



OUR LADY OF LOURDES

PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS

"Still a wonderful place to pray & stay."

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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/>

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS 14 September 2025 • Year C



Let us Pray for the Sick

Florence Arinanan, Lorenzo Balabat, Sarah Bartolo, Max Barrett, Luigi Bertinato, 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, 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, Lorraine Muscat, Arnold Naldoza, Jesus Nufable, Doreen Monana Palomos, Ronald Quilantang, Noel Rawlston, Anula Rupesinghe, Rubilinda Saquian, Christopher Solomon, Milagros Trembevilla Fernandez, Cecilia Thomas, Sheadon Trek.

Anniversaries: Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, France Angseesing, Horace Baptist, Cecil Beed, Ronald Barley, Romeo Biniahan, Sam Borg, Elaine Bosen, Denis Brophy, Joseph & Carmeva, Catherine Chandra, John Soo Choon, Paul & Simone Commarmond, Aloysean Corera, Teresa David, Clive Diggelman, Silvia Debattista, Alexander Farrugia, Emmanuel Francis, M.A. Fernando, Merita Fernando, John Fernando, Sammy Formosa, Ethan Garcia, Anthony, Francisca & Zenaida Garcia, Christine & Josephine Gomez, April Marabe, Pietro Marra, Mary Moore, Maria Xavier Motha Jnr, Albert & Josephe Mula, Paul Mula, Lissy, Jose & Mary Kutty, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Cordula Paiva, Adrian Perera, Lakshman Perera, Paolo Pineda, Gloria Reforma, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Mary Silva, Rosary Silva, Caroline Susainathan, Koleti Tuala, Melchor Usman, Dionisio Udan

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Gregorio Almodovar, John Azzoparid, Peter & Helen Bonnici, Barrie Chamberlain, Renato & Marilyn Cabasa, Dennis Clarke, Johnny Edwards, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Launcer 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, Evangelina 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, 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 Palomos, Lakshman Perera, Ngan Pin, Eustace Ratnam, John & Roseline Ratnam, Mary Silva, Cua Sing, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella, Bibiano & Priscila Villanueva, Rita Xuerib, 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 Numbers 21:4-9*

On the way through the wilderness, the Israelites lost patience. They spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? For there is neither bread nor water here; we are sick of this unsatisfying food.'

At this God sent fiery serpents among the people; their bite brought death to many in Israel. The people came and said to Moses, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Intercede for us with the Lord to save us from these serpents.' Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord answered him, 'Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard. If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall live.' So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent which he put on a standard, and if anyone was bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze serpent and lived.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) Do not forget the works of the Lord!

1. Give heed, my people, to my teaching;
turn your ear to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable
and reveal hidden lessons of the past. **(R.)**

3. But the words they spoke were mere flattery;
they lied to him with their lips.
For their hearts were not truly with him;
they were not faithful to his covenant. **(R.)**

2. When he slew them then they would seek him,
return and seek him in earnest.
They would remember that God was their rock,
God the Most High their redeemer. **(R.)**

4. Yet he who is full of compassion
forgave their sin and spared them.
So often he held back his anger
when he might have stirred up his rage. **(R.)**

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

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

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

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
because by your cross you have redeemed the world.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 3:13-17*

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Son of Man who is in heaven; and the Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.'

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.'

The Gospel of the Lord.





FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

In 326 St Helena, a devout Christian, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with the mission to identify significant sites from Jesus' life and build churches at those locations.

While visiting Mount Calvary and the empty tomb of Jesus, she discovered three discarded and buried crosses, which the local bishop confirmed later on after an investigation were the crosses used to crucify Jesus and the two thieves. Since Helena had no idea which cross was Jesus', she arranged for a sick woman to touch all three of them, and the woman was immediately healed upon touching one of them, indicating that it was the Cross upon which Jesus was hung.

Following the discovery of Jesus' Cross and his tomb, Constantine ordered to build a church called the Holy Sepulchre to encompass these important sites and house the Cross, and the church was dedicated 13 September 335. On the following day September 14 the Cross was brought outside the church for people to venerate as the first Exaltation of the Cross and this feast has remained in our liturgy ever since.

