



OUR LADY OF LOURDES

PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS

"Still a wonderful place to pray & stay."

7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills. NSW. 2147

Ph. 9622 2920

Email: secretary@olol7hills.com.au

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

Parish School: OLOL 8869 6800
Principal: Ms Keiran Byrnes
Reconciliation: Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
Baptismal Preparation: 18th February 2026
Baptism: 11th January 2026
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall
Youth Co-Ordinator: Diana Park
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.com.au
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>



Christmas Year A 24th & 25th December, 2025

Christmas Eve 6.00pm and 9.00pm

READINGS

1st Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5
2nd Reading: Apostles 13:16-17, 22-25
Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

*The Lord takes delight in you.
Paul spoke of Christ, the son of David.
A genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David.*

RESPONSE TO PSALM: *For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia! Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed: the Saviour of the world will be our king. Alleluia!

Christmas Midnight Mass

READINGS

1st Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7
2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14
Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

*A son is given to us.
God's grace has been revealed to all people.
Today a saviour has been born for you.*

RESPONSE TO PSALM: *Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia! Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

Christmas Day 8am and 9:30am

READINGS

1st Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10
2nd Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6
Gospel: John 1:1-18

*All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of our God.
In our own time, God speaks to us through his Son.
The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we saw his glory.*

RESPONSE TO PSALM: *All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia! A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia!



WE WISH OUR PARISH COMMUNITY AND THEIR FAMILIES A VERY HOLY
CHRISTMAS AND OUR PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS REMAIN WITH YOU OVER
THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS





Let us Pray for the Sick

Florence Arinanan, Lorenzo Balabat, Max Barrett, Luigi Bertinato, Penny Briscoe, Irene Cabasa, Alma Caguimbal, Mary Camilleri, John Crowther, Lawrence Charles, James Debattista, Christian Detera, Ben Dixon, Para Dias, Annabelle Edwards, Lucia Fernando, Renuka Fernando, Grace George, Philippe Honore, Anthony Janicska, Mary Jordan, Clare Kinsley, Takis Karapatsakis, T.S.Q. Letran, Bob & Theresa Marini, Sandra & Kenny Mahoney, Susie Manga, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Gary Morrissey, Jayne Muscat, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Michelle Pellicano, Maricar Poblete, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Arabella Steele, Sue Tipaldo, Chandra Sampantham, Caroline Stevenson, Vivian Tomines, Sakalia Ameto Vili, 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@lol7hills.com.au

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

Let us Pray for the Deceased

Recently Deceased: Sr Anna Maria Sammut, Anthony Hastings, Aggie Motha, Maria Amma Peter, Anthony Ruzgas.

Anniversaries: Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, France Angseesing, Lourdes Apalisok, Dennis Clarke, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Rita de Silva, Frank, M.A Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, Joseph Mahon, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Michael Meyers, Irene Moroney, Paul Mula, Thelma Morrissey, Anton & Lourda Motha, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Ngan Pin, Eustace Ratnam, Jim & Alison Vella.

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Sydney Azie, Antonio, Sam Borg, Amelia & Germana Bertinato, Rolily Burac, Peter & Antonio, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli, Barrie Chamberlain, Ngan Siu Eng, Joseph, Johnny Edwards, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Lancer De Guire, Bede Diab, Debe Diab, Marcel Diab, Mohsen Diab, Peter Diab, Toufic Diab, Elekise & Family, O. Francis, J. Francis, Melvyn Fernandes, Merita Fernando, Nevis Fernando, Harold Ngan, Cole & Leo Ngan, Leandro Garcia Snr, Evangeline, Rudy Garcia, Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Selvam Irudayaraj, J.B, Jonathan Tek Kie, Mangion & Cini Family, Tessie & Andy Mangine, Apolinario & Felina Maglaya, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Pauline Meilak, William & Emilia Mifsud, Joseph & Doris Mifsud, Mary Mifsud, Bertu, Albert, Paul, Louis, Stephen & Joseph Mula, Xavier Motha Jnr, Mary & Francis Muscat, Jason Muscat & family, Philippa & Jim Muscat, Coleen O'Sullivan, Serge Pasnin, Lakshman Perera, John & Roseline Ratnam, Mary Silva, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR GREETINGS

In this joyful time of the year, I would like to thank each of you for your support throughout the year and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the Lord fill your hearts with joy and hope and help you share them with people around you both in this Parish community and beyond.

