



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
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

7 September 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 Debatista, 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, Veronica Portelli, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Luzviminda Camat Robles, Arabella Steele, Sue Tipaldo, Chandra Sampantham, Caroline Stevenson, 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: Lise Ally, Rodney Bell, William Rebecca Bermudo, Alberto De Guzman, Kevin Dougherty, Caridad Eco, Frances Flannery, Eric Fernando, Merita Fernando, Clara Galucci, Elaine Mooney, Sanjivan Gnanaratnam, Lorraine Muscat, Arnold Naldoza, Kenny Nolan, Jesus Nufable, Doreen Monana Palmos, Ronald Quilantang, Noel Rawlston, Anula Rupesinghe, Rubilinda Saquian, Milagros Trembevilla Fernandez, Cecilia Thomas, Sheadon Trek.

Anniversaries: Mary Alagiah, France Angseesing, Cecil Beed, Ronald Barley, Romeo Biniathan, Sam Borg, Elaine Bosen, Denis Brophy, Joseph & Carmeva, Catherine Chandra, Paul & Simone Commarmond, Aloysean Corera, Silvia Debatista, 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, Amirtham John, April Marabe, Pietro Marra, Mary Moore, Maria Xavier Motha Jnr, Paul Mula, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kutty, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Cordula Paiva, Adrian Perera, Lakshman Perera, Paolo Pineda, Rosita Riveral, Gloria Reforma, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Natalie Spiteri, Mary Silva, Rosary Silva, Caroline Susainathan, Melchor Usman, Dionisio Udan

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Gregorio Almodovar, Frank & Fortunata Baiada, Peter & Helen Bonnici, Josephine Borg, Barrie Chamberlain, Renato & Marlyn Cabasa, Dennis Clarke, Johnny Edwards, Sam & Silvia Debatista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Lancer De Guire, Ngan Siu Eng, 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 Meilak, 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, Jim & Philippa Muscat, Agustin Ngalongalay, Colleen O'Sullivan, Estelita Palmos, Lakshman Perera, Ngan Pin, Eustace Ratnam, John & Roseline Ratnam, Mary Silva, Cua Sing, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella, Bibiano & Priscila Villanueva, Vinnie Zahra, Robert & Leila Zammit, Mary Zammit. ****Names will be published for 2 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 book of Wisdom 9:13-18*

What man can know the intentions of God? Who can divine the will of the Lord? The reasonings of mortals are unsure and our intentions unstable; for a perishable body presses down the soul, and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind.

It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth, laborious to know what lies within our reach; who, then, can discover what is in the heavens? As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you not granted Wisdom and sent your holy spirit from above? Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened and men been taught what pleases you, and saved, by Wisdom.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

1. You turn men back into dust
and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night. **(R.)**

2. You sweep men away like a dream,
like grass which springs up in the morning.
In the morning it springs up and flowers:
by evening it withers and fades. **(R.)**

3. Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants. **(R.)**

4. In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to Philemon 12-17:Phlm 9-10, 12-17*

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me.

However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let your face shine on your servant,
and teach me your laws.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 14:25-33*

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish."

Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

Recently I read this inspiring quote from social media 'an ordinary person with a plan can beat a genius without a plan.' I really liked it, though I don't remember who the quote was from, since it reminds me of the importance of having a plan in all I do, even Jesus talked about planning as we heard in the Gospel this Sunday.

Through two different parables: one about a tower builder and the other about a king preparing for war against another king with a stronger army who both need to have a plan in their hand in order to achieve their goals, Jesus perhaps meant to encourage his followers to think of putting together a plan for their spiritual journey, otherwise they could be in perpetual trouble for failing to gain what matters the most to their existence in this world, which is a place in the Kingdom of God at the end.

This spiritual plan shows them how to accumulate a treasure in heaven through their good works, such as serving the poor and the needy, embracing whatever the cross of trouble in their lives, fulfilling their witnessing tasks as Jesus' faithful disciples and putting Him above everyone and everything else in their lives, these messages Jesus kept telling his followers both in the Gospel today and the ones in previous Sundays, consequently this plan helps secure for them a place in heaven when they come to knock on its door on the day they are called to present themselves before the divine Judge. It's worth to remember that by saying to the crowds, 'if any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple,' Jesus doesn't mean to put a demand upon us to develop a hatred toward our family or cut ties with our family members, but rather ask us to make him our priority and give him the most important place in our whole lives.