Apart from commemorating the discovery of Jesus' Cross in 326 and its first exaltation for public veneration in 335, this feast also commemorates another significant event in the Church namely the recovery of the Cross from the Persians in 628.

In the Gospel for this feast of the Exaltation of the Cross today, Jesus took Nicodemus back to the Old Testament story telling us about how God asked Moses to make a bronze serpent and put it on a stand as a healing object for those who got bitten by fiery serpents while wandering in the desert prior to their entry into the Promised Land, as the writer of the book of Numbers recounts in the first reading, and used it as a metaphor to foretell his coming crucifixion in which he was going to be hung upon the cross to bring salvation and everlasting life to those who believe in him.

In the Second reading, we have a text known as an early Christian hymn often called the Philippian Christ hymn denoting Jesus' voluntary descent from divine glory to becoming human, crucifixion, death and exaltation to supreme authority by God the Father. Through this hymn, St Paul probably aimed to demonstrate Jesus' model of self-emptying love to establish a new standard of honour for his followers that subverts Greco-Roman norms as an inspiring example for the Philippians both to unite and embrace humility.

Let us give praise and thanks to our beloved Lord Jesus today for using the Cross as the humble means to bring us salvation and life in eternity through his death on the Cross, and pray that our adoration of his cross will help us (1) treasure the inspiring values the Cross of Jesus stands for, such as humility, self-sacrifice and acceptance of human suffering his life-giving sacrifice and (2) follow his example by accepting our daily troubles and giving a helping hand to those in need.

Have a Cross-oriented week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CONGRATULATIONS

We are blessed to have the second group of children receiving their First Holy Communion this Sunday, and on behalf of the Parish I would like to congratulate them for the opportunity 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.

SUNDAY EVENING MASS 5PM

Next Sunday the 21st of September, we have our additional mass at 5.00pm. It is an opportunity for our parishioners, especially the young ones to attend Mass on Sunday.

FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT (FGM) AT OLOL

The "Joyful Journey" group is embarking on an exciting trip to Mudgee over the October long weekend (4th-6th). Thus far, 6 families (total of 24pax) have confirmed, and cabins booked. The group are looking forward to it. The "Divine Rainbow" group will be hiking on Saturday 20-September at Walder Park, Prospect Reservoir. This activity was also undertaken earlier in the year and is a popular choice. Please contact the Parish office if you would like to join the Family Group.

LOURDES LUMINATE YOUNG ADULTS GROUP NIGHT

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, youtholol7h@gmail.com or search 'Lourdes 7Hills Young Adults' on Facebook.

A PRACTICAL TIP EACH WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

TIP 1: Shop at your local market for fresh food. Start your conversion in every food purchase and in every meal you make. If you buy fresh, seasonal food, you can eat healthier, avoid additives and storage in large refrigerators. If you buy local food, you can avoid costly, polluting transportation and packaging. You will also help support your local community.

SEASON OF CREATION PRAYER

Sundays, after 8am mass and before 9.30am mass, for a brief reflection and prayer to honor and give thanks for the Gift of Creation, please gather in the 'Crying Room' located at the back of the church.

A REPORT FROM OUR LAST PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Apart from usual reports from various groups in the Parish, we also made two important decisions as following:

1/ To renew the Welcoming group by making this group available to everyone, consequently we then invite all our parishioners who go to Mass early to get the bulletins and distribute them at our church doors; 2/ To bring Communion to those who are less mobile at Mass, from now on if those who wish to receive Holy Communion at the seat, please raise your hand up at the end of Holy Communion to signal one of the ministers to bring the Body of Christ for you.

THE GROTTTO: OLOL JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

We invite children aged 9-14yrs old to join us for our junior youth group meeting on next Sunday 21 September, in the Parish Meeting Room, 3.30pm till 6pm which includes the 5pm mass. The Grotto for September will be about Young Saints. Food Provided. For further information or to register please contact our Youth Coordinator, Diana Park via email at dianap@olol7hills.com.au or search 'OLOL Youth Ministry' on Facebook.

