



# OUR LADY OF LOURDES

PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS

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

7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills. NSW. 2147

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**Parish Priest:** Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran  
**Parish Deacon:** Deacon Thong Nguyen  
**Parish Office Team:** Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Jane Nguyen, Laura Ilioski  
**Office Hours: Monday-Friday:** 9am - 3.00pm  
**WEEKDAY MASS:** Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am  
 Thursday 9.00am  
**WEEKEND MASS:** Saturday Vigil 6pm  
 Sunday 8am & 9.30am

**Parish School:** OLOL 8869 6800  
**Principal:** Ms Keiran Byrnes  
**Reconciliation:** Saturday 4:30-5:30pm  
**Baptismal Preparation:** 17 September 2025  
**Baptism:** 12 October 2025  
**Sacrament Co-Ordinator:** Mrs Artelle Lenthall  
**Youth Co-Ordinator:** Diana Park  
**Parish Website:** [www.olol7hills.org.au](http://www.olol7hills.org.au)  
**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

## 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 31 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, Michelle Pellicano, Maricar Poblete, Tessie Portelli, Veronica Portelli, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Luzviminda Camat Robles, Arabella Steele, Chandra Sampantham, 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](mailto:secretary@olol7hills.com.au)

We can also arrange for Holy Communion or a visit if required.

### Let us Pray for the Deceased

**Recently Deceased:** Lise Ally, Rodney Bell, William Rebecca Bermudo, Kevin Dougherty, Caridad Eco, Frances Flannery, Eric Fernando, Clara Galucci, Elaine Mooney, Franjevan Gnanaratnam, Lorraine Muscat, Kenny Nolan, Crispin Nuneza, Doreen Monana Palmos, Anula Rupesinghe, Cecilia Thomas, Sanjivan, 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, Paul & Simone Commamond, Aloysean Corera, David Quan Dang, Fr. Loiseau, Silvia Debattista, Conchita Deloso, Alexander Farrugia, Joan Falzon, Emmanuel Francis, M.A. Fernando, Merita Fernando, John Fernando, Sammy Formosa, Ethan Garcia, Anthony, Francisca & Zenaida Garcia, Christine & Josephine Gomez, Muriel Jordan, Amirham John, Michael Kolosa, Fr. Loiseau, Laurence Morrissey, Mary Muscat, April Marabe, Pietro Marra, Mary Moore, Maria Xavier Motha Jnr, Paul Mula, Albert & Joseph Mula, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kuttly, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Ignacio Nonato Snr, Cordula Paiva, Adrian Perera, Lakshman Perera, Laureano Reyes, Rosita Rivalar, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Natalie Spiteri, Mary Silva, Rosary Silva, Caroline Susainathan, Eddie Tabone, Melchor Usman, Dionisio Udan, Jim Vella.

**Remembrance:** Neil Amaratunga, Gregorio Almodovar, Frank & Fortunata Baiada, Peter & Helen Bonnici, Josephine Borg, Bridgette Cash, Barrie Chamberlain, Renato & Marilyn Cabasa, Fe & Elenito Carmen, Dennis Clarke, Johnny Edwards, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Lancer 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 Lafuer, Apolinario & Felina Maglaya, Sophia Zonna Matua, Tania McGove, John & Maureen Mead, Pauline Melak, Alfred Micallef, Leo Ngan, Cole Ngan, Roco Manansala, 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.

### 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.

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**FIRST READING** *A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus 3:17-20, 28-29*

My son, be gentle in carrying out your business, and you will be better loved than a lavish giver. The greater you are, the more you should behave humbly, and then you will find favour with the Lord; for great though the power of the Lord is, he accepts the homage of the humble.

There is no cure for the proud man's malady, since an evil growth has taken root in him. The heart of a sensible man will reflect on parables, an attentive ear is the sage's dream.

The word of the Lord.