Let us pray for the grace from the Holy Mass we celebrate this Sunday to keep us and especially all the children having their First Holy Communion and their parents this week and next week always mindful of carrying out our spiritual plan of good works prayers and worship, consequently we all will become rich before God by means of our faithfulness to God and generosity to all people around us, particularly those who are less fortunate than us, and finally deserved a place to live with God forever in His heavenly house.

Have a Christ-focused week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

BISHOP'S FATHER'S DAY APPEAL – SUPPORTING OUR SENIOR PRIESTS AS THEY CONTINUE TO SERVE

Apart from our two collections, we have the Father's Day Appeal collection this weekend to support both sick and retired clergy in our diocese of Parramatta and Fr John Boyle, former parish priest of this parish has been one among them, so please be generous to this special appeal today as this helps ensure our ageing priests receive the care, comfort, and dignity they deserve in this next chapter of their lives. Give generously at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or scan the QR code. Thank you.



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

All members of the Parish Pastoral Council are invited to attend a meeting on Wednesday 10 September at 7.30pm in the Parish Meeting room.

LOURDES OVER 50s GROUP

Please join us for our next Over 50s meeting on Thursday 11th September 2025, 10.30am– 1pm in the Parish Hall. Please bring a plate to share.

SYDNEY ALLIANCE NORTH WEST LISTENING: 18 September

Our parish is hosting together with the Diocese of Parramatta and the Sydney Alliance an 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 Thurs, 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 contact Ian Epondulan on 0401 161 264 or Raul on rsugu@sydneyalliance.org.au

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CONGRATULATIONS

We are blessed to have 17 children making their First Holy Communion this Sunday, and on behalf of the Parish, I would like to congratulate them on this wonderful occasion to receive their best friend Jesus for the first time, and wish them the most joyful and memorable day. May they always remain the Lord's most trusted friends.

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 10th 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 an Animator from Laudato Si' Movement (LSM). For more info: Mark Taneco - marktaneco@gmail.com; Ian Epondulan - 0401 161 264, youthlol7h@gmail.com or search 'Lourdes 7Hills Young Adults' on Facebook.

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 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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

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/

Mary and Synodality Short Course: 10,17,24 September

Join us for a 4-week formation series, Mary & Synodality: Perspectives in Marian Theology for our Synodal Church, presented by Qwayne Guevara (MA Theology and Ministry, Grad Dip Theol). Through Scripture, theology, contemporary thought, we will explore how Mary's witness offers us an inspiration for servant leadership, Spirit-filled collaboration, compassionate accompaniment, hope-filled discernment in a synodal Church. Sessions will be held on Wednesdays 10, 17 and 25 September at the Bethany Centre, 470 Church St, North Parramatta. Register today at parracatholic.org/maryandsynodality

Catholic Care Memorial Service for Those We Have Lost: 11 September

Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, together with White Lady Funerals, invite you to a memorial service to remember loved ones who have died by suicide or tragically lost their lives. The service will be held on Thurs 11 September from 10am to midday at Mamre House and Farm, Orchard Hills. There will be an opportunity to plant a rose bush in our Garden of Remembrance. Counsellors and a Chaplain will be present throughout the event to offer any support if needed. Kindly RSVP by Monday 8 September to Lisa, Catholic Care: 0439 917 129 or (02) 8843 2500 or Christy, White Lady Funerals: (02) 4731 4385

Community of the Risen Lord Young Adults Weekend: 12-14 September

The Young Adults Ministry of the Risen Lord Community (CRL), Sydney, is hosting a weekend retreat for young people aged 18+ from 12-14 September at the Benedict XVI Retreat Centre, Grose Vale. This weekend away will explore how to live an extraordinary "set-apart" life in the midst of the ordinary, everyday world. Participants will engage in worship, prayer ministry, Eucharistic adoration and sessions on key topics. To register, visit <https://www.trybooking.com/DDMFW>. For further information, email via the below holylivingcrl@gmail.com

LOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

What is Safeguarding?

Measures to protect the safety, human rights and well-being of individuals, which allow people – in this context children and most vulnerable – to live free from abuse, harm and neglect.

