

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: 17 September 2025
Baptism: 24 August 2025
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall
Youth Co-Ordinator: Diana Park
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.org.au
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 17 August 2025 • Year C



Let us Pray for the Sick

Florence Arinanan, Lorenzo Balabat, Sarah Bartolo, Max Barrett, Irene Cabasa, Esperanza M. Camat, Hoa Chau, Lawrence Charles, James Debattista, Ben Dixon, Alma Caguimbal, Para Dias, Mary Camilleri, John Crowther, Lucia Fernando, Renuka Fernando, Tracy Galea, Philippe Honore, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Anthony Janicska, Tristen Jantzen, Odette James, Mary Jordan, Klare Kinsley, Paul Leong, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Gary Morrissey, Maricar Poblete, Tessie Portelli, Veronica Portelli, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Luzviminda Camat Robles, Chandra Sampantham, Arabella Steele, Caroline Stevenson, 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: Rodney Bell, William Rebecca Bermudo, Kevin Dougherty, Caridad Eco, Frances Flannery, Eric Fernando, Clara Galucci, Elaine Mooney, Franjeevan Gnanaratnam, Lorraine Muscat, Crispin Nuneza, Anula Rupesinghe, Cecilia Thomas, Sheadon Trek.

Anniversaries: Mary Alagiah, France Angseesing, Cecil Beed, Giovanni Barnaba, Frank & Victor Baiada, Ronald Barley, Romeo Binihan, Nazarene (Ronnie) Borg, Sam Borg, Elaine Bosen, Denis Brophy, Joseph & Carmeva, Ceferino & Rosario Cabasa, Rose Camenzuli, Joseph & Terry Caruana, Catherine Chandra, Murial Chary, Paul & Simone Commarmond, Aloysean Corera, David Quan Dang, Silvia Debattista, Conchita Deloso, Fr. Loiseau, Alexander Farrugia, Joan Falzon, John Fernando, M.A Fernando, Sam Formosa, Emmanuel Francis, Anthony, Francisca & Zenaida Garcia, Christine & Josephine Gomez, S.M John, Muriel Jordan, Michael Kolosa, Fr. Loiseau, Laurence Morrissey, Mary Muscat, April Marabe, Pietro Marra, Maria Xavier Motha Jnr, Paul Mula, Albert & Joseph Mula, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kuffy, Tony Muscat, Cordula Paiva, Adrian Perera, Lakshman Perera, Laureano Reyes, Rosita Riveral, Cornelio & Illuminada Rondario, Natalie Spiteri, Mary Silva, Rosary Silva, Eddie Tabone, Melchor Usman, Dionisio Udan. Deceased members of the Falzon & Muscat families.

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Gregorio Almodovar, Frank & Fortunata Baiada, Peter & Helen Bonnici, Josephine Borg, Bridgette Cash, Barrie Chamberlain, Renato & Marlyn Cabasa, Fe & Elenito Carmen, Dennis Clarke, Johnny Edwards, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Launcer De Guire, Ngan Siu Eng, Ron & Joy Fenech, John & Helen Fenech, O. Francis, J. Francis, Joseph & Carmena Formosa, Melvyn Fernandes, Nevis Fernando, 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 Lafluer, Apolinario & Felina Maglaya, Sophia Zonna Matua, Tania McGove, John & Maureen Mead, Pauline Meilak, Alfred Micalleff, Leo Ngan, 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, Colleen O'Sullivan, Con Pelegrini, Lakshman Perera, Ngan Pin, Eustace Ratnam, John & Roseline Ratnam, Mary Silva, Cua Sing, George & Bridgette Sammut, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella, Bibiano & Priscila Villanueva, Vinnie Zahra, Robert & Leila Zammit, Mary Zammit.

****Names will be published for 4 weeks at a time.****

Our Lady of Lourdes

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



Amen.

REGULAR COLLECTIONS - First and Second

FIRST COLLECTION is for the support of Priests throughout the Diocese.

