

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/>

PALM SUNDAY 13 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, John Crowther, 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 Tiplado, 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, Muriel Chary, Albert Cheng, 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, Matilda Mifsud, Richard Monreal, Jennifer Morrissey, Leo Ngan, Etelka Petkovic, Eustace Ratnam, Mangala Ratnam, Suranjith Reberra, Caroline Stevenson, Julius Suseno, Rita Xuereb.

Anniversaries: Mary Alagiah, Listte & Joe Aristobil, Elvina Barnaba, Horace Baptist, Ronald Barley, Romeo Biniah, Elaine Bosen, Frank & Fortunata Baiada, Denis Brophy, Rosario Cabasa, Catherine Chandra, Joseph Chary, Audrey & Herman Chillah, Aloysean Corera, Mary Camenzuli, Dulcie & Sammy Duraisamy, Luiga Farrugia, Taniela Funaki, John Fernando, Nevis Fernando, MA Fernando, Martha Galea, 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 Kutty, Tony Muscat, Cordula Paiva, Adrian Pereira, John Portelli, Jose & Maria Reyes, Estileta Rival, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Michael Sant, Mary Silva, Rosary Silva, Loreta Laberinto Udán, Melchor Usman, Arsenio Laberinto Udán, Dionisio Udán.

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, Bede Diab, Debe Diab, Marcel Diab, Mohsen Diab, Peter Diab, Toufic Diab, Tania McGove, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Lancer De Guire, O. Francis, J. Francis, Joseph & Camena Fomosa, 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, Paul Garland, Constance Gaycroft, Selvam Irudayaraj, Jonathan Tek Kie, Harold, Marc, Rosine Lafleur, Sheena Landagan, A. Mansoor, Apolinario & Felina Maglaya, John & Maureen Mead, Pauline Meilak, Cole Ngan, Mangion & Cini Family, William & Emilia Mifsud, Joseph & Doris Mifsud, Mary Mifsud, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Anton & Lourda Motha, Louis, Stephen & Joseph Mula, Mary & Francis Muscat, Peter John & Carmelita, Ngan Pin, John & Eamon O'Sullivan, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose & Maria Reyes, Helen & Bill Tili, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Vinnie Zahra, Robert & Leila Zammit, Mary Zammit, Holy Souls in Purgatory.

***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.

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 50:4-7*

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**(R) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

1. All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend. **(R.)**
 2. Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.
I can count every one of my bones. **(R.)**
 3. They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me! **(R.)**
 4. I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.' **(R.)**
-

SECOND READING *A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Philippians 2:6-11*

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.

But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

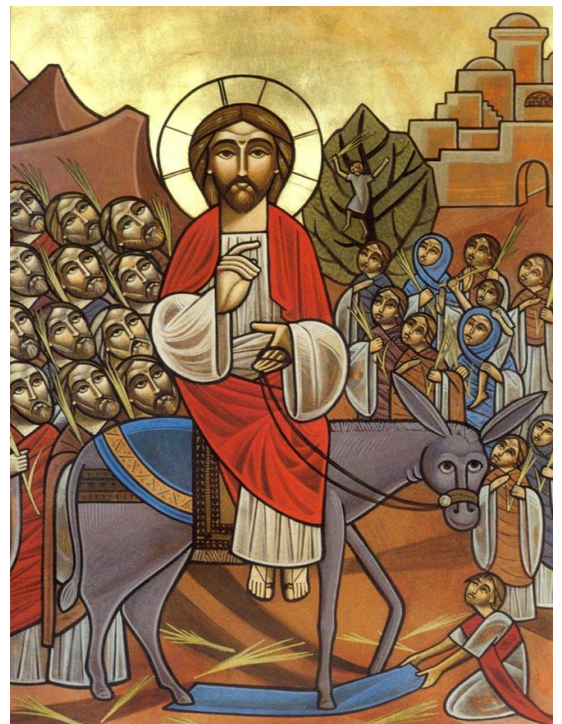
The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
Christ became obedient for us even to death,
dying on the cross.
Therefore God raised him on high
and gave him a name above all other names.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Luke 22:14-23:56



FROM FR. HENRY



Dear friends,

As we celebrate Palm Sunday each year, the name of a Hispano-Roman Christian woman called Egeria, or Etheria, or even Aetheria often came up to keep us informed of what took place in the Holy Land in the fourth century regarding the celebrations of Holy Week and Easter in the earliest days of the Church.