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**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**(R) God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.**

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|---|--|
| <p>1. The just shall rejoice at the presence of God, they shall exult and dance for joy. O sing to the Lord, make music to his name; rejoice in the Lord, exult at his presence. <b>(R.)</b></p> <p>2. Father of the orphan, defender of the widow, such is God in his holy place. God gives the lonely a home to live in; he leads the prisoners forth into freedom. <b>(R.)</b></p> | <p>3. You poured down, O God, a generous rain: when your people were starved you gave them new life. It was there that your people found a home, prepared in your goodness, O God, for the poor. <b>(R.)</b></p> |
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**SECOND READING** *A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24*

What you have come to is nothing known to the senses: not a blazing fire, or a gloom turning to total darkness, or a storm; or trumpeting thunder or the great voice speaking which made everyone that heard it beg that no more should be said to them.

But what you have come to is Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem where the millions of angels have gathered for the festival, with the whole Church in which everyone is a 'first-born son' and a citizen of heaven. You have come to God himself, the supreme Judge, and been placed with spirits of the saints who have been made perfect; and to Jesus, the mediator who brings a new covenant.

The word of the Lord.

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**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Take my yoke upon you;  
learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart.  
Alleluia!

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**GOSPEL** *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 14:1.7-14*

On a sabbath day Jesus had gone for a meal to the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him closely. He then told the guests a parable, because he had noticed how they picked the places of honour. He said this, 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take your seat in the place of honour.

A more distinguished person than you may have been invited, and the person who invited you both may come and say, "Give up your place to this man." And then, to your embarrassment, you would have to go and take the lowest place. No; when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest place and sit there, so that, when your host comes, he may say, "My friend, move up higher." In that way, everyone with you at the table will see you honoured. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not ask your friends, brothers, relations or rich neighbours, for fear they repay your courtesy by inviting you in return. No; when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; that they cannot pay you back means that you are fortunate, because repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



## FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

At the wake following my dad's funeral, I noticed a completely unfamiliar face sitting alone at the table reserved for relatives who had travelled from afar. The stranger looked highly uncomfortable as I approached, but I quickly reassured him, letting him know he was welcome to join us—with just a few adjustments. I gently asked him to move to another table to make room for others.

This encounter came back to me as I reflected on the parable Jesus told during a meal at the home of a prominent Pharisee. He addressed a common habit of his contemporaries—rushing to claim the best seats at gatherings. Luke describes these as “places of honour.” In this symbolic story, Jesus warned his listeners about the potential embarrassment of choosing the most prestigious seat, only to be asked to move down for someone more important. On the other hand, those who chose the lowest place could not be asked to move further down and might instead be honoured by being invited to sit in a more distinguished position.

Beyond the themes of honour and shame, Jesus also taught an important lesson on humility, concluding this part of the Gospel with the powerful statement: *“Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”*

The second part of the Gospel focuses on Jesus' address to his host—the man who had extended him hospitality. Jesus challenged both his host and us to go beyond the boundaries of conventional hospitality. Rather than only inviting relatives, friends, or wealthy acquaintances who can repay us, we are called to invite those who cannot return the favour—the poor, the outcast, and the forgotten. In doing so, Jesus assures us that God will reward our generosity at the end of time.

We are proud to remember how our late Pope Francis responded to this radical call from Jesus by leading through example. Beginning in 2017, he invited the homeless and poor in Rome to share lunch with him, an initiative meant to counteract the neglect of the vulnerable and to foster direct engagement with those in need. It is comforting to know that Pope Leo XIV is continuing this beautiful tradition in the Church.

Today, let us ask the Lord to help us:

1. Treasure the virtue of humility and put it into practice whenever we can; and
  2. Be as generous as possible to those around us—especially to those unfamiliar to us, just as Jesus asks.
- Have a charity-filled week.

Fr Henry

## PARISH NEWS...

### FREE TOOTHBRUSH & TOOTHPASTE FOR DENTAL HEALTH MONTH: 31 August

After the 9:30AM Mass this Sunday, 31 August 2025, during morning tea, come and learn about how to look after your teeth and gums in the Parish Hall to celebrate Dental Health Month. Ian Epondulan, one of our Lourdes Luminate Young Adults will share some tips!

