



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 School:	LOLO 8869 6800
Parish Deacon:	Deacon Thong Nguyen	Principal:	Ms Keiran Byrnes
Parish Office Team:	Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Jane Nguyen, Laura Ilioski	Reconciliation:	Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
Office Hours: Monday-Friday:	9am - 3.00pm	Baptismal Preparation:	18 February 2026
WEEKDAY MASS:	Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am Thursday 9.00am	Baptism:	11 January 2026
WEEKEND MASS:	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9.30am	Sacrament Co-Ordinator:	Mrs Artelle Lenthall
		Youth Co-Ordinator:	Diana Park
		Parish Website:	www.olol7hills.org.au
		Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/LOLO7Hills/

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 21 December 2025 • Year A



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, Takis Karapatsakis, Clare Kinsley, T.Q Letran, Susie Manga, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Gary Morrissey, Jayne Muscat, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Michelle Pellicano, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Arabella Steele, Sue Tiplado, 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@olol7hills.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, Rosita Ballecer, Anthony Hastings, Aggie Motha, Maria Amma Peter, Veronica Rosales, Anthony Ruzgas

Anniversaries: Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, France Angseesing, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Evan Elisher, Rita de Silva, Frank, M.A Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, Norma Lorenzo, Joseph Mahon, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Irene Moroney, Thelma Morrissey, Anton & Lourda Motha, Paul Mula, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Eustace Ratnam, Roseline Ratnam

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Sydney Azie, Antonio, Amelia & Germana Bertimato, Sam Borg, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato Cabasa, Peter & Antonio, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli, Barrie Chamberlain, Myrna Cruz, Joseph, Johnny Edwards, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Launcer De Guire, Bede Diab, Debe Diab, Marcel Diab, Mohsen Diab, Peter Diab, Toufic Diab, O. Francis, J. Francis, Melvyn Fernandes, Merita Fernando, Nevis Fernando, Leandro Garcia Snr, Evangeline, Rudy Garcia, Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Selvam Irudayaraj, J.B, Jonathan Tek Kie, Mangion & Cini Family, Felina Maglaya, Tessie & Andy Mangine, 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, Aurora Nufable Nonato, Coleen O'Sullivan, Serge Pasnin, Lakshman Perera, Marlyn Pestano, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose, Maria, Laureano, Karen, Yolanda Reyes, Mary Silva, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.

Names will be published for 2 weeks at a time.

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.

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



KEEP UP TO DATE

By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more. Visit www.olol7hills.org.au

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**(R) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally.

He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

According to scholars, marriage customs in Palestine in Jesus' time often included two parts: the engagement and the wedding.

The engagement period usually lasted for a year during which the bride and the groom stayed in their homes and communicated to each other through messages delivered by the best man. The engagement began with the signing of a formal marriage agreement or with the groom offering gifts to the bride's family. At this stage, the bride and the groom were legally husband and wife even though they did not yet live together. Vietnamese people have done the same, except the engagement period is less than a year, usually six months.

After a year-long engagement time, the wedding ceremony then took place, and the groom could formally take his wife into his home to begin their married life together.

This background knowledge of Jewish marriage customs will help us better appreciate the Gospel account this Sunday, as it allows us to understand the dilemma St. Joseph faced when he discovered Mary's conception during their engagement. On the one hand, they were legally husband and wife; on the other hand, Mary was clearly carrying a child who was not his. For Joseph, a righteous and honorable man, divorce seemed to be the best solution, one that would end the relationship quietly and protect Mary's life, since she could otherwise be accused of adultery, an offense that, under Jewish law, could result in death by stoning. This messy entanglement is finally cleared up by the angel appearing to Joseph in a dream to reveal the mystery behind Mary's conception, that she was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The angel also asked Joseph to take Mary home to be his wife with the obligation to name the child Jesus, a name that means 'the Lord saves' or simply 'salvation.'

In the eyes of Matthew whose Gospel was meant to bring Jesus' Good News to the group of Jewish followers often familiar with the teachings of the prophets in the scripture, what happened here was extra special, because it fulfilled exactly what Isaiah prophesied long before, as we hear in the first reading today, that 'the maiden is with child and soon give birth to a son, whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us.' This prophetic fulfillment Have a joy-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ADVENT WREATH

It is usually constructed around a circular base. This circular base is traditionally taken to symbolise the ever-renewing cycle of the seasons, and the four candles, represent the four Sundays of Advent. The fourth candle, the "Candle of Love," reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth.



HALL CANOPY PLAQUE

From this weekend, the Pledging Book for the Hall Canopy Plaque is 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.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS THANK YOU

Thank you everyone for such an overwhelming support to our Parish invitation to show our love and care for the needy both in our community and beyond through our Christmas Hampers tradition, and a special thank you note to our dedicated Vinnies for overseeing the whole program from collecting and sorting out donations to distributing them dutifully.

MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church from this weekend for Ministers of the Eucharist, Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers and Welcomers who would like to serve at a Christmas Mass. We kindly ask that ministers sign up for one liturgy only.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2026

Ministry rosters for February - July 2026 are now available. You can find a copy at the back Sacristy or on our website under 'Parish Forms'. If you require more copies or notice any discrepancies, please kindly contact the parish office.

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN 2026-2030

Copies of our Parish Pastoral Plan 2026-2030 are now on and all are invited to have a look after Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY—CHRISTMAS STORY

Thank you to the children who have volunteered to act out the Christmas Story this year. This will take place during the 6pm mass on the 24th December. For those children who are not participating but attending the mass, you are invited to dress up as angels or shepherds.

A PRACTICAL TIP EACH WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

TIP 14 Take a Break from Online Shopping

Online shopping produces a lot of packaging waste and produces excess carbon emissions from airplanes and vehicles. Take a month off online shopping or reduce what you buy online. Try to make purchases closer to home!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS & BULLETIN

Our Parish office will close between Christmas and New Year and there will be no bulletins throughout the month of January 2026 to allow Parish staff to take a break. However, I will be around in the Parish office as usual.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE RETURNS IN 2026

Those interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar, the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2026. Enrolment forms can be found at the back sacristy.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

- Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Mount Druitt Combined Churches Christmas Day

Community Lunch: 25 December

Don't spend Christmas alone. A free Christmas Day lunch hosted by Mt Druitt Combined Churches on Thursday 25 December from 11am, with Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt as the venue host. All are welcome. Registration is essential. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/MtDruittChristmasLunch>

Baulkham Hills Christmas Luncheon: 25 December

The Parish of Baulkham Hills are hosting a Christmas Lunch for anyone who will be on their own on Christmas Day. You may be in town for a visit, or just moved into the area, or may simply be unable to share Christmas Day with your loved ones. So come and share it with us. It will be held on Thursday 25 December in and around the St Michael's Primary School hall, and everyone is welcome, families and individuals. But places are limited, so you will need to register to attend. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9639 0598 or email baulkhamhills@parracatholic.org.

Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January. For one week, there will be celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who've enriched our parishes, schools and communities. Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross.

Grab your copy of the Catholic Outlook Magazine!

The latest quarterly edition of the *Catholic Outlook* Magazine is out now, keeping you connected with exciting news and events in the Diocese of Parramatta.

LOLO SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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>. Face to Face courses will resume in 2026. Dates and times will be provided once confirmed.

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.

Visiting Clergy to OLOL

Thank you to Fr. Hoang Viet Nguyen who graciously assisted Fr Henry with mass and reconciliation this week. Visiting clergy all uphold the standards and processes we here at OLOL and the Diocese have put in place to ensure the safety of our community.

Santo Nino Fiesta Sinulog 2026: 18 January

The Devotees of the Holy Infant Jesus Santo Nino invite you to attend the 2026 Fiesta Sinulog on Sunday 18 January at St Patrick's Church, Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown at 2pm. All devotees, please bring your Santo Nino statues. Novena Masses will be held between 8-16 January at 7pm at the parishes of St Clair-Erskine Park, Penrith, St Marys, Rooty Hill, Winston Hills, Plumpton, Marayong, Quakers Hill and Kellyville. For more information, please contact the Blacktown Parish on (02) 9622 1125 or email blacktown@parracatholic.org

Sing a New Song Music Workshop for Children: 21 January

Do you have a child in Year 4-12? Invite them to come along to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 21 January from 9:30am to 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Morning tea and lunch provided. Student participants will form a choir that will sing at the Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Sunday 25 January at 11am. To register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/0URuFAeThA>

Rosary Making Workshop: 9 February

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on Monday 9 February at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for further information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Diocesan World Day of the Sick: 11 February

Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on the 11th February 2026 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. To register, please visit parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-the-sick-mass/

Children and Young People's Participation

A Safeguarding culture for Children and Young People is fostered and sustained by our parish being committed to living the Gospel by serving the most vulnerable. Here at OLOL Seven Hills we implement all Arch/Diocesan policies, procedures and community standards that are Child and Young Person centred to lift barriers so their voices can be heard and their participation valued.

OLOL Parish community values and celebrates ALL our Children and Young People for who they are and the great contributions they make to our parish. We therefore have an obligation to uphold their human and spiritual rights. This is achieved at OLOL by: 1. Providing ministries, services and programs that are relevant for Children and Young People including those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and who have a disability; 2. Committing to zero tolerance to any attitude and activity that makes Children and Young People feel less safe; 3. Enhancing relationships between leaders, community members, Children and Young People; and 4. Creating a new perspective to invigorate renewal. We also ensure all our volunteers and staff have an up to date WWCC and completed all safeguard training.

Greeting of the Holy Father to the sick in the Audience Hall before the General Audience

Good morning everyone! Good morning! Welcome!

I will offer a brief greeting, a blessing for each of you.

On this day, we wanted to protect you a little from the elements, especially the cold... It is not raining, but this way you may be a little more comfortable. Afterwards, you can follow the Audience on the screen, or if you wish, you can also go outside, but we would like to make the most of this small, more personal encounter to greet you, to offer you the Lord's blessing, and also our best wishes. Christmas is almost here, and we would like to ask the Lord that the joy of this Christmas season accompany you all: your families, your loved ones, and that you may always be in the Lord's hands with the trust and love that only God can give us.

I give my blessing to all of you now, and then I will come and greet you.

Blessing

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Human life is characterized by a constant movement that drives us to do, to act. Nowadays speed is required everywhere in order to achieve optimal results in a wide variety of fields. How does Jesus' resurrection shed light on this aspect of our experience? When we participate in his victory over death, will we rest? Faith tells us: yes, we will rest. We will not be inactive, but we will enter into God's repose, which is peace and joy. So, should we just wait, or can this change us right now?

We are absorbed by many activities that do not always leave us satisfied. A lot of our actions have to do with practical, concrete things. We have to assume responsibility for many commitments, solve problems, face difficulties. Jesus too was involved with people and with life, not sparing himself, but rather giving himself to the end. Yet we often perceive how too much doing, instead of giving us fulfilment, becomes a vortex that overwhelms us, takes away our serenity, and prevents us from living to the fullest what is truly important in our lives. We then feel tired and dissatisfied: time seems to be wasted on a thousand practical things that do not, however, resolve the ultimate meaning of our existence. Sometimes, at the end of days full of activities, we feel empty. Why? Because we are not machines, we have a "heart"; indeed, we can say that we *are* a heart.

The heart is the symbol of all our humanity, the sum of our thoughts, feelings and desires, the invisible centre of our selves. The Evangelist Matthew invites us to reflect on the importance of the heart, quoting this beautiful phrase of Jesus: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (*Mt* 6:21).

It is therefore in the heart that true treasure is kept, not in earthly safes, not in large financial investments, which today more than ever before are out of control and unjustly concentrated at the bloody price of millions of human lives and the devastation of God's creation.

It is important to reflect on these aspects, because in the numerous commitments we continually face, there is an increasing risk of dispersion, sometimes of despair, of meaninglessness, even in apparently successful people. Instead, interpreting life in the light of Easter, looking at it with the Risen Jesus, means finding access to the essence of the human person, to our heart: *cor inquietum*. With this adjective "restless", Saint Augustine helps us understand the human being's yearning for fulfilment. The full sentence refers to the beginning of the *Confessions*, where Augustine writes: "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (I, 1,1).

Restlessness is the sign that our heart does not move by chance, in a disordered way, without a purpose or a destination, but is oriented towards its ultimate destination, the "return home". The authentic approach of the heart does not consist in possessing the goods of this world, but in achieving what can fill it completely; namely, the love of God, or rather, God who is Love. This treasure, however, can only be found by loving the neighbour we meet along the way: brothers and sisters in flesh and blood, whose presence stirs and questions our heart, calling it to open up and give itself. Our neighbour asks us to slow down, to look them in the eye, sometimes to change our plans, perhaps even to change direction.

Dear friends, here is the secret of the movement of the human heart: returning to the source of its being, delighting in the joy that never fails, that never disappoints. No one can live without a meaning that goes beyond the contingent, beyond what passes away. The human heart cannot live without hope, without knowing that it is made for fullness, not for want.

Jesus Christ, with his Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection, has given us a solid foundation for this hope. The restless heart will not be disappointed, if it enters into the dynamism of the love for which it was created. The destination is certain, life has triumphed, and in Christ it will continue to triumph in every death of daily life. This is Christian hope: let us always bless and thank the Lord who has given it to us!

DOCTRINAL NOTE ON MARIAN TITLES: MOTHER OF THE FAITHFUL, NOT CO-REDEMPTRIX

The document of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by Pope Leo XIV, offers clarifications on titles applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and calls for special attention to the use of the expression, “Mediatrix of all graces.”

Co-redemptrix

Regarding the title “Co-redemptrix,” the Note recalls that “some Popes have used the title “without elaborating much on its meaning.” Generally, it continues, “they have presented the title in two specific ways: in reference to Mary’s divine motherhood (insofar as she, as Mother, made possible the Redemption that Christ accomplished) or in reference to her union with Christ at the redemptive Cross. The Second Vatican Council refrained from using the title for dogmatic, pastoral, and ecumenical reasons. Saint John Paul II referred to Mary as ‘Co-redemptrix’ on at least seven occasions, particularly relating this title to the salvific value of our sufferings when they are offered together with the sufferings of Christ, to whom Mary is united especially at the Cross” (18).

The document cites an internal discussion within the then-Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which in February 1996 had discussed the request to proclaim a new dogma on Mary as “Co-redemptrix or Mediatrix of all graces.” Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was opposed to such a definition, arguing, “the precise meaning of these titles is not clear, and the doctrine contained in them is not mature. [...] It is not clear how the doctrine expressed in these titles is present in Scripture and the apostolic tradition.”

Later, in 2002, the future Benedict XVI expressed himself publicly in the same way: “The formula ‘Co-redemptrix’ departs to too great an extent from the language of Scripture and of the Fathers and therefore gives rise to misunderstandings... Everything comes from Him [Christ], as the Letter to the Ephesians and the Letter to the Colossians, in particular, tell us; Mary, too, is everything that she is through Him. The word ‘Co-redemptrix’ would obscure this origin.”

The note clarifies that Cardinal Ratzinger did not deny the good intentions behind the proposal, nor the valuable aspects reflected in it, but nonetheless maintained that they were “being expressed in the wrong way” (19).

Pope Francis also expressed his clear opposition to the use of the title Co-Redemptrix on at least three occasions. Tuesday’s Doctrinal Note concludes: “*It is always inappropriate* to use the title ‘Co-redemptrix’ to define Mary’s cooperation. This title risks obscuring Christ’s unique salvific mediation and can therefore create confusion and an imbalance in the harmony of the truths of the Christian faith. [...] When an expression requires many, repeated explanations to prevent it from straying from a correct meaning, it does not serve the faith of the People of God and becomes *unhelpful*” (22).

Mediatrix

The Note emphasises that “the biblical statement about Christ’s exclusive mediation is conclusive. Christ is the only Mediator” (24).

At the same time, MPF recognises “the fact that the word ‘mediation’ is commonly used in many areas of everyday life, where it is understood simply as cooperation, assistance, or intercession. As a result, it is inevitable that the term would be applied to Mary in a subordinate sense. Used in this way, it does not intend to add any efficacy or power to the unique mediation of Jesus Christ, true God and true man” (25).

Further, “it is clear that Mary has a real mediatory role in enabling the Incarnation of the Son of God in our humanity” (26).

Mother of believers and Mediatrix of all graces

Mary’s maternal role “in no way obscures or diminishes” the unique mediation of Christ, “but rather shows its power [...] Understood in this way, Mary’s motherhood does not seek to weaken the unique adoration due to Christ alone but, rather, seeks to enkindle it.”

Therefore, the Note states, “one must avoid titles and expressions that present Mary as a kind of ‘lightning rod’ before the Lord’s justice, as if she were a necessary alternative before the insufficiency of God’s mercy” (37b).

Thus, the title “Mother of Believers” “enables us to speak of Mary’s role in our relation to our life of grace”.

However, MPF goes on to urge caution concerning the use of expressions that may convey “less acceptable notions” (45).

“Cardinal Ratzinger already affirmed” for example, “that the title ‘Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces’ was not clearly grounded in Revelation.” So, the Note continues, “in line with this conviction, we can recognize the difficulties this title poses, both in terms of theological reflection and spirituality” (45). In fact, “no human person — not even the Apostles or the Blessed Virgin — can act as a universal dispenser of grace. Only God can bestow grace, and he does so through the humanity of Christ” (53).

“Some titles, such as ‘Mediatrix of All Graces,’ have limits that do not favour a correct understanding of Mary’s unique place,” MPF explains, adding, “In fact, she, the first redeemed, could not have been the mediatrix of the grace that she herself received” (67).

Nonetheless, the Doctrinal Note acknowledges that “the term ‘graces,’ when seen in reference to Mary’s maternal help at various moments in our lives, can have an acceptable meaning. The plural form expresses all the aids — even material — that the Lord may grant us when He heeds His Mother’s intercession” (68).

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

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 12th February 2026, 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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Christmas Schedule for December 2025

24th	Children/Family Christmas Mass	6:00pm
24th	Christmas Mass	9:00pm
24th	Midnight Mass	12:00am
25th	Christmas Day Mass	8:00am & 9:30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

20/21 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: B. Motha, M. Mifsud 8am: F. Paiva, T. Perak 9.30am: C. Brooks, Kamela Huihui	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, N. Sumcad 8am: T. Perak, K. Walker 9.30am: N. Arambulo, L. Rigney	
Altar Servers	Vigil: N. D'Cruz, J. Steele, Aaliya Faulkner-Dhiman, 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: K. Maruthanayagam, C. Attard, L. Sager.	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: K.Thoms & C.W 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	24 Dec	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

27/28 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Lawrence Falzon 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Simic, N. Shami 8am: F. Paiva, J. Sarmiento 9.30am: P. Gow, G. Basilli	
Readers	Vigil: Yxaak & Yxavel Dino 8am: F. Kennedy, A. McNally 9.30am: J. Nonato, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Julian & Orlando Martinez, C. Bellamin 8am: Jaxon Blackshaw, Sub Rqd 9.30am: K. Cassaniti, L. Sadipoor, A. Melki	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary	
Church Cleaning	1 January	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli	

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21st, 2025

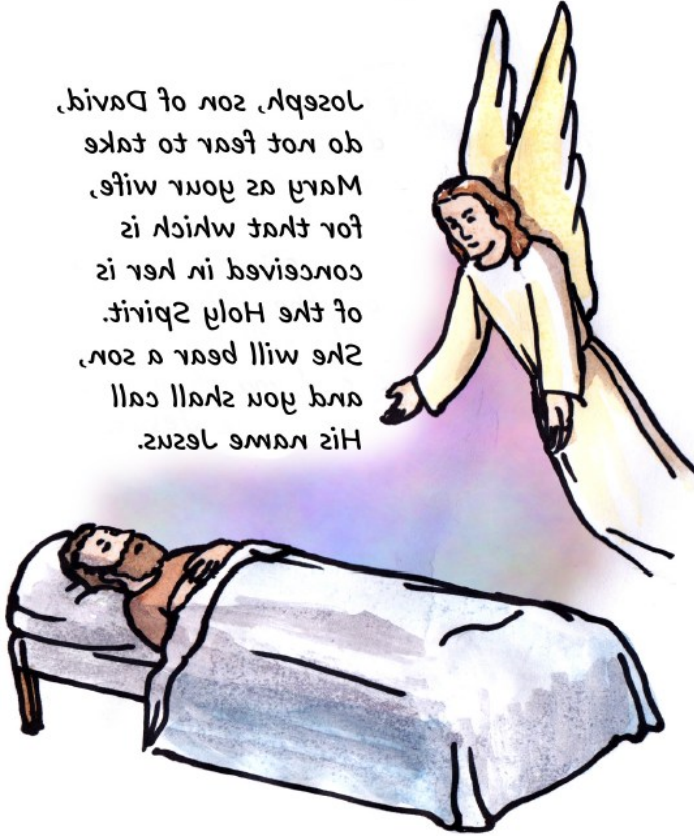
What's in a Name?

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 18:21

Based on Matthew 1:18-25



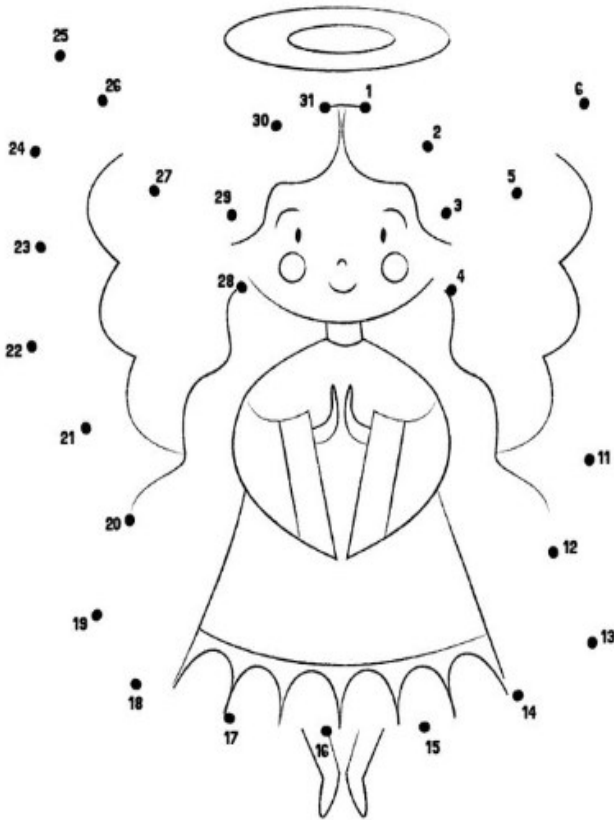
Joseph, son of David,
do not fear to take
Mary as your wife,
for that which is
conceived in her is
of the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son,
and you shall call
his name Jesus.



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

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!

HUSBAND	SON	IMMANUEL	MARY	NAME
CHRIST	CHILD	VIRGIN	BIRTH	ANGEL
JOSEPH	MARRY	AFRAID	DREAM	JESUS



angel





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 School:	LOLO 8869 6800
Parish Deacon:	Deacon Thong Nguyen	Principal:	Ms Keiran Byrnes
Parish Office Team:	Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Jane Nguyen, Laura Ilioski	Reconciliation:	Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
Office Hours: Monday-Friday:	9am - 3.00pm	Baptismal Preparation:	18 February 2026
WEEKDAY MASS:	Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am Thursday 9.00am	Baptism:	11 January 2026
WEEKEND MASS:	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9.30am	Sacrament Co-Ordinator:	Mrs Artelle Lenthall
		Youth Co-Ordinator:	Diana Park
		Parish Website:	www.olol7hills.org.au
		Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/LOLO7Hills/

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 21 December 2025 • Year A



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, Takis Karapatsakis, Clare Kinsley, T.Q Letran, Susie Manga, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Gary Morrissey, Jayne Muscat, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Michelle Pellicano, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Arabella Steele, Sue Tiplado, 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@olol7hills.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, Rosita Ballecer, Anthony Hastings, Aggie Motha, Maria Amma Peter, Veronica Rosales, Anthony Ruzgas

Anniversaries: Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, France Angseesing, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Evan Elisher, Rita de Silva, Frank, M.A Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, Norma Lorenzo, Joseph Mahon, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Irene Moroney, Thelma Morrissey, Anton & Lourda Motha, Paul Mula, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Eustace Ratnam, Roseline Ratnam

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Sydney Azie, Antonio, Amelia & Germana Bertimato, Sam Borg, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato Cabasa, Peter & Antonio, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli, Barrie Chamberlain, Myrna Cruz, 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, O. Francis, J. Francis, Melvyn Fernandes, Merita Fernando, Nevis Fernando, Leandro Garcia Snr, Evangeline, Rudy Garcia, Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Selvam Irudayaraj, J.B, Jonathan Tek Kie, Mangion & Cini Family, Felina Maglaya, Tessie & Andy Mangine, 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, Aurora Nufable Nonato, Coleen O'Sullivan, Serge Pasnin, Lakshman Perera, Marlyn Pestano, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose, Maria, Laureano, Karen, Yolanda Reyes, Mary Silva, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.

Names will be published for 2 weeks at a time.

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.

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



KEEP UP TO DATE

By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more. Visit www.olol7hills.org.au

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**(R) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally.

He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

According to scholars, marriage customs in Palestine in Jesus' time often included two parts: the engagement and the wedding.

The engagement period usually lasted for a year during which the bride and the groom stayed in their homes and communicated to each other through messages delivered by the best man. The engagement began with the signing of a formal marriage agreement or with the groom offering gifts to the bride's family. At this stage, the bride and the groom were legally husband and wife even though they did not yet live together. Vietnamese people have done the same, except the engagement period is less than a year, usually six months.

After a year-long engagement time, the wedding ceremony then took place, and the groom could formally take his wife into his home to begin their married life together.

This background knowledge of Jewish marriage customs will help us better appreciate the Gospel account this Sunday, as it allows us to understand the dilemma St. Joseph faced when he discovered Mary's conception during their engagement. On the one hand, they were legally husband and wife; on the other hand, Mary was clearly carrying a child who was not his. For Joseph, a righteous and honorable man, divorce seemed to be the best solution, one that would end the relationship quietly and protect Mary's life, since she could otherwise be accused of adultery, an offense that, under Jewish law, could result in death by stoning. This messy entanglement is finally cleared up by the angel appearing to Joseph in a dream to reveal the mystery behind Mary's conception, that she was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The angel also asked Joseph to take Mary home to be his wife with the obligation to name the child Jesus, a name that means 'the Lord saves' or simply 'salvation.'

In the eyes of Matthew whose Gospel was meant to bring Jesus' Good News to the group of Jewish followers often familiar with the teachings of the prophets in the scripture, what happened here was extra special, because it fulfilled exactly what Isaiah prophesied long before, as we hear in the first reading today, that 'the maiden is with child and soon give birth to a son, whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us.' This prophetic fulfillment Have a joy-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ADVENT WREATH

It is usually constructed around a circular base. This circular base is traditionally taken to symbolise the ever-renewing cycle of the seasons, and the four candles, represent the four Sundays of Advent. The fourth candle, the "Candle of Love," reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth.



HALL CANOPY PLAQUE

From this weekend, the Pledging Book for the Hall Canopy Plaque is 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.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS THANK YOU

Thank you everyone for such an overwhelming support to our Parish invitation to show our love and care for the needy both in our community and beyond through our Christmas Hampers tradition, and a special thank you note to our dedicated Vinnies for overseeing the whole program from collecting and sorting out donations to distributing them dutifully.

MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church from this weekend for Ministers of the Eucharist, Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers and Welcomers who would like to serve at a Christmas Mass. We kindly ask that ministers sign up for one liturgy only.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2026

Ministry rosters for February - July 2026 are now available. You can find a copy at the back Sacristy or on our website under 'Parish Forms'. If you require more copies or notice any discrepancies, please kindly contact the parish office.

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN 2026-2030

Copies of our Parish Pastoral Plan 2026-2030 are now on and all are invited to have a look after Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY—CHRISTMAS STORY

Thank you to the children who have volunteered to act out the Christmas Story this year. This will take place during the 6pm mass on the 24th December. For those children who are not participating but attending the mass, you are invited to dress up as angels or shepherds.

A PRACTICAL TIP EACH WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

TIP 14 Take a Break from Online Shopping

Online shopping produces a lot of packaging waste and produces excess carbon emissions from airplanes and vehicles. Take a month off online shopping or reduce what you buy online. Try to make purchases closer to home!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS & BULLETIN

Our Parish office will close between Christmas and New Year and there will be no bulletins throughout the month of January 2026 to allow Parish staff to take a break. However, I will be around in the Parish office as usual.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE RETURNS IN 2026

Those interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar, the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2026. Enrolment forms can be found at the back sacristy.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

- Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Mount Druitt Combined Churches Christmas Day

Community Lunch: 25 December

Don't spend Christmas alone. A free Christmas Day lunch hosted by Mt Druitt Combined Churches on Thursday 25 December from 11am, with Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt as the venue host. All are welcome. Registration is essential. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/MtDruittChristmasLunch>

Baulkham Hills Christmas Luncheon: 25 December

The Parish of Baulkham Hills are hosting a Christmas Lunch for anyone who will be on their own on Christmas Day. You may be in town for a visit, or just moved into the area, or may simply be unable to share Christmas Day with your loved ones. So come and share it with us. It will be held on Thursday 25 December in and around the St Michael's Primary School hall, and everyone is welcome, families and individuals. But places are limited, so you will need to register to attend. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9639 0598 or email baulkhamhills@parracatholic.org.

Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January. For one week, there will be celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who've enriched our parishes, schools and communities. Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross.

Grab your copy of the Catholic Outlook Magazine!

The latest quarterly edition of the *Catholic Outlook* Magazine is out now, keeping you connected with exciting news and events in the Diocese of Parramatta.

OLOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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>. Face to Face courses will resume in 2026. Dates and times will be provided once confirmed.

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.

Visiting Clergy to OLOL

Thank you to Fr. Hoang Viet Nguyen who graciously assisted Fr Henry with mass and reconciliation this week. Visiting clergy all uphold the standards and processes we here at OLOL and the Diocese have put in place to ensure the safety of our community.

Santo Nino Fiesta Sinulog 2026: 18 January

The Devotees of the Holy Infant Jesus Santo Nino invite you to attend the 2026 Fiesta Sinulog on Sunday 18 January at St Patrick's Church, Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown at 2pm. All devotees, please bring your Santo Nino statues. Novena Masses will be held between 8-16 January at 7pm at the parishes of St Clair-Erskine Park, Penrith, St Marys, Rooty Hill, Winston Hills, Plumpton, Marayong, Quakers Hill and Kellyville. For more information, please contact the Blacktown Parish on (02) 9622 1125 or email blacktown@parracatholic.org

Sing a New Song Music Workshop for Children: 21 January

Do you have a child in Year 4-12? Invite them to come along to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 21 January from 9:30am to 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Morning tea and lunch provided. Student participants will form a choir that will sing at the Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Sunday 25 January at 11am. To register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/0URuFAeThA>

Rosary Making Workshop: 9 February

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on Monday 9 February at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for further information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Diocesan World Day of the Sick: 11 February

Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on the 11th February 2026 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. To register, please visit parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-the-sick-mass/

Children and Young People's Participation

A Safeguarding culture for Children and Young People is fostered and sustained by our parish being committed to living the Gospel by serving the most vulnerable. Here at OLOL Seven Hills we implement all Arch/Diocesan policies, procedures and community standards that are Child and Young Person centred to lift barriers so their voices can be heard and their participation valued.

OLOL Parish community values and celebrates ALL our Children and Young People for who they are and the great contributions they make to our parish. We therefore have an obligation to uphold their human and spiritual rights. This is achieved at OLOL by: 1. Providing ministries, services and programs that are relevant for Children and Young People including those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and who have a disability; 2. Committing to zero tolerance to any attitude and activity that makes Children and Young People feel less safe; 3. Enhancing relationships between leaders, community members, Children and Young People; and 4. Creating a new perspective to invigorate renewal. We also ensure all our volunteers and staff have an up to date WWCC and completed all safeguard training.

Greeting of the Holy Father to the sick in the Audience Hall before the General Audience

Good morning everyone! Good morning! Welcome!

I will offer a brief greeting, a blessing for each of you.

On this day, we wanted to protect you a little from the elements, especially the cold... It is not raining, but this way you may be a little more comfortable. Afterwards, you can follow the Audience on the screen, or if you wish, you can also go outside, but we would like to make the most of this small, more personal encounter to greet you, to offer you the Lord's blessing, and also our best wishes. Christmas is almost here, and we would like to ask the Lord that the joy of this Christmas season accompany you all: your families, your loved ones, and that you may always be in the Lord's hands with the trust and love that only God can give us.

I give my blessing to all of you now, and then I will come and greet you.

Blessing

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Human life is characterized by a constant movement that drives us to do, to act. Nowadays speed is required everywhere in order to achieve optimal results in a wide variety of fields. How does Jesus' resurrection shed light on this aspect of our experience? When we participate in his victory over death, will we rest? Faith tells us: yes, we will rest. We will not be inactive, but we will enter into God's repose, which is peace and joy. So, should we just wait, or can this change us right now?

We are absorbed by many activities that do not always leave us satisfied. A lot of our actions have to do with practical, concrete things. We have to assume responsibility for many commitments, solve problems, face difficulties. Jesus too was involved with people and with life, not sparing himself, but rather giving himself to the end. Yet we often perceive how too much doing, instead of giving us fulfilment, becomes a vortex that overwhelms us, takes away our serenity, and prevents us from living to the fullest what is truly important in our lives. We then feel tired and dissatisfied: time seems to be wasted on a thousand practical things that do not, however, resolve the ultimate meaning of our existence. Sometimes, at the end of days full of activities, we feel empty. Why? Because we are not machines, we have a "heart"; indeed, we can say that we *are* a heart.

The heart is the symbol of all our humanity, the sum of our thoughts, feelings and desires, the invisible centre of our selves. The Evangelist Matthew invites us to reflect on the importance of the heart, quoting this beautiful phrase of Jesus: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (*Mt* 6:21).

It is therefore in the heart that true treasure is kept, not in earthly safes, not in large financial investments, which today more than ever before are out of control and unjustly concentrated at the bloody price of millions of human lives and the devastation of God's creation.

It is important to reflect on these aspects, because in the numerous commitments we continually face, there is an increasing risk of dispersion, sometimes of despair, of meaninglessness, even in apparently successful people. Instead, interpreting life in the light of Easter, looking at it with the Risen Jesus, means finding access to the essence of the human person, to our heart: *cor inquietum*. With this adjective "restless", Saint Augustine helps us understand the human being's yearning for fulfilment. The full sentence refers to the beginning of the *Confessions*, where Augustine writes: "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (I, 1,1).

Restlessness is the sign that our heart does not move by chance, in a disordered way, without a purpose or a destination, but is oriented towards its ultimate destination, the "return home". The authentic approach of the heart does not consist in possessing the goods of this world, but in achieving what can fill it completely; namely, the love of God, or rather, God who is Love. This treasure, however, can only be found by loving the neighbour we meet along the way: brothers and sisters in flesh and blood, whose presence stirs and questions our heart, calling it to open up and give itself. Our neighbour asks us to slow down, to look them in the eye, sometimes to change our plans, perhaps even to change direction.

Dear friends, here is the secret of the movement of the human heart: returning to the source of its being, delighting in the joy that never fails, that never disappoints. No one can live without a meaning that goes beyond the contingent, beyond what passes away. The human heart cannot live without hope, without knowing that it is made for fullness, not for want.

Jesus Christ, with his Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection, has given us a solid foundation for this hope. The restless heart will not be disappointed, if it enters into the dynamism of the love for which it was created. The destination is certain, life has triumphed, and in Christ it will continue to triumph in every death of daily life. This is Christian hope: let us always bless and thank the Lord who has given it to us!

DOCTRINAL NOTE ON MARIAN TITLES: MOTHER OF THE FAITHFUL, NOT CO-REDEMPTRIX

The document of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by Pope Leo XIV, offers clarifications on titles applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and calls for special attention to the use of the expression, “Mediatrix of all graces.”

Co-redemptrix

Regarding the title “Co-redemptrix,” the Note recalls that “some Popes have used the title “without elaborating much on its meaning.” Generally, it continues, “they have presented the title in two specific ways: in reference to Mary’s divine motherhood (insofar as she, as Mother, made possible the Redemption that Christ accomplished) or in reference to her union with Christ at the redemptive Cross. The Second Vatican Council refrained from using the title for dogmatic, pastoral, and ecumenical reasons. Saint John Paul II referred to Mary as ‘Co-redemptrix’ on at least seven occasions, particularly relating this title to the salvific value of our sufferings when they are offered together with the sufferings of Christ, to whom Mary is united especially at the Cross” (18).

The document cites an internal discussion within the then-Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which in February 1996 had discussed the request to proclaim a new dogma on Mary as “Co-redemptrix or Mediatrix of all graces.” Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was opposed to such a definition, arguing, “the precise meaning of these titles is not clear, and the doctrine contained in them is not mature. [...] It is not clear how the doctrine expressed in these titles is present in Scripture and the apostolic tradition.”

Later, in 2002, the future Benedict XVI expressed himself publicly in the same way: “The formula ‘Co-redemptrix’ departs to too great an extent from the language of Scripture and of the Fathers and therefore gives rise to misunderstandings... Everything comes from Him [Christ], as the Letter to the Ephesians and the Letter to the Colossians, in particular, tell us; Mary, too, is everything that she is through Him. The word ‘Co-redemptrix’ would obscure this origin.”

The note clarifies that Cardinal Ratzinger did not deny the good intentions behind the proposal, nor the valuable aspects reflected in it, but nonetheless maintained that they were “being expressed in the wrong way” (19).

Pope Francis also expressed his clear opposition to the use of the title Co-Redemptrix on at least three occasions. Tuesday’s Doctrinal Note concludes: “*It is always inappropriate* to use the title ‘Co-redemptrix’ to define Mary’s cooperation. This title risks obscuring Christ’s unique salvific mediation and can therefore create confusion and an imbalance in the harmony of the truths of the Christian faith. [...] When an expression requires many, repeated explanations to prevent it from straying from a correct meaning, it does not serve the faith of the People of God and becomes *unhelpful*” (22).

Mediatrix

The Note emphasises that “the biblical statement about Christ’s exclusive mediation is conclusive. Christ is the only Mediator” (24).

At the same time, MPF recognises “the fact that the word ‘mediation’ is commonly used in many areas of everyday life, where it is understood simply as cooperation, assistance, or intercession. As a result, it is inevitable that the term would be applied to Mary in a subordinate sense. Used in this way, it does not intend to add any efficacy or power to the unique mediation of Jesus Christ, true God and true man” (25).

Further, “it is clear that Mary has a real mediatory role in enabling the Incarnation of the Son of God in our humanity” (26).

Mother of believers and Mediatrix of all graces

Mary’s maternal role “in no way obscures or diminishes” the unique mediation of Christ, “but rather shows its power [...] Understood in this way, Mary’s motherhood does not seek to weaken the unique adoration due to Christ alone but, rather, seeks to enkindle it.”

Therefore, the Note states, “one must avoid titles and expressions that present Mary as a kind of ‘lightning rod’ before the Lord’s justice, as if she were a necessary alternative before the insufficiency of God’s mercy” (37b).

Thus, the title “Mother of Believers” “enables us to speak of Mary’s role in our relation to our life of grace”.

However, MPF goes on to urge caution concerning the use of expressions that may convey “less acceptable notions” (45).

“Cardinal Ratzinger already affirmed” for example, “that the title ‘Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces’ was not clearly grounded in Revelation.” So, the Note continues, “in line with this conviction, we can recognize the difficulties this title poses, both in terms of theological reflection and spirituality” (45). In fact, “no human person — not even the Apostles or the Blessed Virgin — can act as a universal dispenser of grace. Only God can bestow grace, and he does so through the humanity of Christ” (53).

“Some titles, such as ‘Mediatrix of All Graces,’ have limits that do not favour a correct understanding of Mary’s unique place,” MPF explains, adding, “In fact, she, the first redeemed, could not have been the mediatrix of the grace that she herself received” (67).

Nonetheless, the Doctrinal Note acknowledges that “the term ‘graces,’ when seen in reference to Mary’s maternal help at various moments in our lives, can have an acceptable meaning. The plural form expresses all the aids — even material — that the Lord may grant us when He heeds His Mother’s intercession” (68).

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

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 12th February 2026, 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 GROTTO: 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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Christmas Schedule for December 2025

24th	Children/Family Christmas Mass	6:00pm
24th	Christmas Mass	9:00pm
24th	Midnight Mass	12:00am
25th	Christmas Day Mass	8:00am & 9:30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

20/21 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: B. Motha, M. Mifsud 8am: F. Paiva, T. Perak 9.30am: C. Brooks, Kamela Huihui	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, N. Sumcad 8am: T. Perak, K. Walker 9.30am: N. Arambulo, L. Rigney	
Altar Servers	Vigil: N. D'Cruz, J. Steele, Aaliya Faulkner-Dhiman, 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: K. Maruthanayagam, C. Attard, L. Sager.	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: K.Thoms & C.W 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	24 Dec	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

27/28 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Lawrence Falzon 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Simic, N. Shami 8am: F. Paiva, J. Sarmiento 9.30am: P. Gow, G. Basilli	
Readers	Vigil: Yxaak & Yxavel Dino 8am: F. Kennedy, A. McNally 9.30am: J. Nonato, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Julian & Orlando Martinez, C. Bellamin 8am: Jaxon Blackshaw, Sub Rqd 9.30am: K. Cassaniti, L. Sadipoor, A. Melki	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary	
Church Cleaning	1 January	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli	

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21st, 2025

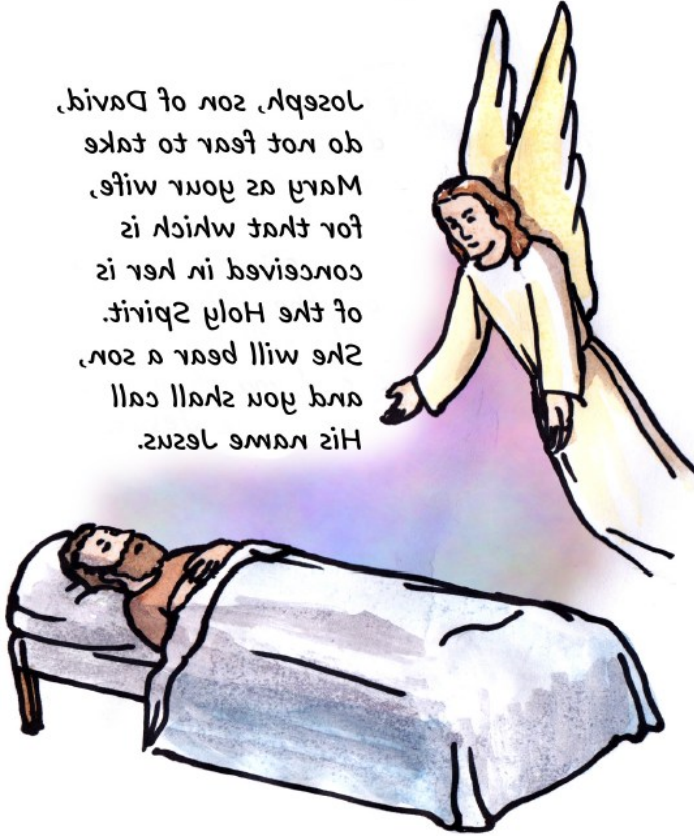
What's in a Name?

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 18:21

Based on Matthew 1:18-25



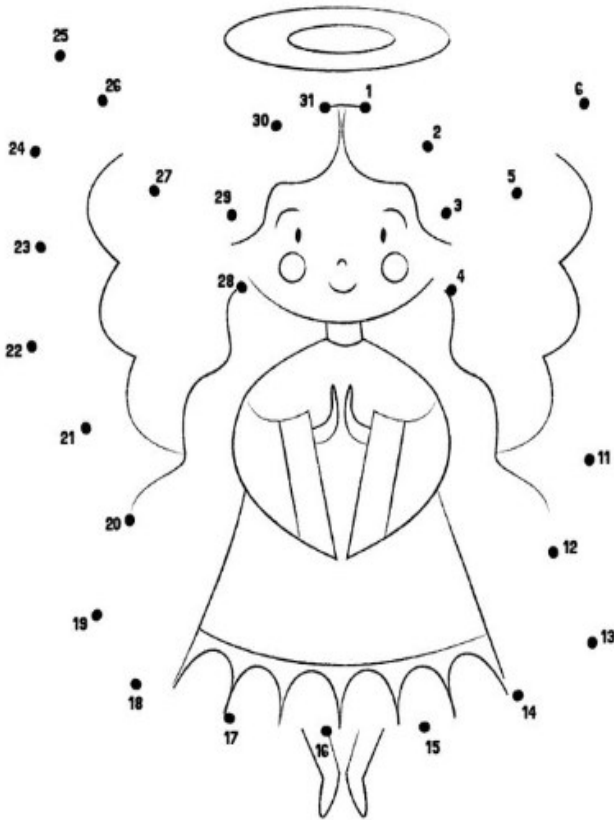
Joseph, son of David,
do not fear to take
Mary as your wife,
for that which is
conceived in her is
of the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son,
and you shall call
his name Jesus.