Thanks to Egeria's travel diary entitled Travels of Egeria, we know that the Holy Week in Jerusalem began with the Palm Sunday celebration in which a passage of the Gospel was read followed by a procession from the top of the Mount of Olives down through the entire city. All participants including toddlers, carried on their parents' shoulders, held in their hands olive branches and palms. They joined the bishop and distinguished guests in the procession and kept on responding 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord' to the hymns and antiphons.

Originally in Rome, the Passion Sunday was celebrated and the highlights of the liturgy were the reading of the Passion story according to Matthew and the giving of the Creed to the catechumens. It wasn't until the ninth century that the Jerusalem-like procession with palms was introduced to the Roman Church, perhaps due to the influence of pilgrims such as Egeria for instance.

Just like what happened in Jerusalem thousands of years ago, we, prior to the Palm Sunday procession have the opportunity to listen to the Gospel account according to Luke recounting the story about how Jesus prepared for his solemn entry into Jerusalem on a colt and how the crowds widely welcomed him into the city by spreading their garments on the road and singing praise to him as 'the King who comes in the name of the Lord,' and in the accounts of Matthew and Mark, the two evangelists also depict the scene of people cutting and spreading branches from the trees on Jesus' road as well.

As the procession comes to an end, the mood of the Palm Sunday Mass begins to shift to a rather sombre and reflective atmosphere as the first two readings give us a foretaste of what the Passion story aims to do which is to take us through the last moments in Jesus' life on earth starting from the Last Supper and ending with his burial in the tomb.

Let us pray that our reflections on Jesus' Passion, death, participations in the Eucharist today and other liturgies throughout the Holy Week help us better appreciate such enormous sacrifices Jesus endured for the sake of saving us from sins, and shall renew and transform our lives to become stronger and better disciples of the Lord in the world today

Have a grace-filled Holy Week,
Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

WHY DO WE COVER THE STATUES IN THE CHURCH DURING LENT?

Because we continue a tradition known as "veiling" or "shrouding" marking the beginning of the last two weeks of Lent starting from the Fifth Sunday of Lent till the Easter Vigil, also known as "Passion Week" or "Passiontide," which focuses on the Passion of Christ. The veiling is a symbolic act of humility and a way to heighten the focus on Christ's suffering and death, preparing the faithful for the celebration of Easter. The tradition of veiling is rooted in the Gospel readings of Passion Sunday, which formerly included John 8:46-59, where Jesus hides himself from the crowd who wanted to stone him.

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.

PROJECT COMPASSION BOX

Thank you for supporting our Caritas Project Compassion for 2025. It would be appreciated if you could return your Project Compassion boxes as soon as possible.

CATHOLIC OUTLOOK MAGAZINE

Your free copy of the Catholic Outlook 'Easter edition' is now available in the Church.

LOURDES PLAYGROUP

Playgroup has now ended for term 1. Wishing all families a Happy & Safe Easter. We look forward to seeing you when it resumes for term 2 on the 2nd of May.

CHRIST CATHOLIC COMMUNITY PRAYER GROUP

Please note that Christ Catholic Community Prayer Group will meet next Wednesday 16th of April at 9am, instead of Thursday due to Holy Week.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FR. HENRY

May Our Lady of Lourdes fill your heart with blessings and joy. 10th April.



PARISH LENTEN RECONCILIATION

Please arrange your time to attend our Parish Second Rite of Reconciliation with the help of our visiting priests on Tuesday 15th April at 7.30pm.

HOLY THURSDAY MORNING MASS

There will be no 9am Morning Mass on Holy Thursday, it will be at 7.30pm for Mass of the Last Supper. Tuesday and Wednesday morning Masses will remain the same at 8am.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR GOOD FRIDAY NIGHT WALK 20TH OF APRIL 10:30PM

Welcomers, candle bearers, singers, Stations of the Cross re-enactment and musicians are required for our pitstop for the Catholic Youth Parramatta's Annual Good Friday Night Walk. Volunteers please come to the church at 10:30PM as approximately 800 pilgrims will come around 11:30PM. Please contact either Diana Park on 0452 008 982 or Ian Epondulan 0401 161 264 or email youtholol7h@gmail.com.