ON-LINE BANK DONATIONS

Account name: Parramatta Diocesan Clergy
BSB: 067 950
ACC: 00 00 4265
Reference: Seven Hills - 6035

SECOND COLLECTION or Planned Giving Program

On behalf of the Parish Community, I would like to thank you very much for your ongoing support, which has been absolutely vital in keeping our Parish going strong. Projects completed include the Hall Kitchen renovation, Parish Meeting room painting, Parish Office and Meeting Room Roof painted, Church roof cleaned and ceiling repaired and painted.

ON-LINE BANK DONATIONS

Account Name: Seven Hills Catholic Church.

BSB: 067 950
ACC: 000552
Reference: (Your **Planned Giving envelope number** or for a one off donation, 'DONATION')

IN-PERSON BANK DEPOSIT (at a Bank Inst / Branch)

Account Name: Seven Hills Catholic Church
BSB: 062 315
ACC ID # 00901486
AGENT # 660

SMART DEVICE TERMINALS

All donations made via these new machines are shared 50/50 with our Diocese.

THE PILGRIM STATUE OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

The Statue of Virgin Mary is available for home visitation and will reside with you for a week, being Sunday to Saturday. If you are wishing to participate, please leave your name and address with the Parish Office or contact Maryse Angseesing on 0467 701 010.

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Jeremiah 38:4-6. 8-10*

The king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank.

Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he said, 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**(R) Lord, come to my aid!**

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry. **(R.)**

3. He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.
Many shall see and fear
and shall trust in the Lord. **(R.)**

2. He drew me from the deadly pit,
from the miry clay.
He set my feet upon a rock
and made my footsteps firm. **(R.)**

4. As for me, wretched and poor,
the Lord thinks of me.
You are my rescuer, my help,
O God, do not delay! **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 12:1-4*

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started.

Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shameful of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 12:49-53*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

Our Christian brothers and sisters in the Early Church, as we know, had to go through the toughest time to keep their faith in Jesus alive, for they were targets of the Roman persecution for many years and it could be too much for some to recount in detail all the sufferings both physical and mental they endured for the sake of Jesus. Though it is not as bad as it used to be in the Early Church, Christians living in certain parts of the globe today are still put under a lot of pressure by their own governments and fellow country men and women due to their faith.

This thought, somehow helps us unpack the message Jesus probably meant to tell us in the Gospel this Sunday as he said, 'I have come to bring fire to the earth.' The fire element mentioned in this statement tends to be a metaphor to convey a message more than anything else, for fire was often used in the Bible as a symbol of purification, also transformation and judgment, therefore Jesus here aimed to encourage the disciples to make the decision to commit themselves to him and to his Good News, the decision that will transform their lives on the one hand, and then on the other hand that could have made their lives much harder, because they might even have to pay for it with their own life.

Interestingly, fire also appears to remind us of the Holy Spirit Jesus promised to send upon us as our Advocate, our Paraclete and Comforter, whose gifts will give us strength to keep us firm and faithful in our Christian calling.

Furthermore, the decision to follow Jesus might also bring repercussions in people's family life as well. For instance, husbands and wives who have a disparity of worship might experience certain tension in their relationship sometimes due to the gap between Christian and non-Christian values, or some parents might have been puzzled why their children don't practice the faith they were baptised into when they were young, or even children might question parents why they continue to stick to their faith despite clear setbacks in the Church. This is perhaps what Jesus aimed to tell us when he made the second point in the Gospel clarifying with the disciples that he came not to bring peace on earth, but division between members of the same household.

Let us ask the Lord to continue to transform us with his grace to make us better disciples of his every day, and keep us ever faithful to him, especially when our faith is challenged by unfavourable circumstances.