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

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!

HUSBAND	SON	IMMANUEL	MARY	NAME
CHRIST	CHILD	VIRGIN	BIRTH	ANGEL
JOSEPH	MARRY	AFRAID	DREAM	JESUS



angel





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@lol7hills.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: 18 February 2026
Baptism: 11 January 2026
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall
Youth Co-Ordinator: Diana Park
Parish Website: www.lol7hills.org.au
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/LOLOL7Hills/>

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 21 December 2025 • Year A



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, Takis Karapatsakis, Clare Kinsley, T.Q Letran, Susie Manga, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Gary Morrissey, Jayne Muscat, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Michelle Pellicano, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Arabella Steele, Sue Tiplado, 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, Rosita Ballecer, Anthony Hastings, Aggie Motha, Maria Amma Peter, Veronica Rosales, Anthony Ruzgas

Anniversaries: Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, France Angseesing, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Evan Elisher, Rita de Silva, Frank, M.A Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, Norma Lorenzo, Joseph Mahon, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Irene Moroney, Thelma Morrissey, Anton & Lourda Motha, Paul Mula, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Eustace Ratnam, Roseline Ratnam

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Sydney Azie, Antonio, Amelia & Germana Bertinato, Sam Borg, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato Cabasa, Peter & Antonio, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli, Barrie Chamberlain, Myrna Cruz, 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, O. Francis, J. Francis, Melvyn Fernandes, Merita Fernando, Nevis Fernando, Leandro Garcia Snr, Evangeline, Rudy Garcia, Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Selvam Irudayaraj, J.B, Jonathan Tek Kie, Mangion & Cini Family, Felina Maglaya, Tessie & Andy Mangine, 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, Aurora Nufable Nonato, Coleen O'Sullivan, Serge Pasnin, Lakshman Perera, Marlyn Pestano, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose, Maria, Laureano, Karen, Yolanda Reyes, Mary Silva, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.

Names will be published for 2 weeks at a time.

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.

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



KEEP UP TO DATE

By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more. Visit www.lol7hills.org.au

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**(R) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally.

He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

According to scholars, marriage customs in Palestine in Jesus' time often included two parts: the engagement and the wedding.

The engagement period usually lasted for a year during which the bride and the groom stayed in their homes and communicated to each other through messages delivered by the best man. The engagement began with the signing of a formal marriage agreement or with the groom offering gifts to the bride's family. At this stage, the bride and the groom were legally husband and wife even though they did not yet live together. Vietnamese people have done the same, except the engagement period is less than a year, usually six months.

After a year-long engagement time, the wedding ceremony then took place, and the groom could formally take his wife into his home to begin their married life together.

This background knowledge of Jewish marriage customs will help us better appreciate the Gospel account this Sunday, as it allows us to understand the dilemma St. Joseph faced when he discovered Mary's conception during their engagement. On the one hand, they were legally husband and wife; on the other hand, Mary was clearly carrying a child who was not his. For Joseph, a righteous and honorable man, divorce seemed to be the best solution, one that would end the relationship quietly and protect Mary's life, since she could otherwise be accused of adultery, an offense that, under Jewish law, could result in death by stoning. This messy entanglement is finally cleared up by the angel appearing to Joseph in a dream to reveal the mystery behind Mary's conception, that she was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The angel also asked Joseph to take Mary home to be his wife with the obligation to name the child Jesus, a name that means 'the Lord saves' or simply 'salvation.'

In the eyes of Matthew whose Gospel was meant to bring Jesus' Good News to the group of Jewish followers often familiar with the teachings of the prophets in the scripture, what happened here was extra special, because it fulfilled exactly what Isaiah prophesied long before, as we hear in the first reading today, that 'the maiden is with child and soon give birth to a son, whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us.' This prophetic fulfillment Have a joy-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ADVENT WREATH

It is usually constructed around a circular base. This circular base is traditionally taken to symbolise the ever-renewing cycle of the seasons, and the four candles, represent the four Sundays of Advent. The fourth candle, the "Candle of Love," reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth.



HALL CANOPY PLAQUE

From this weekend, the Pledging Book for the Hall Canopy Plaque is 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.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS THANK YOU

Thank you everyone for such an overwhelming support to our Parish invitation to show our love and care for the needy both in our community and beyond through our Christmas Hampers tradition, and a special thank you note to our dedicated Vinnies for overseeing the whole program from collecting and sorting out donations to distributing them dutifully.

MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church from this weekend for Ministers of the Eucharist, Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers and Welcomers who would like to serve at a Christmas Mass. We kindly ask that ministers sign up for one liturgy only.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2026

Ministry rosters for February - July 2026 are now available. You can find a copy at the back Sacristy or on our website under 'Parish Forms'. If you require more copies or notice any discrepancies, please kindly contact the parish office.

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN 2026-2030

Copies of our Parish Pastoral Plan 2026-2030 are now on and all are invited to have a look after Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY—CHRISTMAS STORY

Thank you to the children who have volunteered to act out the Christmas Story this year. This will take place during the 6pm mass on the 24th December. For those children who are not participating but attending the mass, you are invited to dress up as angels or shepherds.

A PRACTICAL TIP EACH WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

TIP 14 Take a Break from Online Shopping

Online shopping produces a lot of packaging waste and produces excess carbon emissions from airplanes and vehicles. Take a month off online shopping or reduce what you buy online. Try to make purchases closer to home!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS & BULLETIN

Our Parish office will close between Christmas and New Year and there will be no bulletins throughout the month of January 2026 to allow Parish staff to take a break. However, I will be around in the Parish office as usual.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE RETURNS IN 2026

Those interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar, the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2026. Enrolment forms can be found at the back sacristy.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

- Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Mount Druitt Combined Churches Christmas Day Community Lunch: 25 December

Don't spend Christmas alone. A free Christmas Day lunch hosted by Mt Druitt Combined Churches on Thursday 25 December from 11am, with Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt as the venue host. All are welcome. Registration is essential. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/MtDruittChristmasLunch>

Baulkham Hills Christmas Luncheon: 25 December

The Parish of Baulkham Hills are hosting a Christmas Lunch for anyone who will be on their own on Christmas Day. You may be in town for a visit, or just moved into the area, or may simply be unable to share Christmas Day with your loved ones. So come and share it with us. It will be held on Thursday 25 December in and around the St Michael's Primary School hall, and everyone is welcome, families and individuals. But places are limited, so you will need to register to attend. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9639 0598 or email baulkhamhills@parracatholic.org.

Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January. For one week, there will be celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who've enriched our parishes, schools and communities. Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross.

Grab your copy of the Catholic Outlook Magazine!

The latest quarterly edition of the *Catholic Outlook* Magazine is out now, keeping you connected with exciting news and events in the Diocese of Parramatta.

OLOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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>. Face to Face courses will resume in 2026. Dates and times will be provided once confirmed.

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.

Visiting Clergy to OLOL

Thank you to Fr. Hoang Viet Nguyen who graciously assisted Fr Henry with mass and reconciliation this week. Visiting clergy all uphold the standards and processes we here at OLOL and the Diocese have put in place to ensure the safety of our community.

Santo Nino Fiesta Sinulog 2026: 18 January

The Devotees of the Holy Infant Jesus Santo Nino invite you to attend the 2026 Fiesta Sinulog on Sunday 18 January at St Patrick's Church, Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown at 2pm. All devotees, please bring your Santo Nino statues. Novena Masses will be held between 8-16 January at 7pm at the parishes of St Clair-Erskine Park, Penrith, St Marys, Rooty Hill, Winston Hills, Plumpton, Marayong, Quakers Hill and Kellyville. For more information, please contact the Blacktown Parish on (02) 9622 1125 or email blacktown@parracatholic.org

Sing a New Song Music Workshop for Children: 21 January

Do you have a child in Year 4-12? Invite them to come along to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 21 January from 9:30am to 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Morning tea and lunch provided. Student participants will form a choir that will sing at the Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Sunday 25 January at 11am. To register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/0URuFAeThA>

Rosary Making Workshop: 9 February

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on Monday 9 February at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for further information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Diocesan World Day of the Sick: 11 February

Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on the 11th February 2026 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. To register, please visit parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-the-sick-mass/

Children and Young People's Participation

A Safeguarding culture for Children and Young People is fostered and sustained by our parish being committed to living the Gospel by serving the most vulnerable. Here at OLOL Seven Hills we implement all Arch/Diocesan policies, procedures and community standards that are Child and Young Person centred to lift barriers so their voices can be heard and their participation valued.

OLOL Parish community values and celebrates ALL our Children and Young People for who they are and the great contributions they make to our parish. We therefore have an obligation to uphold their human and spiritual rights. This is achieved at OLOL by: 1. Providing ministries, services and programs that are relevant for Children and Young People including those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and who have a disability; 2. Committing to zero tolerance to any attitude and activity that makes Children and Young People feel less safe; 3. Enhancing relationships between leaders, community members, Children and Young People; and 4. Creating a new perspective to invigorate renewal. We also ensure all our volunteers and staff have an up to date WWCC and completed all safeguard training.

Greeting of the Holy Father to the sick in the Audience Hall before the General Audience

Good morning everyone! Good morning! Welcome!

I will offer a brief greeting, a blessing for each of you.

On this day, we wanted to protect you a little from the elements, especially the cold... It is not raining, but this way you may be a little more comfortable. Afterwards, you can follow the Audience on the screen, or if you wish, you can also go outside, but we would like to make the most of this small, more personal encounter to greet you, to offer you the Lord's blessing, and also our best wishes. Christmas is almost here, and we would like to ask the Lord that the joy of this Christmas season accompany you all: your families, your loved ones, and that you may always be in the Lord's hands with the trust and love that only God can give us.

I give my blessing to all of you now, and then I will come and greet you.

Blessing

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Human life is characterized by a constant movement that drives us to do, to act. Nowadays speed is required everywhere in order to achieve optimal results in a wide variety of fields. How does Jesus' resurrection shed light on this aspect of our experience? When we participate in his victory over death, will we rest? Faith tells us: yes, we will rest. We will not be inactive, but we will enter into God's repose, which is peace and joy. So, should we just wait, or can this change us right now?

We are absorbed by many activities that do not always leave us satisfied. A lot of our actions have to do with practical, concrete things. We have to assume responsibility for many commitments, solve problems, face difficulties. Jesus too was involved with people and with life, not sparing himself, but rather giving himself to the end. Yet we often perceive how too much doing, instead of giving us fulfilment, becomes a vortex that overwhelms us, takes away our serenity, and prevents us from living to the fullest what is truly important in our lives. We then feel tired and dissatisfied: time seems to be wasted on a thousand practical things that do not, however, resolve the ultimate meaning of our existence. Sometimes, at the end of days full of activities, we feel empty. Why? Because we are not machines, we have a "heart"; indeed, we can say that we *are* a heart.

The heart is the symbol of all our humanity, the sum of our thoughts, feelings and desires, the invisible centre of our selves. The Evangelist Matthew invites us to reflect on the importance of the heart, quoting this beautiful phrase of Jesus: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Mt 6:21).

It is therefore in the heart that true treasure is kept, not in earthly safes, not in large financial investments, which today more than ever before are out of control and unjustly concentrated at the bloody price of millions of human lives and the devastation of God's creation.

It is important to reflect on these aspects, because in the numerous commitments we continually face, there is an increasing risk of dispersion, sometimes of despair, of meaninglessness, even in apparently successful people. Instead, interpreting life in the light of Easter, looking at it with the Risen Jesus, means finding access to the essence of the human person, to our heart: *cor inquietum*. With this adjective "restless", Saint Augustine helps us understand the human being's yearning for fulfilment. The full sentence refers to the beginning of the *Confessions*, where Augustine writes: "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (I, 1,1).

Restlessness is the sign that our heart does not move by chance, in a disordered way, without a purpose or a destination, but is oriented towards its ultimate destination, the "return home". The authentic approach of the heart does not consist in possessing the goods of this world, but in achieving what can fill it completely; namely, the love of God, or rather, God who is Love. This treasure, however, can only be found by loving the neighbour we meet along the way: brothers and sisters in flesh and blood, whose presence stirs and questions our heart, calling it to open up and give itself. Our neighbour asks us to slow down, to look them in the eye, sometimes to change our plans, perhaps even to change direction.

Dear friends, here is the secret of the movement of the human heart: returning to the source of its being, delighting in the joy that never fails, that never disappoints. No one can live without a meaning that goes beyond the contingent, beyond what passes away. The human heart cannot live without hope, without knowing that it is made for fullness, not for want.

Jesus Christ, with his Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection, has given us a solid foundation for this hope. The restless heart will not be disappointed, if it enters into the dynamism of the love for which it was created. The destination is certain, life has triumphed, and in Christ it will continue to triumph in every death of daily life. This is Christian hope: let us always bless and thank the Lord who has given it to us!

DOCTRINAL NOTE ON MARIAN TITLES: MOTHER OF THE FAITHFUL, NOT CO-REDEMPTRIX

The document of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by Pope Leo XIV, offers clarifications on titles applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and calls for special attention to the use of the expression, “Mediatrice of all graces.”

Co-redemptrix

Regarding the title “Co-redemptrix,” the Note recalls that “some Popes have used the title “without elaborating much on its meaning.” Generally, it continues, “they have presented the title in two specific ways: in reference to Mary’s divine motherhood (insofar as she, as Mother, made possible the Redemption that Christ accomplished) or in reference to her union with Christ at the redemptive Cross. The Second Vatican Council refrained from using the title for dogmatic, pastoral, and ecumenical reasons. Saint John Paul II referred to Mary as ‘Co-redemptrix’ on at least seven occasions, particularly relating this title to the salvific value of our sufferings when they are offered together with the sufferings of Christ, to whom Mary is united especially at the Cross” (18).

The document cites an internal discussion within the then-Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which in February 1996 had discussed the request to proclaim a new dogma on Mary as “Co-redemptrix or Mediatrice of all graces.” Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was opposed to such a definition, arguing, “the precise meaning of these titles is not clear, and the doctrine contained in them is not mature. [...] It is not clear how the doctrine expressed in these titles is present in Scripture and the apostolic tradition.”

Later, in 2002, the future Benedict XVI expressed himself publicly in the same way: “The formula ‘Co-redemptrix’ departs to too great an extent from the language of Scripture and of the Fathers and therefore gives rise to misunderstandings... Everything comes from Him [Christ], as the Letter to the Ephesians and the Letter to the Colossians, in particular, tell us; Mary, too, is everything that she is through Him. The word ‘Co-redemptrix’ would obscure this origin.”

The note clarifies that Cardinal Ratzinger did not deny the good intentions behind the proposal, nor the valuable aspects reflected in it, but nonetheless maintained that they were “being expressed in the wrong way” (19).

Pope Francis also expressed his clear opposition to the use of the title Co-Redemptrix on at least three occasions. Tuesday’s Doctrinal Note concludes: “*It is always inappropriate* to use the title ‘Co-redemptrix’ to define Mary’s cooperation. This title risks obscuring Christ’s unique salvific mediation and can therefore create confusion and an imbalance in the harmony of the truths of the Christian faith. [...] When an expression requires many, repeated explanations to prevent it from straying from a correct meaning, it does not serve the faith of the People of God and becomes *unhelpful*” (22).

Mediatrice

The Note emphasises that “the biblical statement about Christ’s exclusive mediation is conclusive. Christ is the only Mediator” (24).

At the same time, MPF recognises “the fact that the word ‘mediation’ is commonly used in many areas of everyday life, where it is understood simply as cooperation, assistance, or intercession. As a result, it is inevitable that the term would be applied to Mary in a subordinate sense. Used in this way, it does not intend to add any efficacy or power to the unique mediation of Jesus Christ, true God and true man” (25).

Further, “it is clear that Mary has a real mediatory role in enabling the Incarnation of the Son of God in our humanity” (26).

Mother of believers and Mediatrice of all graces

Mary’s maternal role “in no way obscures or diminishes” the unique mediation of Christ, “but rather shows its power [...] Understood in this way, Mary’s motherhood does not seek to weaken the unique adoration due to Christ alone but, rather, seeks to enkindle it.”

Therefore, the Note states, “one must avoid titles and expressions that present Mary as a kind of ‘lightning rod’ before the Lord’s justice, as if she were a necessary alternative before the insufficiency of God’s mercy” (37b).

Thus, the title “Mother of Believers” “enables us to speak of Mary’s role in our relation to our life of grace”.

However, MPF goes on to urge caution concerning the use of expressions that may convey “less acceptable notions” (45).

“Cardinal Ratzinger already affirmed” for example, “that the title ‘Mary, Mediatrice of All Graces’ was not clearly grounded in Revelation.” So, the Note continues, “in line with this conviction, we can recognize the difficulties this title poses, both in terms of theological reflection and spirituality” (45). In fact, “no human person — not even the Apostles or the Blessed Virgin — can act as a universal dispenser of grace. Only God can bestow grace, and he does so through the humanity of Christ” (53).

“Some titles, such as ‘Mediatrice of All Graces,’ have limits that do not favour a correct understanding of Mary’s unique place,” MPF explains, adding, “In fact, she, the first redeemed, could not have been the mediatrice of the grace that she herself received” (67).

Nonetheless, the Doctrinal Note acknowledges that “the term ‘graces,’ when seen in reference to Mary’s maternal help at various moments in our lives, can have an acceptable meaning. The plural form expresses all the aids — even material — that the Lord may grant us when He heeds His Mother’s intercession” (68).

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

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 12th February 2026, 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 GROTTO: 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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Christmas Schedule for December 2025

24th	Children/Family Christmas Mass	6:00pm
24th	Christmas Mass	9:00pm
24th	Midnight Mass	12:00am
25th	Christmas Day Mass	8:00am & 9:30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

20/21 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: B. Motha, M. Mifsud 8am: F. Paiva, T. Perak 9.30am: C. Brooks, Kamela Huihui	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, N. Sumcad 8am: T. Perak, K. Walker 9.30am: N. Arambulo, L. Rigney	
Altar Servers	Vigil: N. D'Cruz, J. Steele, Aaliya Faulkner-Dhiman, 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: K. Maruthanayagam, C. Attard, L. Sager.	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: K.Thoms & C.W 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	24 Dec	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

27/28 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Lawrence Falzon 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Simic, N. Shami 8am: F. Paiva, J. Sarmiento 9.30am: P. Gow, G. Basilli	
Readers	Vigil: Yxaak & Yxavel Dino 8am: F. Kennedy, A. McNally 9.30am: J. Nonato, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Julian & Orlando Martinez, C. Bellamin 8am: Jaxon Blackshaw, Sub Rqd 9.30am: K. Cassaniti, L. Sadipoor, A. Melki	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary	
Church Cleaning	1 January	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli	

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21st, 2025

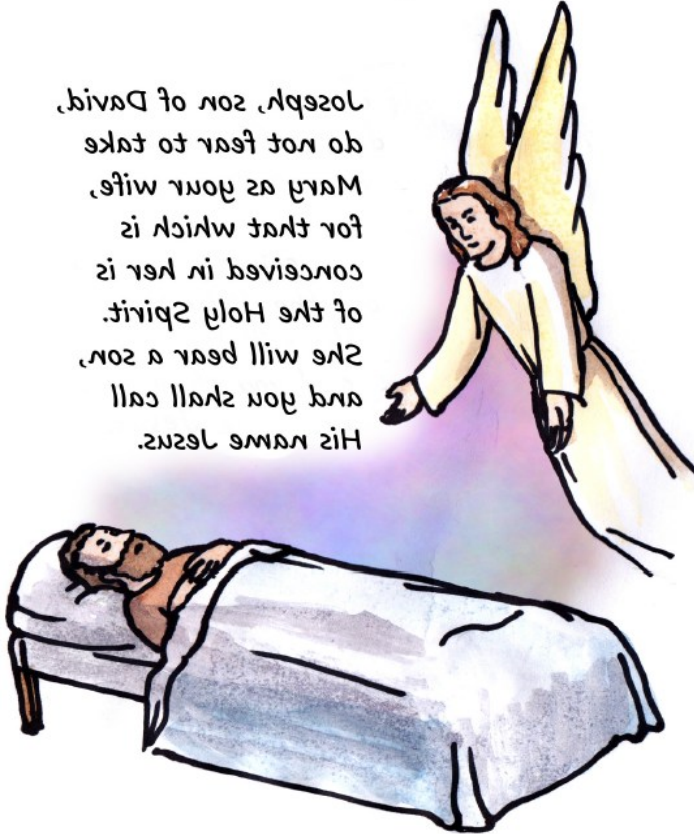
What's in a Name?

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 18:21

Based on Matthew 1:18-25



Joseph, son of David,
do not fear to take
Mary as your wife,
for that which is
conceived in her is
of the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son,
and you shall call
his name Jesus.



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

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!

HUSBAND	SON	IMMANUEL	MARY	NAME
CHRIST	CHILD	VIRGIN	BIRTH	ANGEL
JOSEPH	MARRY	AFRAID	DREAM	JESUS



angel





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@lol7hills.com.au

Parish Priest:	Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran	Parish School:	LOLO 8869 6800
Parish Deacon:	Deacon Thong Nguyen	Principal:	Ms Keiran Byrnes
Parish Office Team:	Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Jane Nguyen, Laura Ilioski	Reconciliation:	Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
Office Hours: Monday-Friday:	9am - 3.00pm	Baptismal Preparation:	18 February 2026
WEEKDAY MASS:	Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am Thursday 9.00am	Baptism:	11 January 2026
WEEKEND MASS:	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9.30am	Sacrament Co-Ordinator:	Mrs Artelle Lenthall
		Youth Co-Ordinator:	Diana Park
		Parish Website:	www.lol7hills.org.au
		Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/LOLO7Hills/

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 21 December 2025 • Year A



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, Takis Karapatsakis, Clare Kinsley, T.Q Letran, Susie Manga, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Gary Morrissey, Jayne Muscat, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Michelle Pellicano, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Arabella Steele, Sue Tiplado, 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, Rosita Ballecer, Anthony Hastings, Aggie Motha, Maria Amma Peter, Veronica Rosales, Anthony Ruzgas

Anniversaries: Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, France Angseesing, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Evan Elisher, Rita de Silva, Frank, M.A Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, Norma Lorenzo, Joseph Mahon, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Irene Moroney, Thelma Morrissey, Anton & Lourda Motha, Paul Mula, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Eustace Ratnam, Roseline Ratnam

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Sydney Azie, Antonio, Amelia & Germana Bertinato, Sam Borg, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato Cabasa, Peter & Antonio, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli, Barrie Chamberlain, Myrna Cruz, Joseph, Johnny Edwards, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Launcer De Guire, Bede Diab, Debe Diab, Marcel Diab, Mohsen Diab, Peter Diab, Toufic Diab, O. Francis, J. Francis, Melvyn Fernandes, Merita Fernando, Nevis Fernando, Leandro Garcia Snr, Evangeline, Rudy Garcia, Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Selvam Irudayaraj, J.B, Jonathan Tek Kie, Mangion & Cini Family, Felina Maglaya, Tessie & Andy Mangine, 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, Aurora Nufable Nonato, Coleen O'Sullivan, Serge Pasnin, Lakshman Perera, Marlyn Pestano, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose, Maria, Laureano, Karen, Yolanda Reyes, Mary Silva, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.

Names will be published for 2 weeks at a time.

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.

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



KEEP UP TO DATE

By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more. Visit www.lol7hills.org.au

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**(R) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally.

He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

According to scholars, marriage customs in Palestine in Jesus' time often included two parts: the engagement and the wedding.

The engagement period usually lasted for a year during which the bride and the groom stayed in their homes and communicated to each other through messages delivered by the best man. The engagement began with the signing of a formal marriage agreement or with the groom offering gifts to the bride's family. At this stage, the bride and the groom were legally husband and wife even though they did not yet live together. Vietnamese people have done the same, except the engagement period is less than a year, usually six months.

After a year-long engagement time, the wedding ceremony then took place, and the groom could formally take his wife into his home to begin their married life together.

This background knowledge of Jewish marriage customs will help us better appreciate the Gospel account this Sunday, as it allows us to understand the dilemma St. Joseph faced when he discovered Mary's conception during their engagement. On the one hand, they were legally husband and wife; on the other hand, Mary was clearly carrying a child who was not his. For Joseph, a righteous and honorable man, divorce seemed to be the best solution, one that would end the relationship quietly and protect Mary's life, since she could otherwise be accused of adultery, an offense that, under Jewish law, could result in death by stoning. This messy entanglement is finally cleared up by the angel appearing to Joseph in a dream to reveal the mystery behind Mary's conception, that she was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The angel also asked Joseph to take Mary home to be his wife with the obligation to name the child Jesus, a name that means 'the Lord saves' or simply 'salvation.'

In the eyes of Matthew whose Gospel was meant to bring Jesus' Good News to the group of Jewish followers often familiar with the teachings of the prophets in the scripture, what happened here was extra special, because it fulfilled exactly what Isaiah prophesied long before, as we hear in the first reading today, that 'the maiden is with child and soon give birth to a son, whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us.' This prophetic fulfillment Have a joy-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ADVENT WREATH

It is usually constructed around a circular base. This circular base is traditionally taken to symbolise the ever-renewing cycle of the seasons, and the four candles, represent the four Sundays of Advent. The fourth candle, the "Candle of Love," reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth.



HALL CANOPY PLAQUE

From this weekend, the Pledging Book for the Hall Canopy Plaque is 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.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS THANK YOU

Thank you everyone for such an overwhelming support to our Parish invitation to show our love and care for the needy both in our community and beyond through our Christmas Hampers tradition, and a special thank you note to our dedicated Vinnies for overseeing the whole program from collecting and sorting out donations to distributing them dutifully.

MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church from this weekend for Ministers of the Eucharist, Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers and Welcomers who would like to serve at a Christmas Mass. We kindly ask that ministers sign up for one liturgy only.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2026

Ministry rosters for February - July 2026 are now available. You can find a copy at the back Sacristy or on our website under 'Parish Forms'. If you require more copies or notice any discrepancies, please kindly contact the parish office.

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN 2026-2030

Copies of our Parish Pastoral Plan 2026-2030 are now on and all are invited to have a look after Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY—CHRISTMAS STORY

Thank you to the children who have volunteered to act out the Christmas Story this year. This will take place during the 6pm mass on the 24th December. For those children who are not participating but attending the mass, you are invited to dress up as angels or shepherds.

A PRACTICAL TIP EACH WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

TIP 14 Take a Break from Online Shopping

Online shopping produces a lot of packaging waste and produces excess carbon emissions from airplanes and vehicles. Take a month off online shopping or reduce what you buy online. Try to make purchases closer to home!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS & BULLETIN

Our Parish office will close between Christmas and New Year and there will be no bulletins throughout the month of January 2026 to allow Parish staff to take a break. However, I will be around in the Parish office as usual.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE RETURNS IN 2026

Those interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar, the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2026. Enrolment forms can be found at the back sacristy.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

- Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Mount Druitt Combined Churches Christmas Day Community Lunch: 25 December

Don't spend Christmas alone. A free Christmas Day lunch hosted by Mt Druitt Combined Churches on Thursday 25 December from 11am, with Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt as the venue host. All are welcome. Registration is essential. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/MtDruittChristmasLunch>

Baulkham Hills Christmas Luncheon: 25 December

The Parish of Baulkham Hills are hosting a Christmas Lunch for anyone who will be on their own on Christmas Day. You may be in town for a visit, or just moved into the area, or may simply be unable to share Christmas Day with your loved ones. So come and share it with us. It will be held on Thursday 25 December in and around the St Michael's Primary School hall, and everyone is welcome, families and individuals. But places are limited, so you will need to register to attend. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9639 0598 or email baulkhamhills@parracatholic.org.

Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January. For one week, there will be celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who've enriched our parishes, schools and communities. Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross.

Grab your copy of the Catholic Outlook Magazine!

The latest quarterly edition of the *Catholic Outlook* Magazine is out now, keeping you connected with exciting news and events in the Diocese of Parramatta.

OLOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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>. Face to Face courses will resume in 2026. Dates and times will be provided once confirmed.

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.

Visiting Clergy to OLOL

Thank you to Fr. Hoang Viet Nguyen who graciously assisted Fr Henry with mass and reconciliation this week. Visiting clergy all uphold the standards and processes we here at OLOL and the Diocese have put in place to ensure the safety of our community.

Santo Nino Fiesta Sinulog 2026: 18 January

The Devotees of the Holy Infant Jesus Santo Nino invite you to attend the 2026 Fiesta Sinulog on Sunday 18 January at St Patrick's Church, Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown at 2pm. All devotees, please bring your Santo Nino statues. Novena Masses will be held between 8-16 January at 7pm at the parishes of St Clair-Erskine Park, Penrith, St Marys, Rooty Hill, Winston Hills, Plumpton, Marayong, Quakers Hill and Kellyville. For more information, please contact the Blacktown Parish on (02) 9622 1125 or email blacktown@parracatholic.org

Sing a New Song Music Workshop for Children: 21 January

Do you have a child in Year 4-12? Invite them to come along to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 21 January from 9:30am to 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Morning tea and lunch provided. Student participants will form a choir that will sing at the Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Sunday 25 January at 11am. To register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/0URuFAeThA>

Rosary Making Workshop: 9 February

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on Monday 9 February at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for further information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Diocesan World Day of the Sick: 11 February

Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on the 11th February 2026 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. To register, please visit parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-the-sick-mass/

Children and Young People's Participation

A Safeguarding culture for Children and Young People is fostered and sustained by our parish being committed to living the Gospel by serving the most vulnerable. Here at OLOL Seven Hills we implement all Arch/Diocesan policies, procedures and community standards that are Child and Young Person centred to lift barriers so their voices can be heard and their participation valued.

OLOL Parish community values and celebrates ALL our Children and Young People for who they are and the great contributions they make to our parish. We therefore have an obligation to uphold their human and spiritual rights. This is achieved at OLOL by: 1. Providing ministries, services and programs that are relevant for Children and Young People including those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and who have a disability; 2. Committing to zero tolerance to any attitude and activity that makes Children and Young People feel less safe; 3. Enhancing relationships between leaders, community members, Children and Young People; and 4. Creating a new perspective to invigorate renewal. We also ensure all our volunteers and staff have an up to date WWCC and completed all safeguard training.

Greeting of the Holy Father to the sick in the Audience Hall before the General Audience

Good morning everyone! Good morning! Welcome!

I will offer a brief greeting, a blessing for each of you.

On this day, we wanted to protect you a little from the elements, especially the cold... It is not raining, but this way you may be a little more comfortable. Afterwards, you can follow the Audience on the screen, or if you wish, you can also go outside, but we would like to make the most of this small, more personal encounter to greet you, to offer you the Lord's blessing, and also our best wishes. Christmas is almost here, and we would like to ask the Lord that the joy of this Christmas season accompany you all: your families, your loved ones, and that you may always be in the Lord's hands with the trust and love that only God can give us.

I give my blessing to all of you now, and then I will come and greet you.

Blessing

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Human life is characterized by a constant movement that drives us to do, to act. Nowadays speed is required everywhere in order to achieve optimal results in a wide variety of fields. How does Jesus' resurrection shed light on this aspect of our experience? When we participate in his victory over death, will we rest? Faith tells us: yes, we will rest. We will not be inactive, but we will enter into God's repose, which is peace and joy. So, should we just wait, or can this change us right now?

We are absorbed by many activities that do not always leave us satisfied. A lot of our actions have to do with practical, concrete things. We have to assume responsibility for many commitments, solve problems, face difficulties. Jesus too was involved with people and with life, not sparing himself, but rather giving himself to the end. Yet we often perceive how too much doing, instead of giving us fulfilment, becomes a vortex that overwhelms us, takes away our serenity, and prevents us from living to the fullest what is truly important in our lives. We then feel tired and dissatisfied: time seems to be wasted on a thousand practical things that do not, however, resolve the ultimate meaning of our existence. Sometimes, at the end of days full of activities, we feel empty. Why? Because we are not machines, we have a "heart"; indeed, we can say that we *are* a heart.

The heart is the symbol of all our humanity, the sum of our thoughts, feelings and desires, the invisible centre of our selves. The Evangelist Matthew invites us to reflect on the importance of the heart, quoting this beautiful phrase of Jesus: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (*Mt 6:21*).

It is therefore in the heart that true treasure is kept, not in earthly safes, not in large financial investments, which today more than ever before are out of control and unjustly concentrated at the bloody price of millions of human lives and the devastation of God's creation.

It is important to reflect on these aspects, because in the numerous commitments we continually face, there is an increasing risk of dispersion, sometimes of despair, of meaninglessness, even in apparently successful people. Instead, interpreting life in the light of Easter, looking at it with the Risen Jesus, means finding access to the essence of the human person, to our heart: *cor inquietum*. With this adjective "restless", Saint Augustine helps us understand the human being's yearning for fulfilment. The full sentence refers to the beginning of the *Confessions*, where Augustine writes: "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (*I, 1,1*).

Restlessness is the sign that our heart does not move by chance, in a disordered way, without a purpose or a destination, but is oriented towards its ultimate destination, the "return home". The authentic approach of the heart does not consist in possessing the goods of this world, but in achieving what can fill it completely; namely, the love of God, or rather, God who is Love. This treasure, however, can only be found by loving the neighbour we meet along the way: brothers and sisters in flesh and blood, whose presence stirs and questions our heart, calling it to open up and give itself. Our neighbour asks us to slow down, to look them in the eye, sometimes to change our plans, perhaps even to change direction.

Dear friends, here is the secret of the movement of the human heart: returning to the source of its being, delighting in the joy that never fails, that never disappoints. No one can live without a meaning that goes beyond the contingent, beyond what passes away. The human heart cannot live without hope, without knowing that it is made for fullness, not for want.

Jesus Christ, with his Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection, has given us a solid foundation for this hope. The restless heart will not be disappointed, if it enters into the dynamism of the love for which it was created. The destination is certain, life has triumphed, and in Christ it will continue to triumph in every death of daily life. This is Christian hope: let us always bless and thank the Lord who has given it to us!

DOCTRINAL NOTE ON MARIAN TITLES: MOTHER OF THE FAITHFUL, NOT CO-REDEMPTRIX

The document of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by Pope Leo XIV, offers clarifications on titles applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and calls for special attention to the use of the expression, “Mediatrix of all graces.”

Co-redemptrix

Regarding the title “Co-redemptrix,” the Note recalls that “some Popes have used the title “without elaborating much on its meaning.” Generally, it continues, “they have presented the title in two specific ways: in reference to Mary’s divine motherhood (insofar as she, as Mother, made possible the Redemption that Christ accomplished) or in reference to her union with Christ at the redemptive Cross. The Second Vatican Council refrained from using the title for dogmatic, pastoral, and ecumenical reasons. Saint John Paul II referred to Mary as ‘Co-redemptrix’ on at least seven occasions, particularly relating this title to the salvific value of our sufferings when they are offered together with the sufferings of Christ, to whom Mary is united especially at the Cross” (18).

The document cites an internal discussion within the then-Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which in February 1996 had discussed the request to proclaim a new dogma on Mary as “Co-redemptrix or Mediatrix of all graces.” Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was opposed to such a definition, arguing, “the precise meaning of these titles is not clear, and the doctrine contained in them is not mature. [...] It is not clear how the doctrine expressed in these titles is present in Scripture and the apostolic tradition.”

Later, in 2002, the future Benedict XVI expressed himself publicly in the same way: “The formula ‘Co-redemptrix’ departs to too great an extent from the language of Scripture and of the Fathers and therefore gives rise to misunderstandings... Everything comes from Him [Christ], as the Letter to the Ephesians and the Letter to the Colossians, in particular, tell us; Mary, too, is everything that she is through Him. The word ‘Co-redemptrix’ would obscure this origin.”

The note clarifies that Cardinal Ratzinger did not deny the good intentions behind the proposal, nor the valuable aspects reflected in it, but nonetheless maintained that they were “being expressed in the wrong way” (19).

Pope Francis also expressed his clear opposition to the use of the title Co-Redemptrix on at least three occasions. Tuesday’s Doctrinal Note concludes: “*It is always inappropriate* to use the title ‘Co-redemptrix’ to define Mary’s cooperation. This title risks obscuring Christ’s unique salvific mediation and can therefore create confusion and an imbalance in the harmony of the truths of the Christian faith. [...] When an expression requires many, repeated explanations to prevent it from straying from a correct meaning, it does not serve the faith of the People of God and becomes *unhelpful*” (22).

Mediatrix

The Note emphasises that “the biblical statement about Christ’s exclusive mediation is conclusive. Christ is the only Mediator” (24).

At the same time, MPF recognises “the fact that the word ‘mediation’ is commonly used in many areas of everyday life, where it is understood simply as cooperation, assistance, or intercession. As a result, it is inevitable that the term would be applied to Mary in a subordinate sense. Used in this way, it does not intend to add any efficacy or power to the unique mediation of Jesus Christ, true God and true man” (25).

Further, “it is clear that Mary has a real mediatory role in enabling the Incarnation of the Son of God in our humanity” (26).

Mother of believers and Mediatrix of all graces

Mary’s maternal role “in no way obscures or diminishes” the unique mediation of Christ, “but rather shows its power [...] Understood in this way, Mary’s motherhood does not seek to weaken the unique adoration due to Christ alone but, rather, seeks to enkindle it.”

Therefore, the Note states, “one must avoid titles and expressions that present Mary as a kind of ‘lightning rod’ before the Lord’s justice, as if she were a necessary alternative before the insufficiency of God’s mercy” (37b).

Thus, the title “Mother of Believers” “enables us to speak of Mary’s role in our relation to our life of grace”.

However, MPF goes on to urge caution concerning the use of expressions that may convey “less acceptable notions” (45).

“Cardinal Ratzinger already affirmed” for example, “that the title ‘Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces’ was not clearly grounded in Revelation.” So, the Note continues, “in line with this conviction, we can recognize the difficulties this title poses, both in terms of theological reflection and spirituality” (45). In fact, “no human person — not even the Apostles or the Blessed Virgin — can act as a universal dispenser of grace. Only God can bestow grace, and he does so through the humanity of Christ” (53).

“Some titles, such as ‘Mediatrix of All Graces,’ have limits that do not favour a correct understanding of Mary’s unique place,” MPF explains, adding, “In fact, she, the first redeemed, could not have been the mediatrix of the grace that she herself received” (67).

Nonetheless, the Doctrinal Note acknowledges that “the term ‘graces,’ when seen in reference to Mary’s maternal help at various moments in our lives, can have an acceptable meaning. The plural form expresses all the aids — even material — that the Lord may grant us when He heeds His Mother’s intercession” (68).

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

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 12th February 2026, 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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Christmas Schedule for December 2025

24th	Children/Family Christmas Mass	6:00pm
24th	Christmas Mass	9:00pm
24th	Midnight Mass	12:00am
25th	Christmas Day Mass	8:00am & 9:30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

20/21 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: B. Motha, M. Mifsud 8am: F. Paiva, T. Perak 9.30am: C. Brooks, Kamela Huihui	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, N. Sumcad 8am: T. Perak, K. Walker 9.30am: N. Arambulo, L. Rigney	
Altar Servers	Vigil: N. D'Cruz, J. Steele, Aaliya Faulkner-Dhiman, 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: K. Maruthanayagam, C. Attard, L. Sager.	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: K.Thoms & C.W 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	24 Dec	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

27/28 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Lawrence Falzon 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Simic, N. Shami 8am: F. Paiva, J. Sarmiento 9.30am: P. Gow, G. Basilli	
Readers	Vigil: Yxaak & Yxavel Dino 8am: F. Kennedy, A. McNally 9.30am: J. Nonato, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Julian & Orlando Martinez, C. Bellamin 8am: Jaxon Blackshaw, Sub Rqd 9.30am: K. Cassaniti, L. Sadipoor, A. Melki	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary	
Church Cleaning	1 January	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli	

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21st, 2025

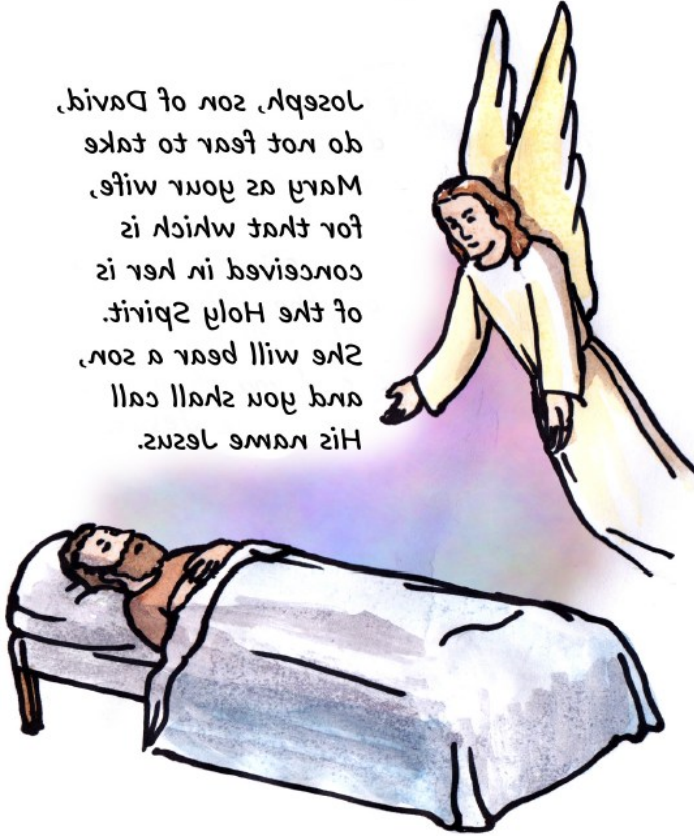
What's in a Name?

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 18:21

Based on Matthew 1:18-25



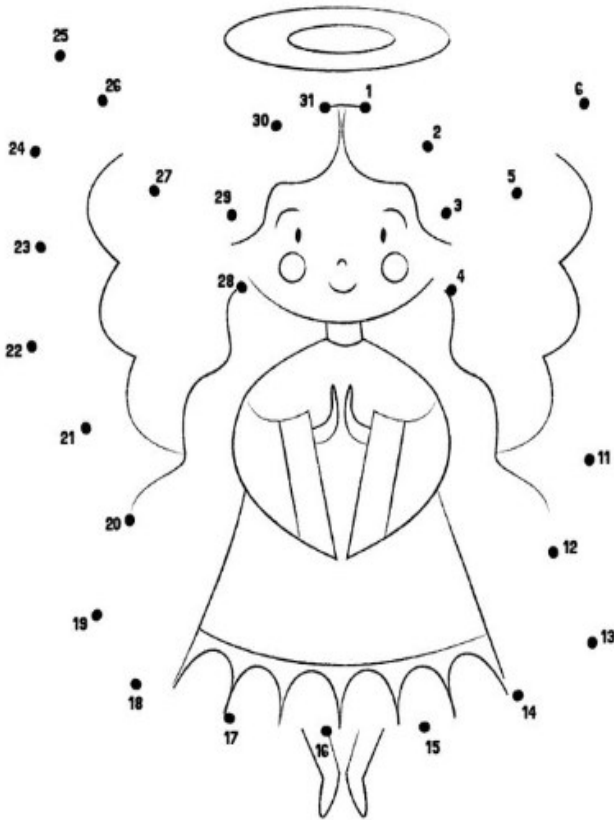
Joseph, son of David,
do not fear to take
Mary as your wife,
for that which is
conceived in her is
of the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son,
and you shall call
his name Jesus.



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

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!