APRIL - HOLY WEEK		
15	Parish Reconciliation 2 nd Rite	7.30pm
16	Individual Confession	8.30-9.30am
17	Individual Confession <i>Practice for Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers</i>	8.30-9.30am 3.00pm
	Holy Thursday Mass	7.30pm
	Night of Prayer Adoration	11.00pm
18	Good Friday Stations <i>Practice for Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers</i>	10.00am 11.30am
	Celebration of the Lord's Passion	3.00pm
19	Confession <i>Practice for Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers</i>	9.30-10.30am 2.00pm
	Easter Vigil	6.00pm
20	Easter Sunday Masses	8.00am, 9.30am, 5.00pm

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

- Facilities Coordinator – Diocese of Parramatta

Applications close 14 April

- Property Lawyer – Diocese of Parramatta

Applications close 14 April

- Administration Assistant – Holy Spirit Parish, St Clair

Applications close 18 April

- Communications Lead – Diocesan Pastoral Plan

More details at: parracatholic.org/about/jobs/

Australian Catholic Historical Society: 27 April

The next event of the Australian Catholic Historical Society will take place at 2:00 PM on Sunday, 27 April, in the crypt of Saint Patrick's, Church Hill. The presenter will be James Franklin, speaking on: *The Eighteenth Century: Low Point of the Church*. All are welcome. Admission is free. For the full programme and additional resources on Church history, please visit: australiancatholichistoricalsociety.com.au/

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

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 at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW – a stunning & tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney. Book online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wwme.org.au

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.

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

Photography

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

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>.

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

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.

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

OLOL Vulnerable People's Participation

We are a Catholic community that champions the practice of supporting & engaging, listening and communicating with those who are most vulnerable such as children and young people. This in return encourages their participation.



Dear brothers and sisters,

The Gospel of this fifth Sunday of Lent presents to us the episode of the woman caught in adultery (*Jn 8:1-11*). While the scribes and the pharisees want to stone her, Jesus restores the lost beauty to this woman. She has fallen in the dust; Jesus passes his finger on this dust and writes a new story for her. It is the “finger of God”, who saves His children (cf. *Ex 8:15*) and frees them from evil (cf. *Lk 11:20*).

Dear friends, as during my hospitalization, even now in my convalescence I feel the “finger of God” and experience His caring touch. On the day of the Jubilee of the sick and the world of healthcare, I ask the Lord that this touch of His love may reach those who suffer and encourage those who care for them. And I pray for doctors, nurses and health workers, who are not always helped to work in adequate conditions and are sometimes even victims of aggression. Their mission is not easy and must be supported and respected. I hope that the necessary resources will be invested in treatment and research, so that health systems are inclusive and attentive to the most fragile and the poorest.

I thank the inmates of Rebibbia women’s prison for the note they have sent to me. I pray for them and for their families. On International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, I hope that sport may be a sign of hope for so many people who need peace and social inclusion, and I thank the sporting associations that educate in fraternity in practical way.

Let us continue to pray for peace: in tormented Ukraine, stricken by attacks that are claiming many civilian victims, including a lot of children. And the same is happening in Gaza, where people are reduced to living in unimaginable conditions, without shelter, without food, without clean water. May the weapons be silenced and dialogue resumed; may all the hostages be freed and aid brought to the population. Let us pray for peace throughout the Middle East; in Sudan and South Sudan; in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; in Myanmar, hard hit by the earthquake; and in Haiti, where violence rages, and two religious sisters were killed a few days ago. May the Virgin Mary protect us and intercede for us.

POPE FRANCIS: ‘THE SICKBED CAN BECOME A HOLY PLACE’ *By Francesca Merlo*

In his homily for the Jubilee of the Sick and Healthcare Workers, taking place on the 5th and 6th of April, Pope Francis drew inspiration from the prophet Isaiah.

In his sermon, which was read aloud by Archbishop Rino Fisichella, Pope Francis invited the faithful to contemplate the situation of the Israelites in exile: “it seemed that all was lost”, the Pope said. However, he continued, it was precisely in their moment of trial that a new nation was bring born.

Pope Francis compared this experience to the woman in the day’s Gospel reading, who had been condemned and ostracized for her sins. Her accusers, ready to cast the first stone, were halted by the quiet authority of Jesus who told her “Go your way. You are free. You are saved”.

In comparing the stories, Pope Francis says that God does not wait for our lives to be perfect before he intervenes in them. Rather, said the Pope, “He enters into our wounds. He knocks at our door, not despite our suffering, but because of it”.

Illness and care

Turning then to those who are ill and to all those who assist them, the Pope acknowledged the deep suffering that illnesses can bring. “It can make us feel like the people in exile... or like the woman in the Gospel,” he said. But, he continued, it can also be a place of encounter, a “school” in which we learn to love and be loved with humility and grace.