### LOURDES LUMINATE YOUNG ADULTS GROUP NIGHT: 25 September

All are welcome to join our young adults on Thursday, 25 September 2025 6:30pm-9:00pm in the Parish Meeting Room to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Laudato Si' and the Season of Creation by watching the *"The Letter"*, the documentary movie on Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si' and the environment followed by reflection and call-to-action led by Mark Taneco, a Laudato Si' Advocate and Animator from Laudato Si' Movement (LSM). For more info: Mark Taneco - [marktaneco@gmail.com](mailto:marktaneco@gmail.com); Ian Epondulan - 0401 161 264, [youthlol7h@gmail.com](mailto:youthlol7h@gmail.com) or search 'Lourdes 7Hills Young Adults' on Facebook.

### BECOME A CATECHIST AN SRE VOLUNTEER SRE

Volunteers from OLOL parish share their faith with children in local public primary schools, including Seven Hills, Seven Hills North, Bert Oldfield, and Vardys Road. Volunteers give just one hour a week and are fully supported with training and teaching materials. Further enquiries please kindly contact Anne McNally 0466 993 159

### A MORE WELCOMING PARISH

Our Parish Pastoral Council is exploring ways to make our community more inclusive and welcoming, and in the meantime, we encourage everyone to greet those around them at Mass with a warm smile and a friendly hello.

### SYDNEY ALLIANCE NORTH WEST LISTENING: 18 September

Our parish is hosting together with the Diocese of Parramatta and the Sydney Alliance for your opportunity to share your story, concerns, and hopes for change in our community. The Mayor of Blacktown City Council Councillor Brad Bunting is committed to come and hear from you! This will take place on Thursday, 18 September 2025 6pm-8:30pm in the Parish Hall. Please register at: <https://events.humanitix.com/sydney-alliance-or-north-west-listening-18-sep> For more info: Raul - [rsugu@sydneyalliance.org.au](mailto:rsugu@sydneyalliance.org.au); Ian Epondulan - 0401 161 264

### 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.

### 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.



### Positions Vacant

- Training & Development Specialist – Safeguarding: Diocese of Parramatta
- Facilitator – Family Engagement: Mission Enhancement Team, Diocese of Parramatta

More details at: [parracatholic.org/about/jobs/](https://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!

### Pray for our Pilgrims!

Please pray for the adults from our Diocese and beyond who will embark on the Jubilee of Hope pilgrimage from 7 to 25 September. May God bless their journey, deepen their faith, and guide their steps as they trace the footsteps of the early Church and join the celebrations in Rome. Let's ask the Holy Spirit to inspire and protect them throughout this

### 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/>

### Catholic Care Sewing and Crochet classes

All are welcome to join Catholic Care's weekly sewing and crochet classes every Thursday during school terms, 10am-1pm at Mamre House and Farm, 181 Mamre Rd, Orchard Hills. Learn new skills, connect with others, and enjoy a friendly, supportive environment. Perfect for anyone wanting to meet new people! To register, contact Catholic Care on (02) 8843 2500 or email [enquiries@catholiccarewsbm.org.au](mailto:enquiries@catholiccarewsbm.org.au).

## LOLO SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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### 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](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org)

### Registrations now open for Diocesan Retreat Opportunities

The diocese is hosting three retreat opportunities for adults of all ages to engage more with this Jubilee Year of Hope. Take the time to step away from your usual routine to experience a diocesan retreat – a sacred space for prayer, reflection, renewal and encounter with God. Registrations are now open. For more details and to register, see the three options of retreats below: 15 November:

<https://parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-retreat-15-november/>

### Caritas Australia prayer for Gaza

On a daily basis, we are all hearing reports of the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza that has claimed over 58,000 lives to date, with tens of thousands more wounded or missing under rubble. Caritas is calling for an immediate ceasefire. Pope Leo XIV encourages us, "one and all, to build bridges through dialogue and encounter, joining together as one people, always at peace." Caritas Australia invites us to pray for the people of Gaza. If you are able to support Caritas Australia's Gaza Appeal, please donate online at [www.caritas.org.au/gaza](http://www.caritas.org.au/gaza) or phone 1800 024 413.