HUSBAND	SON	IMMANUEL	MARY	NAME
CHRIST	CHILD	VIRGIN	BIRTH	ANGEL
JOSEPH	MARRY	AFRAID	DREAM	JESUS



angel





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@lol7hills.com.au

Parish Priest:	Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran	Parish School:	LOLO 8869 6800
Parish Deacon:	Deacon Thong Nguyen	Principal:	Ms Keiran Byrnes
Parish Office Team:	Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Jane Nguyen, Laura Ilioski	Reconciliation:	Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
Office Hours: Monday-Friday:	9am - 3.00pm	Baptismal Preparation:	18 February 2026
WEEKDAY MASS:	Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am Thursday 9.00am	Baptism:	11 January 2026
WEEKEND MASS:	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9.30am	Sacrament Co-Ordinator:	Mrs Artelle Lenthall
		Youth Co-Ordinator:	Diana Park
		Parish Website:	www.lol7hills.org.au
		Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/LOLO7Hills/

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 21 December 2025 • Year A



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, Takis Karapatsakis, Clare Kinsley, T.Q Letran, Susie Manga, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Gary Morrissey, Jayne Muscat, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Michelle Pellicano, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Arabella Steele, Sue Tiplado, 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, Rosita Ballecer, Anthony Hastings, Aggie Motha, Maria Amma Peter, Veronica Rosales, Anthony Ruzgas

Anniversaries: Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, France Angseesing, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Evan Elisher, Rita de Silva, Frank, M.A Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, Norma Lorenzo, Joseph Mahon, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Irene Moroney, Thelma Morrissey, Anton & Lourda Motha, Paul Mula, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Eustace Ratnam, Roseline Ratnam

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Sydney Azie, Antonio, Amelia & Germana Bertinato, Sam Borg, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato Cabasa, Peter & Antonio, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli, Barrie Chamberlain, Myrna Cruz, Joseph, Johnny Edwards, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Launcer De Guire, Bede Diab, Debe Diab, Marcel Diab, Mohsen Diab, Peter Diab, Toufic Diab, O. Francis, J. Francis, Melvyn Fernandes, Merita Fernando, Nevis Fernando, Leandro Garcia Snr, Evangeline, Rudy Garcia, Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Selvam Irudayaraj, J.B, Jonathan Tek Kie, Mangion & Cini Family, Felina Maglaya, Tessie & Andy Mangine, 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, Aurora Nufable Nonato, Coleen O'Sullivan, Serge Pasnin, Lakshman Perera, Marlyn Pestano, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose, Maria, Laureano, Karen, Yolanda Reyes, Mary Silva, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.

Names will be published for 2 weeks at a time.

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.

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



KEEP UP TO DATE

By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more. Visit www.lol7hills.org.au

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**(R) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally.

He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

According to scholars, marriage customs in Palestine in Jesus' time often included two parts: the engagement and the wedding.

The engagement period usually lasted for a year during which the bride and the groom stayed in their homes and communicated to each other through messages delivered by the best man. The engagement began with the signing of a formal marriage agreement or with the groom offering gifts to the bride's family. At this stage, the bride and the groom were legally husband and wife even though they did not yet live together. Vietnamese people have done the same, except the engagement period is less than a year, usually six months.

After a year-long engagement time, the wedding ceremony then took place, and the groom could formally take his wife into his home to begin their married life together.

This background knowledge of Jewish marriage customs will help us better appreciate the Gospel account this Sunday, as it allows us to understand the dilemma St. Joseph faced when he discovered Mary's conception during their engagement. On the one hand, they were legally husband and wife; on the other hand, Mary was clearly carrying a child who was not his. For Joseph, a righteous and honorable man, divorce seemed to be the best solution, one that would end the relationship quietly and protect Mary's life, since she could otherwise be accused of adultery, an offense that, under Jewish law, could result in death by stoning. This messy entanglement is finally cleared up by the angel appearing to Joseph in a dream to reveal the mystery behind Mary's conception, that she was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The angel also asked Joseph to take Mary home to be his wife with the obligation to name the child Jesus, a name that means 'the Lord saves' or simply 'salvation.'

In the eyes of Matthew whose Gospel was meant to bring Jesus' Good News to the group of Jewish followers often familiar with the teachings of the prophets in the scripture, what happened here was extra special, because it fulfilled exactly what Isaiah prophesied long before, as we hear in the first reading today, that 'the maiden is with child and soon give birth to a son, whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us.' This prophetic fulfillment Have a joy-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ADVENT WREATH

It is usually constructed around a circular base. This circular base is traditionally taken to symbolise the ever-renewing cycle of the seasons, and the four candles, represent the four Sundays of Advent. The fourth candle, the "Candle of Love," reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth.



HALL CANOPY PLAQUE

From this weekend, the Pledging Book for the Hall Canopy Plaque is 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.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS THANK YOU

Thank you everyone for such an overwhelming support to our Parish invitation to show our love and care for the needy both in our community and beyond through our Christmas Hampers tradition, and a special thank you note to our dedicated Vinnies for overseeing the whole program from collecting and sorting out donations to distributing them dutifully.

MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church from this weekend for Ministers of the Eucharist, Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers and Welcomers who would like to serve at a Christmas Mass. We kindly ask that ministers sign up for one liturgy only.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2026

Ministry rosters for February - July 2026 are now available. You can find a copy at the back Sacristy or on our website under 'Parish Forms'. If you require more copies or notice any discrepancies, please kindly contact the parish office.

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN 2026-2030

Copies of our Parish Pastoral Plan 2026-2030 are now on and all are invited to have a look after Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY—CHRISTMAS STORY

Thank you to the children who have volunteered to act out the Christmas Story this year. This will take place during the 6pm mass on the 24th December. For those children who are not participating but attending the mass, you are invited to dress up as angels or shepherds.

A PRACTICAL TIP EACH WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

TIP 14 Take a Break from Online Shopping

Online shopping produces a lot of packaging waste and produces excess carbon emissions from airplanes and vehicles. Take a month off online shopping or reduce what you buy online. Try to make purchases closer to home!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS & BULLETIN

Our Parish office will close between Christmas and New Year and there will be no bulletins throughout the month of January 2026 to allow Parish staff to take a break. However, I will be around in the Parish office as usual.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE RETURNS IN 2026

Those interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar, the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2026. Enrolment forms can be found at the back sacristy.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

- Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Mount Druitt Combined Churches Christmas Day

Community Lunch: 25 December

Don't spend Christmas alone. A free Christmas Day lunch hosted by Mt Druitt Combined Churches on Thursday 25 December from 11am, with Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt as the venue host. All are welcome. Registration is essential. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/MtDruittChristmasLunch>

Baulkham Hills Christmas Luncheon: 25 December

The Parish of Baulkham Hills are hosting a Christmas Lunch for anyone who will be on their own on Christmas Day. You may be in town for a visit, or just moved into the area, or may simply be unable to share Christmas Day with your loved ones. So come and share it with us. It will be held on Thursday 25 December in and around the St Michael's Primary School hall, and everyone is welcome, families and individuals. But places are limited, so you will need to register to attend. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9639 0598 or email baulkhamhills@parracatholic.org.

Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January. For one week, there will be celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who've enriched our parishes, schools and communities. Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross.

Grab your copy of the Catholic Outlook Magazine!

The latest quarterly edition of the *Catholic Outlook* Magazine is out now, keeping you connected with exciting news and events in the Diocese of Parramatta.

OLOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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>. Face to Face courses will resume in 2026. Dates and times will be provided once confirmed.

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.

Visiting Clergy to OLOL

Thank you to Fr. Hoang Viet Nguyen who graciously assisted Fr Henry with mass and reconciliation this week. Visiting clergy all uphold the standards and processes we here at OLOL and the Diocese have put in place to ensure the safety of our community.

Santo Nino Fiesta Sinulog 2026: 18 January

The Devotees of the Holy Infant Jesus Santo Nino invite you to attend the 2026 Fiesta Sinulog on Sunday 18 January at St Patrick's Church, Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown at 2pm. All devotees, please bring your Santo Nino statues. Novena Masses will be held between 8-16 January at 7pm at the parishes of St Clair-Erskine Park, Penrith, St Marys, Rooty Hill, Winston Hills, Plumpton, Marayong, Quakers Hill and Kellyville. For more information, please contact the Blacktown Parish on (02) 9622 1125 or email blacktown@parracatholic.org

Sing a New Song Music Workshop for Children: 21 January

Do you have a child in Year 4-12? Invite them to come along to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 21 January from 9:30am to 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Morning tea and lunch provided. Student participants will form a choir that will sing at the Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Sunday 25 January at 11am. To register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/0URuFAeThA>

Rosary Making Workshop: 9 February

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on Monday 9 February at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for further information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Diocesan World Day of the Sick: 11 February

Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on the 11th February 2026 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. To register, please visit parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-the-sick-mass/

Children and Young People's Participation

A Safeguarding culture for Children and Young People is fostered and sustained by our parish being committed to living the Gospel by serving the most vulnerable. Here at OLOL Seven Hills we implement all Arch/Diocesan policies, procedures and community standards that are Child and Young Person centred to lift barriers so their voices can be heard and their participation valued.

OLOL Parish community values and celebrates ALL our Children and Young People for who they are and the great contributions they make to our parish. We therefore have an obligation to uphold their human and spiritual rights. This is achieved at OLOL by: 1. Providing ministries, services and programs that are relevant for Children and Young People including those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and who have a disability; 2. Committing to zero tolerance to any attitude and activity that makes Children and Young People feel less safe; 3. Enhancing relationships between leaders, community members, Children and Young People; and 4. Creating a new perspective to invigorate renewal. We also ensure all our volunteers and staff have an up to date WWCC and completed all safeguard training.

Greeting of the Holy Father to the sick in the Audience Hall before the General Audience

Good morning everyone! Good morning! Welcome!

I will offer a brief greeting, a blessing for each of you.

On this day, we wanted to protect you a little from the elements, especially the cold... It is not raining, but this way you may be a little more comfortable. Afterwards, you can follow the Audience on the screen, or if you wish, you can also go outside, but we would like to make the most of this small, more personal encounter to greet you, to offer you the Lord's blessing, and also our best wishes. Christmas is almost here, and we would like to ask the Lord that the joy of this Christmas season accompany you all: your families, your loved ones, and that you may always be in the Lord's hands with the trust and love that only God can give us.

I give my blessing to all of you now, and then I will come and greet you.

Blessing

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Human life is characterized by a constant movement that drives us to do, to act. Nowadays speed is required everywhere in order to achieve optimal results in a wide variety of fields. How does Jesus' resurrection shed light on this aspect of our experience? When we participate in his victory over death, will we rest? Faith tells us: yes, we will rest. We will not be inactive, but we will enter into God's repose, which is peace and joy. So, should we just wait, or can this change us right now?

We are absorbed by many activities that do not always leave us satisfied. A lot of our actions have to do with practical, concrete things. We have to assume responsibility for many commitments, solve problems, face difficulties. Jesus too was involved with people and with life, not sparing himself, but rather giving himself to the end. Yet we often perceive how too much doing, instead of giving us fulfilment, becomes a vortex that overwhelms us, takes away our serenity, and prevents us from living to the fullest what is truly important in our lives. We then feel tired and dissatisfied: time seems to be wasted on a thousand practical things that do not, however, resolve the ultimate meaning of our existence. Sometimes, at the end of days full of activities, we feel empty. Why? Because we are not machines, we have a "heart"; indeed, we can say that we *are* a heart.

The heart is the symbol of all our humanity, the sum of our thoughts, feelings and desires, the invisible centre of our selves. The Evangelist Matthew invites us to reflect on the importance of the heart, quoting this beautiful phrase of Jesus: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (*Mt 6:21*).

It is therefore in the heart that true treasure is kept, not in earthly safes, not in large financial investments, which today more than ever before are out of control and unjustly concentrated at the bloody price of millions of human lives and the devastation of God's creation.

It is important to reflect on these aspects, because in the numerous commitments we continually face, there is an increasing risk of dispersion, sometimes of despair, of meaninglessness, even in apparently successful people. Instead, interpreting life in the light of Easter, looking at it with the Risen Jesus, means finding access to the essence of the human person, to our heart: *cor inquietum*. With this adjective "restless", Saint Augustine helps us understand the human being's yearning for fulfilment. The full sentence refers to the beginning of the *Confessions*, where Augustine writes: "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (*I, 1,1*).

Restlessness is the sign that our heart does not move by chance, in a disordered way, without a purpose or a destination, but is oriented towards its ultimate destination, the "return home". The authentic approach of the heart does not consist in possessing the goods of this world, but in achieving what can fill it completely; namely, the love of God, or rather, God who is Love. This treasure, however, can only be found by loving the neighbour we meet along the way: brothers and sisters in flesh and blood, whose presence stirs and questions our heart, calling it to open up and give itself. Our neighbour asks us to slow down, to look them in the eye, sometimes to change our plans, perhaps even to change direction.

Dear friends, here is the secret of the movement of the human heart: returning to the source of its being, delighting in the joy that never fails, that never disappoints. No one can live without a meaning that goes beyond the contingent, beyond what passes away. The human heart cannot live without hope, without knowing that it is made for fullness, not for want.

Jesus Christ, with his Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection, has given us a solid foundation for this hope. The restless heart will not be disappointed, if it enters into the dynamism of the love for which it was created. The destination is certain, life has triumphed, and in Christ it will continue to triumph in every death of daily life. This is Christian hope: let us always bless and thank the Lord who has given it to us!

DOCTRINAL NOTE ON MARIAN TITLES: MOTHER OF THE FAITHFUL, NOT CO-REDEMPTRIX

The document of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by Pope Leo XIV, offers clarifications on titles applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and calls for special attention to the use of the expression, “Mediatrix of all graces.”

Co-redemptrix

Regarding the title “Co-redemptrix,” the Note recalls that “some Popes have used the title “without elaborating much on its meaning.” Generally, it continues, “they have presented the title in two specific ways: in reference to Mary’s divine motherhood (insofar as she, as Mother, made possible the Redemption that Christ accomplished) or in reference to her union with Christ at the redemptive Cross. The Second Vatican Council refrained from using the title for dogmatic, pastoral, and ecumenical reasons. Saint John Paul II referred to Mary as ‘Co-redemptrix’ on at least seven occasions, particularly relating this title to the salvific value of our sufferings when they are offered together with the sufferings of Christ, to whom Mary is united especially at the Cross” (18).

The document cites an internal discussion within the then-Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which in February 1996 had discussed the request to proclaim a new dogma on Mary as “Co-redemptrix or Mediatrix of all graces.” Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was opposed to such a definition, arguing, “the precise meaning of these titles is not clear, and the doctrine contained in them is not mature. [...] It is not clear how the doctrine expressed in these titles is present in Scripture and the apostolic tradition.”

Later, in 2002, the future Benedict XVI expressed himself publicly in the same way: “The formula ‘Co-redemptrix’ departs to too great an extent from the language of Scripture and of the Fathers and therefore gives rise to misunderstandings... Everything comes from Him [Christ], as the Letter to the Ephesians and the Letter to the Colossians, in particular, tell us; Mary, too, is everything that she is through Him. The word ‘Co-redemptrix’ would obscure this origin.”

The note clarifies that Cardinal Ratzinger did not deny the good intentions behind the proposal, nor the valuable aspects reflected in it, but nonetheless maintained that they were “being expressed in the wrong way” (19).

Pope Francis also expressed his clear opposition to the use of the title Co-Redemptrix on at least three occasions. Tuesday’s Doctrinal Note concludes: “*It is always inappropriate* to use the title ‘Co-redemptrix’ to define Mary’s cooperation. This title risks obscuring Christ’s unique salvific mediation and can therefore create confusion and an imbalance in the harmony of the truths of the Christian faith. [...] When an expression requires many, repeated explanations to prevent it from straying from a correct meaning, it does not serve the faith of the People of God and becomes *unhelpful*” (22).

Mediatrix

The Note emphasises that “the biblical statement about Christ’s exclusive mediation is conclusive. Christ is the only Mediator” (24).

At the same time, MPF recognises “the fact that the word ‘mediation’ is commonly used in many areas of everyday life, where it is understood simply as cooperation, assistance, or intercession. As a result, it is inevitable that the term would be applied to Mary in a subordinate sense. Used in this way, it does not intend to add any efficacy or power to the unique mediation of Jesus Christ, true God and true man” (25).

Further, “it is clear that Mary has a real mediatory role in enabling the Incarnation of the Son of God in our humanity” (26).

Mother of believers and Mediatrix of all graces

Mary’s maternal role “in no way obscures or diminishes” the unique mediation of Christ, “but rather shows its power [...] Understood in this way, Mary’s motherhood does not seek to weaken the unique adoration due to Christ alone but, rather, seeks to enkindle it.”

Therefore, the Note states, “one must avoid titles and expressions that present Mary as a kind of ‘lightning rod’ before the Lord’s justice, as if she were a necessary alternative before the insufficiency of God’s mercy” (37b).

Thus, the title “Mother of Believers” “enables us to speak of Mary’s role in our relation to our life of grace”.

However, MPF goes on to urge caution concerning the use of expressions that may convey “less acceptable notions” (45).

“Cardinal Ratzinger already affirmed” for example, “that the title ‘Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces’ was not clearly grounded in Revelation.” So, the Note continues, “in line with this conviction, we can recognize the difficulties this title poses, both in terms of theological reflection and spirituality” (45). In fact, “no human person — not even the Apostles or the Blessed Virgin — can act as a universal dispenser of grace. Only God can bestow grace, and he does so through the humanity of Christ” (53).

“Some titles, such as ‘Mediatrix of All Graces,’ have limits that do not favour a correct understanding of Mary’s unique place,” MPF explains, adding, “In fact, she, the first redeemed, could not have been the mediatrix of the grace that she herself received” (67).

Nonetheless, the Doctrinal Note acknowledges that “the term ‘graces,’ when seen in reference to Mary’s maternal help at various moments in our lives, can have an acceptable meaning. The plural form expresses all the aids — even material — that the Lord may grant us when He heeds His Mother’s intercession” (68).

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

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 12th February 2026, 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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Christmas Schedule for December 2025

24th	Children/Family Christmas Mass	6:00pm
24th	Christmas Mass	9:00pm
24th	Midnight Mass	12:00am
25th	Christmas Day Mass	8:00am & 9:30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

20/21 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: B. Motha, M. Mifsud 8am: F. Paiva, T. Perak 9.30am: C. Brooks, Kamela Huihui	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, N. Sumcad 8am: T. Perak, K. Walker 9.30am: N. Arambulo, L. Rigney	
Altar Servers	Vigil: N. D'Cruz, J. Steele, Aaliya Faulkner-Dhiman, 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: K. Maruthanayagam, C. Attard, L. Sager.	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: K.Thoms & C.W 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	24 Dec	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

27/28 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Lawrence Falzon 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Simic, N. Shami 8am: F. Paiva, J. Sarmiento 9.30am: P. Gow, G. Basilli	
Readers	Vigil: Yxaak & Yxavel Dino 8am: F. Kennedy, A. McNally 9.30am: J. Nonato, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Julian & Orlando Martinez, C. Bellamin 8am: Jaxon Blackshaw, Sub Rqd 9.30am: K. Cassaniti, L. Sadipoor, A. Melki	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary	
Church Cleaning	1 January	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli	

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21st, 2025

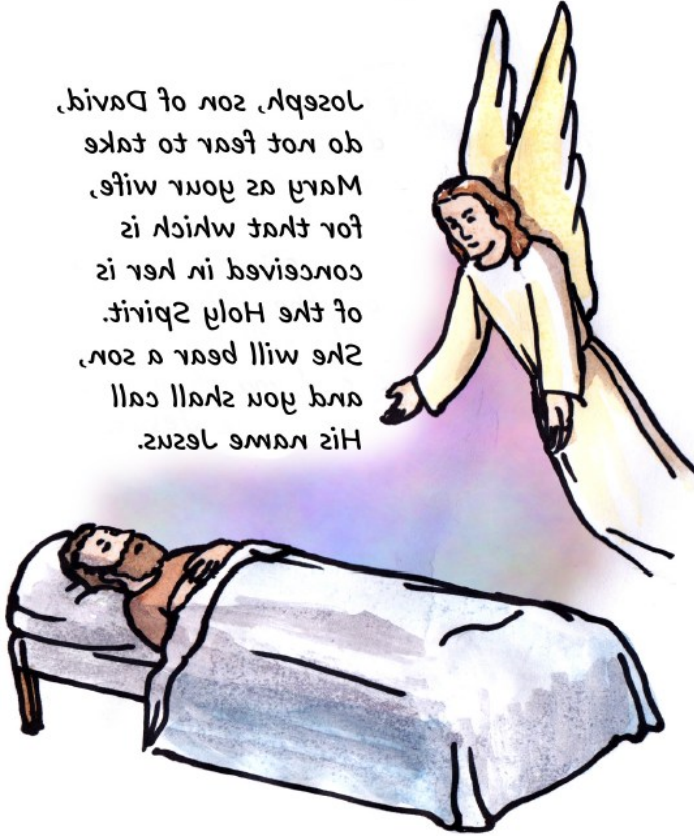
What's in a Name?

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 18:21

Based on Matthew 1:18-25



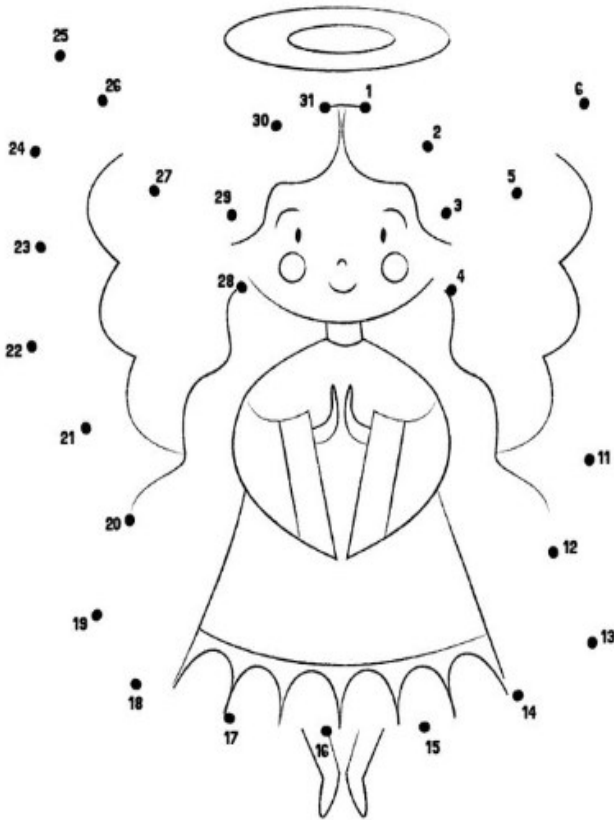
Joseph, son of David,
do not fear to take
Mary as your wife,
for that which is
conceived in her is
of the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son,
and you shall call
his name Jesus.



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

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!

HUSBAND	SON	IMMANUEL	MARY	NAME
CHRIST	CHILD	VIRGIN	BIRTH	ANGEL
JOSEPH	MARRY	AFRAID	DREAM	JESUS



angel





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@lol7hills.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: 18 February 2026
Baptism: 11 January 2026
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall
Youth Co-Ordinator: Diana Park
Parish Website: www.lol7hills.org.au
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/LOL7Hills/>

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 21 December 2025 • Year A



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, Takis Karapatsakis, Clare Kinsley, T.Q Letran, Susie Manga, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Gary Morrissey, Jayne Muscat, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Michelle Pellicano, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Arabella Steele, Sue Tiplado, 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, Rosita Ballecer, Anthony Hastings, Aggie Motha, Maria Amma Peter, Veronica Rosales, Anthony Ruzgas

Anniversaries: Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, France Angseesing, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Evan Elisher, Rita de Silva, Frank, M.A Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, Norma Lorenzo, Joseph Mahon, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Irene Moroney, Thelma Morrissey, Anton & Lourda Motha, Paul Mula, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Eustace Ratnam, Roseline Ratnam

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Sydney Azie, Antonio, Amelia & Germana Bertimato, Sam Borg, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato Cabasa, Peter & Antonio, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli, Barrie Chamberlain, Myrna Cruz, Joseph, Johnny Edwards, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Launcer De Guire, Bede Diab, Debe Diab, Marcel Diab, Mohsen Diab, Peter Diab, Toufic Diab, O. Francis, J. Francis, Melvyn Fernandes, Merita Fernando, Nevis Fernando, Leandro Garcia Snr, Evangeline, Rudy Garcia, Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Selvam Irudayaraj, J.B, Jonathan Tek Kie, Mangion & Cini Family, Felina Maglaya, Tessie & Andy Mangine, 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, Aurora Nufable Nonato, Coleen O'Sullivan, Serge Pasnin, Lakshman Perera, Marlyn Pestano, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose, Maria, Laureano, Karen, Yolanda Reyes, Mary Silva, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.

Names will be published for 2 weeks at a time.

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.

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



KEEP UP TO DATE

By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more. Visit www.lol7hills.org.au

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**(R) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally.

He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

According to scholars, marriage customs in Palestine in Jesus' time often included two parts: the engagement and the wedding.

The engagement period usually lasted for a year during which the bride and the groom stayed in their homes and communicated to each other through messages delivered by the best man. The engagement began with the signing of a formal marriage agreement or with the groom offering gifts to the bride's family. At this stage, the bride and the groom were legally husband and wife even though they did not yet live together. Vietnamese people have done the same, except the engagement period is less than a year, usually six months.

After a year-long engagement time, the wedding ceremony then took place, and the groom could formally take his wife into his home to begin their married life together.

This background knowledge of Jewish marriage customs will help us better appreciate the Gospel account this Sunday, as it allows us to understand the dilemma St. Joseph faced when he discovered Mary's conception during their engagement. On the one hand, they were legally husband and wife; on the other hand, Mary was clearly carrying a child who was not his. For Joseph, a righteous and honorable man, divorce seemed to be the best solution, one that would end the relationship quietly and protect Mary's life, since she could otherwise be accused of adultery, an offense that, under Jewish law, could result in death by stoning. This messy entanglement is finally cleared up by the angel appearing to Joseph in a dream to reveal the mystery behind Mary's conception, that she was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The angel also asked Joseph to take Mary home to be his wife with the obligation to name the child Jesus, a name that means 'the Lord saves' or simply 'salvation.'

In the eyes of Matthew whose Gospel was meant to bring Jesus' Good News to the group of Jewish followers often familiar with the teachings of the prophets in the scripture, what happened here was extra special, because it fulfilled exactly what Isaiah prophesied long before, as we hear in the first reading today, that 'the maiden is with child and soon give birth to a son, whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us.' This prophetic fulfillment Have a joy-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ADVENT WREATH

It is usually constructed around a circular base. This circular base is traditionally taken to symbolise the ever-renewing cycle of the seasons, and the four candles, represent the four Sundays of Advent. The fourth candle, the "Candle of Love," reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth.



HALL CANOPY PLAQUE

From this weekend, the Pledging Book for the Hall Canopy Plaque is 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.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS THANK YOU

Thank you everyone for such an overwhelming support to our Parish invitation to show our love and care for the needy both in our community and beyond through our Christmas Hampers tradition, and a special thank you note to our dedicated Vinnies for overseeing the whole program from collecting and sorting out donations to distributing them dutifully.

MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church from this weekend for Ministers of the Eucharist, Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers and Welcomers who would like to serve at a Christmas Mass. We kindly ask that ministers sign up for one liturgy only.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2026

Ministry rosters for February - July 2026 are now available. You can find a copy at the back Sacristy or on our website under 'Parish Forms'. If you require more copies or notice any discrepancies, please kindly contact the parish office.

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN 2026-2030

Copies of our Parish Pastoral Plan 2026-2030 are now on and all are invited to have a look after Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY—CHRISTMAS STORY

Thank you to the children who have volunteered to act out the Christmas Story this year. This will take place during the 6pm mass on the 24th December. For those children who are not participating but attending the mass, you are invited to dress up as angels or shepherds.

A PRACTICAL TIP EACH WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

TIP 14 Take a Break from Online Shopping

Online shopping produces a lot of packaging waste and produces excess carbon emissions from airplanes and vehicles. Take a month off online shopping or reduce what you buy online. Try to make purchases closer to home!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS & BULLETIN

Our Parish office will close between Christmas and New Year and there will be no bulletins throughout the month of January 2026 to allow Parish staff to take a break. However, I will be around in the Parish office as usual.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE RETURNS IN 2026

Those interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar, the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2026. Enrolment forms can be found at the back sacristy.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

- Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Mount Druitt Combined Churches Christmas Day

Community Lunch: 25 December

Don't spend Christmas alone. A free Christmas Day lunch hosted by Mt Druitt Combined Churches on Thursday 25 December from 11am, with Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt as the venue host. All are welcome. Registration is essential. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/MtDruittChristmasLunch>

Baulkham Hills Christmas Luncheon: 25 December

The Parish of Baulkham Hills are hosting a Christmas Lunch for anyone who will be on their own on Christmas Day. You may be in town for a visit, or just moved into the area, or may simply be unable to share Christmas Day with your loved ones. So come and share it with us. It will be held on Thursday 25 December in and around the St Michael's Primary School hall, and everyone is welcome, families and individuals. But places are limited, so you will need to register to attend. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9639 0598 or email baulkhamhills@parracatholic.org.

Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January. For one week, there will be celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who've enriched our parishes, schools and communities. Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross.

Grab your copy of the Catholic Outlook Magazine!

The latest quarterly edition of the *Catholic Outlook* Magazine is out now, keeping you connected with exciting news and events in the Diocese of Parramatta.

OLOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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>. Face to Face courses will resume in 2026. Dates and times will be provided once confirmed.

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.

Visiting Clergy to OLOL

Thank you to Fr. Hoang Viet Nguyen who graciously assisted Fr Henry with mass and reconciliation this week. Visiting clergy all uphold the standards and processes we here at OLOL and the Diocese have put in place to ensure the safety of our community.

Santo Nino Fiesta Sinulog 2026: 18 January

The Devotees of the Holy Infant Jesus Santo Nino invite you to attend the 2026 Fiesta Sinulog on Sunday 18 January at St Patrick's Church, Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown at 2pm. All devotees, please bring your Santo Nino statues. Novena Masses will be held between 8-16 January at 7pm at the parishes of St Clair-Erskine Park, Penrith, St Marys, Rooty Hill, Winston Hills, Plumpton, Marayong, Quakers Hill and Kellyville. For more information, please contact the Blacktown Parish on (02) 9622 1125 or email blacktown@parracatholic.org

Sing a New Song Music Workshop for Children: 21 January

Do you have a child in Year 4-12? Invite them to come along to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 21 January from 9:30am to 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Morning tea and lunch provided. Student participants will form a choir that will sing at the Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Sunday 25 January at 11am. To register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/0URuFAeThA>

Rosary Making Workshop: 9 February

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on Monday 9 February at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for further information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Diocesan World Day of the Sick: 11 February

Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on the 11th February 2026 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. To register, please visit parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-the-sick-mass/

Children and Young People's Participation

A Safeguarding culture for Children and Young People is fostered and sustained by our parish being committed to living the Gospel by serving the most vulnerable. Here at OLOL Seven Hills we implement all Arch/Diocesan policies, procedures and community standards that are Child and Young Person centred to lift barriers so their voices can be heard and their participation valued.

OLOL Parish community values and celebrates ALL our Children and Young People for who they are and the great contributions they make to our parish. We therefore have an obligation to uphold their human and spiritual rights. This is achieved at OLOL by: 1. Providing ministries, services and programs that are relevant for Children and Young People including those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and who have a disability; 2. Committing to zero tolerance to any attitude and activity that makes Children and Young People feel less safe; 3. Enhancing relationships between leaders, community members, Children and Young People; and 4. Creating a new perspective to invigorate renewal. We also ensure all our volunteers and staff have an up to date WWCC and completed all safeguard training.

Greeting of the Holy Father to the sick in the Audience Hall before the General Audience

Good morning everyone! Good morning! Welcome!

I will offer a brief greeting, a blessing for each of you.

On this day, we wanted to protect you a little from the elements, especially the cold... It is not raining, but this way you may be a little more comfortable. Afterwards, you can follow the Audience on the screen, or if you wish, you can also go outside, but we would like to make the most of this small, more personal encounter to greet you, to offer you the Lord's blessing, and also our best wishes. Christmas is almost here, and we would like to ask the Lord that the joy of this Christmas season accompany you all: your families, your loved ones, and that you may always be in the Lord's hands with the trust and love that only God can give us.

I give my blessing to all of you now, and then I will come and greet you.

Blessing

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Human life is characterized by a constant movement that drives us to do, to act. Nowadays speed is required everywhere in order to achieve optimal results in a wide variety of fields. How does Jesus' resurrection shed light on this aspect of our experience? When we participate in his victory over death, will we rest? Faith tells us: yes, we will rest. We will not be inactive, but we will enter into God's repose, which is peace and joy. So, should we just wait, or can this change us right now?

We are absorbed by many activities that do not always leave us satisfied. A lot of our actions have to do with practical, concrete things. We have to assume responsibility for many commitments, solve problems, face difficulties. Jesus too was involved with people and with life, not sparing himself, but rather giving himself to the end. Yet we often perceive how too much doing, instead of giving us fulfilment, becomes a vortex that overwhelms us, takes away our serenity, and prevents us from living to the fullest what is truly important in our lives. We then feel tired and dissatisfied: time seems to be wasted on a thousand practical things that do not, however, resolve the ultimate meaning of our existence. Sometimes, at the end of days full of activities, we feel empty. Why? Because we are not machines, we have a "heart"; indeed, we can say that we *are* a heart.

The heart is the symbol of all our humanity, the sum of our thoughts, feelings and desires, the invisible centre of our selves. The Evangelist Matthew invites us to reflect on the importance of the heart, quoting this beautiful phrase of Jesus: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Mt 6:21).

It is therefore in the heart that true treasure is kept, not in earthly safes, not in large financial investments, which today more than ever before are out of control and unjustly concentrated at the bloody price of millions of human lives and the devastation of God's creation.

It is important to reflect on these aspects, because in the numerous commitments we continually face, there is an increasing risk of dispersion, sometimes of despair, of meaninglessness, even in apparently successful people. Instead, interpreting life in the light of Easter, looking at it with the Risen Jesus, means finding access to the essence of the human person, to our heart: *cor inquietum*. With this adjective "restless", Saint Augustine helps us understand the human being's yearning for fulfilment. The full sentence refers to the beginning of the *Confessions*, where Augustine writes: "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (I, 1,1).

Restlessness is the sign that our heart does not move by chance, in a disordered way, without a purpose or a destination, but is oriented towards its ultimate destination, the "return home". The authentic approach of the heart does not consist in possessing the goods of this world, but in achieving what can fill it completely; namely, the love of God, or rather, God who is Love. This treasure, however, can only be found by loving the neighbour we meet along the way: brothers and sisters in flesh and blood, whose presence stirs and questions our heart, calling it to open up and give itself. Our neighbour asks us to slow down, to look them in the eye, sometimes to change our plans, perhaps even to change direction.

Dear friends, here is the secret of the movement of the human heart: returning to the source of its being, delighting in the joy that never fails, that never disappoints. No one can live without a meaning that goes beyond the contingent, beyond what passes away. The human heart cannot live without hope, without knowing that it is made for fullness, not for want.

Jesus Christ, with his Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection, has given us a solid foundation for this hope. The restless heart will not be disappointed, if it enters into the dynamism of the love for which it was created. The destination is certain, life has triumphed, and in Christ it will continue to triumph in every death of daily life. This is Christian hope: let us always bless and thank the Lord who has given it to us!

DOCTRINAL NOTE ON MARIAN TITLES: MOTHER OF THE FAITHFUL, NOT CO-REDEMPTRIX

The document of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by Pope Leo XIV, offers clarifications on titles applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and calls for special attention to the use of the expression, “Mediatrice of all graces.”

Co-redemptrix

Regarding the title “Co-redemptrix,” the Note recalls that “some Popes have used the title “without elaborating much on its meaning.” Generally, it continues, “they have presented the title in two specific ways: in reference to Mary’s divine motherhood (insofar as she, as Mother, made possible the Redemption that Christ accomplished) or in reference to her union with Christ at the redemptive Cross. The Second Vatican Council refrained from using the title for dogmatic, pastoral, and ecumenical reasons. Saint John Paul II referred to Mary as ‘Co-redemptrix’ on at least seven occasions, particularly relating this title to the salvific value of our sufferings when they are offered together with the sufferings of Christ, to whom Mary is united especially at the Cross” (18).

The document cites an internal discussion within the then-Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which in February 1996 had discussed the request to proclaim a new dogma on Mary as “Co-redemptrix or Mediatrice of all graces.” Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was opposed to such a definition, arguing, “the precise meaning of these titles is not clear, and the doctrine contained in them is not mature. [...] It is not clear how the doctrine expressed in these titles is present in Scripture and the apostolic tradition.”

Later, in 2002, the future Benedict XVI expressed himself publicly in the same way: “The formula ‘Co-redemptrix’ departs to too great an extent from the language of Scripture and of the Fathers and therefore gives rise to misunderstandings... Everything comes from Him [Christ], as the Letter to the Ephesians and the Letter to the Colossians, in particular, tell us; Mary, too, is everything that she is through Him. The word ‘Co-redemptrix’ would obscure this origin.”

The note clarifies that Cardinal Ratzinger did not deny the good intentions behind the proposal, nor the valuable aspects reflected in it, but nonetheless maintained that they were “being expressed in the wrong way” (19).

Pope Francis also expressed his clear opposition to the use of the title Co-Redemptrix on at least three occasions. Tuesday’s Doctrinal Note concludes: “*It is always inappropriate* to use the title ‘Co-redemptrix’ to define Mary’s cooperation. This title risks obscuring Christ’s unique salvific mediation and can therefore create confusion and an imbalance in the harmony of the truths of the Christian faith. [...] When an expression requires many, repeated explanations to prevent it from straying from a correct meaning, it does not serve the faith of the People of God and becomes *unhelpful*” (22).

Mediatrice

The Note emphasises that “the biblical statement about Christ’s exclusive mediation is conclusive. Christ is the only Mediator” (24).

At the same time, MPF recognises “the fact that the word ‘mediation’ is commonly used in many areas of everyday life, where it is understood simply as cooperation, assistance, or intercession. As a result, it is inevitable that the term would be applied to Mary in a subordinate sense. Used in this way, it does not intend to add any efficacy or power to the unique mediation of Jesus Christ, true God and true man” (25).

Further, “it is clear that Mary has a real mediatory role in enabling the Incarnation of the Son of God in our humanity” (26).

Mother of believers and Mediatrice of all graces

Mary’s maternal role “in no way obscures or diminishes” the unique mediation of Christ, “but rather shows its power [...] Understood in this way, Mary’s motherhood does not seek to weaken the unique adoration due to Christ alone but, rather, seeks to enkindle it.”

Therefore, the Note states, “one must avoid titles and expressions that present Mary as a kind of ‘lightning rod’ before the Lord’s justice, as if she were a necessary alternative before the insufficiency of God’s mercy” (37b).

Thus, the title “Mother of Believers” “enables us to speak of Mary’s role in our relation to our life of grace”.

However, MPF goes on to urge caution concerning the use of expressions that may convey “less acceptable notions” (45).

“Cardinal Ratzinger already affirmed” for example, “that the title ‘Mary, Mediatrice of All Graces’ was not clearly grounded in Revelation.” So, the Note continues, “in line with this conviction, we can recognize the difficulties this title poses, both in terms of theological reflection and spirituality” (45). In fact, “no human person — not even the Apostles or the Blessed Virgin — can act as a universal dispenser of grace. Only God can bestow grace, and he does so through the humanity of Christ” (53).

“Some titles, such as ‘Mediatrice of All Graces,’ have limits that do not favour a correct understanding of Mary’s unique place,” MPF explains, adding, “In fact, she, the first redeemed, could not have been the mediatrice of the grace that she herself received” (67).

Nonetheless, the Doctrinal Note acknowledges that “the term ‘graces,’ when seen in reference to Mary’s maternal help at various moments in our lives, can have an acceptable meaning. The plural form expresses all the aids — even material — that the Lord may grant us when He heeds His Mother’s intercession” (68).

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

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 12th February 2026, 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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Christmas Schedule for December 2025

24th	Children/Family Christmas Mass	6:00pm
24th	Christmas Mass	9:00pm
24th	Midnight Mass	12:00am
25th	Christmas Day Mass	8:00am & 9:30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

20/21 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: B. Motha, M. Mifsud 8am: F. Paiva, T. Perak 9.30am: C. Brooks, Kamela Huihui	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, N. Sumcad 8am: T. Perak, K. Walker 9.30am: N. Arambulo, L. Rigney	
Altar Servers	Vigil: N. D'Cruz, J. Steele, Aaliya Faulkner-Dhiman, 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: K. Maruthanayagam, C. Attard, L. Sager.	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: K.Thoms & C.W 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	24 Dec	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

27/28 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Lawrence Falzon 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Simic, N. Shami 8am: F. Paiva, J. Sarmiento 9.30am: P. Gow, G. Basilli	
Readers	Vigil: Yxaak & Yxavel Dino 8am: F. Kennedy, A. McNally 9.30am: J. Nonato, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Julian & Orlando Martinez, C. Bellamin 8am: Jaxon Blackshaw, Sub Rqd 9.30am: K. Cassaniti, L. Sadipoor, A. Melki	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary	
Church Cleaning	1 January	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli	

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21st, 2025

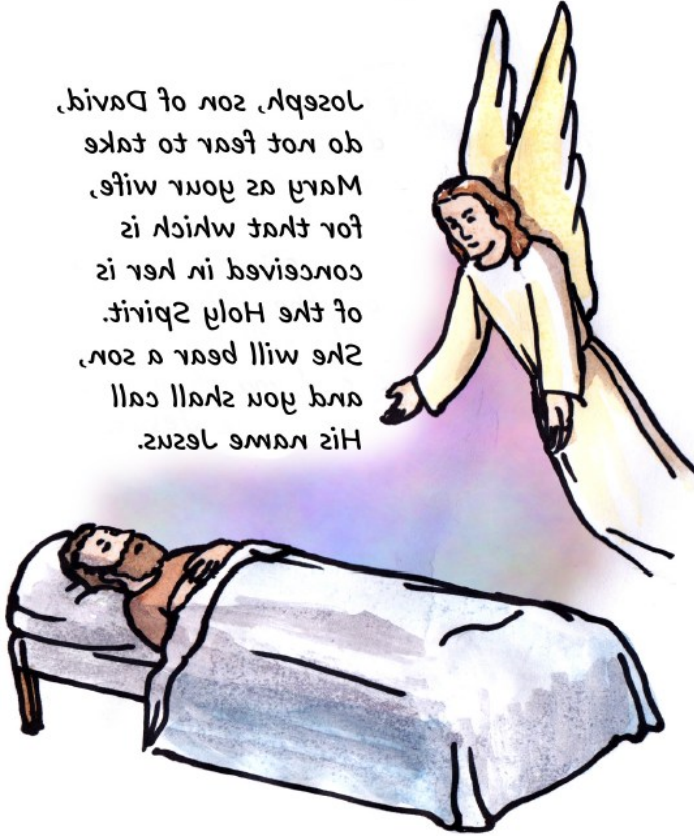
What's in a Name?

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 18:21

Based on Matthew 1:18-25



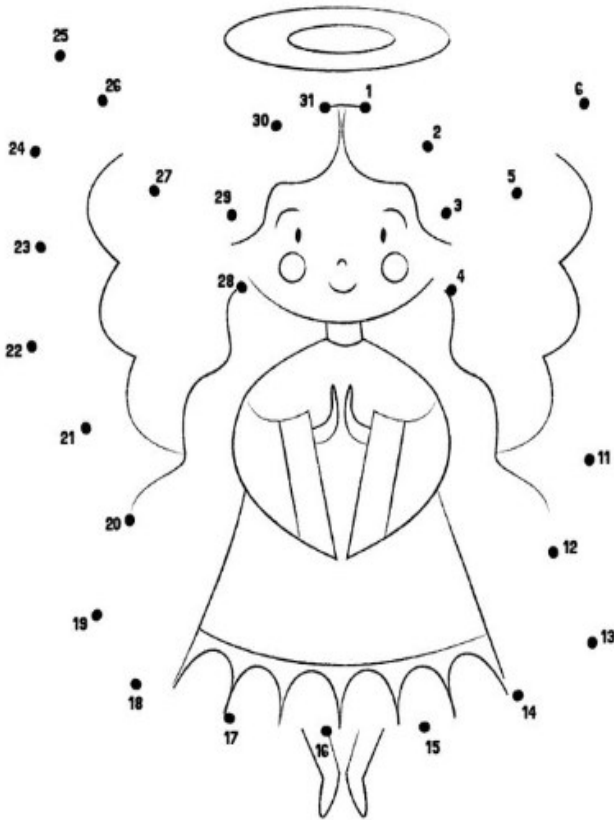
Joseph, son of David,
do not fear to take
Mary as your wife,
for that which is
conceived in her is
of the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son,
and you shall call
his name Jesus.



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

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!