Positions Vacant

. Parish Secretary – Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Kellyville

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

Bishop's Father's Day Appeal – supporting our senior priests as they continue to serve

This Father's Day, as we thank the father figures in our lives, let's also honour our spiritual fathers the priests who nurture our faith. After stepping back from administration, they continue to serve in faithful ways: offering sacraments, celebrating Masses, hearing confessions, assisting at services, and serving as chaplains in aged care. Your kind generosity helps ensure our ageing priests receive the care, comfort, and dignity they deserve in this next chapter of their lives. Please give generously at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or scan the QR code.



Grace and Truth Evening

Men and women (18 years and older) are invited to join the Dominican Friars and Sisters on Tuesday 30 September for the next Grace and Truth evening on the theme "Anchored in Hope". The evening will consist of Eucharistic Adoration, Vespers and Benediction, a light dinner, and talks by Fr Paul Rowse, OP and Sister Anastasia, OP. The event will run from 5-8:30PM, starting in the St Mary's Cathedral Crypt and moving to the Cathedral Hall. Cost: \$20. Registration closes 23 September. <https://www.trybooking.com/DESDN>. For more information, contact the Dominican Sisters at sydney@op-tn.org.

Design our next Catholic Outlook Magazine front cover!

We're inviting *you* to design the front cover of the *Catholic Outlook Magazine's* Christmas and Summer 2025 edition! People of all ages from across the Diocese of Parramatta are welcome to submit their artwork for consideration. Let's make this Advent and Christmas season a canvas of faith and joy – together. Please submit your entry by Friday 7 November 2025 – with a short description of your artwork – via parracatholic.org/artcomp

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.

LOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

Photography

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

Responsibility

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



SYDNEY ALLIANCE NORTH WEST LISTENING:

LOL Seven Hills 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



Develop community self-reliance and create lasting change! Palms Australia

Discover Palms International Volunteering [online](https://palms.org.au/events) in this special session you'll chat with past Palms volunteers and hear how skill-exchange makes a lasting impact within communities. Explore our [unique opportunities](https://palms.org.au/events) and match your life experience to the experience of a lifetime!

Venue: Online- Scan the QR or register at

palms.org.au/events

Date: Thursday 30 October 2025

Time: 7 pm – 8.30 pm AEDT (NSW/VIC/ACT/TAS)

02 9560 5333 palms@palms.org.au



Time change: Wedding Anniversary Mass

The Diocese of Parramatta Wedding Anniversary Mass will now be held at **2pm** on Sunday 26 October at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta (not 11am as previously advertised). Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv will celebrate the Mass, followed by a light lunch. Register by 20 October: marriage@parracatholic.org | 0488 000 211

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](https://parracatholic.org/musicians) 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.

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

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Seven Hills and The Diocese of Parramatta take the safeguarding of children and vulnerable persons seriously. This includes past or present forms of abuse. Safeguarding those who are vulnerable is part of the mission that Jesus Christ entrusts to our Church. 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,

Before concluding this long-awaited celebration, I would like to greet and thank all of you who have come in such large numbers to celebrate these two new Saints! I cordially greet the bishops and priests. I respectfully welcome the official Delegations and distinguished civil Authorities.

In this atmosphere, it is marvellous to recall that yesterday the Church was also enriched by two new Blesseds. In Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, Jesuit Archbishop Edoardo Profittlich was beatified. He was killed in 1942 during the Soviet regime's persecution of the Church. In Verszprém, Hungary, the young laywoman Maria Maddalena Bódi was beatified. She was killed in 1945 for resisting soldiers who intended to assault her. Let us praise the Lord for these two martyrs, courageous witnesses to the beauty of the Gospel!

To the intercession of the Saints and the Virgin Mary, we entrust our unceasing prayer for peace, especially in the Holy Land and Ukraine, and in every other land blood-stained by war. To those in power, I repeat: listen to the voice of conscience! The apparent victories achieved with weapons, which sow death and destruction, are in reality defeats and never bring peace or security! God does not want war, he wants peace, and he strengthens those who are committed to leaving behind the spiral of hatred and taking the path of dialogue.