Have a faith-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

A REPORT FROM OUR LAST PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

During our Parish Pastoral Council meeting last Wednesday, Hendra Azwar, our architect was invited to come and show participants the sketch of the Hall canopy to be built to help provide a proper shelter for our community to gather after Mass. Everyone is welcomed to have a look at the sketch displayed on the church walls this week, and please get ready to support our coming fund raising programs for the project.

SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST 2025

A reminder that the sacramental meetings have begun. The next meeting is Wednesday 20 August at 6.30pm in the Hall or Saturday 23 August in the Parish Meeting Room. For further information please contact Artelle in the parish office.

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please remember that we are all responsible for our House of God at Seven Hills. When using the Church's equipment we ask that they be returned back to their correct spot, take care when opening/closing windows and by not bringing any food into the church, that includes the crying room. Parents are encouraged to bring soft toys and pencils for children to work with our weekly bulletin. We kindly ask parents to please monitor your children near the candles at all times.

FR JOSEPH LAM BOOK ON POPE LEO XIV

Fr Joseph Lam, Parish Priest at the Parish of Baulkham Hills, has produced a new book that explores the traces of St Augustine in the words and messages of the successors of St Peter since 2005: Benedict XVI, Francis and Leo XIV. The book is \$45, with proceeds to help the renovation of the old heritage building at Baulkham Hills. To pre-order the book, please contact admin@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL OLOL WINTER APPEAL

Our parish responded generously to the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal raising \$2010. With recent requests for food and blankets some grateful people will be warmer and nourished by your gifts.

TOONGABBIE LEGAL CENTRE

Toongabbie Legal Centre (TLC) would like to thank the Parish for their generous support for its fundraising held last weekend. All proceeds directly support their free legal clinic which provides free legal advice every Thursday 6pm till 9pm and Saturday 9am till 1pm to the marginalised, the disadvantaged and vulnerable of Western Sydney.

A MORE WELCOMING PARISH

At our last Parish Pastoral Council meeting, the members of the Council had a good discussion about different ways to make our Parish Community more inclusive and welcoming based on the Pastoral Plan handbook provided by diocese of Parramatta. We therefore are continuing the process of discernment to find out the best way we can moving forward in this ministry. In the meantime, may I invite everyone in the Parish to pay more attention to those sitting around you at Mass, give them a good smile and say hi to them either before or after Mass. Many thanks.

CANDLE WAX ON THE CHURCH CARPET

Please do not try to remove candle wax on the church carpet by yourselves, for you might make it worse. Instead let our staff know and we ask our carpet cleaners to treat it.

THE GROTTTO: OLOL JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

We invite children aged 9-14yrs old to join us this Sunday 17 August, for our junior youth group meeting, in the Parish Meeting Room, 3.30pm to 6pm which includes the 5pm mass.

Positions Vacant

- Training & Development Specialist – Safeguarding: Diocese of Parramatta
- Facilitator – Family Engagement: Mission Enhancement Team, Diocese of Parramatta
- Parish Secretary: Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Kellyville

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

Baulkham Hills Parish Community Fete: 21 September

Join the Baulkham Hills Parish for their Community Fete on Sunday, 21 September 2025, 10am-4pm, at St Michael's Primary School, Chapel Lane, Baulkham Hills. There will be delicious food, music, entertainment, games and activities for all!

Expressions of Interest now open for Australian Catholic Youth Festival: Closes 25 August

The Diocese of Parramatta will be joining the Australian Church at the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) in Melbourne from 30 November to 3 December 2025! Join thousands of young Catholics from across Australia for an unforgettable festival featuring inspiring guest speakers, artists, and musicians. For more details and to express your interest by 25 August 2025, see parracatholic.org/connect/acyf or email hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org

Bishop Vincent Presents Dr Nora Nonterah: 2 September

In the next iteration of the *Bishop Vincent Presents* series, the Diocese of Parramatta will welcome Dr Nora Nonterah, a leading African theological ethicist from Ghana. She will be presenting on 2 September at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. As a lay woman and recent delegate to the Synod on Synodality in 2023 and 2024, Dr Nora will offer a reflection on leadership, discipleship, and the wisdom of women in the Church. Register today by visiting <https://parracatholic.org/events/nora/>

Divine Retreat Centre offerings for August

The Divine Retreat Centre in Somersby, NSW is hosting a variety of single-day and weekend residential retreats throughout August including their Healing Prayer Service and its last Sunday day retreat. All are welcome. For more information, please visit www.divineretreatcentre.org or contact (02) 4372 1598.

LOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities: 1-3 September

The next sessions of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held on the following days at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre:

- Monday 1 September for Initial training (Modules 1-3) from 9.30am to 2.30pm
- Tuesday 2 September for Renewal training (Modules 4 and 5) from 10am to 1.39pm
- Wednesday 3 September for Refresher training (Module 6) from 10am to 12noon.

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

Bishop Vincent Presents Cardinal Stephen Chow SJ: 15 September

The second of two *Bishop Vincent Presents* public lectures in September will feature Cardinal Stephen Chow SJ, Bishop of Hong Kong and one of the most senior Church leaders in Asia. He will be presenting on Monday 15 September at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta on the topic of 'Bridge Building'. With a background in psychology and education, and a deep pastoral heart, Cardinal Chow brings wisdom, courage, and compassion to the challenges facing the Church in our time. Register today by visiting <https://parracatholic.org/events/cardinalchow/>

Entries open for the 2025 The Good Oil Writers' Award

Entries are invited for The Good Oil 2025 Writers' Award, an initiative of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan in partnership with Garratt Publishing. In this Jubilee Year in the Church, the theme of the award is Pilgrims of Hope. The award aims to support and encourage the development of aspiring and published writers. Entry is free and open to writers aged 18 and over. Entries close at 5pm AEST on Friday 29 August 2025. For further information, visit:

<https://www.goodsams.org.au/article/entries-invited-for-the-good-oil-2025-writers-award/>

Mt Druitt South Parish Novena to Our Lady of Good Health: 30 August – 8 September

Please join the community of Sacred Heart Parish, Mount Druitt South, for the Novena and Feast of Our Lady of Good Health, from 30 August to 8 September. There will be Masses in the evenings followed by Rosary and Novena. We will conclude on 8 September, the Nativity of Our Lady, with Mass at 7pm followed by a light supper. Further information, contact the parish office on (02) 9832 3896 or email mountdruittsouth@parracatholic.org

Mt Schoenstatt Shrine Time Winter Special: 24 August

All are welcome to attend the Winter Special Shrine Time at the Mt Schoenstatt Shrine in Mulgoa on Sunday 24 August from 7pm to 8pm. This is an evening of praise & worship, silence, prayer, reflection, confession and benediction. This month's winter special will be followed by a social bonfire, roasted marshmallows and hot chocolate!

Contact Sr M. Rita for more details on 0493 026 628 or srrita@schoenstatt.org.au

Privacy and Confidentiality

In your role here at LOL, you may have access to private and confidential information about our Parish, the Diocese, clergy, employees and parishioners. You are expected to keep this information entirely confidential. This is a legal requirement and also applies to the use of social media and email. Discussing information you have received during your volunteer role with staff, family, friends or any other volunteers – inside or outside the Parish or Diocese – is not acceptable. From time to time, photos may be taken of you whilst volunteering. 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.

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.



POPE LEO'S ANGELUS

Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday!

In today's Gospel Jesus invites us to consider how we will invest the treasure that is our life (cf. *Lk* 12:32-48). He says: "Sell your possessions and give alms" (v. 33).

He exhorts us not to keep to ourselves the gifts that God has given us, but rather to use them generously for the good of others, especially those most in need of our help. It is not simply a matter of sharing the material goods we have, but putting our skills, time, love, presence and compassion at the service of others. In short, everything in God's plan that makes each of us a priceless and unrepeatable good, a living and breathing asset, must be cultivated and invested in order to grow. Otherwise, these gifts dry up and diminish in value, or they end up being taken away by those, who like thieves, snatch them up as something simply to be consumed.