HUSBAND	SON	IMMANUEL	MARY	NAME
CHRIST	CHILD	VIRGIN	BIRTH	ANGEL
JOSEPH	MARRY	AFRAID	DREAM	JESUS



angel





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 School:	LOLO 8869 6800
Parish Deacon:	Deacon Thong Nguyen	Principal:	Ms Keiran Byrnes
Parish Office Team:	Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Jane Nguyen, Laura Ilioski	Reconciliation:	Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
Office Hours: Monday-Friday:	9am - 3.00pm	Baptismal Preparation:	18 February 2026
WEEKDAY MASS:	Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am Thursday 9.00am	Baptism:	11 January 2026
WEEKEND MASS:	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9.30am	Sacrament Co-Ordinator:	Mrs Artelle Lenthall
		Youth Co-Ordinator:	Diana Park
		Parish Website:	www.olol7hills.org.au
		Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/LOLO7Hills/

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 21 December 2025 • Year A



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, Takis Karapatsakis, Clare Kinsley, T.Q Letran, Susie Manga, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Gary Morrissey, Jayne Muscat, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Michelle Pellicano, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Arabella Steele, Sue Tiplado, 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@olol7hills.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, Rosita Ballecer, Anthony Hastings, Aggie Motha, Maria Amma Peter, Veronica Rosales, Anthony Ruzgas

Anniversaries: Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, France Angseesing, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Evan Elisher, Rita de Silva, Frank, M.A Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, Norma Lorenzo, Joseph Mahon, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Irene Moroney, Thelma Morrissey, Anton & Lourda Motha, Paul Mula, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Eustace Ratnam, Roseline Ratnam

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Sydney Azie, Antonio, Amelia & Germana Bertimato, Sam Borg, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato Cabasa, Peter & Antonio, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli, Barrie Chamberlain, Myrna Cruz, Joseph, Johnny Edwards, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Launcer De Guire, Bede Diab, Debe Diab, Marcel Diab, Mohsen Diab, Peter Diab, Toufic Diab, O. Francis, J. Francis, Melvyn Fernandes, Merita Fernando, Nevis Fernando, Leandro Garcia Snr, Evangeline, Rudy Garcia, Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Selvam Irudayaraj, J.B, Jonathan Tek Kie, Mangion & Cini Family, Felina Maglaya, Tessie & Andy Mangine, 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, Aurora Nufable Nonato, Coleen O'Sullivan, Serge Pasnin, Lakshman Perera, Marlyn Pestano, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose, Maria, Laureano, Karen, Yolanda Reyes, Mary Silva, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.

Names will be published for 2 weeks at a time.

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.

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



KEEP UP TO DATE

By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more. Visit www.olol7hills.org.au

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**(R) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally.

He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

According to scholars, marriage customs in Palestine in Jesus' time often included two parts: the engagement and the wedding.

The engagement period usually lasted for a year during which the bride and the groom stayed in their homes and communicated to each other through messages delivered by the best man. The engagement began with the signing of a formal marriage agreement or with the groom offering gifts to the bride's family. At this stage, the bride and the groom were legally husband and wife even though they did not yet live together. Vietnamese people have done the same, except the engagement period is less than a year, usually six months.

After a year-long engagement time, the wedding ceremony then took place, and the groom could formally take his wife into his home to begin their married life together.

This background knowledge of Jewish marriage customs will help us better appreciate the Gospel account this Sunday, as it allows us to understand the dilemma St. Joseph faced when he discovered Mary's conception during their engagement. On the one hand, they were legally husband and wife; on the other hand, Mary was clearly carrying a child who was not his. For Joseph, a righteous and honorable man, divorce seemed to be the best solution, one that would end the relationship quietly and protect Mary's life, since she could otherwise be accused of adultery, an offense that, under Jewish law, could result in death by stoning. This messy entanglement is finally cleared up by the angel appearing to Joseph in a dream to reveal the mystery behind Mary's conception, that she was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The angel also asked Joseph to take Mary home to be his wife with the obligation to name the child Jesus, a name that means 'the Lord saves' or simply 'salvation.'

In the eyes of Matthew whose Gospel was meant to bring Jesus' Good News to the group of Jewish followers often familiar with the teachings of the prophets in the scripture, what happened here was extra special, because it fulfilled exactly what Isaiah prophesied long before, as we hear in the first reading today, that 'the maiden is with child and soon give birth to a son, whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us.' This prophetic fulfillment Have a joy-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ADVENT WREATH

It is usually constructed around a circular base. This circular base is traditionally taken to symbolise the ever-renewing cycle of the seasons, and the four candles, represent the four Sundays of Advent. The fourth candle, the "Candle of Love," reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth.



HALL CANOPY PLAQUE

From this weekend, the Pledging Book for the Hall Canopy Plaque is 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.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS THANK YOU

Thank you everyone for such an overwhelming support to our Parish invitation to show our love and care for the needy both in our community and beyond through our Christmas Hampers tradition, and a special thank you note to our dedicated Vinnies for overseeing the whole program from collecting and sorting out donations to distributing them dutifully.

MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church from this weekend for Ministers of the Eucharist, Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers and Welcomers who would like to serve at a Christmas Mass. We kindly ask that ministers sign up for one liturgy only.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2026

Ministry rosters for February - July 2026 are now available. You can find a copy at the back Sacristy or on our website under 'Parish Forms'. If you require more copies or notice any discrepancies, please kindly contact the parish office.

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN 2026-2030

Copies of our Parish Pastoral Plan 2026-2030 are now on and all are invited to have a look after Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY—CHRISTMAS STORY

Thank you to the children who have volunteered to act out the Christmas Story this year. This will take place during the 6pm mass on the 24th December. For those children who are not participating but attending the mass, you are invited to dress up as angels or shepherds.

A PRACTICAL TIP EACH WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

TIP 14 Take a Break from Online Shopping

Online shopping produces a lot of packaging waste and produces excess carbon emissions from airplanes and vehicles. Take a month off online shopping or reduce what you buy online. Try to make purchases closer to home!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS & BULLETIN

Our Parish office will close between Christmas and New Year and there will be no bulletins throughout the month of January 2026 to allow Parish staff to take a break. However, I will be around in the Parish office as usual.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE RETURNS IN 2026

Those interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar, the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2026. Enrolment forms can be found at the back sacristy.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

- Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Mount Druitt Combined Churches Christmas Day

Community Lunch: 25 December

Don't spend Christmas alone. A free Christmas Day lunch hosted by Mt Druitt Combined Churches on Thursday 25 December from 11am, with Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt as the venue host. All are welcome. Registration is essential. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/MtDruittChristmasLunch>

Baulkham Hills Christmas Luncheon: 25 December

The Parish of Baulkham Hills are hosting a Christmas Lunch for anyone who will be on their own on Christmas Day. You may be in town for a visit, or just moved into the area, or may simply be unable to share Christmas Day with your loved ones. So come and share it with us. It will be held on Thursday 25 December in and around the St Michael's Primary School hall, and everyone is welcome, families and individuals. But places are limited, so you will need to register to attend. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9639 0598 or email baulkhamhills@parracatholic.org.

Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January. For one week, there will be celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who've enriched our parishes, schools and communities. Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross.

Grab your copy of the Catholic Outlook Magazine!

The latest quarterly edition of the *Catholic Outlook* Magazine is out now, keeping you connected with exciting news and events in the Diocese of Parramatta.

OLOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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>. Face to Face courses will resume in 2026. Dates and times will be provided once confirmed.

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.

Visiting Clergy to OLOL

Thank you to Fr. Hoang Viet Nguyen who graciously assisted Fr Henry with mass and reconciliation this week. Visiting clergy all uphold the standards and processes we here at OLOL and the Diocese have put in place to ensure the safety of our community.

Santo Nino Fiesta Sinulog 2026: 18 January

The Devotees of the Holy Infant Jesus Santo Nino invite you to attend the 2026 Fiesta Sinulog on Sunday 18 January at St Patrick's Church, Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown at 2pm. All devotees, please bring your Santo Nino statues. Novena Masses will be held between 8-16 January at 7pm at the parishes of St Clair-Erskine Park, Penrith, St Marys, Rooty Hill, Winston Hills, Plumpton, Marayong, Quakers Hill and Kellyville. For more information, please contact the Blacktown Parish on (02) 9622 1125 or email blacktown@parracatholic.org

Sing a New Song Music Workshop for Children: 21 January

Do you have a child in Year 4-12? Invite them to come along to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 21 January from 9:30am to 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Morning tea and lunch provided. Student participants will form a choir that will sing at the Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Sunday 25 January at 11am. To register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/0URuFAeThA>

Rosary Making Workshop: 9 February

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on Monday 9 February at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for further information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Diocesan World Day of the Sick: 11 February

Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on the 11th February 2026 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. To register, please visit parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-the-sick-mass/

Children and Young People's Participation

A Safeguarding culture for Children and Young People is fostered and sustained by our parish being committed to living the Gospel by serving the most vulnerable. Here at OLOL Seven Hills we implement all Arch/Diocesan policies, procedures and community standards that are Child and Young Person centred to lift barriers so their voices can be heard and their participation valued.

OLOL Parish community values and celebrates ALL our Children and Young People for who they are and the great contributions they make to our parish. We therefore have an obligation to uphold their human and spiritual rights. This is achieved at OLOL by: 1. Providing ministries, services and programs that are relevant for Children and Young People including those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and who have a disability; 2. Committing to zero tolerance to any attitude and activity that makes Children and Young People feel less safe; 3. Enhancing relationships between leaders, community members, Children and Young People; and 4. Creating a new perspective to invigorate renewal. We also ensure all our volunteers and staff have an up to date WWCC and completed all safeguard training.

Greeting of the Holy Father to the sick in the Audience Hall before the General Audience

Good morning everyone! Good morning! Welcome!

I will offer a brief greeting, a blessing for each of you.

On this day, we wanted to protect you a little from the elements, especially the cold... It is not raining, but this way you may be a little more comfortable. Afterwards, you can follow the Audience on the screen, or if you wish, you can also go outside, but we would like to make the most of this small, more personal encounter to greet you, to offer you the Lord's blessing, and also our best wishes. Christmas is almost here, and we would like to ask the Lord that the joy of this Christmas season accompany you all: your families, your loved ones, and that you may always be in the Lord's hands with the trust and love that only God can give us.

I give my blessing to all of you now, and then I will come and greet you.

Blessing

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Human life is characterized by a constant movement that drives us to do, to act. Nowadays speed is required everywhere in order to achieve optimal results in a wide variety of fields. How does Jesus' resurrection shed light on this aspect of our experience? When we participate in his victory over death, will we rest? Faith tells us: yes, we will rest. We will not be inactive, but we will enter into God's repose, which is peace and joy. So, should we just wait, or can this change us right now?

We are absorbed by many activities that do not always leave us satisfied. A lot of our actions have to do with practical, concrete things. We have to assume responsibility for many commitments, solve problems, face difficulties. Jesus too was involved with people and with life, not sparing himself, but rather giving himself to the end. Yet we often perceive how too much doing, instead of giving us fulfilment, becomes a vortex that overwhelms us, takes away our serenity, and prevents us from living to the fullest what is truly important in our lives. We then feel tired and dissatisfied: time seems to be wasted on a thousand practical things that do not, however, resolve the ultimate meaning of our existence. Sometimes, at the end of days full of activities, we feel empty. Why? Because we are not machines, we have a "heart"; indeed, we can say that we *are* a heart.

The heart is the symbol of all our humanity, the sum of our thoughts, feelings and desires, the invisible centre of our selves. The Evangelist Matthew invites us to reflect on the importance of the heart, quoting this beautiful phrase of Jesus: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (*Mt 6:21*).

It is therefore in the heart that true treasure is kept, not in earthly safes, not in large financial investments, which today more than ever before are out of control and unjustly concentrated at the bloody price of millions of human lives and the devastation of God's creation.

It is important to reflect on these aspects, because in the numerous commitments we continually face, there is an increasing risk of dispersion, sometimes of despair, of meaninglessness, even in apparently successful people. Instead, interpreting life in the light of Easter, looking at it with the Risen Jesus, means finding access to the essence of the human person, to our heart: *cor inquietum*. With this adjective "restless", Saint Augustine helps us understand the human being's yearning for fulfilment. The full sentence refers to the beginning of the *Confessions*, where Augustine writes: "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (*I, 1,1*).

Restlessness is the sign that our heart does not move by chance, in a disordered way, without a purpose or a destination, but is oriented towards its ultimate destination, the "return home". The authentic approach of the heart does not consist in possessing the goods of this world, but in achieving what can fill it completely; namely, the love of God, or rather, God who is Love. This treasure, however, can only be found by loving the neighbour we meet along the way: brothers and sisters in flesh and blood, whose presence stirs and questions our heart, calling it to open up and give itself. Our neighbour asks us to slow down, to look them in the eye, sometimes to change our plans, perhaps even to change direction.

Dear friends, here is the secret of the movement of the human heart: returning to the source of its being, delighting in the joy that never fails, that never disappoints. No one can live without a meaning that goes beyond the contingent, beyond what passes away. The human heart cannot live without hope, without knowing that it is made for fullness, not for want.

Jesus Christ, with his Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection, has given us a solid foundation for this hope. The restless heart will not be disappointed, if it enters into the dynamism of the love for which it was created. The destination is certain, life has triumphed, and in Christ it will continue to triumph in every death of daily life. This is Christian hope: let us always bless and thank the Lord who has given it to us!

DOCTRINAL NOTE ON MARIAN TITLES: MOTHER OF THE FAITHFUL, NOT CO-REDEMPTRIX

The document of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by Pope Leo XIV, offers clarifications on titles applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and calls for special attention to the use of the expression, “Mediatrix of all graces.”

Co-redemptrix

Regarding the title “Co-redemptrix,” the Note recalls that “some Popes have used the title “without elaborating much on its meaning.” Generally, it continues, “they have presented the title in two specific ways: in reference to Mary’s divine motherhood (insofar as she, as Mother, made possible the Redemption that Christ accomplished) or in reference to her union with Christ at the redemptive Cross. The Second Vatican Council refrained from using the title for dogmatic, pastoral, and ecumenical reasons. Saint John Paul II referred to Mary as ‘Co-redemptrix’ on at least seven occasions, particularly relating this title to the salvific value of our sufferings when they are offered together with the sufferings of Christ, to whom Mary is united especially at the Cross” (18).

The document cites an internal discussion within the then-Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which in February 1996 had discussed the request to proclaim a new dogma on Mary as “Co-redemptrix or Mediatrix of all graces.” Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was opposed to such a definition, arguing, “the precise meaning of these titles is not clear, and the doctrine contained in them is not mature. [...] It is not clear how the doctrine expressed in these titles is present in Scripture and the apostolic tradition.”

Later, in 2002, the future Benedict XVI expressed himself publicly in the same way: “The formula ‘Co-redemptrix’ departs to too great an extent from the language of Scripture and of the Fathers and therefore gives rise to misunderstandings... Everything comes from Him [Christ], as the Letter to the Ephesians and the Letter to the Colossians, in particular, tell us; Mary, too, is everything that she is through Him. The word ‘Co-redemptrix’ would obscure this origin.”

The note clarifies that Cardinal Ratzinger did not deny the good intentions behind the proposal, nor the valuable aspects reflected in it, but nonetheless maintained that they were “being expressed in the wrong way” (19).

Pope Francis also expressed his clear opposition to the use of the title Co-Redemptrix on at least three occasions. Tuesday’s Doctrinal Note concludes: “*It is always inappropriate* to use the title ‘Co-redemptrix’ to define Mary’s cooperation. This title risks obscuring Christ’s unique salvific mediation and can therefore create confusion and an imbalance in the harmony of the truths of the Christian faith. [...] When an expression requires many, repeated explanations to prevent it from straying from a correct meaning, it does not serve the faith of the People of God and becomes *unhelpful*” (22).

Mediatrix

The Note emphasises that “the biblical statement about Christ’s exclusive mediation is conclusive. Christ is the only Mediator” (24).

At the same time, MPF recognises “the fact that the word ‘mediation’ is commonly used in many areas of everyday life, where it is understood simply as cooperation, assistance, or intercession. As a result, it is inevitable that the term would be applied to Mary in a subordinate sense. Used in this way, it does not intend to add any efficacy or power to the unique mediation of Jesus Christ, true God and true man” (25).

Further, “it is clear that Mary has a real mediatory role in enabling the Incarnation of the Son of God in our humanity” (26).

Mother of believers and Mediatrix of all graces

Mary’s maternal role “in no way obscures or diminishes” the unique mediation of Christ, “but rather shows its power [...] Understood in this way, Mary’s motherhood does not seek to weaken the unique adoration due to Christ alone but, rather, seeks to enkindle it.”

Therefore, the Note states, “one must avoid titles and expressions that present Mary as a kind of ‘lightning rod’ before the Lord’s justice, as if she were a necessary alternative before the insufficiency of God’s mercy” (37b).

Thus, the title “Mother of Believers” “enables us to speak of Mary’s role in our relation to our life of grace”.

However, MPF goes on to urge caution concerning the use of expressions that may convey “less acceptable notions” (45).

“Cardinal Ratzinger already affirmed” for example, “that the title ‘Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces’ was not clearly grounded in Revelation.” So, the Note continues, “in line with this conviction, we can recognize the difficulties this title poses, both in terms of theological reflection and spirituality” (45). In fact, “no human person — not even the Apostles or the Blessed Virgin — can act as a universal dispenser of grace. Only God can bestow grace, and he does so through the humanity of Christ” (53).

“Some titles, such as ‘Mediatrix of All Graces,’ have limits that do not favour a correct understanding of Mary’s unique place,” MPF explains, adding, “In fact, she, the first redeemed, could not have been the mediatrix of the grace that she herself received” (67).

Nonetheless, the Doctrinal Note acknowledges that “the term ‘graces,’ when seen in reference to Mary’s maternal help at various moments in our lives, can have an acceptable meaning. The plural form expresses all the aids — even material — that the Lord may grant us when He heeds His Mother’s intercession” (68).

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

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 12th February 2026, 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 GROTTO: 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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Christmas Schedule for December 2025

24th	Children/Family Christmas Mass	6:00pm
24th	Christmas Mass	9:00pm
24th	Midnight Mass	12:00am
25th	Christmas Day Mass	8:00am & 9:30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

20/21 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: B. Motha, M. Mifsud 8am: F. Paiva, T. Perak 9.30am: C. Brooks, Kamela Huihui	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, N. Sumcad 8am: T. Perak, K. Walker 9.30am: N. Arambulo, L. Rigney	
Altar Servers	Vigil: N. D'Cruz, J. Steele, Aaliya Faulkner-Dhiman, 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: K. Maruthanayagam, C. Attard, L. Sager.	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: K.Thoms & C.W 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	24 Dec	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

27/28 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Lawrence Falzon 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Simic, N. Shami 8am: F. Paiva, J. Sarmiento 9.30am: P. Gow, G. Basilli	
Readers	Vigil: Yxaak & Yxavel Dino 8am: F. Kennedy, A. McNally 9.30am: J. Nonato, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Julian & Orlando Martinez, C. Bellamin 8am: Jaxon Blackshaw, Sub Rqd 9.30am: K. Cassaniti, L. Sadipoor, A. Melki	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary	
Church Cleaning	1 January	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli	

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21st, 2025

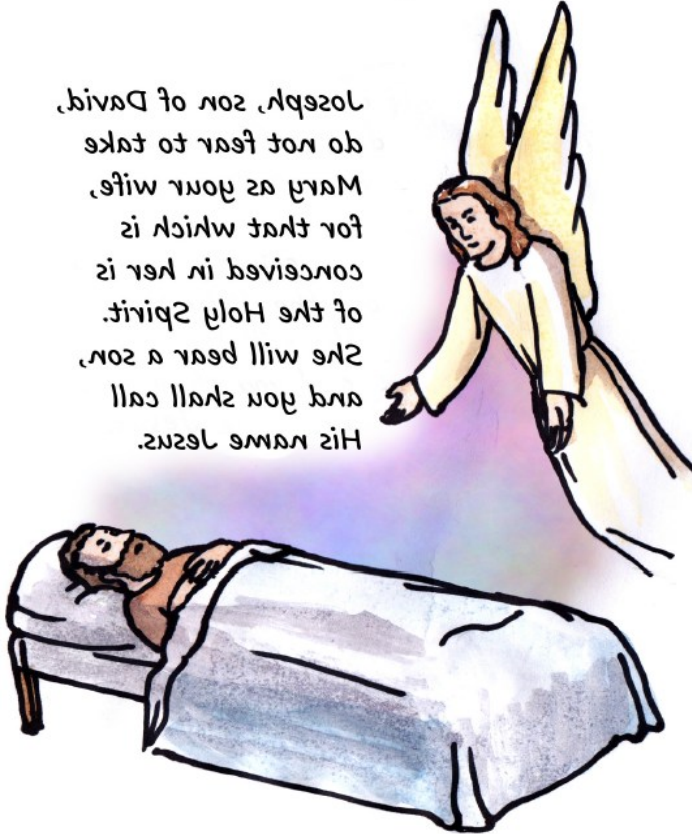
What's in a Name?

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 18:21

Based on Matthew 1:18-25



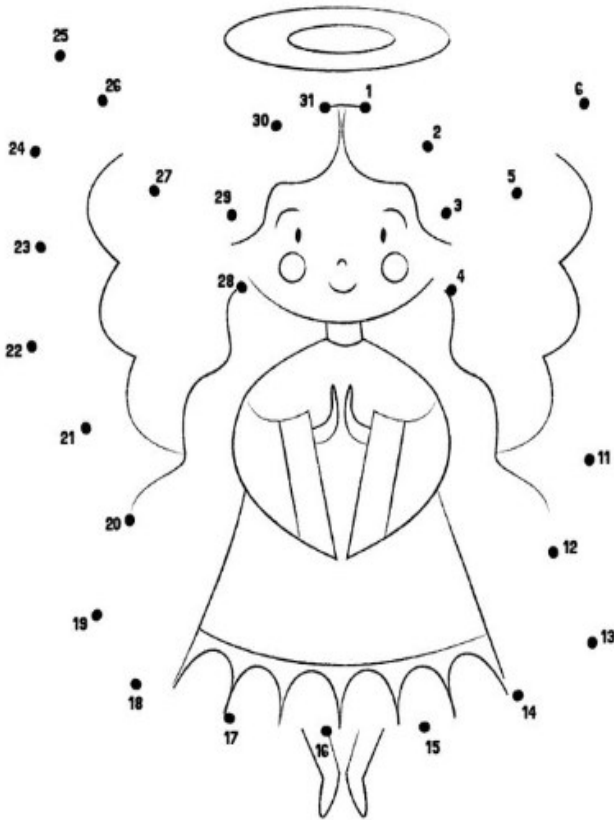
Joseph, son of David,
do not fear to take
Mary as your wife,
for that which is
conceived in her is
of the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son,
and you shall call
his name Jesus.



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

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!

HUSBAND	SON	IMMANUEL	MARY	NAME
CHRIST	CHILD	VIRGIN	BIRTH	ANGEL
JOSEPH	MARRY	AFRAID	DREAM	JESUS



angel





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 School:	LOLO 8869 6800
Parish Deacon:	Deacon Thong Nguyen	Principal:	Ms Keiran Byrnes
Parish Office Team:	Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Jane Nguyen, Laura Ilioski	Reconciliation:	Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
Office Hours: Monday-Friday:	9am - 3.00pm	Baptismal Preparation:	18 February 2026
WEEKDAY MASS:	Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am Thursday 9.00am	Baptism:	11 January 2026
WEEKEND MASS:	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9.30am	Sacrament Co-Ordinator:	Mrs Artelle Lenthall
		Youth Co-Ordinator:	Diana Park
		Parish Website:	www.olol7hills.org.au
		Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/LOLO7Hills/

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 21 December 2025 • Year A



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, Takis Karapatsakis, Clare Kinsley, T.Q Letran, Susie Manga, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Gary Morrissey, Jayne Muscat, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Michelle Pellicano, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Arabella Steele, Sue Tiplado, 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@olol7hills.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, Rosita Ballecer, Anthony Hastings, Aggie Motha, Maria Amma Peter, Veronica Rosales, Anthony Ruzgas

Anniversaries: Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, France Angseesing, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Evan Elisher, Rita de Silva, Frank, M.A Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, Norma Lorenzo, Joseph Mahon, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Irene Moroney, Thelma Morrissey, Anton & Lourda Motha, Paul Mula, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Eustace Ratnam, Roseline Ratnam

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Sydney Azie, Antonio, Amelia & Germana Bertinato, Sam Borg, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato Cabasa, Peter & Antonio, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli, Barrie Chamberlain, Myrna Cruz, 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, O. Francis, J. Francis, Melvyn Fernandes, Merita Fernando, Nevis Fernando, Leandro Garcia Snr, Evangeline, Rudy Garcia, Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Selvam Irudayaraj, J.B, Jonathan Tek Kie, Mangion & Cini Family, Felina Maglaya, Tessie & Andy Mangine, 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, Aurora Nufable Nonato, Coleen O'Sullivan, Serge Pasnin, Lakshman Perera, Marlyn Pestano, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose, Maria, Laureano, Karen, Yolanda Reyes, Mary Silva, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.

Names will be published for 2 weeks at a time.

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.

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



KEEP UP TO DATE

By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more. Visit www.olol7hills.org.au

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**(R) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally.

He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

According to scholars, marriage customs in Palestine in Jesus' time often included two parts: the engagement and the wedding.

The engagement period usually lasted for a year during which the bride and the groom stayed in their homes and communicated to each other through messages delivered by the best man. The engagement began with the signing of a formal marriage agreement or with the groom offering gifts to the bride's family. At this stage, the bride and the groom were legally husband and wife even though they did not yet live together. Vietnamese people have done the same, except the engagement period is less than a year, usually six months.

After a year-long engagement time, the wedding ceremony then took place, and the groom could formally take his wife into his home to begin their married life together.

This background knowledge of Jewish marriage customs will help us better appreciate the Gospel account this Sunday, as it allows us to understand the dilemma St. Joseph faced when he discovered Mary's conception during their engagement. On the one hand, they were legally husband and wife; on the other hand, Mary was clearly carrying a child who was not his. For Joseph, a righteous and honorable man, divorce seemed to be the best solution, one that would end the relationship quietly and protect Mary's life, since she could otherwise be accused of adultery, an offense that, under Jewish law, could result in death by stoning. This messy entanglement is finally cleared up by the angel appearing to Joseph in a dream to reveal the mystery behind Mary's conception, that she was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The angel also asked Joseph to take Mary home to be his wife with the obligation to name the child Jesus, a name that means 'the Lord saves' or simply 'salvation.'

In the eyes of Matthew whose Gospel was meant to bring Jesus' Good News to the group of Jewish followers often familiar with the teachings of the prophets in the scripture, what happened here was extra special, because it fulfilled exactly what Isaiah prophesied long before, as we hear in the first reading today, that 'the maiden is with child and soon give birth to a son, whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us.' This prophetic fulfillment Have a joy-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ADVENT WREATH

It is usually constructed around a circular base. This circular base is traditionally taken to symbolise the ever-renewing cycle of the seasons, and the four candles, represent the four Sundays of Advent. The fourth candle, the "Candle of Love," reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth.



HALL CANOPY PLAQUE

From this weekend, the Pledging Book for the Hall Canopy Plaque is 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.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS THANK YOU

Thank you everyone for such an overwhelming support to our Parish invitation to show our love and care for the needy both in our community and beyond through our Christmas Hampers tradition, and a special thank you note to our dedicated Vinnies for overseeing the whole program from collecting and sorting out donations to distributing them dutifully.

MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church from this weekend for Ministers of the Eucharist, Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers and Welcomers who would like to serve at a Christmas Mass. We kindly ask that ministers sign up for one liturgy only.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2026

Ministry rosters for February - July 2026 are now available. You can find a copy at the back Sacristy or on our website under 'Parish Forms'. If you require more copies or notice any discrepancies, please kindly contact the parish office.

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN 2026-2030

Copies of our Parish Pastoral Plan 2026-2030 are now on and all are invited to have a look after Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY—CHRISTMAS STORY

Thank you to the children who have volunteered to act out the Christmas Story this year. This will take place during the 6pm mass on the 24th December. For those children who are not participating but attending the mass, you are invited to dress up as angels or shepherds.

A PRACTICAL TIP EACH WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

TIP 14 Take a Break from Online Shopping

Online shopping produces a lot of packaging waste and produces excess carbon emissions from airplanes and vehicles. Take a month off online shopping or reduce what you buy online. Try to make purchases closer to home!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS & BULLETIN

Our Parish office will close between Christmas and New Year and there will be no bulletins throughout the month of January 2026 to allow Parish staff to take a break. However, I will be around in the Parish office as usual.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE RETURNS IN 2026

Those interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar, the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2026. Enrolment forms can be found at the back sacristy.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

- Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Mount Druitt Combined Churches Christmas Day

Community Lunch: 25 December

Don't spend Christmas alone. A free Christmas Day lunch hosted by Mt Druitt Combined Churches on Thursday 25 December from 11am, with Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt as the venue host. All are welcome. Registration is essential. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/MtDruittChristmasLunch>

Baulkham Hills Christmas Luncheon: 25 December

The Parish of Baulkham Hills are hosting a Christmas Lunch for anyone who will be on their own on Christmas Day. You may be in town for a visit, or just moved into the area, or may simply be unable to share Christmas Day with your loved ones. So come and share it with us. It will be held on Thursday 25 December in and around the St Michael's Primary School hall, and everyone is welcome, families and individuals. But places are limited, so you will need to register to attend. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9639 0598 or email baulkhamhills@parracatholic.org.

Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January. For one week, there will be celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who've enriched our parishes, schools and communities. Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross.

Grab your copy of the Catholic Outlook Magazine!

The latest quarterly edition of the *Catholic Outlook* Magazine is out now, keeping you connected with exciting news and events in the Diocese of Parramatta.

OLOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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>. Face to Face courses will resume in 2026. Dates and times will be provided once confirmed.

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.

Visiting Clergy to OLOL

Thank you to Fr. Hoang Viet Nguyen who graciously assisted Fr Henry with mass and reconciliation this week. Visiting clergy all uphold the standards and processes we here at OLOL and the Diocese have put in place to ensure the safety of our community.

Santo Nino Fiesta Sinulog 2026: 18 January

The Devotees of the Holy Infant Jesus Santo Nino invite you to attend the 2026 Fiesta Sinulog on Sunday 18 January at St Patrick's Church, Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown at 2pm. All devotees, please bring your Santo Nino statues. Novena Masses will be held between 8-16 January at 7pm at the parishes of St Clair-Erskine Park, Penrith, St Marys, Rooty Hill, Winston Hills, Plumpton, Marayong, Quakers Hill and Kellyville. For more information, please contact the Blacktown Parish on (02) 9622 1125 or email blacktown@parracatholic.org

Sing a New Song Music Workshop for Children: 21 January

Do you have a child in Year 4-12? Invite them to come along to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 21 January from 9:30am to 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Morning tea and lunch provided. Student participants will form a choir that will sing at the Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Sunday 25 January at 11am. To register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/0URuFAeThA>

Rosary Making Workshop: 9 February

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on Monday 9 February at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for further information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Diocesan World Day of the Sick: 11 February

Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on the 11th February 2026 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. To register, please visit parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-the-sick-mass/

Children and Young People's Participation

A Safeguarding culture for Children and Young People is fostered and sustained by our parish being committed to living the Gospel by serving the most vulnerable. Here at OLOL Seven Hills we implement all Arch/Diocesan policies, procedures and community standards that are Child and Young Person centred to lift barriers so their voices can be heard and their participation valued.

OLOL Parish community values and celebrates ALL our Children and Young People for who they are and the great contributions they make to our parish. We therefore have an obligation to uphold their human and spiritual rights. This is achieved at OLOL by: 1. Providing ministries, services and programs that are relevant for Children and Young People including those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and who have a disability; 2. Committing to zero tolerance to any attitude and activity that makes Children and Young People feel less safe; 3. Enhancing relationships between leaders, community members, Children and Young People; and 4. Creating a new perspective to invigorate renewal. We also ensure all our volunteers and staff have an up to date WWCC and completed all safeguard training.

Greeting of the Holy Father to the sick in the Audience Hall before the General Audience

Good morning everyone! Good morning! Welcome!

I will offer a brief greeting, a blessing for each of you.

On this day, we wanted to protect you a little from the elements, especially the cold... It is not raining, but this way you may be a little more comfortable. Afterwards, you can follow the Audience on the screen, or if you wish, you can also go outside, but we would like to make the most of this small, more personal encounter to greet you, to offer you the Lord's blessing, and also our best wishes. Christmas is almost here, and we would like to ask the Lord that the joy of this Christmas season accompany you all: your families, your loved ones, and that you may always be in the Lord's hands with the trust and love that only God can give us.

I give my blessing to all of you now, and then I will come and greet you.

Blessing

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Human life is characterized by a constant movement that drives us to do, to act. Nowadays speed is required everywhere in order to achieve optimal results in a wide variety of fields. How does Jesus' resurrection shed light on this aspect of our experience? When we participate in his victory over death, will we rest? Faith tells us: yes, we will rest. We will not be inactive, but we will enter into God's repose, which is peace and joy. So, should we just wait, or can this change us right now?

We are absorbed by many activities that do not always leave us satisfied. A lot of our actions have to do with practical, concrete things. We have to assume responsibility for many commitments, solve problems, face difficulties. Jesus too was involved with people and with life, not sparing himself, but rather giving himself to the end. Yet we often perceive how too much doing, instead of giving us fulfilment, becomes a vortex that overwhelms us, takes away our serenity, and prevents us from living to the fullest what is truly important in our lives. We then feel tired and dissatisfied: time seems to be wasted on a thousand practical things that do not, however, resolve the ultimate meaning of our existence. Sometimes, at the end of days full of activities, we feel empty. Why? Because we are not machines, we have a "heart"; indeed, we can say that we *are* a heart.

The heart is the symbol of all our humanity, the sum of our thoughts, feelings and desires, the invisible centre of our selves. The Evangelist Matthew invites us to reflect on the importance of the heart, quoting this beautiful phrase of Jesus: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Mt 6:21).

It is therefore in the heart that true treasure is kept, not in earthly safes, not in large financial investments, which today more than ever before are out of control and unjustly concentrated at the bloody price of millions of human lives and the devastation of God's creation.

It is important to reflect on these aspects, because in the numerous commitments we continually face, there is an increasing risk of dispersion, sometimes of despair, of meaninglessness, even in apparently successful people. Instead, interpreting life in the light of Easter, looking at it with the Risen Jesus, means finding access to the essence of the human person, to our heart: *cor inquietum*. With this adjective "restless", Saint Augustine helps us understand the human being's yearning for fulfilment. The full sentence refers to the beginning of the *Confessions*, where Augustine writes: "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (I, 1,1).

Restlessness is the sign that our heart does not move by chance, in a disordered way, without a purpose or a destination, but is oriented towards its ultimate destination, the "return home". The authentic approach of the heart does not consist in possessing the goods of this world, but in achieving what can fill it completely; namely, the love of God, or rather, God who is Love. This treasure, however, can only be found by loving the neighbour we meet along the way: brothers and sisters in flesh and blood, whose presence stirs and questions our heart, calling it to open up and give itself. Our neighbour asks us to slow down, to look them in the eye, sometimes to change our plans, perhaps even to change direction.

Dear friends, here is the secret of the movement of the human heart: returning to the source of its being, delighting in the joy that never fails, that never disappoints. No one can live without a meaning that goes beyond the contingent, beyond what passes away. The human heart cannot live without hope, without knowing that it is made for fullness, not for want.

Jesus Christ, with his Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection, has given us a solid foundation for this hope. The restless heart will not be disappointed, if it enters into the dynamism of the love for which it was created. The destination is certain, life has triumphed, and in Christ it will continue to triumph in every death of daily life. This is Christian hope: let us always bless and thank the Lord who has given it to us!

DOCTRINAL NOTE ON MARIAN TITLES: MOTHER OF THE FAITHFUL, NOT CO-REDEMPTRIX

The document of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by Pope Leo XIV, offers clarifications on titles applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and calls for special attention to the use of the expression, “Mediatrix of all graces.”

Co-redemptrix

Regarding the title “Co-redemptrix,” the Note recalls that “some Popes have used the title “without elaborating much on its meaning.” Generally, it continues, “they have presented the title in two specific ways: in reference to Mary’s divine motherhood (insofar as she, as Mother, made possible the Redemption that Christ accomplished) or in reference to her union with Christ at the redemptive Cross. The Second Vatican Council refrained from using the title for dogmatic, pastoral, and ecumenical reasons. Saint John Paul II referred to Mary as ‘Co-redemptrix’ on at least seven occasions, particularly relating this title to the salvific value of our sufferings when they are offered together with the sufferings of Christ, to whom Mary is united especially at the Cross” (18).

The document cites an internal discussion within the then-Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which in February 1996 had discussed the request to proclaim a new dogma on Mary as “Co-redemptrix or Mediatrix of all graces.” Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was opposed to such a definition, arguing, “the precise meaning of these titles is not clear, and the doctrine contained in them is not mature. [...] It is not clear how the doctrine expressed in these titles is present in Scripture and the apostolic tradition.”

Later, in 2002, the future Benedict XVI expressed himself publicly in the same way: “The formula ‘Co-redemptrix’ departs to too great an extent from the language of Scripture and of the Fathers and therefore gives rise to misunderstandings... Everything comes from Him [Christ], as the Letter to the Ephesians and the Letter to the Colossians, in particular, tell us; Mary, too, is everything that she is through Him. The word ‘Co-redemptrix’ would obscure this origin.”

The note clarifies that Cardinal Ratzinger did not deny the good intentions behind the proposal, nor the valuable aspects reflected in it, but nonetheless maintained that they were “being expressed in the wrong way” (19).

Pope Francis also expressed his clear opposition to the use of the title Co-Redemptrix on at least three occasions. Tuesday’s Doctrinal Note concludes: “*It is always inappropriate* to use the title ‘Co-redemptrix’ to define Mary’s cooperation. This title risks obscuring Christ’s unique salvific mediation and can therefore create confusion and an imbalance in the harmony of the truths of the Christian faith. [...] When an expression requires many, repeated explanations to prevent it from straying from a correct meaning, it does not serve the faith of the People of God and becomes *unhelpful*” (22).

Mediatrix

The Note emphasises that “the biblical statement about Christ’s exclusive mediation is conclusive. Christ is the only Mediator” (24).

At the same time, MPF recognises “the fact that the word ‘mediation’ is commonly used in many areas of everyday life, where it is understood simply as cooperation, assistance, or intercession. As a result, it is inevitable that the term would be applied to Mary in a subordinate sense. Used in this way, it does not intend to add any efficacy or power to the unique mediation of Jesus Christ, true God and true man” (25).

Further, “it is clear that Mary has a real mediatory role in enabling the Incarnation of the Son of God in our humanity” (26).

Mother of believers and Mediatrix of all graces

Mary’s maternal role “in no way obscures or diminishes” the unique mediation of Christ, “but rather shows its power [...] Understood in this way, Mary’s motherhood does not seek to weaken the unique adoration due to Christ alone but, rather, seeks to enkindle it.”

Therefore, the Note states, “one must avoid titles and expressions that present Mary as a kind of ‘lightning rod’ before the Lord’s justice, as if she were a necessary alternative before the insufficiency of God’s mercy” (37b).

Thus, the title “Mother of Believers” “enables us to speak of Mary’s role in our relation to our life of grace”.

However, MPF goes on to urge caution concerning the use of expressions that may convey “less acceptable notions” (45).

“Cardinal Ratzinger already affirmed” for example, “that the title ‘Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces’ was not clearly grounded in Revelation.” So, the Note continues, “in line with this conviction, we can recognize the difficulties this title poses, both in terms of theological reflection and spirituality” (45). In fact, “no human person — not even the Apostles or the Blessed Virgin — can act as a universal dispenser of grace. Only God can bestow grace, and he does so through the humanity of Christ” (53).

“Some titles, such as ‘Mediatrix of All Graces,’ have limits that do not favour a correct understanding of Mary’s unique place,” MPF explains, adding, “In fact, she, the first redeemed, could not have been the mediatrix of the grace that she herself received” (67).

Nonetheless, the Doctrinal Note acknowledges that “the term ‘graces,’ when seen in reference to Mary’s maternal help at various moments in our lives, can have an acceptable meaning. The plural form expresses all the aids — even material — that the Lord may grant us when He heeds His Mother’s intercession” (68).

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

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 12th February 2026, 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 GROTTO: 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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Christmas Schedule for December 2025

24th	Children/Family Christmas Mass	6:00pm
24th	Christmas Mass	9:00pm
24th	Midnight Mass	12:00am
25th	Christmas Day Mass	8:00am & 9:30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

20/21 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: B. Motha, M. Mifsud 8am: F. Paiva, T. Perak 9.30am: C. Brooks, Kamela Huihui	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, N. Sumcad 8am: T. Perak, K. Walker 9.30am: N. Arambulo, L. Rigney	
Altar Servers	Vigil: N. D'Cruz, J. Steele, Aaliya Faulkner-Dhiman, 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: K. Maruthanayagam, C. Attard, L. Sager.	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: K.Thoms & C.W 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	24 Dec	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

27/28 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Lawrence Falzon 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Simic, N. Shami 8am: F. Paiva, J. Sarmiento 9.30am: P. Gow, G. Basilli	
Readers	Vigil: Yxaak & Yxavel Dino 8am: F. Kennedy, A. McNally 9.30am: J. Nonato, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Julian & Orlando Martinez, C. Bellamin 8am: Jaxon Blackshaw, Sub Rqd 9.30am: K. Cassaniti, L. Sadipoor, A. Melki	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary	
Church Cleaning	1 January	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli	

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21st, 2025

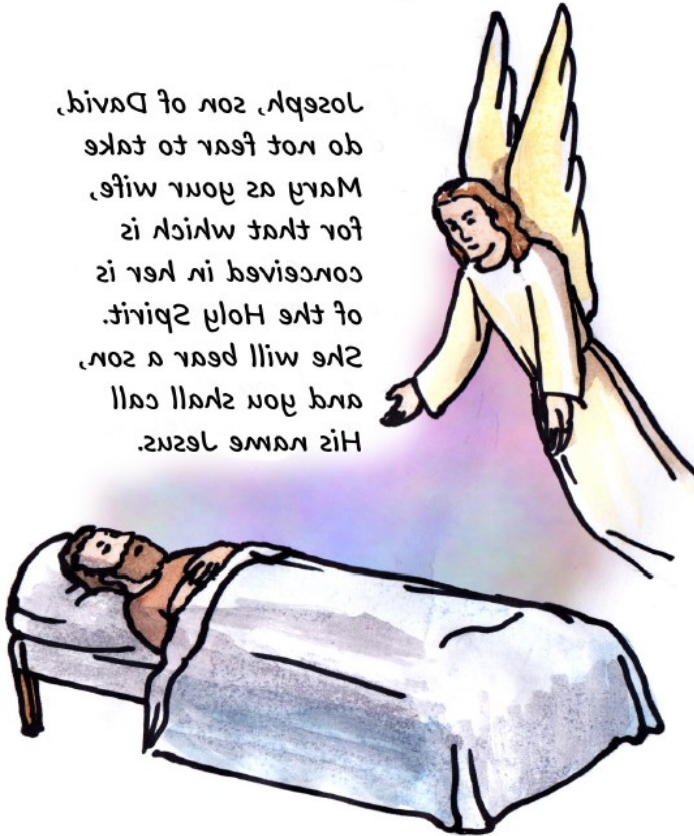
What's in a Name?

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 18:21

Based on Matthew 1:18-25



Joseph, son of David,
do not fear to take
Mary as your wife,
for that which is
conceived in her is
of the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son,
and you shall call
his name Jesus.



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

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!