Pope Francis then reflected on his own illness, and consequent dependence on others, describing it not as a burden but as a lesson in trust, gratitude and hope.

“Let us not push back”, he said, adding: “Let us allow ourselves to be loved”.

Pope Francis then turned to the healthcare professionals, thanking them for their work and encouraging them to receive every patient as an opportunity to renew their sense of humanity. “The sickbed can become a holy place,” he said, “where charity burns away indifference and gratitude nourishes hope.”

Call to compassion

Bringing his address to a close, Pope Francis recalled the words of his predecessor Pope Benedict XVI, who reminded the Church that “the true measure of humanity is determined in relation to suffering”. A society that turns its back on the weak, he warned, becomes cruel and inhuman.

Finally, Pope Francis urged all those present to resist the temptation to marginalise and forget those who are elderly, ill, or weighed down by the hardships of life. “Let us not banish suffering from our surroundings,” he said. “Let us not exclude those who are frail.” Instead, we must allow God’s love - poured into our hearts - to transform even suffering into a space of communion and growth.

Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025. Jesus Christ our Hope. II. The life of Jesus. The encounters 4. *The rich man. Jesus looked at him (Mk 10:21)*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we will look at another of Jesus' encounters, narrated by the Gospels. This time, however, the person encountered does not have a name. The evangelist Mark presents him simply as "*a man*" (10:17). He is a man who has observed the commandments ever since his youth but who, despite this, has not yet found the meaning of his life. He is searching for it. Perhaps he is one who has not yet truly made up his mind, despite his appearance as a committed person. Indeed, beyond the things we do, our sacrifices and successes, what truly counts in order to be happy is what we carry in our heart. If a ship has to set sail and leave the port to navigate in the open sea, it can be a wonderful ship, with an exceptional crew, but if it does not pull up the ballast and the anchors that hold it down, it will never manage to depart. This man has made himself a luxurious ship, but he has stayed in the port!

As Jesus makes His way through the street, this fellow runs up to Him, kneels before Him and asks: "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" (v. 17). Notice the verbs: "*what must I do to have eternal life*".

Since observance of the Law did not give him the happiness and security of being saved, he turns to the Master Jesus. What is striking is that this man does not know the vocabulary of gratuitousness! Everything seems to be owed. Everything is a duty. Eternal life is for him an inheritance, something that is obtained by right, through meticulous observance of commitments. But in a life lived in this way, although certainly for good purpose, what space can love have?

As always, Jesus goes beyond appearances. While on the one hand this man sets out before Jesus his fine resume, Jesus goes beyond and looks within. The verb that Mark uses is very significant: "*looking at him*" (v. 21). Precisely because Jesus looks within each one of us, He loves us as we truly are. Indeed, what will He have seen inside this person? What does Jesus see when He looks within every one of us and loves us, despite our distractions and our sins? He sees our fragility, but also our desire to be loved as we are.

Looking at him, says the Gospel, He "*loved him*" (v. 21). Jesus loves this man before He even extended the invitation to follow Him. He loves him just as he is. Jesus' love is gratuitous: exactly the opposite of the logic of merit that has beset this person. We are truly happy when we realize we are loved in this way, freely, by grace. And this also applies to the relationships between us: as long as we try to buy love or beg for affection, those relationships will never make us feel happy.

The proposal Jesus makes to this man is to change his way of living and relating with God. Indeed, Jesus recognizes that inside him, as in all of us, something is lacking. It is the desire we carry in our heart to be loved. There is a wound that belongs to us as human beings, the wound through which love passes. To overcome this lack we do not need to "buy" recognition, affection, consideration: instead, we need to "sell off" everything that weighs us down, to make our hearts freer. There is no need to continue to take for ourselves, but rather to give to the poor, to provide, to share.

Finally, Jesus invites this man not to stay alone. He invites him to follow Him, to be within a bond, to live a relationship. Indeed, only in this way will it be possible to emerge from his anonymity. We can hear our name only within a relationship, in which someone calls us. If we remain alone, we will never hear our name spoken, and will continue to be that "*man*", anonymous. Perhaps today, precisely because we live in a culture of self-sufficiency and individualism, we find ourselves more unhappy because we no longer hear our name spoken by someone who loves us freely.

This man does not accept Jesus' invitation and stays alone, because the ballast of his life keeps him in the port. His sadness is the sign that he has not managed to leave. At times, what we think are riches are instead only burdens that are holding us back. The hope is that this person, like each one of us, will sooner or later change and decide to set sail.