POPE LEO XIV: Saints call us to look to God, make masterpieces of our life. *Vatican News*

Presiding over the Mass and canonization of Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis in Saint Peter's Square, Pope Leo XIV paid tribute to their extraordinary witnesses to faith, hope, and trust in God, and to the Lord's great plan for eternal joy and happiness. The Pope declared the two young Italians Saints at the start of the celebration on a stunningly beautiful late summer day, Sunday 7 September.

In his homily, the Pope reflected on the extraordinary witness of both new Saints. Recalling words from the first Sunday reading from the Book of Wisdom, the Pope observed that, like King Solomon, these young men sought the gift of wisdom to better understand God's plans for our lives and world, and follow them faithfully. And in doing so, they used their gifts to bring others to God through their example, words, and actions.

Giving ourselves to the Lord

Pope Leo appeals for peace in Holy Land, Ukraine, areas of world marred by war

In the Gospel reading, Jesus speaks to us of God's plan, to which we must commit wholeheartedly, abandoning ourselves "without hesitation to the adventure that he offers us, with the intelligence and strength that comes from his Spirit," the Pope recalled. Young people often face crossroads in their lives and have to make difficult choices, the Pope observed; and, recalling the example of Francis of Assisi, he pointed out that the Saint opted for "the wonderful story of holiness that we all know, stripping himself of everything to follow the Lord, living in poverty and preferring the love of his brothers and sisters, especially the weakest and smallest, to his father's gold, silver, and precious fabrics."

Saying "yes" to God

So many saints down through history have made similar courageous choices, looking up to God, and, while they were very young, the Pope recalled, offering their "yes" to God, giving themselves complete to Him, "keeping nothing for themselves." The Pope recalled how Saint Augustine felt a voice deep within him that said: "I want you", and "God gave him a new direction, a new path, a new reason, in which nothing of his life was lost."

Pier Giorgio Frassati, beacon for lay spirituality

Describing the life of Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati, a young Italian man of the early 20th century, his participation in Catholic associations and service to the poor, the Pope said that also today "Pier Giorgio's life is a beacon for lay spirituality," since faith was not a private matter and could be lived in community in with membership in ecclesial associations and through generous commitment to political life and service to the poor.

Carlo Acutis, witness of holiness in simplicity

Speaking about the witness of young Italian Saint Carlo Acutis, a teenager of our own day, the Pope spoke about how he encountered Jesus in his family, thanks to his parents, Andrea and Antonia, recalling their presence at this celebration along with his two siblings, Francesca and Michele. Saint Carlo also found and lived his faith through school, but especially the sacraments celebrated in the parish community, the Pope went on to say, noting how "he grew up naturally integrating prayer, sport, study and charity into his days as a child and young man."

Cultivating love for God and neighbour

Daily Mass, prayer, and especially Eucharistic Adoration, marked the lives of Saints Pier Giorgio and Carlo Acutis in cultivating their love for God and neighbour through simple acts of charity, the Pope said. And even as illness struck both of them, cutting their lives short, they continued to bear witness to hope and offer themselves to God, the Pope added, recalling how Pier Giorgio once said: "The day of my death will be the most beautiful day of my life"; and how young Carlo often remarked that "heaven has always been waiting for us, and that to love tomorrow is to give the best of our fruit today."

Making "masterpieces" of our lives

In conclusion, Pope Leo underscored how both Saints Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis invite everyone, "especially young people, not to squander our lives, but to direct them upwards and make them masterpieces."

POPE LEO'S GENERAL AUDIENCE

Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025. Jesus Christ our Hope. III. The Passover of Jesus. 6. Death. "Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed his last" (Mk 15:37).

Dear brothers and sisters,

Good morning, and thank you for your presence: a beautiful witness!