Fr Henry.

CHRISTMAS THANK YOU

On behalf of the Parish community I would like to thank our ministers for their generosity to serve at our Christmas liturgies and our volunteers for their skills to make the church look great for the feast of the Lord's Nativity.

CHRISTMAS OFFERTORY

Christmas is a joyous time when we come together as a parish family to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Our Lady of Lourdes relies on the generosity of our faith community to sustain our liturgical, sacramental, pastoral and charitable ministries and we are ever grateful for your support. Please consider giving a Christmas Offertory in the envelopes provided.

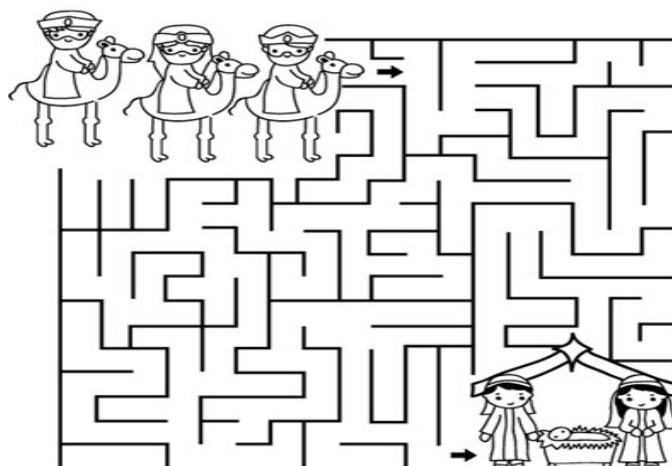
PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office will be closed between Christmas and New Year. We wish you a wonderful Christmas and many blessings and a warm welcome for 2026. During January, the office hours will be reduced due to the holiday period. If you require assistance, please call 9622 2920 and leave a voicemail message. These messages are checked and we will endeavour to assist you as soon as possible.

HALL CANOPY PLAQUE

The Pledging Book for the Hall Canopy Plaque is now available for our parishioners to sign in as a pledge for the Plaque donation. The book can be found at the Baptismal font and donors need to register their name, phone number and accurate details on the plaque of 25 letters or less. A leaflet is also available for all to take home to further explain about this Plaque Fundraising program.

Help the Three Wise Men find the manger.





FROM FR. HENRY DUC

Dear Friends

As you know, the precise origin of assigning December 25 as the birth date of Jesus is unavailable, and there has been a widespread explanation of the origin of this date, that December 25 was the Christianizing of the *dies solis invicti nati* ("day of the birth of the unconquered sun"), a holiday in the Roman Empire that celebrated the winter solstice as a symbol of the resurgence of the sun, the casting away of winter, and the heralding of the rebirth of spring and summer. Indeed, after December 25 had become widely accepted as the date of Jesus' birth, Christian writers frequently made the connection between the rebirth of the sun and the birth of the Son.

Another view suggests that December 25 became the date of Jesus' birth by a priori reasoning that identified the spring equinox as the date of the creation of the world and the fourth day of creation, when light was created, as the day of Jesus' conception (i.e., March 25). December 25, nine months later, then became the date of Jesus' birth. For a long time, the celebration of Jesus' birth was observed in conjunction with his baptism, celebrated January 6. Christmas began to be widely celebrated with a specific liturgy in the 9th century but did not attain the liturgical importance of either Good Friday or Easter, the other two major Christian holidays.

In Roman Catholicism, where the holiday is a holy day of obligation, churches will typically celebrate the first Christmas mass at midnight, and the liturgical colour for vestments is white.

The English term *Christmas* ("Christ's mass" or "mass on Christ's day") is of rather recent origin. It originated from the Middle English *Christemasse*, which came from the Old English *Cristes mæsse*. (In Roman Catholicism and certain other Christian groups, a mass is a celebration of the Eucharist.)

