
16	Individual Confession	8.30-9.30am
17	Individual Confession Practice for Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers	8.30-9.30am 3.00pm
	Holy Thursday Mass	7.30pm
18	Good Friday Stations Practice for Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers	10.00am 11.30am
	Celebration of the Lord's Passion	3.00pm
19	Confession Practice for Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers	9.30-10.30am 2.00pm
	Holy Saturday Mass	6.00pm
20	Easter Sunday Masses	8.00am, 9.30am, 5.00pm

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

Facilities Officer: Diocese of Parramatta
More details at: parracatholic.org/about/jobs/

Grace and Truth Event

You are invited to join the Dominican Friars and Sisters on Wednesday, 30 April for an evening of prayer, formation, and fellowship. Open to men and women of all ages. The evening will consist of Eucharistic Adoration, Vespers and Benediction, a light dinner, and talks by Sister Elena Marie and Father James Baxter. The event will run from 5-9PM, starting in the crypt of St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, and moving to the Cathedral Hall. Fee: \$20. For information, contact the Dominican Sisters at sydney@op-tn.org

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



OLOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

Visiting Clergy to OLOL

Visiting clergy to our church this week who assisted with the First Reconciliation, all uphold the standards and processes we here at OLOL and the Diocese of Parramatta have put in place to ensure the safety of our community.

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

Responsibility

The protection of all vulnerable people is not something to be added to the to-do list. All volunteers of the Church have a responsibility to ensure the safeguarding of all peoples. It is everyone's responsibility and it must be embedded into everything that happens in our Church.

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. For enquiries, please contact ofw@parracatholic.org or 0488 000 211.

Saturday with the Sisters – Nun Run: 12 April

Are you discerning your vocation or simply curious about religious life? Join us for *Saturday with the Sisters*, part of the Nun Run series, on Saturday, 12 April, from 9:00 am to 4:00pm at the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, 116-132 Quakers Road, Marayong. Immerse yourself in the life and mission of our congregation through inspiring talks and engaging activities. Visit to one of our sponsored ministries. Enjoy a BBQ lunch, followed by a Holy Hour and Eucharistic Celebration. Come and experience the joy of our community! To RSVP or to find out more, please contact Sr Christine via vocationscsfn@gmail.com

Study of Luke's Gospel with Dr Laurie Woods: Fridays 2–30 May

Join us for an enriching study of Luke's Gospel, led by Dr Laurie Woods and hosted by the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD). Sessions will take place each Friday in May from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. For more information or to RSVP by 30 April, contact ccd.training@parracatholic.org. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

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

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.

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

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

POPE FRANCIS' ANGELUS FROM THE HOSPITAL *Text prepared by the Holy Father*



Dear brothers and sisters, Happy Sunday!

In today's Gospel (Lk 15:1-3, 11-32) Jesus notices that the Pharisees are scandalised and murmur behind His back, instead of being happy because sinners come to Him. So Jesus tells them about a father who has two sons: one leaves home, but then, having been reduced to poverty, he returns and is welcomed with joy. The other, the 'obedient' son, is indignant at his father and does not want to enter the feast. This is how Jesus reveals the heart of God: He is always merciful towards all; he heals our wounds so that we can love each other as brothers.

Dearest friends, let us live this Lent as a time of healing, all the more as it is the Jubilee. I too am experiencing it this way, in my soul and in my body. That is why I give heartfelt thanks to all those who, in the image of the Saviour, are instruments of healing for their neighbour with their word and their knowledge, with kindness and with prayer. Frailty and illness are experiences we all have in common; all the more, however, we are brothers in the salvation Christ has given us.

Trusting in the mercy of God the Father, we continue to pray for peace: in martyred Ukraine, in Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Myanmar, which is also suffering so much because of the earthquake.

I am following the situation in South Sudan with concern. I renew my heartfelt appeal to all leaders to do their utmost to lower the tension in the country. We must put aside our differences and, with courage and responsibility, sit around a table and engage in constructive dialogue. Only in this way will it be possible to alleviate the suffering of the beloved South Sudanese people and to build a future of peace and stability.

And in Sudan, the war continues to claim innocent victims. I urge the parties concerned in the conflict to put the safeguarding of the lives of their civilian brothers and sisters first; and I hope that new negotiations will begin as soon as possible, capable of securing a lasting solution to the crisis. May the international community increase its efforts to address the appalling humanitarian catastrophe.

Thanks be to God, there are also positive events: for example, the ratification of the Agreement on the demarcation of the border between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, which is an excellent diplomatic achievement. I encourage both countries to continue on this path.

May Mary, Mother of Mercy, help the human family to be reconciled in peace.

POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE SECOND SYNODAL ASSEMBLY OF ITALIAN CHURCHES *By Lisa Zengarini*

In a message addressed to participants in the Second Synodal Assembly of Italian Churches, Pope Francis reminds them that the Church is made by the people of God who walk together, and that Christian joy does not come from easy solutions to problems but from the certainty that the Lord never abandons us.

"Christian joy is never exclusive, but always inclusive—it is for everyone." Pope Francis offered that reminder in a message he addressed on Tuesday to participants in the Second Synodal Assembly of the Churches in Italy, gathered in the Vatican from March 31 to April 3.

Four years of listening and discernment

The session marks the final "prophetic" phase of the Italian Church's Synodal Path launched in 2021 to redefine its mission in Italy in a spirit of shared responsibility and discernment, reflecting Pope Francis' vision of a synodal Church.

The theme of joy is at the heart of the discussions in which over one thousand bishops, and diocesan delegates from across Italy, will vote the Propositions presenting ideas and proposals that have emerged during these four years of listening and discernment.

Christian joy is trusting in God in every situation of life

Reflecting on the title of the Propositions "So that joy may be full", the message recalls that true joy "is not mere happiness, it does not arise from easy solutions to problems, it does not avoid the cross, but it springs from the certainty that the Lord never abandons us."

He assures his audience that he has personally experienced this closeness of God during his hospitalization and now in this time of recovery.

"Christian joy is trusting in God in every situation of life," the Pope writes "It is fulfilled in the folds of daily life and in sharing: it is a joy with wide horizons, which accompanies a welcoming attitude."

Walking together guided by the Holy Spirit

As they prepare to vote on the Propositions, which are "crucial for the future of the Churches in Italy", Pope Francis therefore invites participants to let themselves be "guided by the creative harmony generated by the Holy Spirit", reminding them that "The Church is not made up of majorities or minorities, but of the holy faithful people of God, who walk through history illuminated by the Word and the Spirit."

Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025. Jesus Christ our Hope. II. The life of Jesus. The encounters 3. Zacchaeus. "Today I must stay at your house!" (Lk 19:5)

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we will continue to contemplate Jesus' encounters with some figures from the Gospel. This time, I would like to focus on Zacchaeus: an episode that is particularly close to my heart, because it has a special place in my spiritual journey.

The Gospel of Luke presents Zacchaeus to us and one who seems irredeemably lost. Perhaps we too feel this way at times: without hope. Instead, Zacchaeus will discover that the Lord was already looking for him.

In fact, Jesus came to Jericho, a city located below sea level, considered to be an image of the underworld, where Jesus wants to go in search of those who feel they are lost. And in reality, the Risen Lord continues to descend into today's underworlds, in places of war, in the suffering of the innocent, in the heart of mothers who see their children die, in the hunger of the poor.

Zacchaeus, in a certain sense, is lost; perhaps he has made the wrong decisions or perhaps his life has put him in situations from which he struggles to get out. Indeed, Luke insists on describing the characteristics of this man: not only is he a publican, a person who collects taxes from his fellow citizens for the Roman invaders, but he is the chief of publicans, no less, as if to say that his sin is multiplied.

Luke then adds that Zacchaeus is rich, suggesting that he has grown rich on the backs of others, abusing his position. But all this has consequences: Zacchaeus probably feels excluded, despised by everyone.

When he comes to know that Jesus is passing through the city, Zacchaeus feels the desire to see Him. He does not dare to imagine a meeting; it would be enough to watch him from a distance. However, our desires encounter obstacles and are not automatically fulfilled: Zacchaeus is short! It is our reality: we have limitations that we have to deal with. And then there are others, who sometimes do not help us: the crowd prevents Zacchaeus from seeing Jesus. Perhaps it is something of a revenge on their part.

But when you have a strong desire, you do not lose heart. You find a solution. However, you need to be courageous and unashamed; you need a little of the simplicity of children and not to worry about your own image. Zacchaeus, just like a child, climbs a tree. It should be a good vantage point, especially in order to watch without being seen, hiding behind the branches.

But with the Lord, the unexpected always happens. Jesus, when He comes close, raises His eyes. Zacchaeus feels he has been discovered, and probably expects a public rebuke. The people may have hoped for it, but they are disappointed: Jesus asks Zacchaeus to come down immediately, almost surprised to see him in the tree, and says to him, "Today I must stay at your house!" (Lk 19:5). God does not pass by without looking for those who are lost.

Luke highlights the joy in Zacchaeus' heart. It is the joy of one who feels that he has been seen, acknowledged, and above all forgiven. Jesus' gaze is not one of reproach, but of mercy. It is that mercy we sometimes struggle to accept, especially when God forgives those who, in our opinion, do not deserve it. We grumble because we would like to impose limits on God's love.