HUSBAND	SON	IMMANUEL	MARY	NAME
CHRIST	CHILD	VIRGIN	BIRTH	ANGEL
JOSEPH	MARRY	AFRAID	DREAM	JESUS



angel





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@lol7hills.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: 18 February 2026
Baptism: 11 January 2026
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall
Youth Co-Ordinator: Diana Park
Parish Website: www.lol7hills.org.au
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/LOL7Hills/>

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 21 December 2025 • Year A



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, Takis Karapatsakis, Clare Kinsley, T.Q Letran, Susie Manga, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Gary Morrissey, Jayne Muscat, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Michelle Pellicano, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Arabella Steele, Sue Tiplado, 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, Rosita Ballecer, Anthony Hastings, Aggie Motha, Maria Amma Peter, Veronica Rosales, Anthony Ruzgas

Anniversaries: Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, France Angseesing, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Evan Elisher, Rita de Silva, Frank, M.A Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, Norma Lorenzo, Joseph Mahon, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Irene Moroney, Thelma Morrissey, Anton & Lourda Motha, Paul Mula, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Eustace Ratnam, Roseline Ratnam

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Sydney Azie, Antonio, Amelia & Germana Bertinato, Sam Borg, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato Cabasa, Peter & Antonio, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli, Barrie Chamberlain, Myrna Cruz, Joseph, Johnny Edwards, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Launcer De Guire, Bede Diab, Debe Diab, Marcel Diab, Mohsen Diab, Peter Diab, Toufic Diab, O. Francis, J. Francis, Melvyn Fernandes, Merita Fernando, Nevis Fernando, Leandro Garcia Snr, Evangeline, Rudy Garcia, Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Selvam Irudayaraj, J.B, Jonathan Tek Kie, Mangion & Cini Family, Felina Maglaya, Tessie & Andy Mangine, 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, Aurora Nufable Nonato, Coleen O'Sullivan, Serge Pasnin, Lakshman Perera, Marlyn Pestano, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose, Maria, Laureano, Karen, Yolanda Reyes, Mary Silva, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.

Names will be published for 2 weeks at a time.

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.

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



KEEP UP TO DATE

By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more. Visit www.lol7hills.org.au

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**(R) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally.

He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

According to scholars, marriage customs in Palestine in Jesus' time often included two parts: the engagement and the wedding.

The engagement period usually lasted for a year during which the bride and the groom stayed in their homes and communicated to each other through messages delivered by the best man. The engagement began with the signing of a formal marriage agreement or with the groom offering gifts to the bride's family. At this stage, the bride and the groom were legally husband and wife even though they did not yet live together. Vietnamese people have done the same, except the engagement period is less than a year, usually six months.

After a year-long engagement time, the wedding ceremony then took place, and the groom could formally take his wife into his home to begin their married life together.

This background knowledge of Jewish marriage customs will help us better appreciate the Gospel account this Sunday, as it allows us to understand the dilemma St. Joseph faced when he discovered Mary's conception during their engagement. On the one hand, they were legally husband and wife; on the other hand, Mary was clearly carrying a child who was not his. For Joseph, a righteous and honorable man, divorce seemed to be the best solution, one that would end the relationship quietly and protect Mary's life, since she could otherwise be accused of adultery, an offense that, under Jewish law, could result in death by stoning. This messy entanglement is finally cleared up by the angel appearing to Joseph in a dream to reveal the mystery behind Mary's conception, that she was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The angel also asked Joseph to take Mary home to be his wife with the obligation to name the child Jesus, a name that means 'the Lord saves' or simply 'salvation.'

In the eyes of Matthew whose Gospel was meant to bring Jesus' Good News to the group of Jewish followers often familiar with the teachings of the prophets in the scripture, what happened here was extra special, because it fulfilled exactly what Isaiah prophesied long before, as we hear in the first reading today, that 'the maiden is with child and soon give birth to a son, whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us.' This prophetic fulfillment Have a joy-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ADVENT WREATH

It is usually constructed around a circular base. This circular base is traditionally taken to symbolise the ever-renewing cycle of the seasons, and the four candles, represent the four Sundays of Advent. The fourth candle, the "Candle of Love," reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth.



HALL CANOPY PLAQUE

From this weekend, the Pledging Book for the Hall Canopy Plaque is 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.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS THANK YOU

Thank you everyone for such an overwhelming support to our Parish invitation to show our love and care for the needy both in our community and beyond through our Christmas Hampers tradition, and a special thank you note to our dedicated Vinnies for overseeing the whole program from collecting and sorting out donations to distributing them dutifully.

MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church from this weekend for Ministers of the Eucharist, Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers and Welcomers who would like to serve at a Christmas Mass. We kindly ask that ministers sign up for one liturgy only.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2026

Ministry rosters for February - July 2026 are now available. You can find a copy at the back Sacristy or on our website under 'Parish Forms'. If you require more copies or notice any discrepancies, please kindly contact the parish office.

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN 2026-2030

Copies of our Parish Pastoral Plan 2026-2030 are now on and all are invited to have a look after Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY—CHRISTMAS STORY

Thank you to the children who have volunteered to act out the Christmas Story this year. This will take place during the 6pm mass on the 24th December. For those children who are not participating but attending the mass, you are invited to dress up as angels or shepherds.

A PRACTICAL TIP EACH WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

TIP 14 Take a Break from Online Shopping

Online shopping produces a lot of packaging waste and produces excess carbon emissions from airplanes and vehicles. Take a month off online shopping or reduce what you buy online. Try to make purchases closer to home!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS & BULLETIN

Our Parish office will close between Christmas and New Year and there will be no bulletins throughout the month of January 2026 to allow Parish staff to take a break. However, I will be around in the Parish office as usual.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE RETURNS IN 2026

Those interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar, the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2026. Enrolment forms can be found at the back sacristy.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

- Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Mount Druitt Combined Churches Christmas Day

Community Lunch: 25 December

Don't spend Christmas alone. A free Christmas Day lunch hosted by Mt Druitt Combined Churches on Thursday 25 December from 11am, with Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt as the venue host. All are welcome. Registration is essential. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/MtDruittChristmasLunch>

Baulkham Hills Christmas Luncheon: 25 December

The Parish of Baulkham Hills are hosting a Christmas Lunch for anyone who will be on their own on Christmas Day. You may be in town for a visit, or just moved into the area, or may simply be unable to share Christmas Day with your loved ones. So come and share it with us. It will be held on Thursday 25 December in and around the St Michael's Primary School hall, and everyone is welcome, families and individuals. But places are limited, so you will need to register to attend. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9639 0598 or email baulkhamhills@parracatholic.org.

Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January. For one week, there will be celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who've enriched our parishes, schools and communities. Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross.

Grab your copy of the Catholic Outlook Magazine!

The latest quarterly edition of the *Catholic Outlook* Magazine is out now, keeping you connected with exciting news and events in the Diocese of Parramatta.

OLOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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>. Face to Face courses will resume in 2026. Dates and times will be provided once confirmed.

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.

Visiting Clergy to OLOL

Thank you to Fr. Hoang Viet Nguyen who graciously assisted Fr Henry with mass and reconciliation this week. Visiting clergy all uphold the standards and processes we here at OLOL and the Diocese have put in place to ensure the safety of our community.

Santo Nino Fiesta Sinulog 2026: 18 January

The Devotees of the Holy Infant Jesus Santo Nino invite you to attend the 2026 Fiesta Sinulog on Sunday 18 January at St Patrick's Church, Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown at 2pm. All devotees, please bring your Santo Nino statues. Novena Masses will be held between 8-16 January at 7pm at the parishes of St Clair-Erskine Park, Penrith, St Marys, Rooty Hill, Winston Hills, Plumpton, Marayong, Quakers Hill and Kellyville. For more information, please contact the Blacktown Parish on (02) 9622 1125 or email blacktown@parracatholic.org

Sing a New Song Music Workshop for Children: 21 January

Do you have a child in Year 4-12? Invite them to come along to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 21 January from 9:30am to 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Morning tea and lunch provided. Student participants will form a choir that will sing at the Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Sunday 25 January at 11am. To register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/0URuFAeThA>

Rosary Making Workshop: 9 February

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on Monday 9 February at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for further information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Diocesan World Day of the Sick: 11 February

Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on the 11th February 2026 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. To register, please visit parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-the-sick-mass/

Children and Young People's Participation

A Safeguarding culture for Children and Young People is fostered and sustained by our parish being committed to living the Gospel by serving the most vulnerable. Here at OLOL Seven Hills we implement all Arch/Diocesan policies, procedures and community standards that are Child and Young Person centred to lift barriers so their voices can be heard and their participation valued.

OLOL Parish community values and celebrates ALL our Children and Young People for who they are and the great contributions they make to our parish. We therefore have an obligation to uphold their human and spiritual rights. This is achieved at OLOL by: 1. Providing ministries, services and programs that are relevant for Children and Young People including those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and who have a disability; 2. Committing to zero tolerance to any attitude and activity that makes Children and Young People feel less safe; 3. Enhancing relationships between leaders, community members, Children and Young People; and 4. Creating a new perspective to invigorate renewal. We also ensure all our volunteers and staff have an up to date WWCC and completed all safeguard training.

Greeting of the Holy Father to the sick in the Audience Hall before the General Audience

Good morning everyone! Good morning! Welcome!

I will offer a brief greeting, a blessing for each of you.

On this day, we wanted to protect you a little from the elements, especially the cold... It is not raining, but this way you may be a little more comfortable. Afterwards, you can follow the Audience on the screen, or if you wish, you can also go outside, but we would like to make the most of this small, more personal encounter to greet you, to offer you the Lord's blessing, and also our best wishes. Christmas is almost here, and we would like to ask the Lord that the joy of this Christmas season accompany you all: your families, your loved ones, and that you may always be in the Lord's hands with the trust and love that only God can give us.

I give my blessing to all of you now, and then I will come and greet you.

Blessing

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Human life is characterized by a constant movement that drives us to do, to act. Nowadays speed is required everywhere in order to achieve optimal results in a wide variety of fields. How does Jesus' resurrection shed light on this aspect of our experience? When we participate in his victory over death, will we rest? Faith tells us: yes, we will rest. We will not be inactive, but we will enter into God's repose, which is peace and joy. So, should we just wait, or can this change us right now?

We are absorbed by many activities that do not always leave us satisfied. A lot of our actions have to do with practical, concrete things. We have to assume responsibility for many commitments, solve problems, face difficulties. Jesus too was involved with people and with life, not sparing himself, but rather giving himself to the end. Yet we often perceive how too much doing, instead of giving us fulfilment, becomes a vortex that overwhelms us, takes away our serenity, and prevents us from living to the fullest what is truly important in our lives. We then feel tired and dissatisfied: time seems to be wasted on a thousand practical things that do not, however, resolve the ultimate meaning of our existence. Sometimes, at the end of days full of activities, we feel empty. Why? Because we are not machines, we have a "heart"; indeed, we can say that we *are* a heart.

The heart is the symbol of all our humanity, the sum of our thoughts, feelings and desires, the invisible centre of our selves. The Evangelist Matthew invites us to reflect on the importance of the heart, quoting this beautiful phrase of Jesus: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (*Mt* 6:21).

It is therefore in the heart that true treasure is kept, not in earthly safes, not in large financial investments, which today more than ever before are out of control and unjustly concentrated at the bloody price of millions of human lives and the devastation of God's creation.

It is important to reflect on these aspects, because in the numerous commitments we continually face, there is an increasing risk of dispersion, sometimes of despair, of meaninglessness, even in apparently successful people. Instead, interpreting life in the light of Easter, looking at it with the Risen Jesus, means finding access to the essence of the human person, to our heart: *cor inquietum*. With this adjective "restless", Saint Augustine helps us understand the human being's yearning for fulfilment. The full sentence refers to the beginning of the *Confessions*, where Augustine writes: "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (I, 1,1).

Restlessness is the sign that our heart does not move by chance, in a disordered way, without a purpose or a destination, but is oriented towards its ultimate destination, the "return home". The authentic approach of the heart does not consist in possessing the goods of this world, but in achieving what can fill it completely; namely, the love of God, or rather, God who is Love. This treasure, however, can only be found by loving the neighbour we meet along the way: brothers and sisters in flesh and blood, whose presence stirs and questions our heart, calling it to open up and give itself. Our neighbour asks us to slow down, to look them in the eye, sometimes to change our plans, perhaps even to change direction.

Dear friends, here is the secret of the movement of the human heart: returning to the source of its being, delighting in the joy that never fails, that never disappoints. No one can live without a meaning that goes beyond the contingent, beyond what passes away. The human heart cannot live without hope, without knowing that it is made for fullness, not for want.

Jesus Christ, with his Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection, has given us a solid foundation for this hope. The restless heart will not be disappointed, if it enters into the dynamism of the love for which it was created. The destination is certain, life has triumphed, and in Christ it will continue to triumph in every death of daily life. This is Christian hope: let us always bless and thank the Lord who has given it to us!

DOCTRINAL NOTE ON MARIAN TITLES: MOTHER OF THE FAITHFUL, NOT CO-REDEMPTRIX

The document of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by Pope Leo XIV, offers clarifications on titles applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and calls for special attention to the use of the expression, “Mediatrix of all graces.”

Co-redemptrix

Regarding the title “Co-redemptrix,” the Note recalls that “some Popes have used the title “without elaborating much on its meaning.” Generally, it continues, “they have presented the title in two specific ways: in reference to Mary’s divine motherhood (insofar as she, as Mother, made possible the Redemption that Christ accomplished) or in reference to her union with Christ at the redemptive Cross. The Second Vatican Council refrained from using the title for dogmatic, pastoral, and ecumenical reasons. Saint John Paul II referred to Mary as ‘Co-redemptrix’ on at least seven occasions, particularly relating this title to the salvific value of our sufferings when they are offered together with the sufferings of Christ, to whom Mary is united especially at the Cross” (18).

The document cites an internal discussion within the then-Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which in February 1996 had discussed the request to proclaim a new dogma on Mary as “Co-redemptrix or Mediatrix of all graces.” Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was opposed to such a definition, arguing, “the precise meaning of these titles is not clear, and the doctrine contained in them is not mature. [...] It is not clear how the doctrine expressed in these titles is present in Scripture and the apostolic tradition.”

Later, in 2002, the future Benedict XVI expressed himself publicly in the same way: “The formula ‘Co-redemptrix’ departs to too great an extent from the language of Scripture and of the Fathers and therefore gives rise to misunderstandings... Everything comes from Him [Christ], as the Letter to the Ephesians and the Letter to the Colossians, in particular, tell us; Mary, too, is everything that she is through Him. The word ‘Co-redemptrix’ would obscure this origin.”

The note clarifies that Cardinal Ratzinger did not deny the good intentions behind the proposal, nor the valuable aspects reflected in it, but nonetheless maintained that they were “being expressed in the wrong way” (19).

Pope Francis also expressed his clear opposition to the use of the title Co-Redemptrix on at least three occasions. Tuesday’s Doctrinal Note concludes: “*It is always inappropriate* to use the title ‘Co-redemptrix’ to define Mary’s cooperation. This title risks obscuring Christ’s unique salvific mediation and can therefore create confusion and an imbalance in the harmony of the truths of the Christian faith. [...] When an expression requires many, repeated explanations to prevent it from straying from a correct meaning, it does not serve the faith of the People of God and becomes *unhelpful*” (22).

Mediatrix

The Note emphasises that “the biblical statement about Christ’s exclusive mediation is conclusive. Christ is the only Mediator” (24).

At the same time, MPF recognises “the fact that the word ‘mediation’ is commonly used in many areas of everyday life, where it is understood simply as cooperation, assistance, or intercession. As a result, it is inevitable that the term would be applied to Mary in a subordinate sense. Used in this way, it does not intend to add any efficacy or power to the unique mediation of Jesus Christ, true God and true man” (25).

Further, “it is clear that Mary has a real mediatory role in enabling the Incarnation of the Son of God in our humanity” (26).

Mother of believers and Mediatrix of all graces

Mary’s maternal role “in no way obscures or diminishes” the unique mediation of Christ, “but rather shows its power [...] Understood in this way, Mary’s motherhood does not seek to weaken the unique adoration due to Christ alone but, rather, seeks to enkindle it.”

Therefore, the Note states, “one must avoid titles and expressions that present Mary as a kind of ‘lightning rod’ before the Lord’s justice, as if she were a necessary alternative before the insufficiency of God’s mercy” (37b).

Thus, the title “Mother of Believers” “enables us to speak of Mary’s role in our relation to our life of grace”.

However, MPF goes on to urge caution concerning the use of expressions that may convey “less acceptable notions” (45).

“Cardinal Ratzinger already affirmed” for example, “that the title ‘Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces’ was not clearly grounded in Revelation.” So, the Note continues, “in line with this conviction, we can recognize the difficulties this title poses, both in terms of theological reflection and spirituality” (45). In fact, “no human person — not even the Apostles or the Blessed Virgin — can act as a universal dispenser of grace. Only God can bestow grace, and he does so through the humanity of Christ” (53).

“Some titles, such as ‘Mediatrix of All Graces,’ have limits that do not favour a correct understanding of Mary’s unique place,” MPF explains, adding, “In fact, she, the first redeemed, could not have been the mediatrix of the grace that she herself received” (67).

Nonetheless, the Doctrinal Note acknowledges that “the term ‘graces,’ when seen in reference to Mary’s maternal help at various moments in our lives, can have an acceptable meaning. The plural form expresses all the aids — even material — that the Lord may grant us when He heeds His Mother’s intercession” (68).

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

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 12th February 2026, 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 GROTTO: 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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Christmas Schedule for December 2025

24th	Children/Family Christmas Mass	6:00pm
24th	Christmas Mass	9:00pm
24th	Midnight Mass	12:00am
25th	Christmas Day Mass	8:00am & 9:30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

20/21 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: B. Motha, M. Mifsud 8am: F. Paiva, T. Perak 9.30am: C. Brooks, Kamela Huihui	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, N. Sumcad 8am: T. Perak, K. Walker 9.30am: N. Arambulo, L. Rigney	
Altar Servers	Vigil: N. D'Cruz, J. Steele, Aaliya Faulkner-Dhiman, 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: K. Maruthanayagam, C. Attard, L. Sager.	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: K.Thoms & C.W 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	24 Dec	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

27/28 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Lawrence Falzon 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Simic, N. Shami 8am: F. Paiva, J. Sarmiento 9.30am: P. Gow, G. Basilli	
Readers	Vigil: Yxaak & Yxavel Dino 8am: F. Kennedy, A. McNally 9.30am: J. Nonato, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Julian & Orlando Martinez, C. Bellamin 8am: Jaxon Blackshaw, Sub Rqd 9.30am: K. Cassaniti, L. Sadipoor, A. Melki	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary	
Church Cleaning	1 January	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli	

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21st, 2025

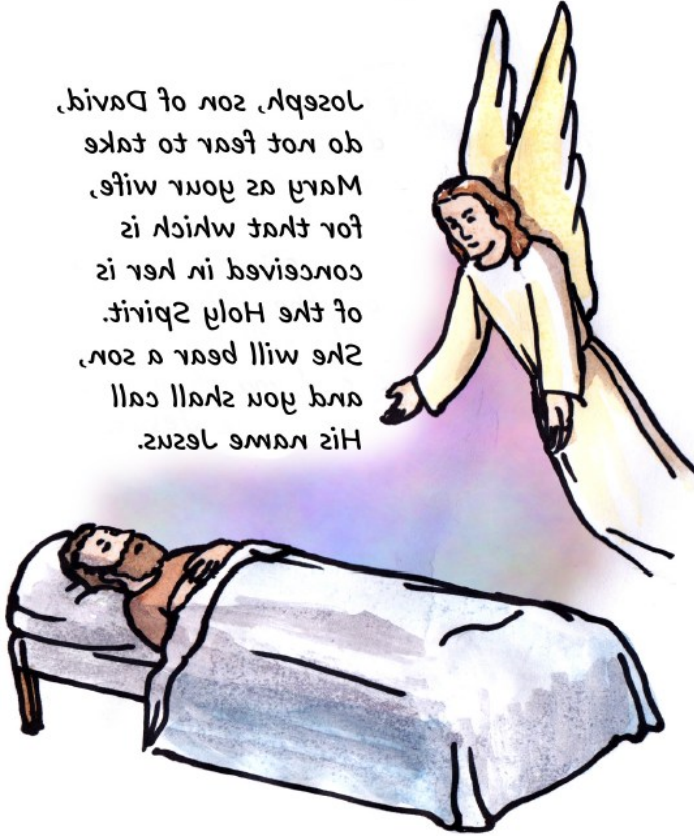
What's in a Name?

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 18:21

Based on Matthew 1:18-25



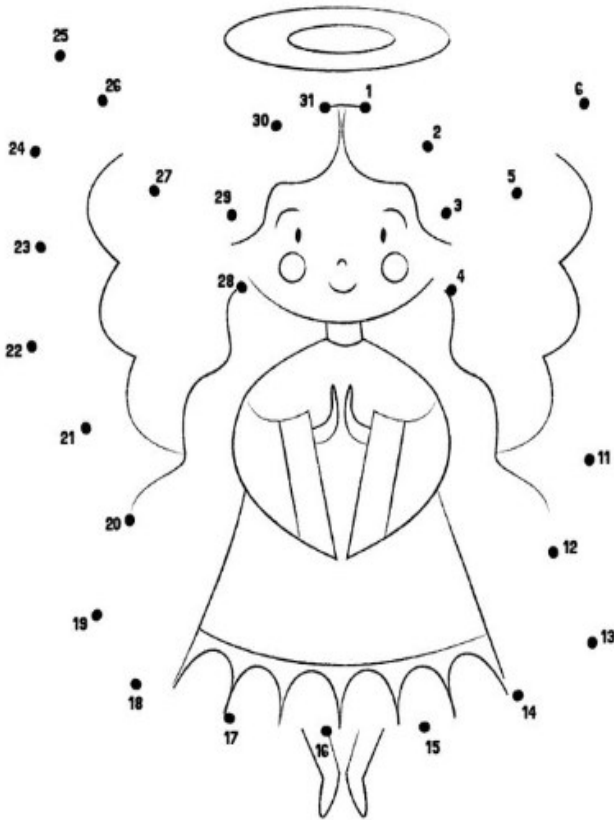
Joseph, son of David,
do not fear to take
Mary as your wife,
for that which is
conceived in her is
of the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son,
and you shall call
his name Jesus.



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

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!

HUSBAND	SON	IMMANUEL	MARY	NAME
CHRIST	CHILD	VIRGIN	BIRTH	ANGEL
JOSEPH	MARRY	AFRAID	DREAM	JESUS



angel





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 School:	LOLO 8869 6800
Parish Deacon:	Deacon Thong Nguyen	Principal:	Ms Keiran Byrnes
Parish Office Team:	Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Jane Nguyen, Laura Ilioski	Reconciliation:	Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
Office Hours: Monday-Friday:	9am - 3.00pm	Baptismal Preparation:	18 February 2026
WEEKDAY MASS:	Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am Thursday 9.00am	Baptism:	11 January 2026
WEEKEND MASS:	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9.30am	Sacrament Co-Ordinator:	Mrs Artelle Lenthall
		Youth Co-Ordinator:	Diana Park
		Parish Website:	www.olol7hills.org.au
		Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/LOLO7Hills/

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 21 December 2025 • Year A



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, Takis Karapatsakis, Clare Kinsley, T.Q Letran, Susie Manga, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Gary Morrissey, Jayne Muscat, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Michelle Pellicano, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Arabella Steele, Sue Tiplado, 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@olol7hills.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, Rosita Ballecer, Anthony Hastings, Aggie Motha, Maria Amma Peter, Veronica Rosales, Anthony Ruzgas

Anniversaries: Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, France Angseesing, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Evan Elisher, Rita de Silva, Frank, M.A Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, Norma Lorenzo, Joseph Mahon, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Irene Moroney, Thelma Morrissey, Anton & Lourda Motha, Paul Mula, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Eustace Ratnam, Roseline Ratnam

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Sydney Azie, Antonio, Amelia & Germana Bertimato, Sam Borg, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato Cabasa, Peter & Antonio, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli, Barrie Chamberlain, Myrna Cruz, 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, O. Francis, J. Francis, Melvyn Fernandes, Merita Fernando, Nevis Fernando, Leandro Garcia Snr, Evangeline, Rudy Garcia, Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Selvam Irudayaraj, J.B, Jonathan Tek Kie, Mangion & Cini Family, Felina Maglaya, Tessie & Andy Mangine, 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, Aurora Nufable Nonato, Coleen O'Sullivan, Serge Pasnin, Lakshman Perera, Marlyn Pestano, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose, Maria, Laureano, Karen, Yolanda Reyes, Mary Silva, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.

Names will be published for 2 weeks at a time.

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.

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



KEEP UP TO DATE

By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more. Visit www.olol7hills.org.au

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**(R) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally.

He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

According to scholars, marriage customs in Palestine in Jesus' time often included two parts: the engagement and the wedding.

The engagement period usually lasted for a year during which the bride and the groom stayed in their homes and communicated to each other through messages delivered by the best man. The engagement began with the signing of a formal marriage agreement or with the groom offering gifts to the bride's family. At this stage, the bride and the groom were legally husband and wife even though they did not yet live together. Vietnamese people have done the same, except the engagement period is less than a year, usually six months.

After a year-long engagement time, the wedding ceremony then took place, and the groom could formally take his wife into his home to begin their married life together.

This background knowledge of Jewish marriage customs will help us better appreciate the Gospel account this Sunday, as it allows us to understand the dilemma St. Joseph faced when he discovered Mary's conception during their engagement. On the one hand, they were legally husband and wife; on the other hand, Mary was clearly carrying a child who was not his. For Joseph, a righteous and honorable man, divorce seemed to be the best solution, one that would end the relationship quietly and protect Mary's life, since she could otherwise be accused of adultery, an offense that, under Jewish law, could result in death by stoning. This messy entanglement is finally cleared up by the angel appearing to Joseph in a dream to reveal the mystery behind Mary's conception, that she was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The angel also asked Joseph to take Mary home to be his wife with the obligation to name the child Jesus, a name that means 'the Lord saves' or simply 'salvation.'

In the eyes of Matthew whose Gospel was meant to bring Jesus' Good News to the group of Jewish followers often familiar with the teachings of the prophets in the scripture, what happened here was extra special, because it fulfilled exactly what Isaiah prophesied long before, as we hear in the first reading today, that 'the maiden is with child and soon give birth to a son, whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us.' This prophetic fulfillment Have a joy-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ADVENT WREATH

It is usually constructed around a circular base. This circular base is traditionally taken to symbolise the ever-renewing cycle of the seasons, and the four candles, represent the four Sundays of Advent. The fourth candle, the "Candle of Love," reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth.



HALL CANOPY PLAQUE

From this weekend, the Pledging Book for the Hall Canopy Plaque is 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.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS THANK YOU

Thank you everyone for such an overwhelming support to our Parish invitation to show our love and care for the needy both in our community and beyond through our Christmas Hampers tradition, and a special thank you note to our dedicated Vinnies for overseeing the whole program from collecting and sorting out donations to distributing them dutifully.

MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church from this weekend for Ministers of the Eucharist, Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers and Welcomers who would like to serve at a Christmas Mass. We kindly ask that ministers sign up for one liturgy only.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2026

Ministry rosters for February - July 2026 are now available. You can find a copy at the back Sacristy or on our website under 'Parish Forms'. If you require more copies or notice any discrepancies, please kindly contact the parish office.

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN 2026-2030

Copies of our Parish Pastoral Plan 2026-2030 are now on and all are invited to have a look after Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY—CHRISTMAS STORY

Thank you to the children who have volunteered to act out the Christmas Story this year. This will take place during the 6pm mass on the 24th December. For those children who are not participating but attending the mass, you are invited to dress up as angels or shepherds.

A PRACTICAL TIP EACH WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

TIP 14 Take a Break from Online Shopping

Online shopping produces a lot of packaging waste and produces excess carbon emissions from airplanes and vehicles. Take a month off online shopping or reduce what you buy online. Try to make purchases closer to home!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS & BULLETIN

Our Parish office will close between Christmas and New Year and there will be no bulletins throughout the month of January 2026 to allow Parish staff to take a break. However, I will be around in the Parish office as usual.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE RETURNS IN 2026

Those interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar, the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2026. Enrolment forms can be found at the back sacristy.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

- Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Mount Druitt Combined Churches Christmas Day

Community Lunch: 25 December

Don't spend Christmas alone. A free Christmas Day lunch hosted by Mt Druitt Combined Churches on Thursday 25 December from 11am, with Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt as the venue host. All are welcome. Registration is essential. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/MtDruittChristmasLunch>

Baulkham Hills Christmas Luncheon: 25 December

The Parish of Baulkham Hills are hosting a Christmas Lunch for anyone who will be on their own on Christmas Day. You may be in town for a visit, or just moved into the area, or may simply be unable to share Christmas Day with your loved ones. So come and share it with us. It will be held on Thursday 25 December in and around the St Michael's Primary School hall, and everyone is welcome, families and individuals. But places are limited, so you will need to register to attend. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9639 0598 or email baulkhamhills@parracatholic.org.

Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January. For one week, there will be celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who've enriched our parishes, schools and communities. Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross.

Grab your copy of the Catholic Outlook Magazine!

The latest quarterly edition of the *Catholic Outlook* Magazine is out now, keeping you connected with exciting news and events in the Diocese of Parramatta.

OLOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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>. Face to Face courses will resume in 2026. Dates and times will be provided once confirmed.

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.

Visiting Clergy to OLOL

Thank you to Fr. Hoang Viet Nguyen who graciously assisted Fr Henry with mass and reconciliation this week. Visiting clergy all uphold the standards and processes we here at OLOL and the Diocese have put in place to ensure the safety of our community.

Santo Nino Fiesta Sinulog 2026: 18 January

The Devotees of the Holy Infant Jesus Santo Nino invite you to attend the 2026 Fiesta Sinulog on Sunday 18 January at St Patrick's Church, Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown at 2pm. All devotees, please bring your Santo Nino statues. Novena Masses will be held between 8-16 January at 7pm at the parishes of St Clair-Erskine Park, Penrith, St Marys, Rooty Hill, Winston Hills, Plumpton, Marayong, Quakers Hill and Kellyville. For more information, please contact the Blacktown Parish on (02) 9622 1125 or email blacktown@parracatholic.org

Sing a New Song Music Workshop for Children: 21 January

Do you have a child in Year 4-12? Invite them to come along to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 21 January from 9:30am to 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Morning tea and lunch provided. Student participants will form a choir that will sing at the Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Sunday 25 January at 11am. To register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/0URuFAeThA>

Rosary Making Workshop: 9 February

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on Monday 9 February at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for further information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Diocesan World Day of the Sick: 11 February

Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on the 11th February 2026 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. To register, please visit parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-the-sick-mass/

Children and Young People's Participation

A Safeguarding culture for Children and Young People is fostered and sustained by our parish being committed to living the Gospel by serving the most vulnerable. Here at OLOL Seven Hills we implement all Arch/Diocesan policies, procedures and community standards that are Child and Young Person centred to lift barriers so their voices can be heard and their participation valued.

OLOL Parish community values and celebrates ALL our Children and Young People for who they are and the great contributions they make to our parish. We therefore have an obligation to uphold their human and spiritual rights. This is achieved at OLOL by: 1. Providing ministries, services and programs that are relevant for Children and Young People including those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and who have a disability; 2. Committing to zero tolerance to any attitude and activity that makes Children and Young People feel less safe; 3. Enhancing relationships between leaders, community members, Children and Young People; and 4. Creating a new perspective to invigorate renewal. We also ensure all our volunteers and staff have an up to date WWCC and completed all safeguard training.

Greeting of the Holy Father to the sick in the Audience Hall before the General Audience

Good morning everyone! Good morning! Welcome!

I will offer a brief greeting, a blessing for each of you.

On this day, we wanted to protect you a little from the elements, especially the cold... It is not raining, but this way you may be a little more comfortable. Afterwards, you can follow the Audience on the screen, or if you wish, you can also go outside, but we would like to make the most of this small, more personal encounter to greet you, to offer you the Lord's blessing, and also our best wishes. Christmas is almost here, and we would like to ask the Lord that the joy of this Christmas season accompany you all: your families, your loved ones, and that you may always be in the Lord's hands with the trust and love that only God can give us.

I give my blessing to all of you now, and then I will come and greet you.

Blessing

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Human life is characterized by a constant movement that drives us to do, to act. Nowadays speed is required everywhere in order to achieve optimal results in a wide variety of fields. How does Jesus' resurrection shed light on this aspect of our experience? When we participate in his victory over death, will we rest? Faith tells us: yes, we will rest. We will not be inactive, but we will enter into God's repose, which is peace and joy. So, should we just wait, or can this change us right now?

We are absorbed by many activities that do not always leave us satisfied. A lot of our actions have to do with practical, concrete things. We have to assume responsibility for many commitments, solve problems, face difficulties. Jesus too was involved with people and with life, not sparing himself, but rather giving himself to the end. Yet we often perceive how too much doing, instead of giving us fulfilment, becomes a vortex that overwhelms us, takes away our serenity, and prevents us from living to the fullest what is truly important in our lives. We then feel tired and dissatisfied: time seems to be wasted on a thousand practical things that do not, however, resolve the ultimate meaning of our existence. Sometimes, at the end of days full of activities, we feel empty. Why? Because we are not machines, we have a "heart"; indeed, we can say that we *are* a heart.

The heart is the symbol of all our humanity, the sum of our thoughts, feelings and desires, the invisible centre of our selves. The Evangelist Matthew invites us to reflect on the importance of the heart, quoting this beautiful phrase of Jesus: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (*Mt* 6:21).

It is therefore in the heart that true treasure is kept, not in earthly safes, not in large financial investments, which today more than ever before are out of control and unjustly concentrated at the bloody price of millions of human lives and the devastation of God's creation.

It is important to reflect on these aspects, because in the numerous commitments we continually face, there is an increasing risk of dispersion, sometimes of despair, of meaninglessness, even in apparently successful people. Instead, interpreting life in the light of Easter, looking at it with the Risen Jesus, means finding access to the essence of the human person, to our heart: *cor inquietum*. With this adjective "restless", Saint Augustine helps us understand the human being's yearning for fulfilment. The full sentence refers to the beginning of the *Confessions*, where Augustine writes: "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (I, 1,1).

Restlessness is the sign that our heart does not move by chance, in a disordered way, without a purpose or a destination, but is oriented towards its ultimate destination, the "return home". The authentic approach of the heart does not consist in possessing the goods of this world, but in achieving what can fill it completely; namely, the love of God, or rather, God who is Love. This treasure, however, can only be found by loving the neighbour we meet along the way: brothers and sisters in flesh and blood, whose presence stirs and questions our heart, calling it to open up and give itself. Our neighbour asks us to slow down, to look them in the eye, sometimes to change our plans, perhaps even to change direction.

Dear friends, here is the secret of the movement of the human heart: returning to the source of its being, delighting in the joy that never fails, that never disappoints. No one can live without a meaning that goes beyond the contingent, beyond what passes away. The human heart cannot live without hope, without knowing that it is made for fullness, not for want.

Jesus Christ, with his Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection, has given us a solid foundation for this hope. The restless heart will not be disappointed, if it enters into the dynamism of the love for which it was created. The destination is certain, life has triumphed, and in Christ it will continue to triumph in every death of daily life. This is Christian hope: let us always bless and thank the Lord who has given it to us!

DOCTRINAL NOTE ON MARIAN TITLES: MOTHER OF THE FAITHFUL, NOT CO-REDEMPTRIX

The document of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by Pope Leo XIV, offers clarifications on titles applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and calls for special attention to the use of the expression, “Mediatrice of all graces.”

Co-redemptrix

Regarding the title “Co-redemptrix,” the Note recalls that “some Popes have used the title “without elaborating much on its meaning.” Generally, it continues, “they have presented the title in two specific ways: in reference to Mary’s divine motherhood (insofar as she, as Mother, made possible the Redemption that Christ accomplished) or in reference to her union with Christ at the redemptive Cross. The Second Vatican Council refrained from using the title for dogmatic, pastoral, and ecumenical reasons. Saint John Paul II referred to Mary as ‘Co-redemptrix’ on at least seven occasions, particularly relating this title to the salvific value of our sufferings when they are offered together with the sufferings of Christ, to whom Mary is united especially at the Cross” (18).

The document cites an internal discussion within the then-Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which in February 1996 had discussed the request to proclaim a new dogma on Mary as “Co-redemptrix or Mediatrice of all graces.” Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was opposed to such a definition, arguing, “the precise meaning of these titles is not clear, and the doctrine contained in them is not mature. [...] It is not clear how the doctrine expressed in these titles is present in Scripture and the apostolic tradition.”

Later, in 2002, the future Benedict XVI expressed himself publicly in the same way: “The formula ‘Co-redemptrix’ departs to too great an extent from the language of Scripture and of the Fathers and therefore gives rise to misunderstandings... Everything comes from Him [Christ], as the Letter to the Ephesians and the Letter to the Colossians, in particular, tell us; Mary, too, is everything that she is through Him. The word ‘Co-redemptrix’ would obscure this origin.”

The note clarifies that Cardinal Ratzinger did not deny the good intentions behind the proposal, nor the valuable aspects reflected in it, but nonetheless maintained that they were “being expressed in the wrong way” (19).

Pope Francis also expressed his clear opposition to the use of the title Co-Redemptrix on at least three occasions. Tuesday’s Doctrinal Note concludes: “*It is always inappropriate* to use the title ‘Co-redemptrix’ to define Mary’s cooperation. This title risks obscuring Christ’s unique salvific mediation and can therefore create confusion and an imbalance in the harmony of the truths of the Christian faith. [...] When an expression requires many, repeated explanations to prevent it from straying from a correct meaning, it does not serve the faith of the People of God and becomes *unhelpful*” (22).

Mediatrice

The Note emphasises that “the biblical statement about Christ’s exclusive mediation is conclusive. Christ is the only Mediator” (24).

At the same time, MPF recognises “the fact that the word ‘mediation’ is commonly used in many areas of everyday life, where it is understood simply as cooperation, assistance, or intercession. As a result, it is inevitable that the term would be applied to Mary in a subordinate sense. Used in this way, it does not intend to add any efficacy or power to the unique mediation of Jesus Christ, true God and true man” (25).

Further, “it is clear that Mary has a real mediatory role in enabling the Incarnation of the Son of God in our humanity” (26).

Mother of believers and Mediatrice of all graces

Mary’s maternal role “in no way obscures or diminishes” the unique mediation of Christ, “but rather shows its power [...] Understood in this way, Mary’s motherhood does not seek to weaken the unique adoration due to Christ alone but, rather, seeks to enkindle it.”

Therefore, the Note states, “one must avoid titles and expressions that present Mary as a kind of ‘lightning rod’ before the Lord’s justice, as if she were a necessary alternative before the insufficiency of God’s mercy” (37b).

Thus, the title “Mother of Believers” “enables us to speak of Mary’s role in our relation to our life of grace”.

However, MPF goes on to urge caution concerning the use of expressions that may convey “less acceptable notions” (45).

“Cardinal Ratzinger already affirmed” for example, “that the title ‘Mary, Mediatrice of All Graces’ was not clearly grounded in Revelation.” So, the Note continues, “in line with this conviction, we can recognize the difficulties this title poses, both in terms of theological reflection and spirituality” (45). In fact, “no human person — not even the Apostles or the Blessed Virgin — can act as a universal dispenser of grace. Only God can bestow grace, and he does so through the humanity of Christ” (53).

“Some titles, such as ‘Mediatrice of All Graces,’ have limits that do not favour a correct understanding of Mary’s unique place,” MPF explains, adding, “In fact, she, the first redeemed, could not have been the mediatrice of the grace that she herself received” (67).

Nonetheless, the Doctrinal Note acknowledges that “the term ‘graces,’ when seen in reference to Mary’s maternal help at various moments in our lives, can have an acceptable meaning. The plural form expresses all the aids — even material — that the Lord may grant us when He heeds His Mother’s intercession” (68).

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

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 12th February 2026, 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 GROTTO: 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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Christmas Schedule for December 2025

24th	Children/Family Christmas Mass	6:00pm
24th	Christmas Mass	9:00pm
24th	Midnight Mass	12:00am
25th	Christmas Day Mass	8:00am & 9:30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

20/21 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: B. Motha, M. Mifsud 8am: F. Paiva, T. Perak 9.30am: C. Brooks, Kamela Huihui	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, N. Sumcad 8am: T. Perak, K. Walker 9.30am: N. Arambulo, L. Rigney	
Altar Servers	Vigil: N. D'Cruz, J. Steele, Aaliya Faulkner-Dhiman, 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: K. Maruthanayagam, C. Attard, L. Sager.	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: K.Thoms & C.W 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	24 Dec	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

27/28 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Lawrence Falzon 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Simic, N. Shami 8am: F. Paiva, J. Sarmiento 9.30am: P. Gow, G. Basilli	
Readers	Vigil: Yxaak & Yxavel Dino 8am: F. Kennedy, A. McNally 9.30am: J. Nonato, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Julian & Orlando Martinez, C. Bellamin 8am: Jaxon Blackshaw, Sub Rqd 9.30am: K. Cassaniti, L. Sadipoor, A. Melki	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary	
Church Cleaning	1 January	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli	

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21st, 2025

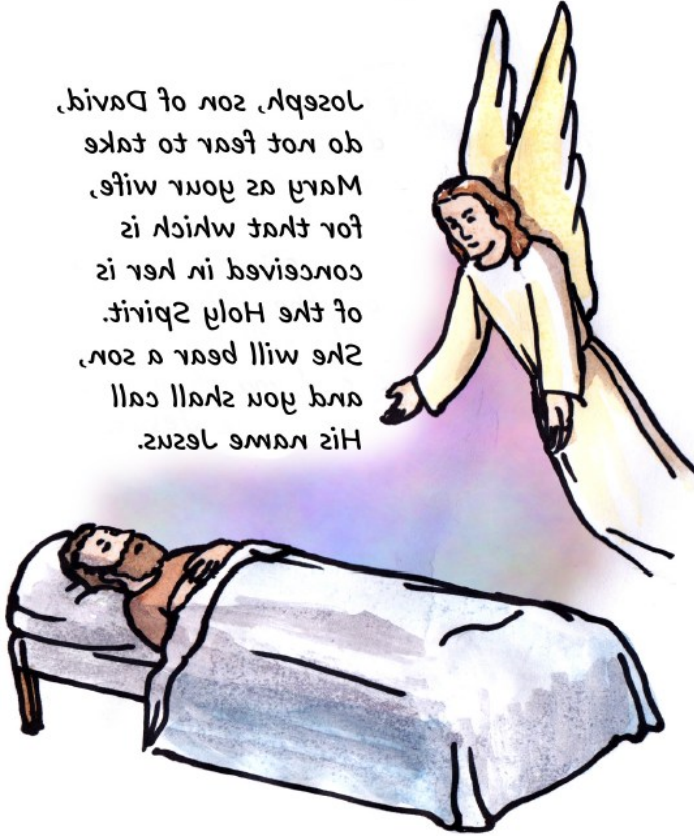
What's in a Name?

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 18:21

Based on Matthew 1:18-25



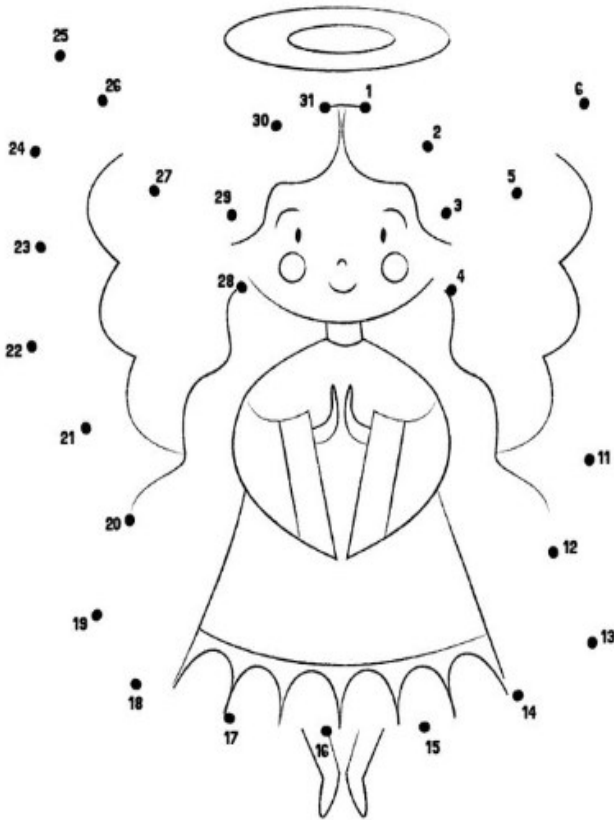
Joseph, son of David,
do not fear to take
Mary as your wife,
for that which is
conceived in her is
of the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son,
and you shall call
his name Jesus.



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

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!