Liturgically speaking, the only two scriptural accounts of Christ's birth are found in the New Testament: one in the Gospel According to Matthew and the other in the Gospel According to Luke. (The Gospel According to Mark begins with Jesus as an adult, and the Gospel According to John starts with his prehistorical existence.) Luke's Gospel shares details of the Annunciation (1:26–38), in which the angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will conceive a son by the power of the Holy Spirit, to be called Jesus, and Mary consents ("Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word"). Pregnant Mary then visits her relative Elizabeth, who is pregnant with John the Baptist, in the Visitation (1:39–45), which is followed by Mary's moving hymn of praise, the Magnificat (1:46–55). The next chapter gives clues about the timing of Jesus' birth (during a census "taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria" [2:2]) and notes that he was laid in a manger because there were no other accommodations in Bethlehem. It is here that the story of the angels visiting the shepherds in the fields, announcing the birth of the Messiah, is recorded, with the awestruck shepherds visiting the baby that night (2:8–20).

The account of Jesus' infancy is concluded with his circumcision and naming, followed by his presentation at the Temple of Jerusalem, where he encounters the aged Simeon and the prophet Anna (2:21–38). The Gospel According to Matthew begins with a genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, tracing his lineage from Abraham to King David to Joseph, Mary's husband (1:1–17). The gospel then describes how Joseph, betrothed to Mary, was told by an angel in a dream that Mary's pregnancy was conceived by the Holy Spirit in accordance with prophecy and that Jesus "will save his people from their sins" (1:18–25). Christ's birth is noted with little other detail. The following chapter describes the famous visit of the Magi, guided by the Star of Bethlehem (2:1–12), and the Holy Family's escape to Egypt as Herod brutally massacres innocent children in search of the Christ child (2:13–18).

Apart from those two accounts, the prelude of John's Gospel has been used for the Mass during the day on Christmas Day to describe the descending of Jesus as the Word into our human domain to help us see the glory of God. Here, John in his unique way recounts the Christmas story in a highly philosophical language, though he made no direct reference to the holy name of Jesus, like Luke and Matthew.

As we celebrate once again the Nativity of the Son of God to bring us salvation and reconciliation with God, let us give praise and thanks to God for sending his Son among us as the Saviour to deliver us from sin and the light to show us the way to enter life in eternity.

Pray that we, like the shepherds of old quick to respond to the angels' call to pay tribute to the newly born Jesus and go home with a thankful heart, will become ardent witnesses to Christ by means of our lives committed to spread the message of love Jesus has brought us from above.

Have a joyful Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Fr Henry

BISHOP VINCENT'S 2025 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

We are pleased to be able to share Bishop Vincent's Christmas message for 2025.

It can be viewed online at

[Bishop Vincent Long's 2025 Christmas Message](#)

POPE FRANCIS' LAST CHRISTMAS HOMILY

An angel of the Lord, bathed in light, illumines the night and brings glad tidings to the shepherds: "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord" (Lk 2:10-11). Heaven breaks forth upon earth amid the wonder of the poor and the singing of angels. God has become one of us to make us like himself; he has come down to us to lift us up and restore us to the embrace of the Father.

Sisters and brothers, this is our hope. God is Emmanuel, God-with-us. The infinitely great has made himself tiny; divine light has shone amid the darkness of our world; the glory of heaven has appeared on earth. And how? As a little child. If God can visit us, even when our hearts seem like a lowly manger, we can truly say: Hope is not dead; hope is alive and it embraces our lives forever. Hope does not disappoint!

Brothers and sisters, with the opening of the Holy Door we have inaugurated a new Jubilee, and each of us can enter into the mystery of this extraordinary event. Tonight, the door of hope has opened wide to the world.

Tonight, God speaks to each of us and says: there is hope also for you! There is hope for each of us. And do not forget, sisters and brothers, that God forgives everything, God always forgives. Do not forget this, which is a way of understanding hope in the Lord.

To receive this gift, we are called to set out with the marvel of the shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem. The Gospel tells us that, having heard the message of the angel, they "went with haste" (Lk 2:16). In this same way, "with haste", we too are called to recover lost hope, to renew that hope in our hearts, and to sow seeds of hope amid the bleakness of our time and our world. And there is so much desolation at this time. We think of wars, of children being shot at, bombs on schools and hospitals. Do not delay, do not hesitate, but allow yourselves to be drawn along by the Good News.