In the scene at home, Zacchaeus, after listening to Jesus' words of forgiveness, stands up, as if he were arising from a condition of death. And he gets up to make a commitment: to return four times what he has stolen. It is not a price to be paid, because God's forgiveness is free, but rather the desire to imitate the One by whom he felt loved. Zacchaeus makes a commitment to which he was not bound, but he does so because he understands that this is his way of loving. And he does so by combining the Roman legislation regarding theft and the Rabbinic law on penance. Zacchaeus, then, is not only the man of desire; he is also one who knows how to take practical steps. His purpose is not generic or abstract, but stems precisely from his history: he looked at his life and identified the point from which to begin his transformation.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us learn from Zacchaeus not to lose hope, even when we feel we have been cast aside or are incapable of change. Let us nurture our desire to see Jesus, and above all let us allow ourselves to be found by the mercy of God, who always comes in search of us, in whatever situation we may be lost.

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 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 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.

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

	APRIL 2025	
8	Confirmation 2025 information meeting	6.30pm
9	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	7.30pm
10	Lourdes Over 50's Meeting	10.30am
11	Last Day School Term 1	
13	Palm Sunday	

LOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

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: Leaonardo, 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	

12/13 April

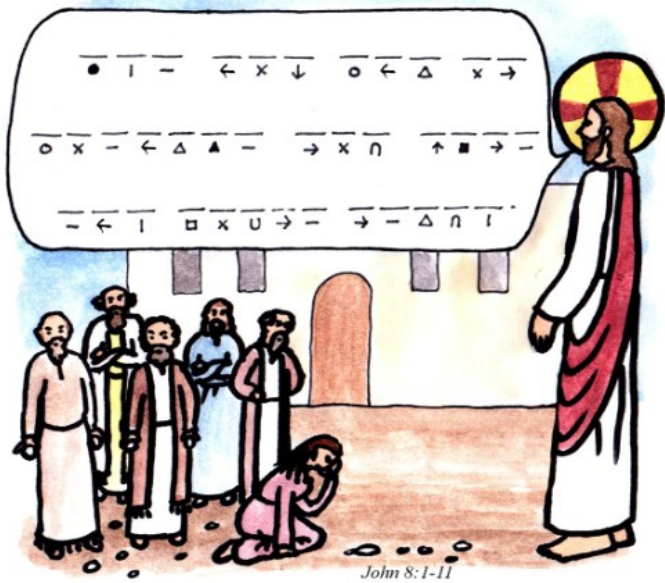
Acolytes	Vigil: Darryl Green 8am: Ernie Gartner 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: J. Franco, T. Perak 8am: E. Gartner, M. Santos 9.30am: A. Walker, B. Chandler	
Readers	Vigil: M. Simic, A. Franco 8am: K. Walker, F. Kennedy 9.30am: R. Nigli, N. Aramubulo	
Altar Servers	Vigil: E. Reardon, M. Gluvic, C. Bellamin 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: Volunteers	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Young Adults Group	
Musicians	Vigil: OFS (Bernadette) 8am: Fr Henry 9.30am: Tongan Choir	
Flowers	Claudette & Siani	
Church Cleaning	17 April	Cathy Hutchings Annette Peatman Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Georgina Basili	

The Kids' Bulletin

Fifth Sunday of Lent
April 6th, 2025

Pointing Fingers & Throwing Stones

When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." John 8:7 (NIV)
The puzzle is based on John 8:1-11



John 8:1-11

In today's Gospel, the Pharisees ask Jesus whether they should obey their law and stone a woman who was a sinner. What did Jesus say to them? Use the code to find out!

■ ↑ | □ ← x • ↓ n △ U → - ▲ ○
A C E F H I L M N O R S T U W

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

JESUS	MORNING	ACCUSE	THROW	WOMAN
TAUGHT	ADULTERY	FIRST	SIN	TEMPLE
STONE	CONDEMN	TEACHERS	CROWD	LAW

accuse
temple

Find the differences between the images below.



Q	V	P	J	F	G	S	R	W	E	D	T	A	O	X	U	Z	Y	B	I	H	C	L	M	N	K
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 12-10-24-3-23-10 _____
- 9-14-24-13-25 _____
- 13-22-22-16-7-10-11 _____
- 12-21-8-14-9 _____
- 5-20-8-7-12 _____
- 7-12-14-25-10 _____
- 7-20-25 _____
- 13-11-16-23-12-10-8-18 _____

TEMPLE	WOMAN	THROW	STONE
ACCUSED	ADULTERY	SIN	FIRST