Sisters and brothers, let us entrust to the Heart of Jesus all people who are sad and undecided, so that they may feel the loving gaze of the Lord, who is moved by looking tenderly within us.

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 8th May 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 May. 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.

HOLY THURSDAY & GOOD FRIDAY

Acolytes	Holy Thursday: Ramzee Michael, Jerome Irudayaraj Good Friday: Louis Fernandes, Faylene Kennedy Sandy Manamperi, Darryl Green
Ministers	Holy Thursday: M.Michael, J.Franco Good Friday: L.Fernandes, M.Aquino
Readers	Holy Thursday: Lorraine Ridney, Edward Vinoth Pieris Good Friday: Yxavel Dino, Jacqueline Mai, Kathy Walker, Jemma Sarmiento
Altar Servers	Holy Thursday: A.Monteiro, A.La Guidara, C.La Guidara Good Friday: A. Monterio, A.La Guidara, C.La Guidara

PRACTICE for Altar Servers and Acolytes rostered on the masses below.
Holy Thursday 17th April at 3pm / **Good Friday** 18th April at 11.30am-12.30pm
Holy Saturday 19th April 2pm-3pm. **You must attend to serve**

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

12/13 April

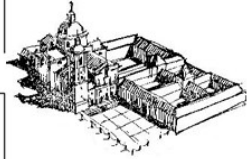
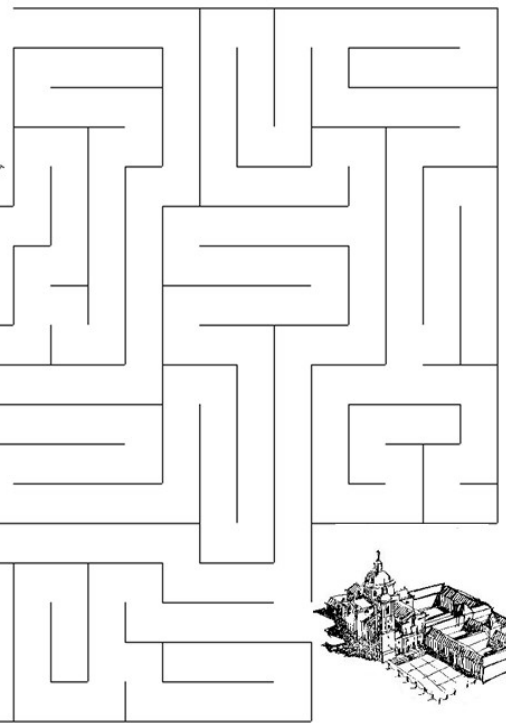
Acolytes	Vigil: Darryl Green 8am: Ernie Gartner 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: J. Franco, T. Perak 8am: E. Gartner, M. Santos 9.30am: A. Walker, B. Chandler	
Readers	Vigil: M. Simic, A. Franco 8am: K. Walker, F. Kennedy 9.30am: R. Nigli, N. Aramubulo	
Altar Servers	Vigil: E. Reardon, M. Gluvic, C. Bellamin 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: K.Cassaniti, L.Sadipoor, J.Pieris, M.Pieris	
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	

19/20 April

Acolytes	Vigil: Easter Roster 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: Easter Roster 8am: L. Fernandes, F. Paiva 9.30am: P. Gow, C. Brooks	
Readers	Vigil: Easter Roster 8am: Benno Motha, J. Cabasa 9.30am: Kamela Huihui, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Easter Roster 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: Volunteers	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: Christine Clarke 8am: Fr Henry 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	23 April	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Easter Roster 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Volunteer	

The Kids' Bulletin

Easter Sunday
April 20th, 2025



John 20:1-18



What are we celebrating on Easter?
Unscramble the letters
to fill in the blanks!

Alleluia!



DOYNKE

6					

TLOC

2		

STUOH

3		1		

ADAEH

4		7			

KNIG

5			

The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted "_____ to the Son of David!" Matthew 21:9a (NIV)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7

The Triumphal Entry

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" Luke 19:38 (NIV)



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

BLESSED	MIRACLES	HIGHEST	HEAVEN	CROWD
SPREAD	GLORY	PRAISE	VILLAGE	PEOPLE
DISCIPLES	CLOAKS	VOICES	LORD	PEACE
NAME	ROAD	JESUS	HILL	COLT