With haste, then, let us set out to behold the Lord who is born for us, our hearts joyful and attentive, ready to meet him and then to bring hope to the way we live our daily lives. And this is our task: to bring hope into the different situations of life. For Christian hope is not a cinematic "happy ending" which we passively await, but rather, a promise, the Lord's promise, to be welcomed here and now in our world of suffering and sighs. It is a summons not to tarry, to be kept back by our old habits, or to wallow in mediocrity or laziness. Hope calls us as St Augustine would say to be upset with things that are wrong and to find the courage to change them. Hope calls us to become pilgrims in search of truth, dreamers who never tire, women and men open to being challenged by God's dream, which is of a new world where peace and justice reign.

Let us learn a lesson from the shepherds. The hope born this night does not tolerate the indifference of the complacent or the lethargy of those content with their own comforts and so many of us are in danger of becoming too comfortable; hope does not accept the faux prudence of those who refuse to get involved for fear of making mistakes, or of those who think only of themselves. Hope is incompatible with the detachment of those who refuse to speak out against evil and the injustices perpetrated at the expense of the poor. Christian hope, on the other hand, while inviting us to wait patiently for the Kingdom to grow and spread, also requires of us, even now, to be bold, responsible, and not only that but also compassionate, in our anticipation of the fulfilment of the Lord's promise. And here perhaps it will do us good to ask ourselves about compassion: do I have compassion? Am I able to suffer-with? Let us reflect on this.

On reflecting on how often we accommodate ourselves to the world and conform to its way of thinking, a fine priest and writer prayed for a Blessed Christmas in these words: "Lord, I ask you for a little annoyance, a touch of restlessness, a twinge of regret. At Christmas, I would like to find myself dissatisfied. Happy, but not satisfied. Happy because of what you do, dissatisfied by my lack of response. Please, take away our complacency and hide a few thorns beneath the hay of our all-too-full 'manger'. Fill us with the desire for something greater" (A. Pronzato, *La novena di Natale*). The desire for something greater. Do not stand still. Let us not forget that still water is the first to become stagnant.

Christian hope is precisely this "something greater", which should spur us to set out "with haste". As disciples of the Lord, we are called to find our greater hope in him, and then, without delay, carry that hope with us, as pilgrims of light amid the darkness of this world.

Sisters and brothers, this is the Jubilee. This is the season of hope in which we are invited to rediscover the joy of meeting the Lord. The Jubilee calls us to spiritual renewal and commits us to the transformation of our world, so that this year may truly become a time of jubilation. A jubilee for our mother Earth, disfigured by profiteering; a time of jubilee for the poorer countries burdened beneath unfair debts; a time of jubilee for all those who are in bondage to forms of slavery old and new.

All of us have received the gift and task of bringing hope wherever hope has been lost, lives broken, promises unkept, dreams shattered and hearts overwhelmed by adversity. We are called to bring hope to the weary who have no strength to carry on, the lonely oppressed by the bitterness of failure, and all those who are broken-hearted. To bring hope to the interminable, dreary days of prisoners, to the cold and dismal lodgings of the poor, and to all those places desecrated by war and violence. To bring hope there, to sow hope there.

The Jubilee has now opened so that all people may receive hope, the hope of the Gospel, the hope of love and hope of forgiveness.

As we contemplate the manger, as we gaze upon it and see God's tender love in the face of the Child Jesus, let us ask ourselves: "Are our hearts full of expectation? Does this hope find a place there? ... As we contemplate the loving kindness of God who overcomes our doubts and fears, let us also contemplate the grandeur of the hope that awaits us. ... May this vision of hope illumine our path each day" (C. M. Martini, *Christmas Homily*, 1980).

Dear sister, dear brother, on this night the "holy door" of God's heart lies open before you. Jesus, God-with-us, is born for you, for me, for us, for every man and woman. And remember that with him, joy flourishes; with him, life changes; with him, hope does not disappoint.