HUSBAND	SON	IMMANUEL	MARY	NAME
CHRIST	CHILD	VIRGIN	BIRTH	ANGEL
JOSEPH	MARRY	AFRAID	DREAM	JESUS



angel





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: 18 February 2026
Baptism: 11 January 2026
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall
Youth Co-Ordinator: Diana Park
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.org.au
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 21 December 2025 • Year A



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, Takis Karapatsakis, Clare Kinsley, T.Q Letran, Susie Manga, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Gary Morrissey, Jayne Muscat, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Michelle Pellicano, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Arabella Steele, Sue Tiplado, 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@olol7hills.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, Rosita Ballecer, Anthony Hastings, Aggie Motha, Maria Amma Peter, Veronica Rosales, Anthony Ruzgas

Anniversaries: Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, France Angseesing, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Evan Elisher, Rita de Silva, Frank, M.A Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, Norma Lorenzo, Joseph Mahon, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Irene Moroney, Thelma Morrissey, Anton & Lourda Motha, Paul Mula, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Eustace Ratnam, Roseline Ratnam

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Sydney Azie, Antonio, Amelia & Germana Bertimato, Sam Borg, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato Cabasa, Peter & Antonio, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli, Barrie Chamberlain, Myrna Cruz, Joseph, Johnny Edwards, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Launcer De Guire, Bede Diab, Debe Diab, Marcel Diab, Mohsen Diab, Peter Diab, Toufic Diab, O. Francis, J. Francis, Melvyn Fernandes, Merita Fernando, Nevis Fernando, Leandro Garcia Snr, Evangeline, Rudy Garcia, Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Selvam Irudayaraj, J.B, Jonathan Tek Kie, Mangion & Cini Family, Felina Maglaya, Tessie & Andy Mangine, 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, Aurora Nufable Nonato, Coleen O'Sullivan, Serge Pasnin, Lakshman Perera, Marlyn Pestano, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose, Maria, Laureano, Karen, Yolanda Reyes, Mary Silva, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.

Names will be published for 2 weeks at a time.

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.

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



KEEP UP TO DATE

By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more. Visit www.olol7hills.org.au

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**(R) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally.

He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

According to scholars, marriage customs in Palestine in Jesus' time often included two parts: the engagement and the wedding.

The engagement period usually lasted for a year during which the bride and the groom stayed in their homes and communicated to each other through messages delivered by the best man. The engagement began with the signing of a formal marriage agreement or with the groom offering gifts to the bride's family. At this stage, the bride and the groom were legally husband and wife even though they did not yet live together. Vietnamese people have done the same, except the engagement period is less than a year, usually six months.

After a year-long engagement time, the wedding ceremony then took place, and the groom could formally take his wife into his home to begin their married life together.

This background knowledge of Jewish marriage customs will help us better appreciate the Gospel account this Sunday, as it allows us to understand the dilemma St. Joseph faced when he discovered Mary's conception during their engagement. On the one hand, they were legally husband and wife; on the other hand, Mary was clearly carrying a child who was not his. For Joseph, a righteous and honorable man, divorce seemed to be the best solution, one that would end the relationship quietly and protect Mary's life, since she could otherwise be accused of adultery, an offense that, under Jewish law, could result in death by stoning. This messy entanglement is finally cleared up by the angel appearing to Joseph in a dream to reveal the mystery behind Mary's conception, that she was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The angel also asked Joseph to take Mary home to be his wife with the obligation to name the child Jesus, a name that means 'the Lord saves' or simply 'salvation.'

In the eyes of Matthew whose Gospel was meant to bring Jesus' Good News to the group of Jewish followers often familiar with the teachings of the prophets in the scripture, what happened here was extra special, because it fulfilled exactly what Isaiah prophesied long before, as we hear in the first reading today, that 'the maiden is with child and soon give birth to a son, whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us.' This prophetic fulfillment Have a joy-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ADVENT WREATH

It is usually constructed around a circular base. This circular base is traditionally taken to symbolise the ever-renewing cycle of the seasons, and the four candles, represent the four Sundays of Advent. The fourth candle, the "Candle of Love," reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth.



HALL CANOPY PLAQUE

From this weekend, the Pledging Book for the Hall Canopy Plaque is 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.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS THANK YOU

Thank you everyone for such an overwhelming support to our Parish invitation to show our love and care for the needy both in our community and beyond through our Christmas Hampers tradition, and a special thank you note to our dedicated Vinnies for overseeing the whole program from collecting and sorting out donations to distributing them dutifully.

MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church from this weekend for Ministers of the Eucharist, Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers and Welcomers who would like to serve at a Christmas Mass. We kindly ask that ministers sign up for one liturgy only.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2026

Ministry rosters for February - July 2026 are now available. You can find a copy at the back Sacristy or on our website under 'Parish Forms'. If you require more copies or notice any discrepancies, please kindly contact the parish office.

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN 2026-2030

Copies of our Parish Pastoral Plan 2026-2030 are now on and all are invited to have a look after Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY—CHRISTMAS STORY

Thank you to the children who have volunteered to act out the Christmas Story this year. This will take place during the 6pm mass on the 24th December. For those children who are not participating but attending the mass, you are invited to dress up as angels or shepherds.

A PRACTICAL TIP EACH WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

TIP 14 Take a Break from Online Shopping

Online shopping produces a lot of packaging waste and produces excess carbon emissions from airplanes and vehicles. Take a month off online shopping or reduce what you buy online. Try to make purchases closer to home!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS & BULLETIN

Our Parish office will close between Christmas and New Year and there will be no bulletins throughout the month of January 2026 to allow Parish staff to take a break. However, I will be around in the Parish office as usual.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE RETURNS IN 2026

Those interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar, the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2026. Enrolment forms can be found at the back sacristy.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

- Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Mount Druitt Combined Churches Christmas Day Community Lunch: 25 December

Don't spend Christmas alone. A free Christmas Day lunch hosted by Mt Druitt Combined Churches on Thursday 25 December from 11am, with Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt as the venue host. All are welcome. Registration is essential. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/MtDruittChristmasLunch>

Baulkham Hills Christmas Luncheon: 25 December

The Parish of Baulkham Hills are hosting a Christmas Lunch for anyone who will be on their own on Christmas Day. You may be in town for a visit, or just moved into the area, or may simply be unable to share Christmas Day with your loved ones. So come and share it with us. It will be held on Thursday 25 December in and around the St Michael's Primary School hall, and everyone is welcome, families and individuals. But places are limited, so you will need to register to attend. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9639 0598 or email baulkhamhills@parracatholic.org.

Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January. For one week, there will be celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who've enriched our parishes, schools and communities. Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross.

Grab your copy of the Catholic Outlook Magazine!

The latest quarterly edition of the *Catholic Outlook* Magazine is out now, keeping you connected with exciting news and events in the Diocese of Parramatta.

OLOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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>. Face to Face courses will resume in 2026. Dates and times will be provided once confirmed.

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.

Visiting Clergy to OLOL

Thank you to Fr. Hoang Viet Nguyen who graciously assisted Fr Henry with mass and reconciliation this week. Visiting clergy all uphold the standards and processes we here at OLOL and the Diocese have put in place to ensure the safety of our community.

Santo Nino Fiesta Sinulog 2026: 18 January

The Devotees of the Holy Infant Jesus Santo Nino invite you to attend the 2026 Fiesta Sinulog on Sunday 18 January at St Patrick's Church, Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown at 2pm. All devotees, please bring your Santo Nino statues. Novena Masses will be held between 8-16 January at 7pm at the parishes of St Clair-Erskine Park, Penrith, St Marys, Rooty Hill, Winston Hills, Plumpton, Marayong, Quakers Hill and Kellyville. For more information, please contact the Blacktown Parish on (02) 9622 1125 or email blacktown@parracatholic.org

Sing a New Song Music Workshop for Children: 21 January

Do you have a child in Year 4-12? Invite them to come along to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 21 January from 9:30am to 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Morning tea and lunch provided. Student participants will form a choir that will sing at the Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Sunday 25 January at 11am. To register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/0URuFAeThA>

Rosary Making Workshop: 9 February

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on Monday 9 February at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for further information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Diocesan World Day of the Sick: 11 February

Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on the 11th February 2026 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. To register, please visit parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-the-sick-mass/

Children and Young People's Participation

A Safeguarding culture for Children and Young People is fostered and sustained by our parish being committed to living the Gospel by serving the most vulnerable. Here at OLOL Seven Hills we implement all Arch/Diocesan policies, procedures and community standards that are Child and Young Person centred to lift barriers so their voices can be heard and their participation valued.

OLOL Parish community values and celebrates ALL our Children and Young People for who they are and the great contributions they make to our parish. We therefore have an obligation to uphold their human and spiritual rights. This is achieved at OLOL by: 1. Providing ministries, services and programs that are relevant for Children and Young People including those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and who have a disability; 2. Committing to zero tolerance to any attitude and activity that makes Children and Young People feel less safe; 3. Enhancing relationships between leaders, community members, Children and Young People; and 4. Creating a new perspective to invigorate renewal. We also ensure all our volunteers and staff have an up to date WWCC and completed all safeguard training.

Greeting of the Holy Father to the sick in the Audience Hall before the General Audience

Good morning everyone! Good morning! Welcome!

I will offer a brief greeting, a blessing for each of you.

On this day, we wanted to protect you a little from the elements, especially the cold... It is not raining, but this way you may be a little more comfortable. Afterwards, you can follow the Audience on the screen, or if you wish, you can also go outside, but we would like to make the most of this small, more personal encounter to greet you, to offer you the Lord's blessing, and also our best wishes. Christmas is almost here, and we would like to ask the Lord that the joy of this Christmas season accompany you all: your families, your loved ones, and that you may always be in the Lord's hands with the trust and love that only God can give us.

I give my blessing to all of you now, and then I will come and greet you.

Blessing

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Human life is characterized by a constant movement that drives us to do, to act. Nowadays speed is required everywhere in order to achieve optimal results in a wide variety of fields. How does Jesus' resurrection shed light on this aspect of our experience? When we participate in his victory over death, will we rest? Faith tells us: yes, we will rest. We will not be inactive, but we will enter into God's repose, which is peace and joy. So, should we just wait, or can this change us right now?

We are absorbed by many activities that do not always leave us satisfied. A lot of our actions have to do with practical, concrete things. We have to assume responsibility for many commitments, solve problems, face difficulties. Jesus too was involved with people and with life, not sparing himself, but rather giving himself to the end. Yet we often perceive how too much doing, instead of giving us fulfilment, becomes a vortex that overwhelms us, takes away our serenity, and prevents us from living to the fullest what is truly important in our lives. We then feel tired and dissatisfied: time seems to be wasted on a thousand practical things that do not, however, resolve the ultimate meaning of our existence. Sometimes, at the end of days full of activities, we feel empty. Why? Because we are not machines, we have a "heart"; indeed, we can say that we *are* a heart.

The heart is the symbol of all our humanity, the sum of our thoughts, feelings and desires, the invisible centre of our selves. The Evangelist Matthew invites us to reflect on the importance of the heart, quoting this beautiful phrase of Jesus: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Mt 6:21).

It is therefore in the heart that true treasure is kept, not in earthly safes, not in large financial investments, which today more than ever before are out of control and unjustly concentrated at the bloody price of millions of human lives and the devastation of God's creation.

It is important to reflect on these aspects, because in the numerous commitments we continually face, there is an increasing risk of dispersion, sometimes of despair, of meaninglessness, even in apparently successful people. Instead, interpreting life in the light of Easter, looking at it with the Risen Jesus, means finding access to the essence of the human person, to our heart: *cor inquietum*. With this adjective "restless", Saint Augustine helps us understand the human being's yearning for fulfilment. The full sentence refers to the beginning of the *Confessions*, where Augustine writes: "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (I, 1,1).

Restlessness is the sign that our heart does not move by chance, in a disordered way, without a purpose or a destination, but is oriented towards its ultimate destination, the "return home". The authentic approach of the heart does not consist in possessing the goods of this world, but in achieving what can fill it completely; namely, the love of God, or rather, God who is Love. This treasure, however, can only be found by loving the neighbour we meet along the way: brothers and sisters in flesh and blood, whose presence stirs and questions our heart, calling it to open up and give itself. Our neighbour asks us to slow down, to look them in the eye, sometimes to change our plans, perhaps even to change direction.

Dear friends, here is the secret of the movement of the human heart: returning to the source of its being, delighting in the joy that never fails, that never disappoints. No one can live without a meaning that goes beyond the contingent, beyond what passes away. The human heart cannot live without hope, without knowing that it is made for fullness, not for want.

Jesus Christ, with his Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection, has given us a solid foundation for this hope. The restless heart will not be disappointed, if it enters into the dynamism of the love for which it was created. The destination is certain, life has triumphed, and in Christ it will continue to triumph in every death of daily life. This is Christian hope: let us always bless and thank the Lord who has given it to us!

DOCTRINAL NOTE ON MARIAN TITLES: MOTHER OF THE FAITHFUL, NOT CO-REDEMPTRIX

The document of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by Pope Leo XIV, offers clarifications on titles applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and calls for special attention to the use of the expression, “Mediatrix of all graces.”

Co-redemptrix

Regarding the title “Co-redemptrix,” the Note recalls that “some Popes have used the title “without elaborating much on its meaning.” Generally, it continues, “they have presented the title in two specific ways: in reference to Mary’s divine motherhood (insofar as she, as Mother, made possible the Redemption that Christ accomplished) or in reference to her union with Christ at the redemptive Cross. The Second Vatican Council refrained from using the title for dogmatic, pastoral, and ecumenical reasons. Saint John Paul II referred to Mary as ‘Co-redemptrix’ on at least seven occasions, particularly relating this title to the salvific value of our sufferings when they are offered together with the sufferings of Christ, to whom Mary is united especially at the Cross” (18).

The document cites an internal discussion within the then-Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which in February 1996 had discussed the request to proclaim a new dogma on Mary as “Co-redemptrix or Mediatrix of all graces.” Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was opposed to such a definition, arguing, “the precise meaning of these titles is not clear, and the doctrine contained in them is not mature. [...] It is not clear how the doctrine expressed in these titles is present in Scripture and the apostolic tradition.”

Later, in 2002, the future Benedict XVI expressed himself publicly in the same way: “The formula ‘Co-redemptrix’ departs to too great an extent from the language of Scripture and of the Fathers and therefore gives rise to misunderstandings... Everything comes from Him [Christ], as the Letter to the Ephesians and the Letter to the Colossians, in particular, tell us; Mary, too, is everything that she is through Him. The word ‘Co-redemptrix’ would obscure this origin.”

The note clarifies that Cardinal Ratzinger did not deny the good intentions behind the proposal, nor the valuable aspects reflected in it, but nonetheless maintained that they were “being expressed in the wrong way” (19).

Pope Francis also expressed his clear opposition to the use of the title Co-Redemptrix on at least three occasions. Tuesday’s Doctrinal Note concludes: “*It is always inappropriate* to use the title ‘Co-redemptrix’ to define Mary’s cooperation. This title risks obscuring Christ’s unique salvific mediation and can therefore create confusion and an imbalance in the harmony of the truths of the Christian faith. [...] When an expression requires many, repeated explanations to prevent it from straying from a correct meaning, it does not serve the faith of the People of God and becomes *unhelpful*” (22).

Mediatrix

The Note emphasises that “the biblical statement about Christ’s exclusive mediation is conclusive. Christ is the only Mediator” (24).

At the same time, MPF recognises “the fact that the word ‘mediation’ is commonly used in many areas of everyday life, where it is understood simply as cooperation, assistance, or intercession. As a result, it is inevitable that the term would be applied to Mary in a subordinate sense. Used in this way, it does not intend to add any efficacy or power to the unique mediation of Jesus Christ, true God and true man” (25).

Further, “it is clear that Mary has a real mediatory role in enabling the Incarnation of the Son of God in our humanity” (26).

Mother of believers and Mediatrix of all graces

Mary’s maternal role “in no way obscures or diminishes” the unique mediation of Christ, “but rather shows its power [...] Understood in this way, Mary’s motherhood does not seek to weaken the unique adoration due to Christ alone but, rather, seeks to enkindle it.”

Therefore, the Note states, “one must avoid titles and expressions that present Mary as a kind of ‘lightning rod’ before the Lord’s justice, as if she were a necessary alternative before the insufficiency of God’s mercy” (37b).

Thus, the title “Mother of Believers” “enables us to speak of Mary’s role in our relation to our life of grace”.

However, MPF goes on to urge caution concerning the use of expressions that may convey “less acceptable notions” (45).

“Cardinal Ratzinger already affirmed” for example, “that the title ‘Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces’ was not clearly grounded in Revelation.” So, the Note continues, “in line with this conviction, we can recognize the difficulties this title poses, both in terms of theological reflection and spirituality” (45). In fact, “no human person — not even the Apostles or the Blessed Virgin — can act as a universal dispenser of grace. Only God can bestow grace, and he does so through the humanity of Christ” (53).

“Some titles, such as ‘Mediatrix of All Graces,’ have limits that do not favour a correct understanding of Mary’s unique place,” MPF explains, adding, “In fact, she, the first redeemed, could not have been the mediatrix of the grace that she herself received” (67).

Nonetheless, the Doctrinal Note acknowledges that “the term ‘graces,’ when seen in reference to Mary’s maternal help at various moments in our lives, can have an acceptable meaning. The plural form expresses all the aids — even material — that the Lord may grant us when He heeds His Mother’s intercession” (68).

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

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 12th February 2026, 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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Christmas Schedule for December 2025

24th	Children/Family Christmas Mass	6:00pm
24th	Christmas Mass	9:00pm
24th	Midnight Mass	12:00am
25th	Christmas Day Mass	8:00am & 9:30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

20/21 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: B. Motha, M. Mifsud 8am: F. Paiva, T. Perak 9.30am: C. Brooks, Kamela Huihui	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, N. Sumcad 8am: T. Perak, K. Walker 9.30am: N. Arambulo, L. Rigney	
Altar Servers	Vigil: N. D'Cruz, J. Steele, Aaliya Faulkner-Dhiman, 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: K. Maruthanayagam, C. Attard, L. Sager.	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: K.Thoms & C.W 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	24 Dec	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

27/28 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Lawrence Falzon 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Simic, N. Shami 8am: F. Paiva, J. Sarmiento 9.30am: P. Gow, G. Basilli	
Readers	Vigil: Yxaak & Yxavel Dino 8am: F. Kennedy, A. McNally 9.30am: J. Nonato, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Julian & Orlando Martinez, C. Bellamin 8am: Jaxon Blackshaw, Sub Rqd 9.30am: K. Cassaniti, L. Sadipoor, A. Melki	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary	
Church Cleaning	1 January	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli	

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21st, 2025

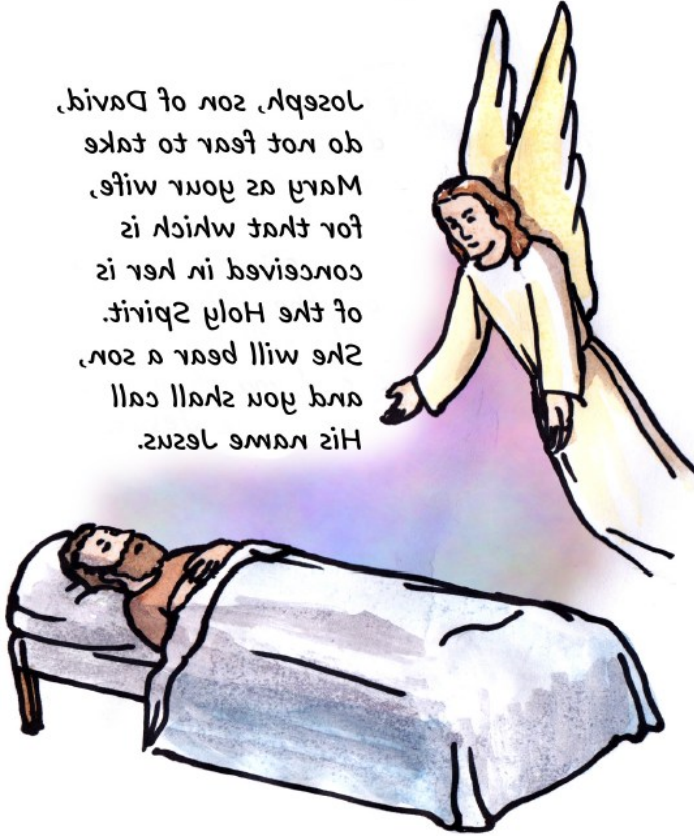
What's in a Name?

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 18:21

Based on Matthew 1:18-25



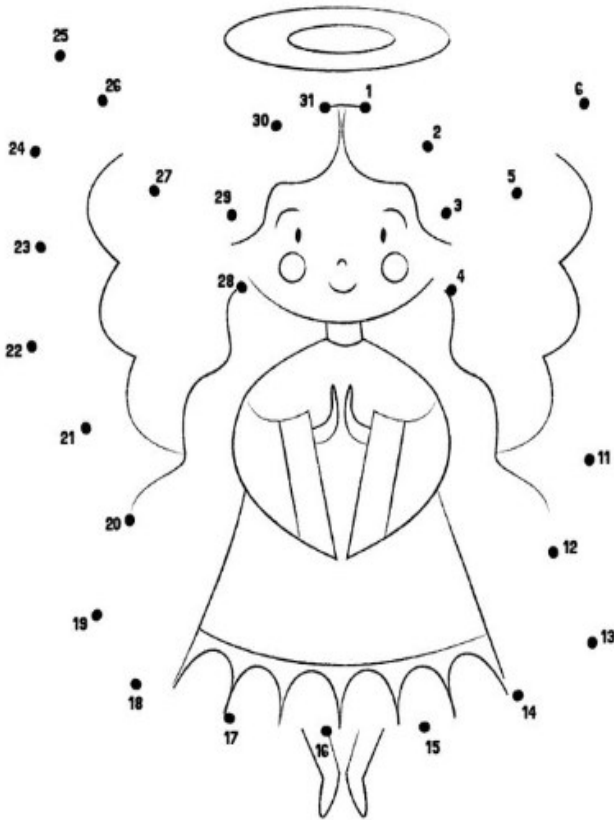
Joseph, son of David,
do not fear to take
Mary as your wife,
for that which is
conceived in her is
of the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son,
and you shall call
his name Jesus.



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

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!

HUSBAND	SON	IMMANUEL	MARY	NAME
CHRIST	CHILD	VIRGIN	BIRTH	ANGEL
JOSEPH	MARRY	AFRAID	DREAM	JESUS



angel





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@lol7hills.com.au

Parish Priest:	Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran	Parish School:	LOLO 8869 6800
Parish Deacon:	Deacon Thong Nguyen	Principal:	Ms Keiran Byrnes
Parish Office Team:	Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Jane Nguyen, Laura Ilioski	Reconciliation:	Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
Office Hours: Monday-Friday:	9am - 3.00pm	Baptismal Preparation:	18 February 2026
WEEKDAY MASS:	Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am Thursday 9.00am	Baptism:	11 January 2026
WEEKEND MASS:	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9.30am	Sacrament Co-Ordinator:	Mrs Artelle Lenthall
		Youth Co-Ordinator:	Diana Park
		Parish Website:	www.lol7hills.org.au
		Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/LOLO7Hills/

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 21 December 2025 • Year A



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, Takis Karapatsakis, Clare Kinsley, T.Q Letran, Susie Manga, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Gary Morrissey, Jayne Muscat, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Michelle Pellicano, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Arabella Steele, Sue Tiplado, 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, Rosita Ballecer, Anthony Hastings, Aggie Motha, Maria Amma Peter, Veronica Rosales, Anthony Ruzgas

Anniversaries: Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, France Angseesing, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Evan Elisher, Rita de Silva, Frank, M.A Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, Norma Lorenzo, Joseph Mahon, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Irene Moroney, Thelma Morrissey, Anton & Lourda Motha, Paul Mula, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Eustace Ratnam, Roseline Ratnam

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Sydney Azie, Antonio, Amelia & Germana Bertinato, Sam Borg, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato Cabasa, Peter & Antonio, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli, Barrie Chamberlain, Myrna Cruz, 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, O. Francis, J. Francis, Melvyn Fernandes, Merita Fernando, Nevis Fernando, Leandro Garcia Snr, Evangeline, Rudy Garcia, Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Selvam Irudayaraj, J.B, Jonathan Tek Kie, Mangion & Cini Family, Felina Maglaya, Tessie & Andy Mangine, 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, Aurora Nufable Nonato, Coleen O'Sullivan, Serge Pasnin, Lakshman Perera, Marlyn Pestano, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose, Maria, Laureano, Karen, Yolanda Reyes, Mary Silva, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.

Names will be published for 2 weeks at a time.

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.

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



KEEP UP TO DATE

By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more. Visit www.lol7hills.org.au

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**(R) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally.

He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

According to scholars, marriage customs in Palestine in Jesus' time often included two parts: the engagement and the wedding.

The engagement period usually lasted for a year during which the bride and the groom stayed in their homes and communicated to each other through messages delivered by the best man. The engagement began with the signing of a formal marriage agreement or with the groom offering gifts to the bride's family. At this stage, the bride and the groom were legally husband and wife even though they did not yet live together. Vietnamese people have done the same, except the engagement period is less than a year, usually six months.

After a year-long engagement time, the wedding ceremony then took place, and the groom could formally take his wife into his home to begin their married life together.

This background knowledge of Jewish marriage customs will help us better appreciate the Gospel account this Sunday, as it allows us to understand the dilemma St. Joseph faced when he discovered Mary's conception during their engagement. On the one hand, they were legally husband and wife; on the other hand, Mary was clearly carrying a child who was not his. For Joseph, a righteous and honorable man, divorce seemed to be the best solution, one that would end the relationship quietly and protect Mary's life, since she could otherwise be accused of adultery, an offense that, under Jewish law, could result in death by stoning. This messy entanglement is finally cleared up by the angel appearing to Joseph in a dream to reveal the mystery behind Mary's conception, that she was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The angel also asked Joseph to take Mary home to be his wife with the obligation to name the child Jesus, a name that means 'the Lord saves' or simply 'salvation.'

In the eyes of Matthew whose Gospel was meant to bring Jesus' Good News to the group of Jewish followers often familiar with the teachings of the prophets in the scripture, what happened here was extra special, because it fulfilled exactly what Isaiah prophesied long before, as we hear in the first reading today, that 'the maiden is with child and soon give birth to a son, whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us.' This prophetic fulfillment Have a joy-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ADVENT WREATH

It is usually constructed around a circular base. This circular base is traditionally taken to symbolise the ever-renewing cycle of the seasons, and the four candles, represent the four Sundays of Advent. The fourth candle, the "Candle of Love," reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth.



HALL CANOPY PLAQUE

From this weekend, the Pledging Book for the Hall Canopy Plaque is 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.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS THANK YOU

Thank you everyone for such an overwhelming support to our Parish invitation to show our love and care for the needy both in our community and beyond through our Christmas Hampers tradition, and a special thank you note to our dedicated Vinnies for overseeing the whole program from collecting and sorting out donations to distributing them dutifully.

MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church from this weekend for Ministers of the Eucharist, Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers and Welcomers who would like to serve at a Christmas Mass. We kindly ask that ministers sign up for one liturgy only.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2026

Ministry rosters for February - July 2026 are now available. You can find a copy at the back Sacristy or on our website under 'Parish Forms'. If you require more copies or notice any discrepancies, please kindly contact the parish office.

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN 2026-2030

Copies of our Parish Pastoral Plan 2026-2030 are now on and all are invited to have a look after Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY—CHRISTMAS STORY

Thank you to the children who have volunteered to act out the Christmas Story this year. This will take place during the 6pm mass on the 24th December. For those children who are not participating but attending the mass, you are invited to dress up as angels or shepherds.

A PRACTICAL TIP EACH WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

TIP 14 Take a Break from Online Shopping

Online shopping produces a lot of packaging waste and produces excess carbon emissions from airplanes and vehicles. Take a month off online shopping or reduce what you buy online. Try to make purchases closer to home!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS & BULLETIN

Our Parish office will close between Christmas and New Year and there will be no bulletins throughout the month of January 2026 to allow Parish staff to take a break. However, I will be around in the Parish office as usual.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE RETURNS IN 2026

Those interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar, the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2026. Enrolment forms can be found at the back sacristy.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

- Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Mount Druitt Combined Churches Christmas Day

Community Lunch: 25 December

Don't spend Christmas alone. A free Christmas Day lunch hosted by Mt Druitt Combined Churches on Thursday 25 December from 11am, with Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt as the venue host. All are welcome. Registration is essential. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/MtDruittChristmasLunch>

Baulkham Hills Christmas Luncheon: 25 December

The Parish of Baulkham Hills are hosting a Christmas Lunch for anyone who will be on their own on Christmas Day. You may be in town for a visit, or just moved into the area, or may simply be unable to share Christmas Day with your loved ones. So come and share it with us. It will be held on Thursday 25 December in and around the St Michael's Primary School hall, and everyone is welcome, families and individuals. But places are limited, so you will need to register to attend. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9639 0598 or email baulkhamhills@parracatholic.org.

Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January. For one week, there will be celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who've enriched our parishes, schools and communities. Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross.

Grab your copy of the Catholic Outlook Magazine!

The latest quarterly edition of the *Catholic Outlook* Magazine is out now, keeping you connected with exciting news and events in the Diocese of Parramatta.

OLOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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>. Face to Face courses will resume in 2026. Dates and times will be provided once confirmed.

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.

Visiting Clergy to OLOL

Thank you to Fr. Hoang Viet Nguyen who graciously assisted Fr Henry with mass and reconciliation this week. Visiting clergy all uphold the standards and processes we here at OLOL and the Diocese have put in place to ensure the safety of our community.

Santo Nino Fiesta Sinulog 2026: 18 January

The Devotees of the Holy Infant Jesus Santo Nino invite you to attend the 2026 Fiesta Sinulog on Sunday 18 January at St Patrick's Church, Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown at 2pm. All devotees, please bring your Santo Nino statues. Novena Masses will be held between 8-16 January at 7pm at the parishes of St Clair-Erskine Park, Penrith, St Marys, Rooty Hill, Winston Hills, Plumpton, Marayong, Quakers Hill and Kellyville. For more information, please contact the Blacktown Parish on (02) 9622 1125 or email blacktown@parracatholic.org

Sing a New Song Music Workshop for Children: 21 January

Do you have a child in Year 4-12? Invite them to come along to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 21 January from 9:30am to 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Morning tea and lunch provided. Student participants will form a choir that will sing at the Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Sunday 25 January at 11am. To register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/OURuFAeThA>

Rosary Making Workshop: 9 February

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on Monday 9 February at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for further information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Diocesan World Day of the Sick: 11 February

Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on the 11th February 2026 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. To register, please visit parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-the-sick-mass/

Children and Young People's Participation

A Safeguarding culture for Children and Young People is fostered and sustained by our parish being committed to living the Gospel by serving the most vulnerable. Here at OLOL Seven Hills we implement all Arch/Diocesan policies, procedures and community standards that are Child and Young Person centred to lift barriers so their voices can be heard and their participation valued.

OLOL Parish community values and celebrates ALL our Children and Young People for who they are and the great contributions they make to our parish. We therefore have an obligation to uphold their human and spiritual rights. This is achieved at OLOL by: 1. Providing ministries, services and programs that are relevant for Children and Young People including those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and who have a disability; 2. Committing to zero tolerance to any attitude and activity that makes Children and Young People feel less safe; 3. Enhancing relationships between leaders, community members, Children and Young People; and 4. Creating a new perspective to invigorate renewal. We also ensure all our volunteers and staff have an up to date WWCC and completed all safeguard training.

Greeting of the Holy Father to the sick in the Audience Hall before the General Audience

Good morning everyone! Good morning! Welcome!

I will offer a brief greeting, a blessing for each of you.

On this day, we wanted to protect you a little from the elements, especially the cold... It is not raining, but this way you may be a little more comfortable. Afterwards, you can follow the Audience on the screen, or if you wish, you can also go outside, but we would like to make the most of this small, more personal encounter to greet you, to offer you the Lord's blessing, and also our best wishes. Christmas is almost here, and we would like to ask the Lord that the joy of this Christmas season accompany you all: your families, your loved ones, and that you may always be in the Lord's hands with the trust and love that only God can give us.

I give my blessing to all of you now, and then I will come and greet you.

Blessing

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Human life is characterized by a constant movement that drives us to do, to act. Nowadays speed is required everywhere in order to achieve optimal results in a wide variety of fields. How does Jesus' resurrection shed light on this aspect of our experience? When we participate in his victory over death, will we rest? Faith tells us: yes, we will rest. We will not be inactive, but we will enter into God's repose, which is peace and joy. So, should we just wait, or can this change us right now?

We are absorbed by many activities that do not always leave us satisfied. A lot of our actions have to do with practical, concrete things. We have to assume responsibility for many commitments, solve problems, face difficulties. Jesus too was involved with people and with life, not sparing himself, but rather giving himself to the end. Yet we often perceive how too much doing, instead of giving us fulfilment, becomes a vortex that overwhelms us, takes away our serenity, and prevents us from living to the fullest what is truly important in our lives. We then feel tired and dissatisfied: time seems to be wasted on a thousand practical things that do not, however, resolve the ultimate meaning of our existence. Sometimes, at the end of days full of activities, we feel empty. Why? Because we are not machines, we have a "heart"; indeed, we can say that we *are* a heart.

The heart is the symbol of all our humanity, the sum of our thoughts, feelings and desires, the invisible centre of our selves. The Evangelist Matthew invites us to reflect on the importance of the heart, quoting this beautiful phrase of Jesus: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Mt 6:21).

It is therefore in the heart that true treasure is kept, not in earthly safes, not in large financial investments, which today more than ever before are out of control and unjustly concentrated at the bloody price of millions of human lives and the devastation of God's creation.

It is important to reflect on these aspects, because in the numerous commitments we continually face, there is an increasing risk of dispersion, sometimes of despair, of meaninglessness, even in apparently successful people. Instead, interpreting life in the light of Easter, looking at it with the Risen Jesus, means finding access to the essence of the human person, to our heart: *cor inquietum*. With this adjective "restless", Saint Augustine helps us understand the human being's yearning for fulfilment. The full sentence refers to the beginning of the *Confessions*, where Augustine writes: "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (I, 1,1).

Restlessness is the sign that our heart does not move by chance, in a disordered way, without a purpose or a destination, but is oriented towards its ultimate destination, the "return home". The authentic approach of the heart does not consist in possessing the goods of this world, but in achieving what can fill it completely; namely, the love of God, or rather, God who is Love. This treasure, however, can only be found by loving the neighbour we meet along the way: brothers and sisters in flesh and blood, whose presence stirs and questions our heart, calling it to open up and give itself. Our neighbour asks us to slow down, to look them in the eye, sometimes to change our plans, perhaps even to change direction.

Dear friends, here is the secret of the movement of the human heart: returning to the source of its being, delighting in the joy that never fails, that never disappoints. No one can live without a meaning that goes beyond the contingent, beyond what passes away. The human heart cannot live without hope, without knowing that it is made for fullness, not for want.

Jesus Christ, with his Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection, has given us a solid foundation for this hope. The restless heart will not be disappointed, if it enters into the dynamism of the love for which it was created. The destination is certain, life has triumphed, and in Christ it will continue to triumph in every death of daily life. This is Christian hope: let us always bless and thank the Lord who has given it to us!

DOCTRINAL NOTE ON MARIAN TITLES: MOTHER OF THE FAITHFUL, NOT CO-REDEMPTRIX

The document of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by Pope Leo XIV, offers clarifications on titles applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and calls for special attention to the use of the expression, “Mediatrix of all graces.”

Co-redemptrix

Regarding the title “Co-redemptrix,” the Note recalls that “some Popes have used the title “without elaborating much on its meaning.” Generally, it continues, “they have presented the title in two specific ways: in reference to Mary’s divine motherhood (insofar as she, as Mother, made possible the Redemption that Christ accomplished) or in reference to her union with Christ at the redemptive Cross. The Second Vatican Council refrained from using the title for dogmatic, pastoral, and ecumenical reasons. Saint John Paul II referred to Mary as ‘Co-redemptrix’ on at least seven occasions, particularly relating this title to the salvific value of our sufferings when they are offered together with the sufferings of Christ, to whom Mary is united especially at the Cross” (18).

The document cites an internal discussion within the then-Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which in February 1996 had discussed the request to proclaim a new dogma on Mary as “Co-redemptrix or Mediatrix of all graces.” Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was opposed to such a definition, arguing, “the precise meaning of these titles is not clear, and the doctrine contained in them is not mature. [...] It is not clear how the doctrine expressed in these titles is present in Scripture and the apostolic tradition.”

Later, in 2002, the future Benedict XVI expressed himself publicly in the same way: “The formula ‘Co-redemptrix’ departs to too great an extent from the language of Scripture and of the Fathers and therefore gives rise to misunderstandings... Everything comes from Him [Christ], as the Letter to the Ephesians and the Letter to the Colossians, in particular, tell us; Mary, too, is everything that she is through Him. The word ‘Co-redemptrix’ would obscure this origin.”

The note clarifies that Cardinal Ratzinger did not deny the good intentions behind the proposal, nor the valuable aspects reflected in it, but nonetheless maintained that they were “being expressed in the wrong way” (19).

Pope Francis also expressed his clear opposition to the use of the title Co-Redemptrix on at least three occasions. Tuesday’s Doctrinal Note concludes: “*It is always inappropriate* to use the title ‘Co-redemptrix’ to define Mary’s cooperation. This title risks obscuring Christ’s unique salvific mediation and can therefore create confusion and an imbalance in the harmony of the truths of the Christian faith. [...] When an expression requires many, repeated explanations to prevent it from straying from a correct meaning, it does not serve the faith of the People of God and becomes *unhelpful*” (22).

Mediatrix

The Note emphasises that “the biblical statement about Christ’s exclusive mediation is conclusive. Christ is the only Mediator” (24).

At the same time, MPF recognises “the fact that the word ‘mediation’ is commonly used in many areas of everyday life, where it is understood simply as cooperation, assistance, or intercession. As a result, it is inevitable that the term would be applied to Mary in a subordinate sense. Used in this way, it does not intend to add any efficacy or power to the unique mediation of Jesus Christ, true God and true man” (25).

Further, “it is clear that Mary has a real mediatory role in enabling the Incarnation of the Son of God in our humanity” (26).

Mother of believers and Mediatrix of all graces

Mary’s maternal role “in no way obscures or diminishes” the unique mediation of Christ, “but rather shows its power [...] Understood in this way, Mary’s motherhood does not seek to weaken the unique adoration due to Christ alone but, rather, seeks to enkindle it.”

Therefore, the Note states, “one must avoid titles and expressions that present Mary as a kind of ‘lightning rod’ before the Lord’s justice, as if she were a necessary alternative before the insufficiency of God’s mercy” (37b).

Thus, the title “Mother of Believers” “enables us to speak of Mary’s role in our relation to our life of grace”.

However, MPF goes on to urge caution concerning the use of expressions that may convey “less acceptable notions” (45).

“Cardinal Ratzinger already affirmed” for example, “that the title ‘Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces’ was not clearly grounded in Revelation.” So, the Note continues, “in line with this conviction, we can recognize the difficulties this title poses, both in terms of theological reflection and spirituality” (45). In fact, “no human person — not even the Apostles or the Blessed Virgin — can act as a universal dispenser of grace. Only God can bestow grace, and he does so through the humanity of Christ” (53).

“Some titles, such as ‘Mediatrix of All Graces,’ have limits that do not favour a correct understanding of Mary’s unique place,” MPF explains, adding, “In fact, she, the first redeemed, could not have been the mediatrix of the grace that she herself received” (67).

Nonetheless, the Doctrinal Note acknowledges that “the term ‘graces,’ when seen in reference to Mary’s maternal help at various moments in our lives, can have an acceptable meaning. The plural form expresses all the aids — even material — that the Lord may grant us when He heeds His Mother’s intercession” (68).

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

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 12th February 2026, 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 GROTTO: 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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Christmas Schedule for December 2025

24th	Children/Family Christmas Mass	6:00pm
24th	Christmas Mass	9:00pm
24th	Midnight Mass	12:00am
25th	Christmas Day Mass	8:00am & 9:30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

20/21 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: B. Motha, M. Mifsud 8am: F. Paiva, T. Perak 9.30am: C. Brooks, Kamela Huihui	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, N. Sumcad 8am: T. Perak, K. Walker 9.30am: N. Arambulo, L. Rigney	
Altar Servers	Vigil: N. D'Cruz, J. Steele, Aaliya Faulkner-Dhiman, 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: K. Maruthanayagam, C. Attard, L. Sager.	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: K.Thoms & C.W 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	24 Dec	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

27/28 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Lawrence Falzon 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Simic, N. Shami 8am: F. Paiva, J. Sarmiento 9.30am: P. Gow, G. Basilli	
Readers	Vigil: Yxaak & Yxavel Dino 8am: F. Kennedy, A. McNally 9.30am: J. Nonato, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Julian & Orlando Martinez, C. Bellamin 8am: Jaxon Blackshaw, Sub Rqd 9.30am: K. Cassaniti, L. Sadipoor, A. Melki	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary	
Church Cleaning	1 January	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli	

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21st, 2025

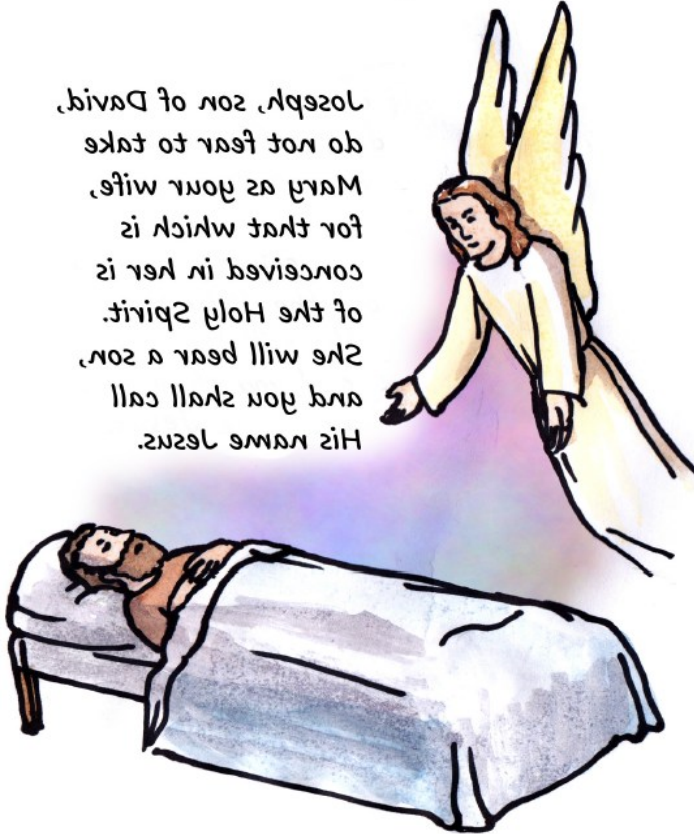
What's in a Name?

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 18:21

Based on Matthew 1:18-25



Joseph, son of David,
do not fear to take
Mary as your wife,
for that which is
conceived in her is
of the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son,
and you shall call
his name Jesus.



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

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!

HUSBAND	SON	IMMANUEL	MARY	NAME
CHRIST	CHILD	VIRGIN	BIRTH	ANGEL
JOSEPH	MARRY	AFRAID	DREAM	JESUS



angel





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 School:	LOLO 8869 6800
Parish Deacon:	Deacon Thong Nguyen	Principal:	Ms Keiran Byrnes
Parish Office Team:	Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Jane Nguyen, Laura Ilioski	Reconciliation:	Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
Office Hours: Monday-Friday:	9am - 3.00pm	Baptismal Preparation:	18 February 2026
WEEKDAY MASS:	Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am Thursday 9.00am	Baptism:	11 January 2026
WEEKEND MASS:	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9.30am	Sacrament Co-Ordinator:	Mrs Artelle Lenthall
		Youth Co-Ordinator:	Diana Park
		Parish Website:	www.olol7hills.org.au
		Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/LOLO7Hills/

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 21 December 2025 • Year A



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, Takis Karapatsakis, Clare Kinsley, T.Q Letran, Susie Manga, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Gary Morrissey, Jayne Muscat, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Michelle Pellicano, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Arabella Steele, Sue Tiplado, 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@olol7hills.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, Rosita Ballecer, Anthony Hastings, Aggie Motha, Maria Amma Peter, Veronica Rosales, Anthony Ruzgas

Anniversaries: Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, France Angseesing, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Evan Elisher, Rita de Silva, Frank, M.A Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, Norma Lorenzo, Joseph Mahon, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Irene Moroney, Thelma Morrissey, Anton & Lourda Motha, Paul Mula, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Eustace Ratnam, Roseline Ratnam

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Sydney Azie, Antonio, Amelia & Germana Bertinato, Sam Borg, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato Cabasa, Peter & Antonio, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli, Barrie Chamberlain, Myrna Cruz, Joseph, Johnny Edwards, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Launcer De Guire, Bede Diab, Debe Diab, Marcel Diab, Mohsen Diab, Peter Diab, Toufic Diab, O. Francis, J. Francis, Melvyn Fernandes, Merita Fernando, Nevis Fernando, Leandro Garcia Snr, Evangeline, Rudy Garcia, Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Selvam Irudayaraj, J.B, Jonathan Tek Kie, Mangion & Cini Family, Felina Maglaya, Tessie & Andy Mangine, 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, Aurora Nufable Nonato, Coleen O'Sullivan, Serge Pasnin, Lakshman Perera, Marlyn Pestano, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose, Maria, Laureano, Karen, Yolanda Reyes, Mary Silva, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.