### 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/>

### Mass for Musicians: 24 September

In this Jubilee Year of Hope, we invite all those involved in Music Ministry across the Diocese to join us for our Mass for Musicians. Join us on the 24th of September, 7:30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. We ask that you arrive at 7pm and are seated by 7:15pm. To register attendance and the number of guests you are bringing, please [RSVP via our website](#) by Friday, 19 September. If you are unable to register via the form, contact the Office for Worship [ofw@parracatholic.org](mailto:ofw@parracatholic.org) or call 0460 037 795.

### LOLO Volunteer Responsibilities

Volunteers here at LOL have a responsibility to support the Diocese's goals and objectives. Ways we do this are by abiding by the Diocese's Code of Conduct; treating others with respect; behaving appropriately and courteously to all clergy, employees, volunteers, parishioners, contractors and the public in the course of your role; undertaking training as requested or necessary; treating confidential any personal information learned about in the course of duties; maintain professional relationships within acceptable boundaries; contributing to and maintaining workplace health and safety and being aware of the duty of care to yourselves, clergy, employees and other volunteers.

### 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](mailto:safeguarding@parracatholic.org).

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## POPE LEO'S ANGELUS

Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday!

At the heart of today's Gospel (Lk 13:22-30), we find the image of the "narrow gate," which Jesus uses in his answer to someone who asks him if only a few will be saved. Jesus says, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able" (v 24).

At first glance, this image can make us think: if God is the Father of love and mercy, who always stands with open arms to welcome us, why does Jesus say that the gate of salvation is narrow?

Certainly, the Lord does not want to discourage us. Rather, his words are meant primarily to challenge the presumption of those people who think they are already saved, who perform religious acts and feel that is all that is needed.

They have not realized that it is not enough to perform religious acts unless they change hearts. The Lord does not want worship detached from life. He is not pleased with sacrifices and prayers, unless they lead to greater love for others and justice for our brothers and sisters. For this reason, when such people come before the Lord boasting that they ate and drank with him and heard him teaching in their streets, they will hear him reply: "I do not know where you come from; go away from me, all you evildoers!" (v 28).

Brothers and sisters, the challenge presented to us in today's Gospel is worth considering. While we may sometimes be judgmental towards those distant from the faith, Jesus calls into question "the security of believers." He tells us that it is not enough to profess the faith with words, to eat and drink with him by celebrating the Eucharist or to have a good knowledge of Christian doctrine. Our faith is authentic when it embraces our whole life, when it becomes a criterion for our decisions, when it makes us women and men committed to doing what is right and who take risks out of love, even as Jesus did. He did not choose the easy path of success or power; instead, in order to save us, he loved us to the point of walking through the "narrow gate" of the Cross. Jesus is the true measure of our faith; he is the gate through which we must pass in order to be saved (cf. Jn 10:9) by experiencing his love and by working, in our daily lives, to promote justice and peace.

There are times when this involves making difficult and unpopular decisions, resisting our selfish inclinations, placing ourselves at the service of others, and persevering in doing what is right when the logic of evil seems to prevail, and so on. Once we cross that threshold, however, we will discover that life flourishes anew. From that moment on, we will enter into the immense heart of God and the joy of the eternal banquet that he has prepared for us.

Let us ask the Virgin Mary to help us find the courage to pass through the "narrow gate" of the Gospel, so that we may open ourselves with joy to the wide embrace of God our loving Father.

### After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters,

I express my closeness to the people of Cabo Delgado, Mozambique, who have become victims of an insecure and violent situation that continues to cause death and displacement. In asking you not to forget these brothers and sisters of ours, I invite you to pray for them, and I express my hope that the efforts of the country's leaders will succeed in restoring security and peace in that territory.