The gift of God that we are is not made to be used in such a manner. We need space, freedom and relationships in order to come to fulfillment and express ourselves. We need love, which alone transforms and ennobles every aspect of our existence, making us more and more like God. It is not by chance that Jesus pronounces these words while he is on the road to Jerusalem, where he will offer himself on the cross for our salvation.

The works of mercy are the most secure and profitable bank where we can entrust the treasure of our existence, because there, as the Gospel teaches us, with "two small copper coins" even the poor widow becomes the richest person in the world (cf. *Mk* 12:41-44).

In this regard, Saint Augustine says: "If you gave a pound of coppers and received a pound of silver, or a pound of silver and received one of gold, you would be delighted at your luck. What you give will certainly be transformed; it isn't gold, it isn't silver, but eternal life that will come your way" (*Sermon* 390, 2, PL 39, 1706). And he explains why: "It will be transformed, because you yourself will be transformed" (ibid).

To understand what he means by this, we can think of a mother who embraces her children: is she not the most beautiful and richest person in the world? Or a boyfriend and girlfriend, when they are together: do they not feel like king and queen? We could think of many other examples.

Therefore, wherever we are, in the family, parish, school or workplace, we should try not to miss any opportunity to act with love. This is the type of vigilance that Jesus asks of us: to grow in the habit of being attentive, ready and sensitive to one another, just as he is with us in every moment.

Sisters and brothers, let us entrust to Mary this desire and responsibility: may she, the Morning Star, help us to be the "watchmen" of mercy and peace in a world marked by many divisions. Saint John Paul II taught us this (cf. *Vigil of Prayer for the 15th World Youth Day*, 19 August 2000). And in a beautiful way, so did the young people who came to Rome for the Jubilee.

After the Angelus:

Dear brothers and sisters,

Let us continue to pray for an end to wars. The 80th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki has reinforced throughout the world the necessity to reject war as a means of resolving conflicts. May those in power always keep in mind their responsibility for the consequences of their decisions, and not ignore the needs of the weakest and the universal desire for peace.

In this regard, I congratulate Armenia and Azerbaijan on signing the Joint Declaration of Peace. I hope that this will contribute to a stable and lasting peace in the South Caucasus.

The situation of the people of Haiti, however, is increasingly desperate. Reports of murders, violence of all kinds, human trafficking, forced exile and kidnappings continue to pour in. I make a heartfelt appeal to all those responsible to release the hostages immediately, and I ask for the firm support of the international community to create the social and institutional conditions that will allow the Haitian people to live in peace.

I greet all of you, the faithful of Rome and pilgrims from various countries, especially those from Woodstock, Georgia, in the United States of America, and those from the Diocese of Down and Connor in Ireland.

I greet the members of *Operazione Mato Grosso* from various Italian cities and the parish groups from Stezzano, Medole and Villastellone.

Thank you all for your presence and your prayers. Have a good Sunday, everyone!

POPE LEO'S ADDRESS AT THE RECENT GENERAL AUDIENCE

Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025. Jesus Christ our Hope. III. The Passover of Jesus. 2. The betrayal. "Surely it is not I?" (Mk 14,19)

Dear brothers and sisters,

Let us continue our journey in the school of the Gospel, following Jesus' steps in the final days of his life. Today we will pause at an intimate, dramatic, yet also profoundly true scene: the moment at which, during the Passover

supper, Jesus reveals that one of the Twelve is about to betray him: "Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me" (Mk 14:18).

Strong words. Jesus does not utter them to condemn, but to show how love, when it is true, cannot do without the truth. The room on the upper floor, where shortly beforehand everything was carefully prepared, suddenly fills with a painful silence, made up of questions, suspicions, vulnerability. It is a pain we too know well, when the shadow of betrayal is cast over the closest relationships.