Today we will contemplate the culmination of Jesus' life in this world: his death on the cross. The Gospels attest to a very precious detail, which is worthy of contemplation with the intelligence of faith. On the cross, Jesus does not die in silence. He does not fade away gradually, like a light that burns out, but rather he leaves life with a cry: *"Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed his last" (Mk 15:37)*. That cry contains everything: pain, abandonment, faith, offering. It is not only the voice of a body giving way, but the final sign of a life being surrendered.

The cry of Jesus is preceded by a question, one of the most heart-rending that could be uttered: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?". It is the first verse of Psalm 22, but on Jesus' lips it assumes a singular weight. The Son, who always lived in intimate communion with the Father, now experiences silence, absence, the abyss. It is not a crisis of faith, but the final stage of a love that is given up to the very end. Jesus' cry is not desperation, but sincerity, truth taken to the limit, trust that endures even when all is silent.

At that moment, the sky darkens and the veil of the temple is torn (cf. *Mk 15:33,38*). As if creation itself was participating in that pain, and at the same time revealing something new. God no longer dwells behind a veil – his face is now fully visible in the Crucified One. It is there, in that broken man, that the greatest love manifests itself. It is there that we can recognize a God who does not remain distant, but who traverses our pain to the very end.

The centurion, a pagan, understands this. Not because he has listened to a speech, but because he saw Jesus die in that way: *"Truly this man was the Son of God!" (Mk 15:39)*. It is the first confession of faith after the death of Jesus. It is the fruit of a cry that did not vanish in the wind, but touched a heart. At times, what we are unable to say in words, we express with the voice. When the heart is full, it cries. And this is not always a sign of weakness; it can be a profound act of humanity.

We are accustomed to thinking of crying out as something disorderly, to be repressed. The Gospel confers an immense value to our cry, reminding us that it can be an invocation, a protest, a desire, a surrender. It can even be the extreme form of prayer, when there are no words left. In that cry, Jesus gave all that he had left: all his love, all his hope.

Yes, because there is this too, in crying out: a hope that is not resigned. One cries out when one believes that someone can still hear. One cries not out of desperation, but out of desire. Jesus did not cry out *against* the Father, but *to* him. Even in silence, he was convinced that the Father was there. And, in this way, he showed us that our hope can cry out, even when all seems lost.

To cry out therefore becomes a spiritual gesture. It is not only the first act of our birth, when we come into the world crying: it is also a way of staying alive. One cries when one suffers, but also when one loves, one calls, one invokes. To cry out is saying who we are, that we do not want to fade away in silence, that we still have something to offer.

In the journey of life, there are moments in which keeping something inside can slowly consume us. Jesus teaches us not to be afraid to cry out, as long as it is sincere, humble, addressed to the Father. A cry is never pointless, if it is born of love. And it is never ignored, if it is delivered to God. It is a way to not give in to cynicism, to continue to believe that another world is possible.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us learn this too from the Lord Jesus: let us learn the cry of hope when the hour of extreme trial comes. Not to hurt, but to entrust ourselves. Not to shout at someone, but to open our hearts. If our cry is genuine, it can be the threshold of a new light, of a new birth. As with Jesus: when everything seemed to be over, in reality salvation was about to begin. If it is made manifest with the trust and freedom of the children of God, the suffering voice of our humanity, united with the voice of Christ, can become a source of hope for us and for those around us.

Greeting:

I am happy to welcome, this morning, the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors, especially those from England, Ireland, Scotland, Denmark, Malta, Norway, Uganda, India, Indonesia, Israel, Malaysia, Singapore, Canada, Dominica and the United States of America. With prayerful good wishes that the present Jubilee of Hope may be for you and your families a time of grace and spiritual renewal, I invoke upon you all the joy and the peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary of Catechesis:

Dear brothers and sisters, in our continuing catechesis on the Jubilee theme of "Christ our Hope," we contemplate Jesus' death on the cross. What can strike us is that our Lord does not die in silence, but cries out in a loud voice. The cry of the crucified Christ is not weakness, nor a crisis of faith, but an act of enduring trust. In this way, Jesus reveals a life surrendered and given totally to the Father. This act of hope amid extreme trial touches hearts. Think of the Centurion who, moved by the cry of Jesus, makes the first profession of faith after Jesus' death, "Truly this man was God's Son!" Learning from the Centurion, may our cries of faith, united with the voice of Christ, be a sign of hope and trust in a heavenly Father who hears the cry of his children.