This past Friday, 22 August, we accompanied with our prayers and fasting our brothers and sisters who are suffering because of wars. Today, we join our Ukrainian brothers and sisters who, with the spiritual initiative "World Prayer for Ukraine," are asking the Lord to grant peace to their tormented country.

I greet all of you, the faithful of Rome and pilgrims from various countries, especially those from Karaganda (Kazakhstan), Budapest and the seminarians and faculty of the Pontifical North American College. I am pleased to welcome the Gozzano Music Band and the parish groups from Bellagio, Vidigulfo, Carbonia, Corlo and Val Cavallina.

I also greet the faithful who have come by bicycle from Rovato and Manerbio, and the itinerant Via Lucis group.

I wish everyone a happy Sunday.

## POPE LEO'S GENERAL AUDIENCE

*By Kielce Gussie*

Continuing his cycle of catechesis for the Jubilee Year of Hope, Pope Leo XIV focused on Jesus' Passion during this week's Wednesday General Audience, specifically highlighting the moment of His arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. St. John the Evangelist does not portray Jesus as frightened or as someone who flees the scene. Rather, Jesus is depicted as a "free man, who comes forward and speaks, openly facing the hour in which the light of the greatest love can be revealed."

### Not a victim but a giver

Jesus was not unaware of what He was to endure following the arrest. Yet, he still remains strong and does not retreat, but rather, gives Himself up to the guards. As Pope Leo points out, this act was done "not out of weakness, but out of love." A full love that is mature and does not fear rejection.

Jesus is not a victim of the arrest because He lets Himself be taken. He is the "giver of a gift" as He "embodies a hope of salvation for our humanity: to know that, even in the darkest hour, one can remain free to love to the end."

### True act of love

The Pope highlights a passage in the Gospel that is mysterious—the moment Jesus says, "I am he", and the soldiers fall to the ground. It is a moment that, in biblical revelation, recalls God's name, "I am". In that moment in the garden, Jesus is showing that God is present exactly in the times when people experience injustice, fear, and loneliness.

Pope Leo explains it is in moments like those that "the true light is ready to shine without fear of being overcome by the advancing darkness."

In the darkness of night, when all seems to be falling apart, Jesus shows that Christian hope is not evasion but decision. The Pope underlines that this attitude comes from a deep prayer in life where "God is not asked to spare us from suffering, but rather to give us the strength to persevere in love".

Pope Leo continues, highlighting that during His arrest, Jesus is not worried about himself. On the contrary, He is focused on saving the disciples. This reveals that His sacrifice is truly an act of love—He is taken so His friends might go free.

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## A lifetime of preparation

Jesus had been preparing for this “dramatic and sublime hour” his entire life, the Pope underlines, and it is for this reason that he responded courageously. He understood that offering up one’s life for love does not mean failing, but rather it means being fulfilled.

However, this does not mean that Jesus was not troubled at this moment that began his path to the cross. But He was able to carry on because He knew He was offering up His life out of love.

“This is what true hope consists of: not in trying to avoid pain, but in believing that even in the heart of the most unjust suffering, the seed of new life is hidden.”

## Turn to the logic of the Gospel

How does all of this relate to us, the Pope asks. Rather than defending our lives, plans, securities, and still being alone, he urges us to turn to the logic of the Gospel. That is, “only what is given flourishes; only the love that becomes free can restore trust even where everything seems lost.”

Using the image of the young man who, when Jesus is arrested, runs away naked, Pope Leo explains we too have moments when we follow Jesus that we are caught off guard and are tempted to abandon the way of the Gospel because it seems impossible to love.

But the story ends with a young man clothed in a white robe announcing the resurrection, which symbolizes the hope of our faith. God is not limited in forgiveness because of our sins and reservations and He is able to restore in us the desire to retake our role as His followers—making us capable of giving our life for others.