Names will be published for 2 weeks at a time.

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.

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



KEEP UP TO DATE

By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more. Visit www.olol7hills.org.au

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**(R) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally.

He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

According to scholars, marriage customs in Palestine in Jesus' time often included two parts: the engagement and the wedding.

The engagement period usually lasted for a year during which the bride and the groom stayed in their homes and communicated to each other through messages delivered by the best man. The engagement began with the signing of a formal marriage agreement or with the groom offering gifts to the bride's family. At this stage, the bride and the groom were legally husband and wife even though they did not yet live together. Vietnamese people have done the same, except the engagement period is less than a year, usually six months.

After a year-long engagement time, the wedding ceremony then took place, and the groom could formally take his wife into his home to begin their married life together.

This background knowledge of Jewish marriage customs will help us better appreciate the Gospel account this Sunday, as it allows us to understand the dilemma St. Joseph faced when he discovered Mary's conception during their engagement. On the one hand, they were legally husband and wife; on the other hand, Mary was clearly carrying a child who was not his. For Joseph, a righteous and honorable man, divorce seemed to be the best solution, one that would end the relationship quietly and protect Mary's life, since she could otherwise be accused of adultery, an offense that, under Jewish law, could result in death by stoning. This messy entanglement is finally cleared up by the angel appearing to Joseph in a dream to reveal the mystery behind Mary's conception, that she was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The angel also asked Joseph to take Mary home to be his wife with the obligation to name the child Jesus, a name that means 'the Lord saves' or simply 'salvation.'

In the eyes of Matthew whose Gospel was meant to bring Jesus' Good News to the group of Jewish followers often familiar with the teachings of the prophets in the scripture, what happened here was extra special, because it fulfilled exactly what Isaiah prophesied long before, as we hear in the first reading today, that 'the maiden is with child and soon give birth to a son, whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us.' This prophetic fulfillment Have a joy-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ADVENT WREATH

It is usually constructed around a circular base. This circular base is traditionally taken to symbolise the ever-renewing cycle of the seasons, and the four candles, represent the four Sundays of Advent. The fourth candle, the "Candle of Love," reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth.



HALL CANOPY PLAQUE

From this weekend, the Pledging Book for the Hall Canopy Plaque is 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.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS THANK YOU

Thank you everyone for such an overwhelming support to our Parish invitation to show our love and care for the needy both in our community and beyond through our Christmas Hampers tradition, and a special thank you note to our dedicated Vinnies for overseeing the whole program from collecting and sorting out donations to distributing them dutifully.

MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church from this weekend for Ministers of the Eucharist, Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers and Welcomers who would like to serve at a Christmas Mass. We kindly ask that ministers sign up for one liturgy only.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2026

Ministry rosters for February - July 2026 are now available. You can find a copy at the back Sacristy or on our website under 'Parish Forms'. If you require more copies or notice any discrepancies, please kindly contact the parish office.

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN 2026-2030

Copies of our Parish Pastoral Plan 2026-2030 are now on and all are invited to have a look after Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY—CHRISTMAS STORY

Thank you to the children who have volunteered to act out the Christmas Story this year. This will take place during the 6pm mass on the 24th December. For those children who are not participating but attending the mass, you are invited to dress up as angels or shepherds.

A PRACTICAL TIP EACH WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

TIP 14 Take a Break from Online Shopping

Online shopping produces a lot of packaging waste and produces excess carbon emissions from airplanes and vehicles. Take a month off online shopping or reduce what you buy online. Try to make purchases closer to home!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS & BULLETIN

Our Parish office will close between Christmas and New Year and there will be no bulletins throughout the month of January 2026 to allow Parish staff to take a break. However, I will be around in the Parish office as usual.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE RETURNS IN 2026

Those interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar, the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2026. Enrolment forms can be found at the back sacristy.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

- Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Mount Druitt Combined Churches Christmas Day

Community Lunch: 25 December

Don't spend Christmas alone. A free Christmas Day lunch hosted by Mt Druitt Combined Churches on Thursday 25 December from 11am, with Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt as the venue host. All are welcome. Registration is essential. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/MtDruittChristmasLunch>

Baulkham Hills Christmas Luncheon: 25 December

The Parish of Baulkham Hills are hosting a Christmas Lunch for anyone who will be on their own on Christmas Day. You may be in town for a visit, or just moved into the area, or may simply be unable to share Christmas Day with your loved ones. So come and share it with us. It will be held on Thursday 25 December in and around the St Michael's Primary School hall, and everyone is welcome, families and individuals. But places are limited, so you will need to register to attend. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9639 0598 or email baulkhamhills@parracatholic.org.

Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January. For one week, there will be celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who've enriched our parishes, schools and communities. Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross.

Grab your copy of the Catholic Outlook Magazine!

The latest quarterly edition of the *Catholic Outlook* Magazine is out now, keeping you connected with exciting news and events in the Diocese of Parramatta.

OLOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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>. Face to Face courses will resume in 2026. Dates and times will be provided once confirmed.

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.

Visiting Clergy to OLOL

Thank you to Fr. Hoang Viet Nguyen who graciously assisted Fr Henry with mass and reconciliation this week. Visiting clergy all uphold the standards and processes we here at OLOL and the Diocese have put in place to ensure the safety of our community.

Santo Nino Fiesta Sinulog 2026: 18 January

The Devotees of the Holy Infant Jesus Santo Nino invite you to attend the 2026 Fiesta Sinulog on Sunday 18 January at St Patrick's Church, Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown at 2pm. All devotees, please bring your Santo Nino statues. Novena Masses will be held between 8-16 January at 7pm at the parishes of St Clair-Erskine Park, Penrith, St Marys, Rooty Hill, Winston Hills, Plumpton, Marayong, Quakers Hill and Kellyville. For more information, please contact the Blacktown Parish on (02) 9622 1125 or email blacktown@parracatholic.org

Sing a New Song Music Workshop for Children: 21 January

Do you have a child in Year 4-12? Invite them to come along to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 21 January from 9:30am to 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Morning tea and lunch provided. Student participants will form a choir that will sing at the Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Sunday 25 January at 11am. To register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/0URuFAeThA>

Rosary Making Workshop: 9 February

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on Monday 9 February at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for further information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Diocesan World Day of the Sick: 11 February

Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on the 11th February 2026 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. To register, please visit parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-the-sick-mass/

Children and Young People's Participation

A Safeguarding culture for Children and Young People is fostered and sustained by our parish being committed to living the Gospel by serving the most vulnerable. Here at OLOL Seven Hills we implement all Arch/Diocesan policies, procedures and community standards that are Child and Young Person centred to lift barriers so their voices can be heard and their participation valued.

OLOL Parish community values and celebrates ALL our Children and Young People for who they are and the great contributions they make to our parish. We therefore have an obligation to uphold their human and spiritual rights. This is achieved at OLOL by: 1. Providing ministries, services and programs that are relevant for Children and Young People including those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and who have a disability; 2. Committing to zero tolerance to any attitude and activity that makes Children and Young People feel less safe; 3. Enhancing relationships between leaders, community members, Children and Young People; and 4. Creating a new perspective to invigorate renewal. We also ensure all our volunteers and staff have an up to date WWCC and completed all safeguard training.

Greeting of the Holy Father to the sick in the Audience Hall before the General Audience

Good morning everyone! Good morning! Welcome!

I will offer a brief greeting, a blessing for each of you.

On this day, we wanted to protect you a little from the elements, especially the cold... It is not raining, but this way you may be a little more comfortable. Afterwards, you can follow the Audience on the screen, or if you wish, you can also go outside, but we would like to make the most of this small, more personal encounter to greet you, to offer you the Lord's blessing, and also our best wishes. Christmas is almost here, and we would like to ask the Lord that the joy of this Christmas season accompany you all: your families, your loved ones, and that you may always be in the Lord's hands with the trust and love that only God can give us.

I give my blessing to all of you now, and then I will come and greet you.

Blessing

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Human life is characterized by a constant movement that drives us to do, to act. Nowadays speed is required everywhere in order to achieve optimal results in a wide variety of fields. How does Jesus' resurrection shed light on this aspect of our experience? When we participate in his victory over death, will we rest? Faith tells us: yes, we will rest. We will not be inactive, but we will enter into God's repose, which is peace and joy. So, should we just wait, or can this change us right now?

We are absorbed by many activities that do not always leave us satisfied. A lot of our actions have to do with practical, concrete things. We have to assume responsibility for many commitments, solve problems, face difficulties. Jesus too was involved with people and with life, not sparing himself, but rather giving himself to the end. Yet we often perceive how too much doing, instead of giving us fulfilment, becomes a vortex that overwhelms us, takes away our serenity, and prevents us from living to the fullest what is truly important in our lives. We then feel tired and dissatisfied: time seems to be wasted on a thousand practical things that do not, however, resolve the ultimate meaning of our existence. Sometimes, at the end of days full of activities, we feel empty. Why? Because we are not machines, we have a "heart"; indeed, we can say that we *are* a heart.

The heart is the symbol of all our humanity, the sum of our thoughts, feelings and desires, the invisible centre of our selves. The Evangelist Matthew invites us to reflect on the importance of the heart, quoting this beautiful phrase of Jesus: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Mt 6:21).

It is therefore in the heart that true treasure is kept, not in earthly safes, not in large financial investments, which today more than ever before are out of control and unjustly concentrated at the bloody price of millions of human lives and the devastation of God's creation.

It is important to reflect on these aspects, because in the numerous commitments we continually face, there is an increasing risk of dispersion, sometimes of despair, of meaninglessness, even in apparently successful people. Instead, interpreting life in the light of Easter, looking at it with the Risen Jesus, means finding access to the essence of the human person, to our heart: *cor inquietum*. With this adjective "restless", Saint Augustine helps us understand the human being's yearning for fulfilment. The full sentence refers to the beginning of the *Confessions*, where Augustine writes: "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (I, 1,1).

Restlessness is the sign that our heart does not move by chance, in a disordered way, without a purpose or a destination, but is oriented towards its ultimate destination, the "return home". The authentic approach of the heart does not consist in possessing the goods of this world, but in achieving what can fill it completely; namely, the love of God, or rather, God who is Love. This treasure, however, can only be found by loving the neighbour we meet along the way: brothers and sisters in flesh and blood, whose presence stirs and questions our heart, calling it to open up and give itself. Our neighbour asks us to slow down, to look them in the eye, sometimes to change our plans, perhaps even to change direction.

Dear friends, here is the secret of the movement of the human heart: returning to the source of its being, delighting in the joy that never fails, that never disappoints. No one can live without a meaning that goes beyond the contingent, beyond what passes away. The human heart cannot live without hope, without knowing that it is made for fullness, not for want.

Jesus Christ, with his Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection, has given us a solid foundation for this hope. The restless heart will not be disappointed, if it enters into the dynamism of the love for which it was created. The destination is certain, life has triumphed, and in Christ it will continue to triumph in every death of daily life. This is Christian hope: let us always bless and thank the Lord who has given it to us!

DOCTRINAL NOTE ON MARIAN TITLES: MOTHER OF THE FAITHFUL, NOT CO-REDEMPTRIX

The document of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by Pope Leo XIV, offers clarifications on titles applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and calls for special attention to the use of the expression, “Mediatrice of all graces.”

Co-redemptrix

Regarding the title “Co-redemptrix,” the Note recalls that “some Popes have used the title “without elaborating much on its meaning.” Generally, it continues, “they have presented the title in two specific ways: in reference to Mary’s divine motherhood (insofar as she, as Mother, made possible the Redemption that Christ accomplished) or in reference to her union with Christ at the redemptive Cross. The Second Vatican Council refrained from using the title for dogmatic, pastoral, and ecumenical reasons. Saint John Paul II referred to Mary as ‘Co-redemptrix’ on at least seven occasions, particularly relating this title to the salvific value of our sufferings when they are offered together with the sufferings of Christ, to whom Mary is united especially at the Cross” (18).

The document cites an internal discussion within the then-Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which in February 1996 had discussed the request to proclaim a new dogma on Mary as “Co-redemptrix or Mediatrice of all graces.” Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was opposed to such a definition, arguing, “the precise meaning of these titles is not clear, and the doctrine contained in them is not mature. [...] It is not clear how the doctrine expressed in these titles is present in Scripture and the apostolic tradition.”

Later, in 2002, the future Benedict XVI expressed himself publicly in the same way: “The formula ‘Co-redemptrix’ departs to too great an extent from the language of Scripture and of the Fathers and therefore gives rise to misunderstandings... Everything comes from Him [Christ], as the Letter to the Ephesians and the Letter to the Colossians, in particular, tell us; Mary, too, is everything that she is through Him. The word ‘Co-redemptrix’ would obscure this origin.”

The note clarifies that Cardinal Ratzinger did not deny the good intentions behind the proposal, nor the valuable aspects reflected in it, but nonetheless maintained that they were “being expressed in the wrong way” (19).

Pope Francis also expressed his clear opposition to the use of the title Co-Redemptrix on at least three occasions. Tuesday’s Doctrinal Note concludes: “*It is always inappropriate* to use the title ‘Co-redemptrix’ to define Mary’s cooperation. This title risks obscuring Christ’s unique salvific mediation and can therefore create confusion and an imbalance in the harmony of the truths of the Christian faith. [...] When an expression requires many, repeated explanations to prevent it from straying from a correct meaning, it does not serve the faith of the People of God and becomes *unhelpful*” (22).

Mediatrice

The Note emphasises that “the biblical statement about Christ’s exclusive mediation is conclusive. Christ is the only Mediator” (24).

At the same time, MPF recognises “the fact that the word ‘mediation’ is commonly used in many areas of everyday life, where it is understood simply as cooperation, assistance, or intercession. As a result, it is inevitable that the term would be applied to Mary in a subordinate sense. Used in this way, it does not intend to add any efficacy or power to the unique mediation of Jesus Christ, true God and true man” (25).

Further, “it is clear that Mary has a real mediatory role in enabling the Incarnation of the Son of God in our humanity” (26).

Mother of believers and Mediatrice of all graces

Mary’s maternal role “in no way obscures or diminishes” the unique mediation of Christ, “but rather shows its power [...] Understood in this way, Mary’s motherhood does not seek to weaken the unique adoration due to Christ alone but, rather, seeks to enkindle it.”

Therefore, the Note states, “one must avoid titles and expressions that present Mary as a kind of ‘lightning rod’ before the Lord’s justice, as if she were a necessary alternative before the insufficiency of God’s mercy” (37b).

Thus, the title “Mother of Believers” “enables us to speak of Mary’s role in our relation to our life of grace”.

However, MPF goes on to urge caution concerning the use of expressions that may convey “less acceptable notions” (45).

“Cardinal Ratzinger already affirmed” for example, “that the title ‘Mary, Mediatrice of All Graces’ was not clearly grounded in Revelation.” So, the Note continues, “in line with this conviction, we can recognize the difficulties this title poses, both in terms of theological reflection and spirituality” (45). In fact, “no human person — not even the Apostles or the Blessed Virgin — can act as a universal dispenser of grace. Only God can bestow grace, and he does so through the humanity of Christ” (53).

“Some titles, such as ‘Mediatrice of All Graces,’ have limits that do not favour a correct understanding of Mary’s unique place,” MPF explains, adding, “In fact, she, the first redeemed, could not have been the mediatrice of the grace that she herself received” (67).

Nonetheless, the Doctrinal Note acknowledges that “the term ‘graces,’ when seen in reference to Mary’s maternal help at various moments in our lives, can have an acceptable meaning. The plural form expresses all the aids — even material — that the Lord may grant us when He heeds His Mother’s intercession” (68).

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

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 12th February 2026, 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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Christmas Schedule for December 2025

24th	Children/Family Christmas Mass	6:00pm
24th	Christmas Mass	9:00pm
24th	Midnight Mass	12:00am
25th	Christmas Day Mass	8:00am & 9:30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

20/21 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: B. Motha, M. Mifsud 8am: F. Paiva, T. Perak 9.30am: C. Brooks, Kamela Huihui	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, N. Sumcad 8am: T. Perak, K. Walker 9.30am: N. Arambulo, L. Rigney	
Altar Servers	Vigil: N. D'Cruz, J. Steele, Aaliya Faulkner-Dhiman, 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: K. Maruthanayagam, C. Attard, L. Sager.	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: K.Thoms & C.W 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	24 Dec	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

27/28 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Lawrence Falzon 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Simic, N. Shami 8am: F. Paiva, J. Sarmiento 9.30am: P. Gow, G. Basilli	
Readers	Vigil: Yxaak & Yxavel Dino 8am: F. Kennedy, A. McNally 9.30am: J. Nonato, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Julian & Orlando Martinez, C. Bellamin 8am: Jaxon Blackshaw, Sub Rqd 9.30am: K. Cassaniti, L. Sadipoor, A. Melki	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary	
Church Cleaning	1 January	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli	

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21st, 2025

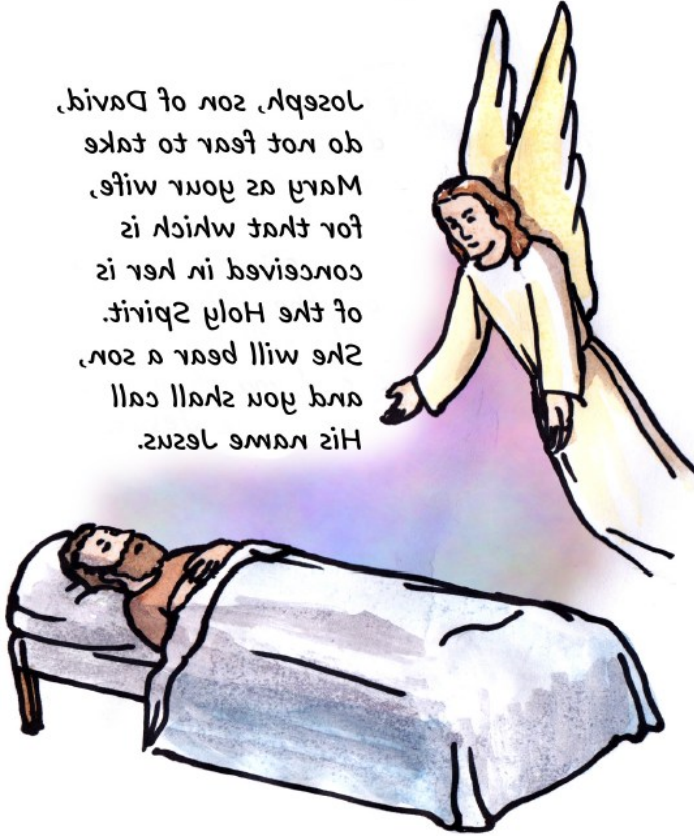
What's in a Name?

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 18:21

Based on Matthew 1:18-25



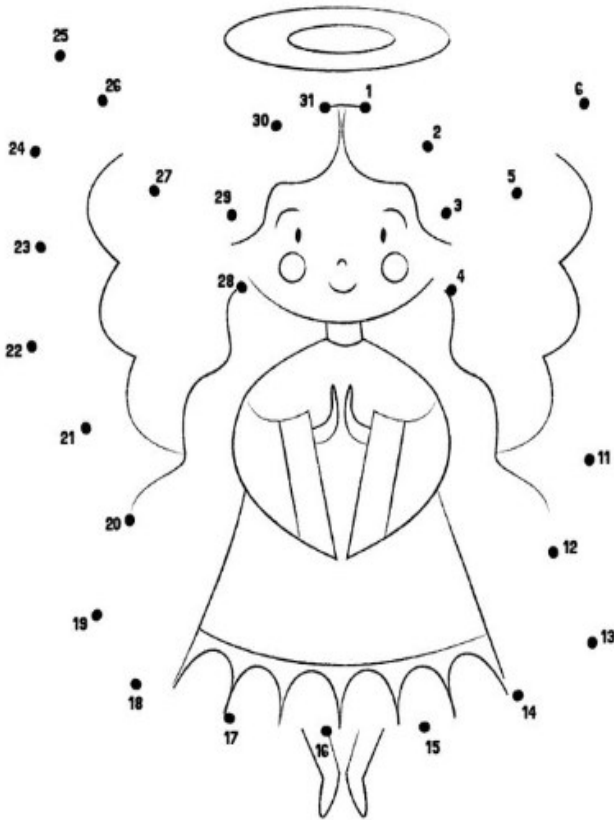
Joseph, son of David,
do not fear to take
Mary as your wife,
for that which is
conceived in her is
of the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son,
and you shall call
his name Jesus.



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

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!

HUSBAND	SON	IMMANUEL	MARY	NAME
CHRIST	CHILD	VIRGIN	BIRTH	ANGEL
JOSEPH	MARRY	AFRAID	DREAM	JESUS



angel





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: 18 February 2026
Baptism: 11 January 2026
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall
Youth Co-Ordinator: Diana Park
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.org.au
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 21 December 2025 • Year A



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, Takis Karapatsakis, Clare Kinsley, T.Q Letran, Susie Manga, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Gary Morrissey, Jayne Muscat, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Michelle Pellicano, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Arabella Steele, Sue Tiplado, 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@olol7hills.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, Rosita Ballecer, Anthony Hastings, Aggie Motha, Maria Amma Peter, Veronica Rosales, Anthony Ruzgas

Anniversaries: Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, France Angseesing, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Evan Elisher, Rita de Silva, Frank, M.A Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, Norma Lorenzo, Joseph Mahon, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Irene Moroney, Thelma Morrissey, Anton & Lourda Motha, Paul Mula, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Eustace Ratnam, Roseline Ratnam

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Sydney Azie, Antonio, Amelia & Germana Bertinato, Sam Borg, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato Cabasa, Peter & Antonio, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli, Barrie Chamberlain, Myrna Cruz, Joseph, Johnny Edwards, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Launcer De Guire, Bede Diab, Debe Diab, Marcel Diab, Mohsen Diab, Peter Diab, Toufic Diab, O. Francis, J. Francis, Melvyn Fernandes, Merita Fernando, Nevis Fernando, Leandro Garcia Snr, Evangeline, Rudy Garcia, Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Selvam Irudayaraj, J.B, Jonathan Tek Kie, Mangion & Cini Family, Felina Maglaya, Tessie & Andy Mangine, 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, Aurora Nufable Nonato, Coleen O'Sullivan, Serge Pasnin, Lakshman Perera, Marlyn Pestano, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose, Maria, Laureano, Karen, Yolanda Reyes, Mary Silva, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.

Names will be published for 2 weeks at a time.

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.

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



KEEP UP TO DATE

By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more. Visit www.olol7hills.org.au

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**(R) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally.

He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

According to scholars, marriage customs in Palestine in Jesus' time often included two parts: the engagement and the wedding.

The engagement period usually lasted for a year during which the bride and the groom stayed in their homes and communicated to each other through messages delivered by the best man. The engagement began with the signing of a formal marriage agreement or with the groom offering gifts to the bride's family. At this stage, the bride and the groom were legally husband and wife even though they did not yet live together. Vietnamese people have done the same, except the engagement period is less than a year, usually six months.

After a year-long engagement time, the wedding ceremony then took place, and the groom could formally take his wife into his home to begin their married life together.

This background knowledge of Jewish marriage customs will help us better appreciate the Gospel account this Sunday, as it allows us to understand the dilemma St. Joseph faced when he discovered Mary's conception during their engagement. On the one hand, they were legally husband and wife; on the other hand, Mary was clearly carrying a child who was not his. For Joseph, a righteous and honorable man, divorce seemed to be the best solution, one that would end the relationship quietly and protect Mary's life, since she could otherwise be accused of adultery, an offense that, under Jewish law, could result in death by stoning. This messy entanglement is finally cleared up by the angel appearing to Joseph in a dream to reveal the mystery behind Mary's conception, that she was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The angel also asked Joseph to take Mary home to be his wife with the obligation to name the child Jesus, a name that means 'the Lord saves' or simply 'salvation.'

In the eyes of Matthew whose Gospel was meant to bring Jesus' Good News to the group of Jewish followers often familiar with the teachings of the prophets in the scripture, what happened here was extra special, because it fulfilled exactly what Isaiah prophesied long before, as we hear in the first reading today, that 'the maiden is with child and soon give birth to a son, whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us.' This prophetic fulfillment Have a joy-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ADVENT WREATH

It is usually constructed around a circular base. This circular base is traditionally taken to symbolise the ever-renewing cycle of the seasons, and the four candles, represent the four Sundays of Advent. The fourth candle, the "Candle of Love," reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth.



HALL CANOPY PLAQUE

From this weekend, the Pledging Book for the Hall Canopy Plaque is 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.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS THANK YOU

Thank you everyone for such an overwhelming support to our Parish invitation to show our love and care for the needy both in our community and beyond through our Christmas Hampers tradition, and a special thank you note to our dedicated Vinnies for overseeing the whole program from collecting and sorting out donations to distributing them dutifully.

MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church from this weekend for Ministers of the Eucharist, Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers and Welcomers who would like to serve at a Christmas Mass. We kindly ask that ministers sign up for one liturgy only.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2026

Ministry rosters for February - July 2026 are now available. You can find a copy at the back Sacristy or on our website under 'Parish Forms'. If you require more copies or notice any discrepancies, please kindly contact the parish office.

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN 2026-2030

Copies of our Parish Pastoral Plan 2026-2030 are now on and all are invited to have a look after Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY—CHRISTMAS STORY

Thank you to the children who have volunteered to act out the Christmas Story this year. This will take place during the 6pm mass on the 24th December. For those children who are not participating but attending the mass, you are invited to dress up as angels or shepherds.

A PRACTICAL TIP EACH WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

TIP 14 Take a Break from Online Shopping

Online shopping produces a lot of packaging waste and produces excess carbon emissions from airplanes and vehicles. Take a month off online shopping or reduce what you buy online. Try to make purchases closer to home!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS & BULLETIN

Our Parish office will close between Christmas and New Year and there will be no bulletins throughout the month of January 2026 to allow Parish staff to take a break. However, I will be around in the Parish office as usual.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE RETURNS IN 2026

Those interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar, the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2026. Enrolment forms can be found at the back sacristy.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

- Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Mount Druitt Combined Churches Christmas Day

Community Lunch: 25 December

Don't spend Christmas alone. A free Christmas Day lunch hosted by Mt Druitt Combined Churches on Thursday 25 December from 11am, with Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt as the venue host. All are welcome. Registration is essential. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/MtDruittChristmasLunch>

Baulkham Hills Christmas Luncheon: 25 December

The Parish of Baulkham Hills are hosting a Christmas Lunch for anyone who will be on their own on Christmas Day. You may be in town for a visit, or just moved into the area, or may simply be unable to share Christmas Day with your loved ones. So come and share it with us. It will be held on Thursday 25 December in and around the St Michael's Primary School hall, and everyone is welcome, families and individuals. But places are limited, so you will need to register to attend. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9639 0598 or email baulkhamhills@parracatholic.org.

Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January. For one week, there will be celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who've enriched our parishes, schools and communities. Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross.

Grab your copy of the Catholic Outlook Magazine!

The latest quarterly edition of the *Catholic Outlook* Magazine is out now, keeping you connected with exciting news and events in the Diocese of Parramatta.

OLOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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>. Face to Face courses will resume in 2026. Dates and times will be provided once confirmed.

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.

Visiting Clergy to OLOL

Thank you to Fr. Hoang Viet Nguyen who graciously assisted Fr Henry with mass and reconciliation this week. Visiting clergy all uphold the standards and processes we here at OLOL and the Diocese have put in place to ensure the safety of our community.

Santo Nino Fiesta Sinulog 2026: 18 January

The Devotees of the Holy Infant Jesus Santo Nino invite you to attend the 2026 Fiesta Sinulog on Sunday 18 January at St Patrick's Church, Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown at 2pm. All devotees, please bring your Santo Nino statues. Novena Masses will be held between 8-16 January at 7pm at the parishes of St Clair-Erskine Park, Penrith, St Marys, Rooty Hill, Winston Hills, Plumpton, Marayong, Quakers Hill and Kellyville. For more information, please contact the Blacktown Parish on (02) 9622 1125 or email blacktown@parracatholic.org

Sing a New Song Music Workshop for Children: 21 January

Do you have a child in Year 4-12? Invite them to come along to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 21 January from 9:30am to 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Morning tea and lunch provided. Student participants will form a choir that will sing at the Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Sunday 25 January at 11am. To register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/0URuFAeThA>

Rosary Making Workshop: 9 February

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on Monday 9 February at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for further information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Diocesan World Day of the Sick: 11 February

Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on the 11th February 2026 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. To register, please visit parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-the-sick-mass/

Children and Young People's Participation

A Safeguarding culture for Children and Young People is fostered and sustained by our parish being committed to living the Gospel by serving the most vulnerable. Here at OLOL Seven Hills we implement all Arch/Diocesan policies, procedures and community standards that are Child and Young Person centred to lift barriers so their voices can be heard and their participation valued.

OLOL Parish community values and celebrates ALL our Children and Young People for who they are and the great contributions they make to our parish. We therefore have an obligation to uphold their human and spiritual rights. This is achieved at OLOL by: 1. Providing ministries, services and programs that are relevant for Children and Young People including those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and who have a disability; 2. Committing to zero tolerance to any attitude and activity that makes Children and Young People feel less safe; 3. Enhancing relationships between leaders, community members, Children and Young People; and 4. Creating a new perspective to invigorate renewal. We also ensure all our volunteers and staff have an up to date WWCC and completed all safeguard training.

Greeting of the Holy Father to the sick in the Audience Hall before the General Audience

Good morning everyone! Good morning! Welcome!

I will offer a brief greeting, a blessing for each of you.

On this day, we wanted to protect you a little from the elements, especially the cold... It is not raining, but this way you may be a little more comfortable. Afterwards, you can follow the Audience on the screen, or if you wish, you can also go outside, but we would like to make the most of this small, more personal encounter to greet you, to offer you the Lord's blessing, and also our best wishes. Christmas is almost here, and we would like to ask the Lord that the joy of this Christmas season accompany you all: your families, your loved ones, and that you may always be in the Lord's hands with the trust and love that only God can give us.

I give my blessing to all of you now, and then I will come and greet you.

Blessing

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Human life is characterized by a constant movement that drives us to do, to act. Nowadays speed is required everywhere in order to achieve optimal results in a wide variety of fields. How does Jesus' resurrection shed light on this aspect of our experience? When we participate in his victory over death, will we rest? Faith tells us: yes, we will rest. We will not be inactive, but we will enter into God's repose, which is peace and joy. So, should we just wait, or can this change us right now?

We are absorbed by many activities that do not always leave us satisfied. A lot of our actions have to do with practical, concrete things. We have to assume responsibility for many commitments, solve problems, face difficulties. Jesus too was involved with people and with life, not sparing himself, but rather giving himself to the end. Yet we often perceive how too much doing, instead of giving us fulfilment, becomes a vortex that overwhelms us, takes away our serenity, and prevents us from living to the fullest what is truly important in our lives. We then feel tired and dissatisfied: time seems to be wasted on a thousand practical things that do not, however, resolve the ultimate meaning of our existence. Sometimes, at the end of days full of activities, we feel empty. Why? Because we are not machines, we have a "heart"; indeed, we can say that we *are* a heart.

The heart is the symbol of all our humanity, the sum of our thoughts, feelings and desires, the invisible centre of our selves. The Evangelist Matthew invites us to reflect on the importance of the heart, quoting this beautiful phrase of Jesus: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Mt 6:21).

It is therefore in the heart that true treasure is kept, not in earthly safes, not in large financial investments, which today more than ever before are out of control and unjustly concentrated at the bloody price of millions of human lives and the devastation of God's creation.

It is important to reflect on these aspects, because in the numerous commitments we continually face, there is an increasing risk of dispersion, sometimes of despair, of meaninglessness, even in apparently successful people. Instead, interpreting life in the light of Easter, looking at it with the Risen Jesus, means finding access to the essence of the human person, to our heart: *cor inquietum*. With this adjective "restless", Saint Augustine helps us understand the human being's yearning for fulfilment. The full sentence refers to the beginning of the *Confessions*, where Augustine writes: "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (I, 1,1).

Restlessness is the sign that our heart does not move by chance, in a disordered way, without a purpose or a destination, but is oriented towards its ultimate destination, the "return home". The authentic approach of the heart does not consist in possessing the goods of this world, but in achieving what can fill it completely; namely, the love of God, or rather, God who is Love. This treasure, however, can only be found by loving the neighbour we meet along the way: brothers and sisters in flesh and blood, whose presence stirs and questions our heart, calling it to open up and give itself. Our neighbour asks us to slow down, to look them in the eye, sometimes to change our plans, perhaps even to change direction.

Dear friends, here is the secret of the movement of the human heart: returning to the source of its being, delighting in the joy that never fails, that never disappoints. No one can live without a meaning that goes beyond the contingent, beyond what passes away. The human heart cannot live without hope, without knowing that it is made for fullness, not for want.

Jesus Christ, with his Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection, has given us a solid foundation for this hope. The restless heart will not be disappointed, if it enters into the dynamism of the love for which it was created. The destination is certain, life has triumphed, and in Christ it will continue to triumph in every death of daily life. This is Christian hope: let us always bless and thank the Lord who has given it to us!

DOCTRINAL NOTE ON MARIAN TITLES: MOTHER OF THE FAITHFUL, NOT CO-REDEMPTRIX

The document of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by Pope Leo XIV, offers clarifications on titles applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and calls for special attention to the use of the expression, “Mediatrix of all graces.”

Co-redemptrix

Regarding the title “Co-redemptrix,” the Note recalls that “some Popes have used the title “without elaborating much on its meaning.” Generally, it continues, “they have presented the title in two specific ways: in reference to Mary’s divine motherhood (insofar as she, as Mother, made possible the Redemption that Christ accomplished) or in reference to her union with Christ at the redemptive Cross. The Second Vatican Council refrained from using the title for dogmatic, pastoral, and ecumenical reasons. Saint John Paul II referred to Mary as ‘Co-redemptrix’ on at least seven occasions, particularly relating this title to the salvific value of our sufferings when they are offered together with the sufferings of Christ, to whom Mary is united especially at the Cross” (18).

The document cites an internal discussion within the then-Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which in February 1996 had discussed the request to proclaim a new dogma on Mary as “Co-redemptrix or Mediatrix of all graces.” Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was opposed to such a definition, arguing, “the precise meaning of these titles is not clear, and the doctrine contained in them is not mature. [...] It is not clear how the doctrine expressed in these titles is present in Scripture and the apostolic tradition.”

Later, in 2002, the future Benedict XVI expressed himself publicly in the same way: “The formula ‘Co-redemptrix’ departs to too great an extent from the language of Scripture and of the Fathers and therefore gives rise to misunderstandings... Everything comes from Him [Christ], as the Letter to the Ephesians and the Letter to the Colossians, in particular, tell us; Mary, too, is everything that she is through Him. The word ‘Co-redemptrix’ would obscure this origin.”

The note clarifies that Cardinal Ratzinger did not deny the good intentions behind the proposal, nor the valuable aspects reflected in it, but nonetheless maintained that they were “being expressed in the wrong way” (19).

Pope Francis also expressed his clear opposition to the use of the title Co-Redemptrix on at least three occasions. Tuesday’s Doctrinal Note concludes: “*It is always inappropriate* to use the title ‘Co-redemptrix’ to define Mary’s cooperation. This title risks obscuring Christ’s unique salvific mediation and can therefore create confusion and an imbalance in the harmony of the truths of the Christian faith. [...] When an expression requires many, repeated explanations to prevent it from straying from a correct meaning, it does not serve the faith of the People of God and becomes *unhelpful*” (22).

Mediatrix

The Note emphasises that “the biblical statement about Christ’s exclusive mediation is conclusive. Christ is the only Mediator” (24).

At the same time, MPF recognises “the fact that the word ‘mediation’ is commonly used in many areas of everyday life, where it is understood simply as cooperation, assistance, or intercession. As a result, it is inevitable that the term would be applied to Mary in a subordinate sense. Used in this way, it does not intend to add any efficacy or power to the unique mediation of Jesus Christ, true God and true man” (25).

Further, “it is clear that Mary has a real mediatory role in enabling the Incarnation of the Son of God in our humanity” (26).

Mother of believers and Mediatrix of all graces

Mary’s maternal role “in no way obscures or diminishes” the unique mediation of Christ, “but rather shows its power [...] Understood in this way, Mary’s motherhood does not seek to weaken the unique adoration due to Christ alone but, rather, seeks to enkindle it.”

Therefore, the Note states, “one must avoid titles and expressions that present Mary as a kind of ‘lightning rod’ before the Lord’s justice, as if she were a necessary alternative before the insufficiency of God’s mercy” (37b).

Thus, the title “Mother of Believers” “enables us to speak of Mary’s role in our relation to our life of grace”.

However, MPF goes on to urge caution concerning the use of expressions that may convey “less acceptable notions” (45).

“Cardinal Ratzinger already affirmed” for example, “that the title ‘Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces’ was not clearly grounded in Revelation.” So, the Note continues, “in line with this conviction, we can recognize the difficulties this title poses, both in terms of theological reflection and spirituality” (45). In fact, “no human person — not even the Apostles or the Blessed Virgin — can act as a universal dispenser of grace. Only God can bestow grace, and he does so through the humanity of Christ” (53).

“Some titles, such as ‘Mediatrix of All Graces,’ have limits that do not favour a correct understanding of Mary’s unique place,” MPF explains, adding, “In fact, she, the first redeemed, could not have been the mediatrix of the grace that she herself received” (67).

Nonetheless, the Doctrinal Note acknowledges that “the term ‘graces,’ when seen in reference to Mary’s maternal help at various moments in our lives, can have an acceptable meaning. The plural form expresses all the aids — even material — that the Lord may grant us when He heeds His Mother’s intercession” (68).

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

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 12th February 2026, 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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Christmas Schedule for December 2025

24th	Children/Family Christmas Mass	6:00pm
24th	Christmas Mass	9:00pm
24th	Midnight Mass	12:00am
25th	Christmas Day Mass	8:00am & 9:30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

20/21 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: B. Motha, M. Mifsud 8am: F. Paiva, T. Perak 9.30am: C. Brooks, Kamela Huihui	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, N. Sumcad 8am: T. Perak, K. Walker 9.30am: N. Arambulo, L. Rigney	
Altar Servers	Vigil: N. D'Cruz, J. Steele, Aaliya Faulkner-Dhiman, 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: K. Maruthanayagam, C. Attard, L. Sager.	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: K.Thoms & C.W 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	24 Dec	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

27/28 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Lawrence Falzon 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Simic, N. Shami 8am: F. Paiva, J. Sarmiento 9.30am: P. Gow, G. Basilli	
Readers	Vigil: Yxaak & Yxavel Dino 8am: F. Kennedy, A. McNally 9.30am: J. Nonato, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Julian & Orlando Martinez, C. Bellamin 8am: Jaxon Blackshaw, Sub Rqd 9.30am: K. Cassaniti, L. Sadipoor, A. Melki	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary	
Church Cleaning	1 January	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli	

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21st, 2025

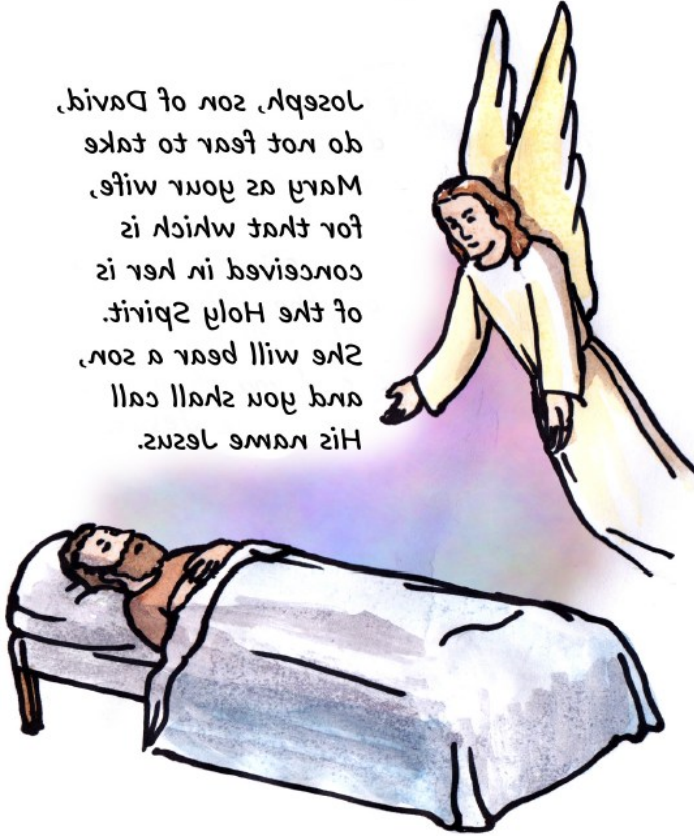
What's in a Name?

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 18:21

Based on Matthew 1:18-25



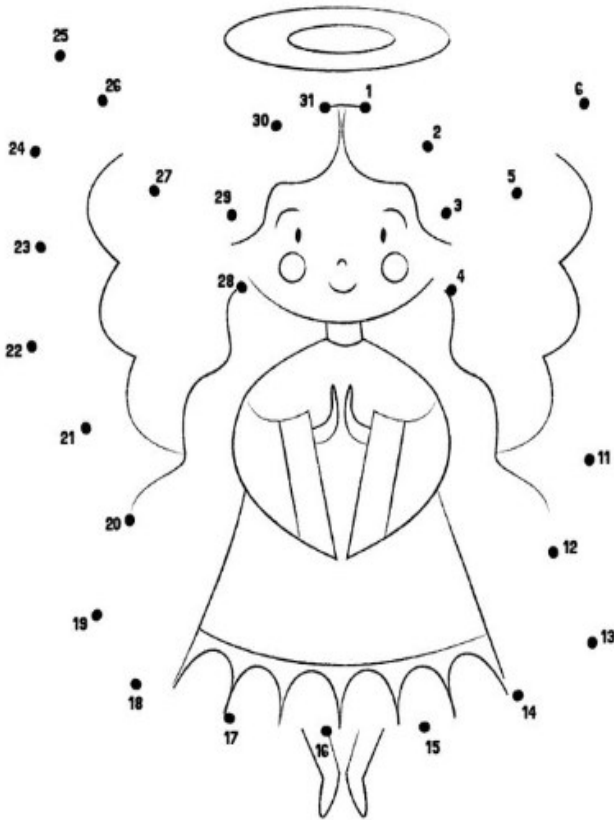
Joseph, son of David,
do not fear to take
Mary as your wife,
for that which is
conceived in her is
of the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son,
and you shall call
his name Jesus.



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

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!

HUSBAND	SON	IMMANUEL	MARY	NAME
CHRIST	CHILD	VIRGIN	BIRTH	ANGEL
JOSEPH	MARRY	AFRAID	DREAM	JESUS



angel





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: 18 February 2026
Baptism: 11 January 2026
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall
Youth Co-Ordinator: Diana Park
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.org.au
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 21 December 2025 • Year A



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, Takis Karapatsakis, Clare Kinsley, T.Q Letran, Susie Manga, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Gary Morrissey, Jayne Muscat, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Michelle Pellicano, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Arabella Steele, Sue Tiplado, 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@olol7hills.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, Rosita Ballecer, Anthony Hastings, Aggie Motha, Maria Amma Peter, Veronica Rosales, Anthony Ruzgas

Anniversaries: Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, France Angseesing, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Evan Elisher, Rita de Silva, Frank, M.A Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, Norma Lorenzo, Joseph Mahon, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Irene Moroney, Thelma Morrissey, Anton & Lourda Motha, Paul Mula, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Eustace Ratnam, Roseline Ratnam

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Sydney Azie, Antonio, Amelia & Germana Bertinato, Sam Borg, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato Cabasa, Peter & Antonio, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli, Barrie Chamberlain, Myrna Cruz, Joseph, Johnny Edwards, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Launcer De Guire, Bede Diab, Debe Diab, Marcel Diab, Mohsen Diab, Peter Diab, Toufic Diab, O. Francis, J. Francis, Melvyn Fernandes, Merita Fernando, Nevis Fernando, Leandro Garcia Snr, Evangeline, Rudy Garcia, Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Selvam Irudayaraj, J.B, Jonathan Tek Kie, Mangion & Cini Family, Felina Maglaya, Tessie & Andy Mangine, 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, Aurora Nufable Nonato, Coleen O'Sullivan, Serge Pasnin, Lakshman Perera, Marlyn Pestano, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose, Maria, Laureano, Karen, Yolanda Reyes, Mary Silva, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.