And yet, the way in which Jesus speaks about what is about to happen is surprising. He does not raise his voice, nor point his finger, nor utter the name of Judas. He speaks in such a way that each one can ask himself the question. And this is exactly what happens. Saint Mark tells us: "They began to be distressed and to say to him, one by one, 'Surely it is not I?'" (Mk 14:19).

Dear friends, this question – "Surely it is not I?" – is perhaps among the sincerest that we can ask ourselves. It is not the question of the innocent, but of the disciple who discovers himself to be fragile. It is not the cry of the guilty, but the whisper of him who, while wanting to love, is aware of being able to do harm. It is in this awareness that the journey of salvation begins.

Jesus does not denounce in order to humiliate. He tells the truth because he wants to save. And in order to be saved, it is necessary to feel: to feel that one is involved, to feel that one is beloved despite everything, to feel that evil is real but that it does not have the last word. Only those who have known the truth of a deep love can also accept the wound of betrayal.

The disciples' reaction is not anger, but sadness. They are not indignant, they are sorrowful. It is a pain that arises from the real possibility of being involved. And precisely this sorrow, if welcomed with sincerity, becomes a place for conversion. The Gospel does not teach us to deny evil, but to recognize it as a painful opportunity for rebirth.

Jesus then adds a phrase that troubles us and makes us think. "But woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would be better for that man if he had never been born" (Mk 14:21). They are harsh words, certainly, but they must be understood well: it is not a curse, but rather a cry of pain. In Greek, that "woe" sounds like a lamentation, an "alas", an exclamation of sincere and deep compassion.

We are used to judging. Instead, God accepts suffering. When he sees evil, he does not avenge it, but grieves. And that "better if he had never been born" is not a condemnation imposed *a priori*, but a truth that any of us can recognize: if we deny the love that has generated us, if by betraying we become unfaithful to ourselves, then we truly lose the meaning of our coming into the world, and we exclude ourselves from salvation.

And yet, precisely there, at the darkest point, the light is not extinguished. On the contrary, it starts to shine. Because if we recognize our limit, if we let ourselves be touched by the pain of Christ, then we can finally be born again. Faith does not spare us from the possibility of sin, but it always offers us a way out of it: that of mercy.

Jesus is not scandalized by our fragility. He knows well that no friendship is immune from the risk of betrayal. But Jesus continues to trust. He continues to sit at the table with his followers. He does not give up breaking bread, even for those who will betray him. This is the silent power of God: he never abandons the table of love, even when he knows he will be left alone.

Dear brothers and sisters, we too can ask ourselves today, with sincerity: "Surely it is not I?". Not to feel accused, but to open a space for truth in our hearts. Salvation begins here: with the awareness that we may be the ones who break our trust in God, but that we can also be the ones who gather it, protect it and renew it. Ultimately, this is hope: knowing that even if we fail, God will never fail us. Even if we betray him, he never stops loving us. And if we allow ourselves to be touched by this love – humble, wounded, but always faithful – then we can truly be reborn. And we can begin to live no longer as traitors, but as children who are always loved.

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 11th September 2025, 10.30am– 1pm in the Parish Hall. Please bring a plate to share.

LOURDES: LUMINATE YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

For information please contact Ian Epondulan: youtholol7h@gmail.com or search 'Lourdes 7Hills Young Adults' on Facebook.

THE GROTTTO: OLOL JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

We invite children aged 9-14yrs old to join our Parish junior youth group on every third Sunday of the month. For information please contact Diana Park via email: dianap@olol7hills.com.au or visit [ololyouth7hills](https://www.instagram.com/ololyouth7hills) on Instagram or search 'OLOL Youth Ministry' on Facebook.

LOURDES PLAYGROUP

OLOL 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.

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 rael24@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.