Pope Leo concludes his catechesis encouraging everyone to let our lives “be a response to the good we have received.” While we cannot control everything, “it is enough to choose to love freely every day.” Our hope remains that even in the darkest of days, God’s love is there, sustaining us and ripening the fruit of eternal life that awaits us.

## POPE LEO WITH ALTAR SERVERS

*By Devin Watkins*

Pope Leo XIV met with around 360 altar servers from France on Monday, as they made a pilgrimage to Rome with their priests and bishops as part of the Jubilee Year.

In his address, the Pope said their pilgrimage through the Holy Doors offers them a chance to turn toward God and grow in faith and love so that they may be more faithful disciples of Christ.

He invited the young French Catholics to take time to speak to Jesus in the secrecy of their hearts and to love Him more.

“He desires nothing more than to be part of your life, to illumine it from within, to become your best and most faithful friend,” he said. “Life becomes beautiful and joyful with Jesus.”

Pope Leo recalled that hope is the focus of the Jubilee, noting that the world’s many problems reminds Christians of our need for the theological virtue of hope.

In the midst of global issues, as well as personal pain due to loss or worry, the Pope invited the young people to look to Jesus, who has the power to save us and is always near because He loves us.

“There is certain proof that Jesus loves us and saves us: He gave His life for us by offering it on the cross,” he said.

“In fact, there is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for those one loves.”

Hope, he added, will always accompany us throughout life and will serve as an anchor in the storms and difficulties that are sure to arise.

The most wonderful thing about the Catholic faith, said Pope Leo XIV, is that God Himself “willed to suffer and die for the creatures we are. God loved us to the point of dying for us!”

Humanity, he said, has nothing to fear from God, who loves us so much that He continuously offers His imperishable life to us.

Pope Leo recalled that the Church hands down the memory of Jesus’ sacrifice to save us through the Eucharist and daily celebration of Mass, which altar servers assist the priest in celebrating.

“Dear Altar Servers, the celebration of the Mass saves us today!” he said. “It saves the world today! It is the most important event in the life of the Christian and in the life of the Church, for it is the encounter where God gives Himself to us in love, again and again.”

Christians, added the Pope, do not attend Mass out of obligation but out of love and our own need for the life of God.

Pope Leo XIV then thanked the French altar servers for their generous service to their parishes, and urged them to always “keep in mind the greatness and holiness of what is being celebrated.”

“May your attitude, your silence, the dignity of your service, the liturgical beauty, the order and majesty of your gestures, lead the faithful into the sacred greatness of the Mystery,” he said.

The Pope also invited young people to consider a vocation to the priesthood or religious life, saying that “the lack of priests in France is a great misfortune” for France and for the Church.

In conclusion, Pope Leo said the altar servers can bear witness to the pride and joy that comes from serving at Mass, inviting them to persevere in offering a sign of hope to the world.

## GENERAL NOTICES...

### NEW TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES? HOW CAN WE SERVE YOU?

Welcome. Wherever you are in your faith journey, it is great to have you. Please visit our website or call the parish office. We're here to serve you. [www.olol7hills.org.au](http://www.olol7hills.org.au)

**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK** <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

### SICK AND/OR HOMEBOUND?

Would you like to receive Communion? Or seriously ill or in danger of death? We have dedicated ministers who can visit and bring you communion. Feel free to approach or call Fr Henry for the Holy Anointing of the Sick. Please call the parish office 9622 2920

### FUNERALS

When a Funeral is to be celebrated, please contact the parish office to organise a meeting with Fr Henry. Funerals are not permitted on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation.

### BAPTISM

Parents desiring Baptism for their children are encouraged to contact the parish office to arrange for the required preparation class for parents.

### MASS INTENTIONS

All Mass intentions must be submitted to the Parish Office on or before Thursday. Names will be published for 4 weeks at a time.



### LOURDES OVER 50s GROUP

Over 50s meeting Thursday 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](mailto: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](mailto:dianap@olol7hills.com.au) or visit 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](mailto: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.