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/LOL7Hills/>

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 9th October 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.

September 2025

18	Sydney Alliance North West Listening	6.00pm
21	Sunday Evening Mass	5.00pm
21	The Grotto: OLOL Junior Youth Group Meeting	3.30pm
25	Lourdes: Luminare Young Adults Group Meeting	6.30pm

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

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: SUB RQD, J. Mai 9.30am: A. Pushparajan, L. Rigney
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. Faulkner-Dhiman, M. Forrest 8am: C. Bellamin, J. Blackshaw 9.30am: N.D'Cruz, SUB RQD
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

20/21 September

Acolytes	Vigil: Lawrence Falzon 8am: Eugene Miu 9.30am: Rommel Lagare
Ministers	Vigil: A. Do Rosario, M. Simic 8am: J. Sarmiento, B. Motha 9.30am: Kamela & Kilifi Huihui
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, A. Franco 8am: J. Cabasa, P. Ferriols 9.30am: N. Arambulo, C. Diaz
Altar Servers	Vigil: G. Amaladass, S. Thoms, A. Monteiro 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: C. Attard, L. Sager, H. Winter
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council
Musicians	Vigil: K.Thoms & C.Woodward 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: 5.00pm: Maximilian's Chorale
Flowers	Fennie, Angela, Raquel
Church Cleaning	2 October Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Ugre 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Georgina Basili

The Kids' Bulletin

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
September 14th, 2025

God So Loved the World

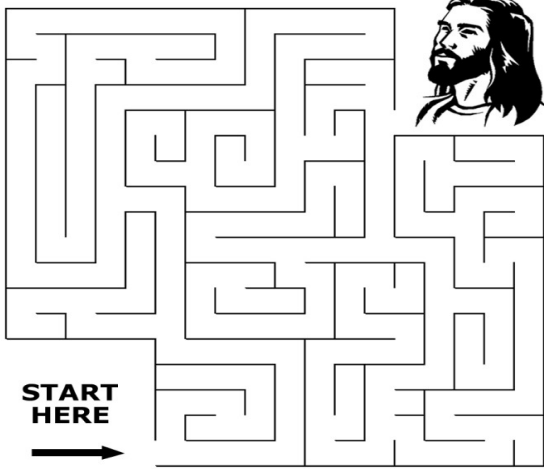
For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on John 3:16-17



Today is a special feast day when we celebrate the cross on which Jesus died. Look in the mirror to find the words of a hymn that tells us about what the cross means to us.



The words below have been written in code. Use the hints in the decoder at the top of the page to help break the code (the letters on top are the correct answers, the letters on the bottom are the code). Write the correct word on the line provided beside each code word.

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

- 19-15-14 _____
- 23-15-18-12-4 _____
- 12-15-22-5-4 _____
- 7-15-4 _____
- 12-9-6-5 _____
- 7-1-22-5 _____
- 5-20-5-18-14-1-12 _____
- 16-5-18-9-19-8 _____

SON WORLD	ETERNAL PERISH	GAVE LIFE	LOVED GOD
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MLIZDQXP THROUGH
VDJPQWTWVLR CIDA
CYULIFEOKDDEDBV
ITSHBNRWLZKOHMV
SHZNDGGJLGBSEND
JGODBMAMRYFNILLO
SZENKDLVMRAW ON
RAJMC PKVEFQH XVO
YIVLGCSP LHEOJEU
BWEEBOMEYIVEODU
POJSUNRRKMPVRWZ
XRCVTDP I P PERSH
SLSGCEXSZNIRZDT
VDBQGMFHETERNAL
UGYWP NVBELIEVES

LOVED THROUGH PERISH	GOD SEND ETERNAL	SON WHOEVER GAVE	CONDEMN LIFE HIM	BELIEVES SAVE WORLD
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