August 2025

17	The Grotto: OLOL Junior Youth Group Meeting	3.30pm
20	4th Eucharist Meeting	6.30pm
23	4th Eucharist Meeting RPT	4.30pm

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

16/17 August

Acolytes	Vigil: Darryl Green 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am: Eugene Miu
Ministers	Vigil: Jesse & Alexandra Franco 8am: L. Fernandes, T. Perak 9.30am: A. Han, M. Aquino
Readers	Vigil: Yxaak & Yxavel Dino 8am: K. Walker, J. Cabasa 9.30am: R. Epondulan, L. Rigney
Altar Servers	Vigil: Joshua & Jessica Jeganathan, A. Faulkner-Dhiman 8am: C. Bellamin, J. Blackshaw 9.30am: Julian & Orlando Martinez, K. Cassaniti
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Tongan Choir
Musicians	Vigil: K. Thoms, C.W 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale
Flowers	Fennie & Angela
Church Cleaning	27 August Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli

23/24 August

Acolytes	Vigil: Lawrence Falzon 8am: Ernie Gartner 9.30am: Rommel Lagare
Ministers	Vigil: M. Mifsud, B. Motha 8am: J. Irudayaraj, F. Paiva 9.30am: G. Basili, C. Brooks
Readers	Vigil: M. Simic, N. Sumcad 8am: F. Kennedy, J. Sarmiento 9.30am: E. Pieris, J. Nonato
Altar Servers	Vigil: C. Rodrigues, C. Bellamin, E. Reardon 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: Jenolin & Majerin Pieris, N. D'Cruz
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group
Flowers	Annette & Mary
Church Cleaning	4 September Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Ugre 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Sastina Pieris

The Kids' Bulletin The Dividing Line

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 17th, 2025

"Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division." Luke 12:51 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on Luke 12:49-53



Luke 12:49-53

"I have come to set the earth on fire,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."

There is a baptism with which I must be baptized,
and a son against his father,

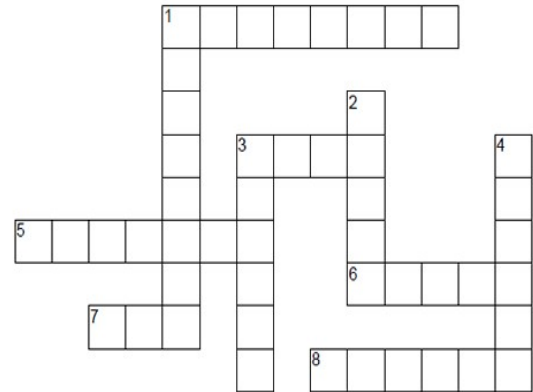
Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth?
and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished!

From now on a household of five will be divided,
No, I tell you, but rather division.

a father will be divided against his son
and a daughter against her mother,

a mother against her daughter
and how I wish it were already blazing!

a mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
three against two and two against three;



ACROSS

1. A female child of human parents
3. A chemical change that releases heat and light and is accompanied by flame
5. To be immersed in water
6. The third planet from the sun
7. A male child of human parents
8. The male parent

DOWN

1. Separating into parts or pieces
2. The absence of war
3. Members of a household usually consisting of parents and their children
4. The female parent

What did Jesus say in today's Gospel reading?
Match the parts to find out!

FIRE	BAPTISM	MOTHER	DAUGHTER	FAMILY
EARTH	FATHER	PEACE	DIVISION	SON

The Lord's Prayer

Fill in the blanks to complete the "Our Father."
Use the letters from the numbered boxes to fill in the blanks at the end.

Our ⁴_____, who art in
¹⁷_____, hallowed be thy
¹_____. Thy ³_____. ¹⁹_____ come.
Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.
¹⁵_____ us this day our ⁷_____. ²⁰_____
¹³_____ and ²¹_____. ¹⁶_____ us our
trespasses as ⁹_____ forgive those who
⁸_____ ²_____ against ²²_____ and
¹²_____ us not into temptation but
⁶_____ ¹¹_____ us from ¹⁸_____. ¹⁰_____.



Mary's Assumption

SaintAnnesHelper.com