#### September 2025

3	First Holy Communion Practice Group 1	6.30pm
7	First Holy Communion Group 1	11.00am
11	Over 50's Group Meeting	10.30am

## OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

### 30/31 August

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Frank Paiva 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui
Ministers	Vigil: Alexandra & Jesse Franco 8am: A. McNally, T. Perak 9.30am: P. Gow, E. Miu
Readers	Vigil: R. Saldanha, N. Do Rosario 8am: P. Ferriols, M. Santos 9.30am: K. Huihui, Z. Smith
Altar Servers	Vigil: Johnathan & Dominic Sant, N. Hoang 8am: C. Bellamin, J. Blackshaw, SUB RQD 9.30am: H. Winter, J. Martinez & O. Martinez
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council
Musicians	Vigil: Shaun's Group 8am: Fr. Henry 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale
Flowers	Fennie & Raquel
Church Cleaning	13 September Tongan Community Edgardo Barcelon Edgar Cabrera Aman Rawah
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Volunteer

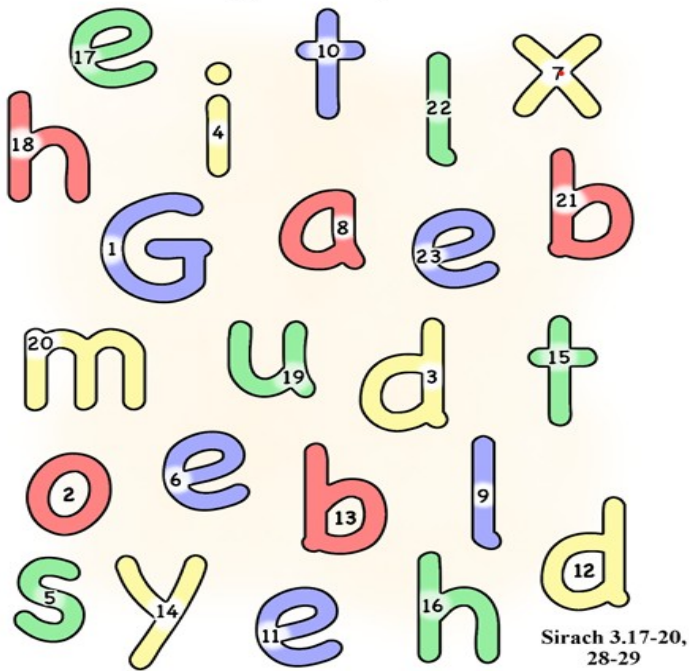
### 6/7 September

Acolytes	Vigil: Daniel La Guidara 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am: Fayelene Kennedy
Ministers	Vigil: B. Motha, L. La Guidara 8am: J. Sarmiento, L. Fernandes 9.30am: M. Aquino, A. Walker
Readers	Vigil: A. Punch, T. Perak 8am: J. Irudayaraj, K. Walker 9.30am: C. Diaz, R. Nigli
Altar Servers	Vigil: Alex & Christina La Guidara, A. Bagatella 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: K. Cassaniti, L. Sadipoor, A. Melki
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Tongan Choir - (Father's Day)
Musicians	Vigil: Christine Clarke 8am: Fr. Henry 9.30am: Couples for Christ
Flowers	Fennie & Liz (1st Holy Comm 1)
Church Cleaning	18 September Cathy Hutchings Annette Peatman Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon



# The Kids' Bulletin

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
August 31st, 2025



Sirach 3.17-20,  
28-29

What can we learn from today's first reading?  
Sort out the letters by their numbers to fill in the blanks.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	

## The Great Feast (Luke 14:16-24)



apologies    crippled    excuses    invited    married  
parable    servant    dinner    master    blind  
feast    field    house    lanes    order  
roads    full    lame    oxen    poor  
room

## Parable of the Great Banquet



## The Seat to Take

If you take the advice of Jesus on which seat to take at a banquet, you might find that you will be shifted to a better position at the table. Move from the bottom of the table to the head. Then you can seat everyone else at the table.