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities

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>

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

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/>

Diocesan Season of Creation Mass: 20 September

St Patrick's Cathedral and the Diocesan *Laudato Si'* Action Team invite you to the annual Season of Creation Mass with Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv. The entire universe speaks of God's love (Pope Francis) and all of creation praises our God (Psalm 148). Let us join in this praise and in Jesus' own mission to care for creation (Pope Leo) on Saturday 20 September 2025, 10am, St Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Marist Pl, Parramatta. Morning tea will be served in the Cloister Hall after Mass.

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!

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 or call 0460 037 795.

Low Cost Counselling Services

Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains provides low cost and affordable counselling services for individuals seeking support. Whether you're looking for general guidance or assistance with specific challenges like grief, loss, or family matters, Catholic Care is here to help. Call Catholic Care on 8843 2500 for a friendly chat today.

LOL 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.

Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry is a safe place for those young people who choose to come to our Church Youth Groups to deepen their faith. Here at LOL Seven Hills we:

- Create a safe and inclusive place for all young people
- Ensure all those who facilitate Youth Groups act and speak appropriately when working with children
- Conduct our Youth Ministry within the expectations of the legal requirements of Child Protection / Safeguarding and Diocesan Policies.

POPE LEO'S ANGELUS

Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday!

In every culture, sitting at table together, especially on days of rest and celebration, is a sign of peace and communion. In this Sunday's Gospel (Lk 14:1.7-14), Jesus is invited to a meal by one of the leaders of the Pharisees. Inviting others to one's table is a sign of openness of heart, while accepting such an invitation entails having the humility to be open to others and their world. These gestures that bring people together help foster a culture of encounter.

Encounter is not always easy. The Evangelist notes that the other guests "observed" Jesus closely; indeed, he was watched with some suspicion by the stricter interpreters of tradition. Yet the encounter takes place because Jesus makes himself genuinely present; as a good guest, he acts with respect and sincerity, avoiding merely polite formalities that preclude authentic encounter. Consequently, as was his wont, he employs a parable to describe what he sees happening and invites those watching him to reflect on it. For he saw people rushing to sit in the places of honour, something that also happens today, not in families but on occasions when people consider it important to "be noticed", whereby a moment for being together ends up as a competition.

Sisters and brothers, when we sit together at the table of the Eucharist on the Lord's Day, we too should be willing to let Jesus speak. He becomes our guest and he can tell us how he sees us. It is very important that we see ourselves through his eyes: to see how frequently we reduce life to a competition, how anxious we become to obtain some sort of recognition, and how pointlessly we compare ourselves to others. Stopping to reflect, letting ourselves be taken aback by a word that challenges our hearts' priorities, is to experience freedom, the freedom to which Jesus calls us.

In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of "humility" in describing perfect freedom (cf. Lk 14:11). Humility is really freedom from ourselves. It is born when the Kingdom of God and its righteousness become our real concern and we allow ourselves to lift up our eyes and look ahead: not down at our feet, but at what lies ahead! Those who exalt themselves generally think that nothing is more interesting than themselves; yet deep down, they are quite insecure. Whereas those who know that they are precious in God's eyes, who know they are God's children, have greater things to be worried about; they possess a sublime dignity all their own. Once we learn to take the last places, rather than striving for the first, that dignity will appear, and we will come to the fore simply and effortlessly.

Dear friends, today let us pray that the Church will always be a school of humility for everyone, a home where all are welcome, a place where rivalries are set aside and where Jesus still speaks to us and teaches us to imitate his own humility and freedom. Mary is truly the Mother of that home; it is to her that we now pray.

After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters,

Sadly, the war in Ukraine continues to sow death and destruction. Even in recent days, bombings have struck several cities, including the capital Kyiv, causing numerous casualties. I renew my closeness to the Ukrainian people and to all the injured families. I ask everyone not to give in to indifference, but to draw close to them through prayer and concrete gestures of charity. I strongly reiterate my urgent appeal for an immediate ceasefire and a serious commitment to dialogue. Now is the time for those responsible to renounce the logic of weapons and take the path of negotiation and peace, with the support of the international community. The voice of weapons must be silenced, while the voice of fraternity and justice must be raised.

Our prayers for the victims of the tragic shooting during a school Mass in the American State of Minnesota include the countless children killed and injured every day around the world. Let us plead God to stop the pandemic of arms, large and small, which infects our world. May our Mother Mary, the Queen of Peace, help us to fulfil the prophecy of Isaiah: "They shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks" (Is 2:4).

Our hearts are also wounded by the more than fifty people who died and the one hundred or so still missing following the shipwreck of a boat carrying migrants attempting the 1100 km journey towards the Canary Islands, that capsized off the Atlantic coast of Mauritania. This deadly tragedy is repeated every day all over the world. Let us pray that the Lord will teach us, as individuals and societies, fully to put into practice his words: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Mt 25:35).

We entrust all our injured, missing and dead, everywhere, to our Savior's loving embrace.

Tomorrow, 1 September, is the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. Ten years ago, in harmony with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, Pope Francis established this Day for the Catholic Church. This is more important and urgent than ever, and this year's theme is "Seeds of Peace and Hope." Together with all Christians, we celebrate it throughout this "Season of Creation", which lasts until 4 October, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. In the spirit of the Canticle of Brother Sun, which he composed 800 years ago, we praise God and renew our commitment not to ruin his gift but to care for our common home.

I extend my affectionate greeting to all of you, the faithful of Rome and pilgrims from Italy and various countries. In particular, I greet the parish groups from Quartu Sant'Elena, Morigerati, Venegono, Rezzato, Brescello, Boretto and Gualtieri, Val di Gresta, Valmadrera, Stiatico, Sortino and Casadio; together with the group of families from Lucca who traveled along the Via Francigena.

I also greet the Lay Fraternity of the Dimesse Sisters of Padua, the young people of Catholic Action and AGESCI of Reggio Calabria, the young people of Gorla Maggiore and the *confirmandi* of Castel San Pietro Terme; as well as the Shalom Movement of San Miniato with the Angiolo del Bravo Philharmonic, the "Note libere" Association of Taviano, and the "Genitori Orsenigo" group.

I wish all of you a happy Sunday!

POPE LEO'S GENERAL AUDIENCE

Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025. *Jesus Christ our Hope. III. The Passover of Jesus. 5. The Crucifixion. «I thirst» (Jn 19:28)*

Dear brothers and sisters,

At the heart of the account of the Passion, in the most luminous and at the same time darkest moment of Jesus' life, the Gospel of John gives us two words that contain an immense mystery: "I thirst" (19:28), and immediately afterwards: "It is finished" (19:30). These are his last words, but they are filled with a whole lifetime, revealing the meaning of the entire existence of the Son of God. On the cross, Jesus does not appear as a victorious hero, but as a suppliant for love. He does not proclaim, condemn or defend himself. He humbly asks for what he, alone, cannot give to himself in any way. The thirst of the Crucified Lord is not only the physiological need of a tortured body. It is also, and above all, the expression of a profound desire: that of love, of relationship, of communion. It is the silent cry of a God who, having wished to share everything of our human condition, also lets himself be overcome by this thirst. A God who is not ashamed to beg for a sip, because in that gesture he tells us that love, in order to be true, must also learn to ask and not only to give. *I thirst*, says Jesus, and in this way he manifests his humanity and also ours. None of us can be self-sufficient. No-one can save themselves. Life is "fulfilled" not when we are strong, but when we learn how to receive. It is precisely at that moment, after receiving from unknown hands a sponge soaked in vinegar, that Jesus proclaims: *It is finished*. Love has made itself needy, and precisely for this reason it has accomplished its work. This is the Christian paradox: God saves not by doing, but by letting himself do. Not by defeating evil with force, but by accepting the weakness of love to the very end. On the cross, Jesus teaches us that man does not realize himself in power, but in trustful openness to others, even when they are hostile and enemies. Salvation is not found in autonomy, but in humbly recognizing one's own need and in being able to express it freely. The fulfilment of our humanity in God's plan is not an act of strength, but a gesture of trust. Jesus does not save with a dramatic twist, but by asking for something that he cannot give himself. And it is here that the door to true hope opens: if even the Son of God chose not to be self-sufficient, then our thirst too – for love, for meaning, for justice – is a sign not of failure, but of truth. This truth, seemingly so simple, is difficult to accept. We live in a time that rewards self-sufficiency, efficiency, performance. And yet the Gospel shows us that the measure of our humanity is not given by what we can achieve, but by our ability to let ourselves be loved and, when necessary, even helped. Jesus saves us by showing us that asking is not unworthy, but liberating. It is the way out of the hiddenness of sin, so as to re-enter the space of communion. Ever since the beginning, sin has begotten shame. But forgiveness – real forgiveness – is born when we can face up to our need and no longer fear rejection.

Jesus' thirst on the cross is therefore ours too. It is the cry of a wounded humanity that seeks living water. And this thirst does not lead us away from God, but rather unites us with him. If we have the courage to acknowledge it, we can discover that even our fragility is a bridge towards heaven. It is precisely in asking – not in possessing – that a way of freedom opens up, because we cease to pretend to be self-sufficient. In fraternity, in the simple life, in the art of asking without shame and offering without ulterior motives, a joy is born that the world does not know. A joy that restores us to the original truth of our being: we are creatures made to give and receive love.

Dear brothers and sisters, in Christ's thirst we can recognize all of our own thirst. And to learn that there is nothing more human, nothing more divine, than being able to say: *I need*. Let us not be afraid to ask, especially when it seems to us that we do not deserve. Let us not be ashamed to reach out our hand. It is right there, in that humble gesture, that salvation hides.

POPE LEO XIV: Charity transforms lives and builds community *By Linda Bordonì*

Pope Leo XIV welcomed members of the *Opera San Francesco per i Poveri* ("St Francis' Work for the Poor"), on Monday, encouraging them to remain faithful to their mission of providing assistance, welcome, and promoting human dignity. He was addressing a delegation from the Milan-based institution, which for nearly seven decades has been providing meals, clothing, medical care and support to more than 30,000 people every year.

"With joy I meet you, members of *Opera San Francesco per i Poveri*," the Pope said. "For nearly seventy years your institution has been committed to 'ensuring assistance and hospitality to people in need and [...] fostering the full human development of the person in the light of the Christian tradition, especially the Franciscan tradition, in the teaching and Magisterium of the Church.'"

Recalling the origins of the initiative in the heart of Capuchin friar Fra Cecilio Maria Cortinovis, he highlighted how "the beautiful adventure of which you today are witnesses and protagonists" was born from faith and generosity.

Three dimensions of charity

In his address, the Pope underlined three dimensions of the work of *Opera San Francesco*: "assistere, accogliere e promuovere" – "to assist, to welcome, and to promote."

"To assist", he said, "means being present to the needs of others. And it is striking to see the number and variety of services that, over the years, you have managed to organise and offer to those who turn to you ... supporting in various ways more than thirty thousand people every year."

Alongside assistance, he continued, is *to welcome*: "making space for the other in one's heart, in one's life, offering time, listening, support, prayer. It is the attitude of looking into the eyes, of shaking hands, of stooping down, so dear to Pope Francis."

Finally, *promoting*, the Pope explained, means helping people grow in freedom and dignity: "Here the gratuitousness of the gift and respect for the dignity of persons come into play, so that one cares for those one meets simply for their good ... without expecting something in return and without imposing conditions. Just as God does with each of us, indicating a way, offering all the help necessary to walk it, but then leaving us free."

He recalled the words of Saint John Paul II: "It is a matter [...] of effectively increasing the dignity and creativity of each individual, of his or her capacity to respond to their own vocation and thus to God's call contained within it."

A mission for the Church and society

"This, dear friends," the Pope affirmed, "is the task that the Church entrusts to you, for the benefit of the people who gather around the structures you manage and also of society as a whole."

Bestowing his apostolic blessing, he concluded the audience, thanking those present for their work and for the witness they give by walking together.

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 2 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 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.

September 2025

10	First Holy Communion Practice Group 2	6.30pm
11	Over 50's Group Meeting	10.30am
14	First Holy Communion Group 2	11.00am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

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, Sub Rqd, A. Melki
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Tongan Choir
Musicians	Vigil: Christine Clarke 8am: Fr. Henry 9.30am: Couples for Christ
Flowers	Fennie & Liz
Church Cleaning	18 September Cathy Hutchings Annette Peatman Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon

13/14 September

Acolytes	Vigil: Derick Soares 8am: Ernie Gartner 9.30am: Ramzee Michael
Ministers	Vigil: R. Soares, D. Green 8am: M. Santos, F. Paiva 9.30am: M. Michael, C. Brooks
Readers	Vigil: C. Rodrigues, R. Saldanha 8am: A. McNally, J. Mai 9.30am: A. Pushparajan, L. Rigney
Altar Servers	Vigil: Leonardo, Saoirse & Sebastian Costello 8am: A. Faulkner-Dhiman, C. Bellamin, J. Blackshaw 9.30am: M. Stormer, E. Wright, J. Steele
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Young Adults Group
Musicians	Vigil: Fr. Henry 8am: Fr. Henry 9.30am: Tongan Choir
Flowers	Claudette & Siani
Church Cleaning	24 September Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Ugre 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Georgina Basili

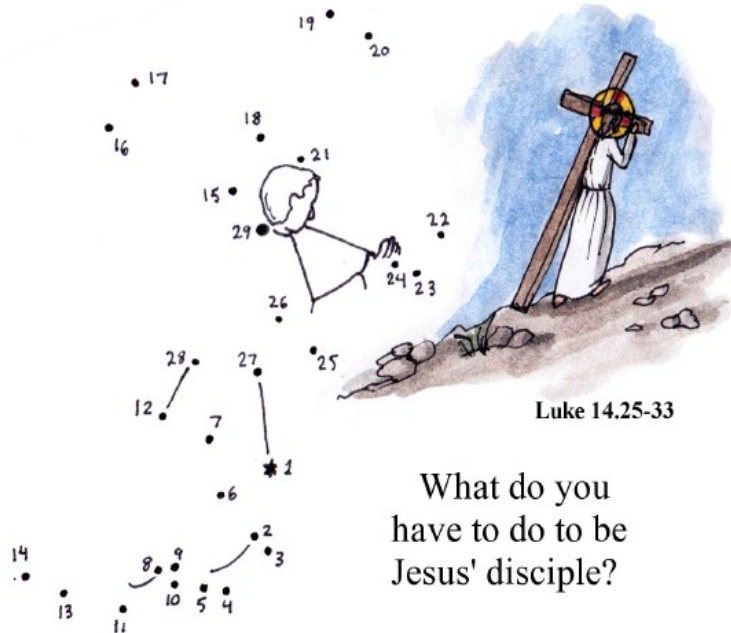
The Kids' Bulletin

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 7th, 2025

The Cost of Discipleship

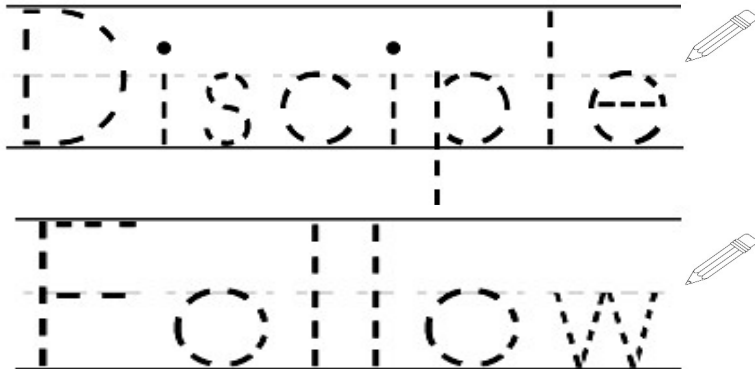
And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:27 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 14:25-33 (NIV).



What do you
have to do to be
Jesus' disciple?

Connect the dots to find out,
starting at the star beside the number 1.
Then you can colour the picture in.



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

PEACE	ENOUGH	TRAVELING	TOWER	LARGE
FINISH	CROWDS	COMPLETE	CROSS	MONEY
JESUS	WAR	DISCIPLE	BUILD	KING
CARRY	COST	FOLLOW	ESTIMATE	THOUSAND

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

- 25-18-11-11-6 _____
- 10-15-20-15-22-16 _____
- 26-8-15-12-23 _____
- 25-11-13-22-22 _____
- 10-13-12-12-13-19 _____
- 24-13-20-7-6 _____
- 23-15-22-25-15-21-12-7 _____
- 25-13-22-17 _____
- 17-13-19-7-11 _____
- 25-13-24-21-12-7-17-7 _____



DISCIPLE	BUILD	COST	TOWER	COMPLETE
CROSS	FOLLOW	MONEY	FINISH	CARRY