Names will be published for 2 weeks at a time.

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.

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



KEEP UP TO DATE

By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more. Visit www.olol7hills.org.au

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**(R) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally.

He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

According to scholars, marriage customs in Palestine in Jesus' time often included two parts: the engagement and the wedding.

The engagement period usually lasted for a year during which the bride and the groom stayed in their homes and communicated to each other through messages delivered by the best man. The engagement began with the signing of a formal marriage agreement or with the groom offering gifts to the bride's family. At this stage, the bride and the groom were legally husband and wife even though they did not yet live together. Vietnamese people have done the same, except the engagement period is less than a year, usually six months.

After a year-long engagement time, the wedding ceremony then took place, and the groom could formally take his wife into his home to begin their married life together.

This background knowledge of Jewish marriage customs will help us better appreciate the Gospel account this Sunday, as it allows us to understand the dilemma St. Joseph faced when he discovered Mary's conception during their engagement. On the one hand, they were legally husband and wife; on the other hand, Mary was clearly carrying a child who was not his. For Joseph, a righteous and honorable man, divorce seemed to be the best solution, one that would end the relationship quietly and protect Mary's life, since she could otherwise be accused of adultery, an offense that, under Jewish law, could result in death by stoning. This messy entanglement is finally cleared up by the angel appearing to Joseph in a dream to reveal the mystery behind Mary's conception, that she was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The angel also asked Joseph to take Mary home to be his wife with the obligation to name the child Jesus, a name that means 'the Lord saves' or simply 'salvation.'

In the eyes of Matthew whose Gospel was meant to bring Jesus' Good News to the group of Jewish followers often familiar with the teachings of the prophets in the scripture, what happened here was extra special, because it fulfilled exactly what Isaiah prophesied long before, as we hear in the first reading today, that 'the maiden is with child and soon give birth to a son, whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us.' This prophetic fulfillment Have a joy-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ADVENT WREATH

It is usually constructed around a circular base. This circular base is traditionally taken to symbolise the ever-renewing cycle of the seasons, and the four candles, represent the four Sundays of Advent. The fourth candle, the "Candle of Love," reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth.



HALL CANOPY PLAQUE

From this weekend, the Pledging Book for the Hall Canopy Plaque is 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.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS THANK YOU

Thank you everyone for such an overwhelming support to our Parish invitation to show our love and care for the needy both in our community and beyond through our Christmas Hampers tradition, and a special thank you note to our dedicated Vinnies for overseeing the whole program from collecting and sorting out donations to distributing them dutifully.

MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church from this weekend for Ministers of the Eucharist, Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers and Welcomers who would like to serve at a Christmas Mass. We kindly ask that ministers sign up for one liturgy only.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2026

Ministry rosters for February - July 2026 are now available. You can find a copy at the back Sacristy or on our website under 'Parish Forms'. If you require more copies or notice any discrepancies, please kindly contact the parish office.

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN 2026-2030

Copies of our Parish Pastoral Plan 2026-2030 are now on and all are invited to have a look after Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY—CHRISTMAS STORY

Thank you to the children who have volunteered to act out the Christmas Story this year. This will take place during the 6pm mass on the 24th December. For those children who are not participating but attending the mass, you are invited to dress up as angels or shepherds.

A PRACTICAL TIP EACH WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

TIP 14 Take a Break from Online Shopping

Online shopping produces a lot of packaging waste and produces excess carbon emissions from airplanes and vehicles. Take a month off online shopping or reduce what you buy online. Try to make purchases closer to home!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS & BULLETIN

Our Parish office will close between Christmas and New Year and there will be no bulletins throughout the month of January 2026 to allow Parish staff to take a break. However, I will be around in the Parish office as usual.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE RETURNS IN 2026

Those interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar, the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2026. Enrolment forms can be found at the back sacristy.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

- Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Mount Druitt Combined Churches Christmas Day

Community Lunch: 25 December

Don't spend Christmas alone. A free Christmas Day lunch hosted by Mt Druitt Combined Churches on Thursday 25 December from 11am, with Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt as the venue host. All are welcome. Registration is essential. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/MtDruittChristmasLunch>

Baulkham Hills Christmas Luncheon: 25 December

The Parish of Baulkham Hills are hosting a Christmas Lunch for anyone who will be on their own on Christmas Day. You may be in town for a visit, or just moved into the area, or may simply be unable to share Christmas Day with your loved ones. So come and share it with us. It will be held on Thursday 25 December in and around the St Michael's Primary School hall, and everyone is welcome, families and individuals. But places are limited, so you will need to register to attend. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9639 0598 or email baulkhamhills@parracatholic.org.

Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January. For one week, there will be celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who've enriched our parishes, schools and communities. Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross.

Grab your copy of the Catholic Outlook Magazine!

The latest quarterly edition of the *Catholic Outlook* Magazine is out now, keeping you connected with exciting news and events in the Diocese of Parramatta.

OLOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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>. Face to Face courses will resume in 2026. Dates and times will be provided once confirmed.

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.

Visiting Clergy to OLOL

Thank you to Fr. Hoang Viet Nguyen who graciously assisted Fr Henry with mass and reconciliation this week. Visiting clergy all uphold the standards and processes we here at OLOL and the Diocese have put in place to ensure the safety of our community.

Santo Nino Fiesta Sinulog 2026: 18 January

The Devotees of the Holy Infant Jesus Santo Nino invite you to attend the 2026 Fiesta Sinulog on Sunday 18 January at St Patrick's Church, Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown at 2pm. All devotees, please bring your Santo Nino statues. Novena Masses will be held between 8-16 January at 7pm at the parishes of St Clair-Erskine Park, Penrith, St Marys, Rooty Hill, Winston Hills, Plumpton, Marayong, Quakers Hill and Kellyville. For more information, please contact the Blacktown Parish on (02) 9622 1125 or email blacktown@parracatholic.org

Sing a New Song Music Workshop for Children: 21 January

Do you have a child in Year 4-12? Invite them to come along to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 21 January from 9:30am to 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Morning tea and lunch provided. Student participants will form a choir that will sing at the Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Sunday 25 January at 11am. To register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/0URuFAeThA>

Rosary Making Workshop: 9 February

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on Monday 9 February at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for further information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Diocesan World Day of the Sick: 11 February

Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on the 11th February 2026 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. To register, please visit parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-the-sick-mass/

Children and Young People's Participation

A Safeguarding culture for Children and Young People is fostered and sustained by our parish being committed to living the Gospel by serving the most vulnerable. Here at OLOL Seven Hills we implement all Arch/Diocesan policies, procedures and community standards that are Child and Young Person centred to lift barriers so their voices can be heard and their participation valued.

OLOL Parish community values and celebrates ALL our Children and Young People for who they are and the great contributions they make to our parish. We therefore have an obligation to uphold their human and spiritual rights. This is achieved at OLOL by: 1. Providing ministries, services and programs that are relevant for Children and Young People including those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and who have a disability; 2. Committing to zero tolerance to any attitude and activity that makes Children and Young People feel less safe; 3. Enhancing relationships between leaders, community members, Children and Young People; and 4. Creating a new perspective to invigorate renewal. We also ensure all our volunteers and staff have an up to date WWCC and completed all safeguard training.

Greeting of the Holy Father to the sick in the Audience Hall before the General Audience

Good morning everyone! Good morning! Welcome!

I will offer a brief greeting, a blessing for each of you.

On this day, we wanted to protect you a little from the elements, especially the cold... It is not raining, but this way you may be a little more comfortable. Afterwards, you can follow the Audience on the screen, or if you wish, you can also go outside, but we would like to make the most of this small, more personal encounter to greet you, to offer you the Lord's blessing, and also our best wishes. Christmas is almost here, and we would like to ask the Lord that the joy of this Christmas season accompany you all: your families, your loved ones, and that you may always be in the Lord's hands with the trust and love that only God can give us.

I give my blessing to all of you now, and then I will come and greet you.

Blessing

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Human life is characterized by a constant movement that drives us to do, to act. Nowadays speed is required everywhere in order to achieve optimal results in a wide variety of fields. How does Jesus' resurrection shed light on this aspect of our experience? When we participate in his victory over death, will we rest? Faith tells us: yes, we will rest. We will not be inactive, but we will enter into God's repose, which is peace and joy. So, should we just wait, or can this change us right now?

We are absorbed by many activities that do not always leave us satisfied. A lot of our actions have to do with practical, concrete things. We have to assume responsibility for many commitments, solve problems, face difficulties. Jesus too was involved with people and with life, not sparing himself, but rather giving himself to the end. Yet we often perceive how too much doing, instead of giving us fulfilment, becomes a vortex that overwhelms us, takes away our serenity, and prevents us from living to the fullest what is truly important in our lives. We then feel tired and dissatisfied: time seems to be wasted on a thousand practical things that do not, however, resolve the ultimate meaning of our existence. Sometimes, at the end of days full of activities, we feel empty. Why? Because we are not machines, we have a "heart"; indeed, we can say that we *are* a heart.

The heart is the symbol of all our humanity, the sum of our thoughts, feelings and desires, the invisible centre of our selves. The Evangelist Matthew invites us to reflect on the importance of the heart, quoting this beautiful phrase of Jesus: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (*Mt 6:21*).

It is therefore in the heart that true treasure is kept, not in earthly safes, not in large financial investments, which today more than ever before are out of control and unjustly concentrated at the bloody price of millions of human lives and the devastation of God's creation.

It is important to reflect on these aspects, because in the numerous commitments we continually face, there is an increasing risk of dispersion, sometimes of despair, of meaninglessness, even in apparently successful people. Instead, interpreting life in the light of Easter, looking at it with the Risen Jesus, means finding access to the essence of the human person, to our heart: *cor inquietum*. With this adjective "restless", Saint Augustine helps us understand the human being's yearning for fulfilment. The full sentence refers to the beginning of the *Confessions*, where Augustine writes: "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (I, 1,1).

Restlessness is the sign that our heart does not move by chance, in a disordered way, without a purpose or a destination, but is oriented towards its ultimate destination, the "return home". The authentic approach of the heart does not consist in possessing the goods of this world, but in achieving what can fill it completely; namely, the love of God, or rather, God who is Love. This treasure, however, can only be found by loving the neighbour we meet along the way: brothers and sisters in flesh and blood, whose presence stirs and questions our heart, calling it to open up and give itself. Our neighbour asks us to slow down, to look them in the eye, sometimes to change our plans, perhaps even to change direction.

Dear friends, here is the secret of the movement of the human heart: returning to the source of its being, delighting in the joy that never fails, that never disappoints. No one can live without a meaning that goes beyond the contingent, beyond what passes away. The human heart cannot live without hope, without knowing that it is made for fullness, not for want.

Jesus Christ, with his Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection, has given us a solid foundation for this hope. The restless heart will not be disappointed, if it enters into the dynamism of the love for which it was created. The destination is certain, life has triumphed, and in Christ it will continue to triumph in every death of daily life. This is Christian hope: let us always bless and thank the Lord who has given it to us!

DOCTRINAL NOTE ON MARIAN TITLES: MOTHER OF THE FAITHFUL, NOT CO-REDEMPTRIX

The document of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by Pope Leo XIV, offers clarifications on titles applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and calls for special attention to the use of the expression, “Mediatrix of all graces.”

Co-redemptrix

Regarding the title “Co-redemptrix,” the Note recalls that “some Popes have used the title “without elaborating much on its meaning.” Generally, it continues, “they have presented the title in two specific ways: in reference to Mary’s divine motherhood (insofar as she, as Mother, made possible the Redemption that Christ accomplished) or in reference to her union with Christ at the redemptive Cross. The Second Vatican Council refrained from using the title for dogmatic, pastoral, and ecumenical reasons. Saint John Paul II referred to Mary as ‘Co-redemptrix’ on at least seven occasions, particularly relating this title to the salvific value of our sufferings when they are offered together with the sufferings of Christ, to whom Mary is united especially at the Cross” (18).

The document cites an internal discussion within the then-Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which in February 1996 had discussed the request to proclaim a new dogma on Mary as “Co-redemptrix or Mediatrix of all graces.” Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was opposed to such a definition, arguing, “the precise meaning of these titles is not clear, and the doctrine contained in them is not mature. [...] It is not clear how the doctrine expressed in these titles is present in Scripture and the apostolic tradition.”

Later, in 2002, the future Benedict XVI expressed himself publicly in the same way: “The formula ‘Co-redemptrix’ departs to too great an extent from the language of Scripture and of the Fathers and therefore gives rise to misunderstandings... Everything comes from Him [Christ], as the Letter to the Ephesians and the Letter to the Colossians, in particular, tell us; Mary, too, is everything that she is through Him. The word ‘Co-redemptrix’ would obscure this origin.”

The note clarifies that Cardinal Ratzinger did not deny the good intentions behind the proposal, nor the valuable aspects reflected in it, but nonetheless maintained that they were “being expressed in the wrong way” (19).

Pope Francis also expressed his clear opposition to the use of the title Co-Redemptrix on at least three occasions. Tuesday’s Doctrinal Note concludes: “*It is always inappropriate* to use the title ‘Co-redemptrix’ to define Mary’s cooperation. This title risks obscuring Christ’s unique salvific mediation and can therefore create confusion and an imbalance in the harmony of the truths of the Christian faith. [...] When an expression requires many, repeated explanations to prevent it from straying from a correct meaning, it does not serve the faith of the People of God and becomes *unhelpful*” (22).

Mediatrix

The Note emphasises that “the biblical statement about Christ’s exclusive mediation is conclusive. Christ is the only Mediator” (24).

At the same time, MPF recognises “the fact that the word ‘mediation’ is commonly used in many areas of everyday life, where it is understood simply as cooperation, assistance, or intercession. As a result, it is inevitable that the term would be applied to Mary in a subordinate sense. Used in this way, it does not intend to add any efficacy or power to the unique mediation of Jesus Christ, true God and true man” (25).

Further, “it is clear that Mary has a real mediatory role in enabling the Incarnation of the Son of God in our humanity” (26).

Mother of believers and Mediatrix of all graces

Mary’s maternal role “in no way obscures or diminishes” the unique mediation of Christ, “but rather shows its power [...] Understood in this way, Mary’s motherhood does not seek to weaken the unique adoration due to Christ alone but, rather, seeks to enkindle it.”

Therefore, the Note states, “one must avoid titles and expressions that present Mary as a kind of ‘lightning rod’ before the Lord’s justice, as if she were a necessary alternative before the insufficiency of God’s mercy” (37b).

Thus, the title “Mother of Believers” “enables us to speak of Mary’s role in our relation to our life of grace”.

However, MPF goes on to urge caution concerning the use of expressions that may convey “less acceptable notions” (45).

“Cardinal Ratzinger already affirmed” for example, “that the title ‘Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces’ was not clearly grounded in Revelation.” So, the Note continues, “in line with this conviction, we can recognize the difficulties this title poses, both in terms of theological reflection and spirituality” (45). In fact, “no human person — not even the Apostles or the Blessed Virgin — can act as a universal dispenser of grace. Only God can bestow grace, and he does so through the humanity of Christ” (53).

“Some titles, such as ‘Mediatrix of All Graces,’ have limits that do not favour a correct understanding of Mary’s unique place,” MPF explains, adding, “In fact, she, the first redeemed, could not have been the mediatrix of the grace that she herself received” (67).

Nonetheless, the Doctrinal Note acknowledges that “the term ‘graces,’ when seen in reference to Mary’s maternal help at various moments in our lives, can have an acceptable meaning. The plural form expresses all the aids — even material — that the Lord may grant us when He heeds His Mother’s intercession” (68).

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

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 12th February 2026, 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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Christmas Schedule for December 2025

24th	Children/Family Christmas Mass	6:00pm
24th	Christmas Mass	9:00pm
24th	Midnight Mass	12:00am
25th	Christmas Day Mass	8:00am & 9:30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

20/21 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: B. Motha, M. Mifsud 8am: F. Paiva, T. Perak 9.30am: C. Brooks, Kamela Huihui	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, N. Sumcad 8am: T. Perak, K. Walker 9.30am: N. Arambulo, L. Rigney	
Altar Servers	Vigil: N. D'Cruz, J. Steele, Aaliya Faulkner-Dhiman, 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: K. Maruthanayagam, C. Attard, L. Sager.	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: K.Thoms & C.W 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	24 Dec	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

27/28 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Lawrence Falzon 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Simic, N. Shami 8am: F. Paiva, J. Sarmiento 9.30am: P. Gow, G. Basilli	
Readers	Vigil: Yxaak & Yxavel Dino 8am: F. Kennedy, A. McNally 9.30am: J. Nonato, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Julian & Orlando Martinez, C. Bellamin 8am: Jaxon Blackshaw, Sub Rqd 9.30am: K. Cassaniti, L. Sadipoor, A. Melki	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary	
Church Cleaning	1 January	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli	

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21st, 2025

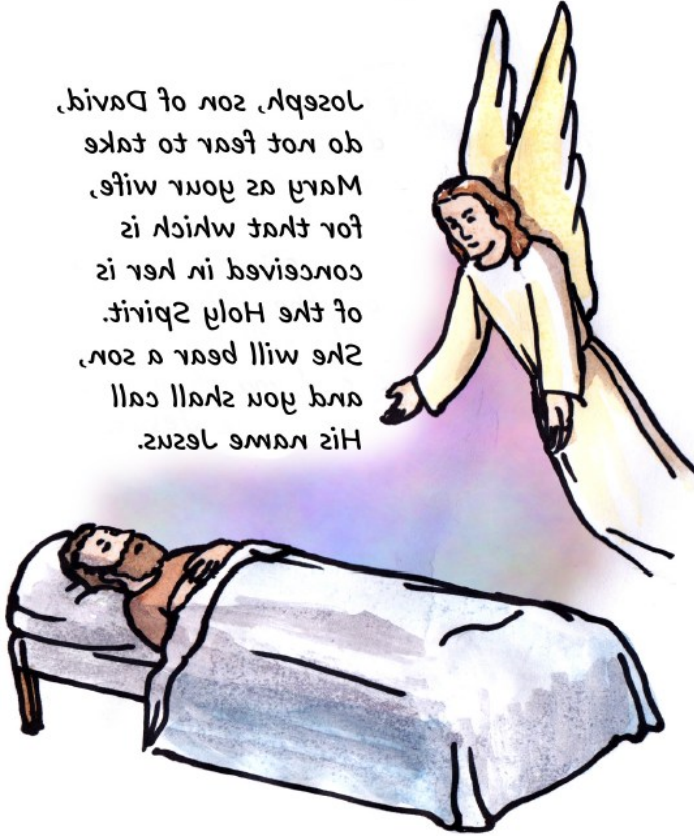
What's in a Name?

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 18:21

Based on Matthew 1:18-25



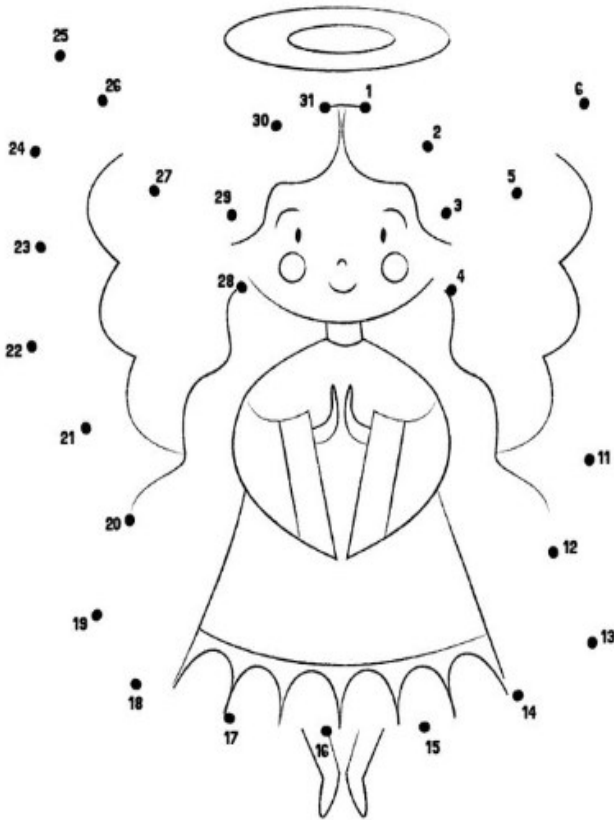
Joseph, son of David,
do not fear to take
Mary as your wife,
for that which is
conceived in her is
of the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son,
and you shall call
his name Jesus.



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

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!

HUSBAND	SON	IMMANUEL	MARY	NAME
CHRIST	CHILD	VIRGIN	BIRTH	ANGEL
JOSEPH	MARRY	AFRAID	DREAM	JESUS



angel





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 School:	LOLO 8869 6800
Parish Deacon:	Deacon Thong Nguyen	Principal:	Ms Keiran Byrnes
Parish Office Team:	Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Jane Nguyen, Laura Ilioski	Reconciliation:	Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
Office Hours: Monday-Friday:	9am - 3.00pm	Baptismal Preparation:	18 February 2026
WEEKDAY MASS:	Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am Thursday 9.00am	Baptism:	11 January 2026
WEEKEND MASS:	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9.30am	Sacrament Co-Ordinator:	Mrs Artelle Lenthall
		Youth Co-Ordinator:	Diana Park
		Parish Website:	www.olol7hills.org.au
		Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/LOLO7Hills/

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 21 December 2025 • Year A



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, Takis Karapatsakis, Clare Kinsley, T.Q Letran, Susie Manga, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Gary Morrissey, Jayne Muscat, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Michelle Pellicano, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Arabella Steele, Sue Tiplado, 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@olol7hills.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, Rosita Ballecer, Anthony Hastings, Aggie Motha, Maria Amma Peter, Veronica Rosales, Anthony Ruzgas

Anniversaries: Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, France Angseesing, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Evan Elisher, Rita de Silva, Frank, M.A Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, Norma Lorenzo, Joseph Mahon, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Irene Moroney, Thelma Morrissey, Anton & Lourda Motha, Paul Mula, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Eustace Ratnam, Roseline Ratnam

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Sydney Azie, Antonio, Amelia & Germana Bertinato, Sam Borg, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato Cabasa, Peter & Antonio, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli, Barrie Chamberlain, Myrna Cruz, Joseph, Johnny Edwards, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Launcer De Guire, Bede Diab, Debe Diab, Marcel Diab, Mohsen Diab, Peter Diab, Toufic Diab, O. Francis, J. Francis, Melvyn Fernandes, Merita Fernando, Nevis Fernando, Leandro Garcia Snr, Evangeline, Rudy Garcia, Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Selvam Irudayaraj, J.B, Jonathan Tek Kie, Mangion & Cini Family, Felina Maglaya, Tessie & Andy Mangine, 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, Aurora Nufable Nonato, Coleen O'Sullivan, Serge Pasnin, Lakshman Perera, Marlyn Pestano, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose, Maria, Laureano, Karen, Yolanda Reyes, Mary Silva, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.

Names will be published for 2 weeks at a time.

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.

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



KEEP UP TO DATE

By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more. Visit www.olol7hills.org.au

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**(R) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally.

He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

According to scholars, marriage customs in Palestine in Jesus' time often included two parts: the engagement and the wedding.

The engagement period usually lasted for a year during which the bride and the groom stayed in their homes and communicated to each other through messages delivered by the best man. The engagement began with the signing of a formal marriage agreement or with the groom offering gifts to the bride's family. At this stage, the bride and the groom were legally husband and wife even though they did not yet live together. Vietnamese people have done the same, except the engagement period is less than a year, usually six months.

After a year-long engagement time, the wedding ceremony then took place, and the groom could formally take his wife into his home to begin their married life together.

This background knowledge of Jewish marriage customs will help us better appreciate the Gospel account this Sunday, as it allows us to understand the dilemma St. Joseph faced when he discovered Mary's conception during their engagement. On the one hand, they were legally husband and wife; on the other hand, Mary was clearly carrying a child who was not his. For Joseph, a righteous and honorable man, divorce seemed to be the best solution, one that would end the relationship quietly and protect Mary's life, since she could otherwise be accused of adultery, an offense that, under Jewish law, could result in death by stoning. This messy entanglement is finally cleared up by the angel appearing to Joseph in a dream to reveal the mystery behind Mary's conception, that she was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The angel also asked Joseph to take Mary home to be his wife with the obligation to name the child Jesus, a name that means 'the Lord saves' or simply 'salvation.'

In the eyes of Matthew whose Gospel was meant to bring Jesus' Good News to the group of Jewish followers often familiar with the teachings of the prophets in the scripture, what happened here was extra special, because it fulfilled exactly what Isaiah prophesied long before, as we hear in the first reading today, that 'the maiden is with child and soon give birth to a son, whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us.' This prophetic fulfillment Have a joy-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ADVENT WREATH

It is usually constructed around a circular base. This circular base is traditionally taken to symbolise the ever-renewing cycle of the seasons, and the four candles, represent the four Sundays of Advent. The fourth candle, the "Candle of Love," reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth.



HALL CANOPY PLAQUE

From this weekend, the Pledging Book for the Hall Canopy Plaque is 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.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS THANK YOU

Thank you everyone for such an overwhelming support to our Parish invitation to show our love and care for the needy both in our community and beyond through our Christmas Hampers tradition, and a special thank you note to our dedicated Vinnies for overseeing the whole program from collecting and sorting out donations to distributing them dutifully.

MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church from this weekend for Ministers of the Eucharist, Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers and Welcomers who would like to serve at a Christmas Mass. We kindly ask that ministers sign up for one liturgy only.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2026

Ministry rosters for February - July 2026 are now available. You can find a copy at the back Sacristy or on our website under 'Parish Forms'. If you require more copies or notice any discrepancies, please kindly contact the parish office.

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN 2026-2030

Copies of our Parish Pastoral Plan 2026-2030 are now on and all are invited to have a look after Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY—CHRISTMAS STORY

Thank you to the children who have volunteered to act out the Christmas Story this year. This will take place during the 6pm mass on the 24th December. For those children who are not participating but attending the mass, you are invited to dress up as angels or shepherds.

A PRACTICAL TIP EACH WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

TIP 14 Take a Break from Online Shopping

Online shopping produces a lot of packaging waste and produces excess carbon emissions from airplanes and vehicles. Take a month off online shopping or reduce what you buy online. Try to make purchases closer to home!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS & BULLETIN

Our Parish office will close between Christmas and New Year and there will be no bulletins throughout the month of January 2026 to allow Parish staff to take a break. However, I will be around in the Parish office as usual.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE RETURNS IN 2026

Those interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar, the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2026. Enrolment forms can be found at the back sacristy.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

- Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Mount Druitt Combined Churches Christmas Day

Community Lunch: 25 December

Don't spend Christmas alone. A free Christmas Day lunch hosted by Mt Druitt Combined Churches on Thursday 25 December from 11am, with Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt as the venue host. All are welcome. Registration is essential. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/MtDruittChristmasLunch>

Baulkham Hills Christmas Luncheon: 25 December

The Parish of Baulkham Hills are hosting a Christmas Lunch for anyone who will be on their own on Christmas Day. You may be in town for a visit, or just moved into the area, or may simply be unable to share Christmas Day with your loved ones. So come and share it with us. It will be held on Thursday 25 December in and around the St Michael's Primary School hall, and everyone is welcome, families and individuals. But places are limited, so you will need to register to attend. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9639 0598 or email baulkhamhills@parracatholic.org.

Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January. For one week, there will be celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who've enriched our parishes, schools and communities. Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross.

Grab your copy of the Catholic Outlook Magazine!

The latest quarterly edition of the *Catholic Outlook* Magazine is out now, keeping you connected with exciting news and events in the Diocese of Parramatta.

OLOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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>. Face to Face courses will resume in 2026. Dates and times will be provided once confirmed.

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.

Visiting Clergy to OLOL

Thank you to Fr. Hoang Viet Nguyen who graciously assisted Fr Henry with mass and reconciliation this week. Visiting clergy all uphold the standards and processes we here at OLOL and the Diocese have put in place to ensure the safety of our community.

Santo Nino Fiesta Sinulog 2026: 18 January

The Devotees of the Holy Infant Jesus Santo Nino invite you to attend the 2026 Fiesta Sinulog on Sunday 18 January at St Patrick's Church, Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown at 2pm. All devotees, please bring your Santo Nino statues. Novena Masses will be held between 8-16 January at 7pm at the parishes of St Clair-Erskine Park, Penrith, St Marys, Rooty Hill, Winston Hills, Plumpton, Marayong, Quakers Hill and Kellyville. For more information, please contact the Blacktown Parish on (02) 9622 1125 or email blacktown@parracatholic.org

Sing a New Song Music Workshop for Children: 21 January

Do you have a child in Year 4-12? Invite them to come along to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 21 January from 9:30am to 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Morning tea and lunch provided. Student participants will form a choir that will sing at the Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Sunday 25 January at 11am. To register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/0URuFAeThA>

Rosary Making Workshop: 9 February

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on Monday 9 February at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for further information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Diocesan World Day of the Sick: 11 February

Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on the 11th February 2026 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. To register, please visit parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-the-sick-mass/

Children and Young People's Participation

A Safeguarding culture for Children and Young People is fostered and sustained by our parish being committed to living the Gospel by serving the most vulnerable. Here at OLOL Seven Hills we implement all Arch/Diocesan policies, procedures and community standards that are Child and Young Person centred to lift barriers so their voices can be heard and their participation valued.

OLOL Parish community values and celebrates ALL our Children and Young People for who they are and the great contributions they make to our parish. We therefore have an obligation to uphold their human and spiritual rights. This is achieved at OLOL by: 1. Providing ministries, services and programs that are relevant for Children and Young People including those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and who have a disability; 2. Committing to zero tolerance to any attitude and activity that makes Children and Young People feel less safe; 3. Enhancing relationships between leaders, community members, Children and Young People; and 4. Creating a new perspective to invigorate renewal. We also ensure all our volunteers and staff have an up to date WWCC and completed all safeguard training.

Greeting of the Holy Father to the sick in the Audience Hall before the General Audience

Good morning everyone! Good morning! Welcome!

I will offer a brief greeting, a blessing for each of you.

On this day, we wanted to protect you a little from the elements, especially the cold... It is not raining, but this way you may be a little more comfortable. Afterwards, you can follow the Audience on the screen, or if you wish, you can also go outside, but we would like to make the most of this small, more personal encounter to greet you, to offer you the Lord's blessing, and also our best wishes. Christmas is almost here, and we would like to ask the Lord that the joy of this Christmas season accompany you all: your families, your loved ones, and that you may always be in the Lord's hands with the trust and love that only God can give us.

I give my blessing to all of you now, and then I will come and greet you.

Blessing

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Human life is characterized by a constant movement that drives us to do, to act. Nowadays speed is required everywhere in order to achieve optimal results in a wide variety of fields. How does Jesus' resurrection shed light on this aspect of our experience? When we participate in his victory over death, will we rest? Faith tells us: yes, we will rest. We will not be inactive, but we will enter into God's repose, which is peace and joy. So, should we just wait, or can this change us right now?

We are absorbed by many activities that do not always leave us satisfied. A lot of our actions have to do with practical, concrete things. We have to assume responsibility for many commitments, solve problems, face difficulties. Jesus too was involved with people and with life, not sparing himself, but rather giving himself to the end. Yet we often perceive how too much doing, instead of giving us fulfilment, becomes a vortex that overwhelms us, takes away our serenity, and prevents us from living to the fullest what is truly important in our lives. We then feel tired and dissatisfied: time seems to be wasted on a thousand practical things that do not, however, resolve the ultimate meaning of our existence. Sometimes, at the end of days full of activities, we feel empty. Why? Because we are not machines, we have a "heart"; indeed, we can say that we *are* a heart.

The heart is the symbol of all our humanity, the sum of our thoughts, feelings and desires, the invisible centre of our selves. The Evangelist Matthew invites us to reflect on the importance of the heart, quoting this beautiful phrase of Jesus: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Mt 6:21).

It is therefore in the heart that true treasure is kept, not in earthly safes, not in large financial investments, which today more than ever before are out of control and unjustly concentrated at the bloody price of millions of human lives and the devastation of God's creation.

It is important to reflect on these aspects, because in the numerous commitments we continually face, there is an increasing risk of dispersion, sometimes of despair, of meaninglessness, even in apparently successful people. Instead, interpreting life in the light of Easter, looking at it with the Risen Jesus, means finding access to the essence of the human person, to our heart: *cor inquietum*. With this adjective "restless", Saint Augustine helps us understand the human being's yearning for fulfilment. The full sentence refers to the beginning of the *Confessions*, where Augustine writes: "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (I, 1,1).

Restlessness is the sign that our heart does not move by chance, in a disordered way, without a purpose or a destination, but is oriented towards its ultimate destination, the "return home". The authentic approach of the heart does not consist in possessing the goods of this world, but in achieving what can fill it completely; namely, the love of God, or rather, God who is Love. This treasure, however, can only be found by loving the neighbour we meet along the way: brothers and sisters in flesh and blood, whose presence stirs and questions our heart, calling it to open up and give itself. Our neighbour asks us to slow down, to look them in the eye, sometimes to change our plans, perhaps even to change direction.

Dear friends, here is the secret of the movement of the human heart: returning to the source of its being, delighting in the joy that never fails, that never disappoints. No one can live without a meaning that goes beyond the contingent, beyond what passes away. The human heart cannot live without hope, without knowing that it is made for fullness, not for want.

Jesus Christ, with his Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection, has given us a solid foundation for this hope. The restless heart will not be disappointed, if it enters into the dynamism of the love for which it was created. The destination is certain, life has triumphed, and in Christ it will continue to triumph in every death of daily life. This is Christian hope: let us always bless and thank the Lord who has given it to us!

DOCTRINAL NOTE ON MARIAN TITLES: MOTHER OF THE FAITHFUL, NOT CO-REDEMPTRIX

The document of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by Pope Leo XIV, offers clarifications on titles applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and calls for special attention to the use of the expression, “Mediatrice of all graces.”

Co-redemptrix

Regarding the title “Co-redemptrix,” the Note recalls that “some Popes have used the title “without elaborating much on its meaning.” Generally, it continues, “they have presented the title in two specific ways: in reference to Mary’s divine motherhood (insofar as she, as Mother, made possible the Redemption that Christ accomplished) or in reference to her union with Christ at the redemptive Cross. The Second Vatican Council refrained from using the title for dogmatic, pastoral, and ecumenical reasons. Saint John Paul II referred to Mary as ‘Co-redemptrix’ on at least seven occasions, particularly relating this title to the salvific value of our sufferings when they are offered together with the sufferings of Christ, to whom Mary is united especially at the Cross” (18).

The document cites an internal discussion within the then-Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which in February 1996 had discussed the request to proclaim a new dogma on Mary as “Co-redemptrix or Mediatrice of all graces.” Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was opposed to such a definition, arguing, “the precise meaning of these titles is not clear, and the doctrine contained in them is not mature. [...] It is not clear how the doctrine expressed in these titles is present in Scripture and the apostolic tradition.”

Later, in 2002, the future Benedict XVI expressed himself publicly in the same way: “The formula ‘Co-redemptrix’ departs to too great an extent from the language of Scripture and of the Fathers and therefore gives rise to misunderstandings... Everything comes from Him [Christ], as the Letter to the Ephesians and the Letter to the Colossians, in particular, tell us; Mary, too, is everything that she is through Him. The word ‘Co-redemptrix’ would obscure this origin.”

The note clarifies that Cardinal Ratzinger did not deny the good intentions behind the proposal, nor the valuable aspects reflected in it, but nonetheless maintained that they were “being expressed in the wrong way” (19).

Pope Francis also expressed his clear opposition to the use of the title Co-Redemptrix on at least three occasions. Tuesday’s Doctrinal Note concludes: “*It is always inappropriate* to use the title ‘Co-redemptrix’ to define Mary’s cooperation. This title risks obscuring Christ’s unique salvific mediation and can therefore create confusion and an imbalance in the harmony of the truths of the Christian faith. [...] When an expression requires many, repeated explanations to prevent it from straying from a correct meaning, it does not serve the faith of the People of God and becomes *unhelpful*” (22).

Mediatrice

The Note emphasises that “the biblical statement about Christ’s exclusive mediation is conclusive. Christ is the only Mediator” (24).

At the same time, MPF recognises “the fact that the word ‘mediation’ is commonly used in many areas of everyday life, where it is understood simply as cooperation, assistance, or intercession. As a result, it is inevitable that the term would be applied to Mary in a subordinate sense. Used in this way, it does not intend to add any efficacy or power to the unique mediation of Jesus Christ, true God and true man” (25).

Further, “it is clear that Mary has a real mediatory role in enabling the Incarnation of the Son of God in our humanity” (26).

Mother of believers and Mediatrice of all graces

Mary’s maternal role “in no way obscures or diminishes” the unique mediation of Christ, “but rather shows its power [...] Understood in this way, Mary’s motherhood does not seek to weaken the unique adoration due to Christ alone but, rather, seeks to enkindle it.”

Therefore, the Note states, “one must avoid titles and expressions that present Mary as a kind of ‘lightning rod’ before the Lord’s justice, as if she were a necessary alternative before the insufficiency of God’s mercy” (37b).

Thus, the title “Mother of Believers” “enables us to speak of Mary’s role in our relation to our life of grace”.

However, MPF goes on to urge caution concerning the use of expressions that may convey “less acceptable notions” (45).

“Cardinal Ratzinger already affirmed” for example, “that the title ‘Mary, Mediatrice of All Graces’ was not clearly grounded in Revelation.” So, the Note continues, “in line with this conviction, we can recognize the difficulties this title poses, both in terms of theological reflection and spirituality” (45). In fact, “no human person — not even the Apostles or the Blessed Virgin — can act as a universal dispenser of grace. Only God can bestow grace, and he does so through the humanity of Christ” (53).

“Some titles, such as ‘Mediatrice of All Graces,’ have limits that do not favour a correct understanding of Mary’s unique place,” MPF explains, adding, “In fact, she, the first redeemed, could not have been the mediatrice of the grace that she herself received” (67).

Nonetheless, the Doctrinal Note acknowledges that “the term ‘graces,’ when seen in reference to Mary’s maternal help at various moments in our lives, can have an acceptable meaning. The plural form expresses all the aids — even material — that the Lord may grant us when He heeds His Mother’s intercession” (68).

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

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 12th February 2026, 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 GROTTO: 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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Christmas Schedule for December 2025

24th	Children/Family Christmas Mass	6:00pm
24th	Christmas Mass	9:00pm
24th	Midnight Mass	12:00am
25th	Christmas Day Mass	8:00am & 9:30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

20/21 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: B. Motha, M. Mifsud 8am: F. Paiva, T. Perak 9.30am: C. Brooks, Kamela Huihui	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, N. Sumcad 8am: T. Perak, K. Walker 9.30am: N. Arambulo, L. Rigney	
Altar Servers	Vigil: N. D'Cruz, J. Steele, Aaliya Faulkner-Dhiman, 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: K. Maruthanayagam, C. Attard, L. Sager.	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: K.Thoms & C.W 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	24 Dec	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

27/28 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Lawrence Falzon 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Simic, N. Shami 8am: F. Paiva, J. Sarmiento 9.30am: P. Gow, G. Basilli	
Readers	Vigil: Yxaak & Yxavel Dino 8am: F. Kennedy, A. McNally 9.30am: J. Nonato, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Julian & Orlando Martinez, C. Bellamin 8am: Jaxon Blackshaw, Sub Rqd 9.30am: K. Cassaniti, L. Sadipoor, A. Melki	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary	
Church Cleaning	1 January	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli	

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21st, 2025

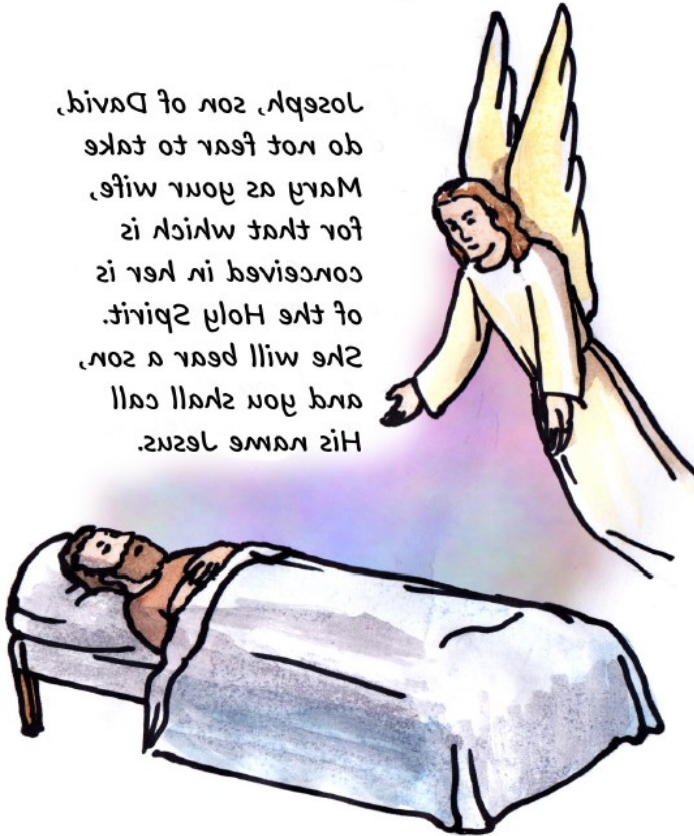
What's in a Name?

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 18:21

Based on Matthew 1:18-25



Joseph, son of David,
do not fear to take
Mary as your wife,
for that which is
conceived in her is
of the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son,
and you shall call
his name Jesus.



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

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!

HUSBAND	SON	IMMANUEL	MARY	NAME
CHRIST	CHILD	VIRGIN	BIRTH	ANGEL
JOSEPH	MARRY	AFRAID	DREAM	JESUS



angel





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@lol7hills.com.au

Parish Priest:	Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran	Parish School:	LOLO 8869 6800
Parish Deacon:	Deacon Thong Nguyen	Principal:	Ms Keiran Byrnes
Parish Office Team:	Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Jane Nguyen, Laura Ilioski	Reconciliation:	Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
Office Hours: Monday-Friday:	9am - 3.00pm	Baptismal Preparation:	18 February 2026
WEEKDAY MASS:	Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am Thursday 9.00am	Baptism:	11 January 2026
WEEKEND MASS:	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9.30am	Sacrament Co-Ordinator:	Mrs Artelle Lenthall
		Youth Co-Ordinator:	Diana Park
		Parish Website:	www.lol7hills.org.au
		Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/LOLO7Hills/

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 21 December 2025 • Year A



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, Takis Karapatsakis, Clare Kinsley, T.Q Letran, Susie Manga, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Gary Morrissey, Jayne Muscat, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Michelle Pellicano, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Arabella Steele, Sue Tiplado, 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, Rosita Ballecer, Anthony Hastings, Aggie Motha, Maria Amma Peter, Veronica Rosales, Anthony Ruzgas

Anniversaries: Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, France Angseesing, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Evan Elisher, Rita de Silva, Frank, M.A Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, Norma Lorenzo, Joseph Mahon, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Irene Moroney, Thelma Morrissey, Anton & Lourda Motha, Paul Mula, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Eustace Ratnam, Roseline Ratnam

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Sydney Azie, Antonio, Amelia & Germana Bertimato, Sam Borg, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato Cabasa, Peter & Antonio, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli, Barrie Chamberlain, Myrna Cruz, Joseph, Johnny Edwards, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Launcer De Guire, Bede Diab, Debe Diab, Marcel Diab, Mohsen Diab, Peter Diab, Toufic Diab, O. Francis, J. Francis, Melvyn Fernandes, Merita Fernando, Nevis Fernando, Leandro Garcia Snr, Evangeline, Rudy Garcia, Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Selvam Irudayaraj, J.B, Jonathan Tek Kie, Mangion & Cini Family, Felina Maglaya, Tessie & Andy Mangine, 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, Aurora Nufable Nonato, Coleen O'Sullivan, Serge Pasnin, Lakshman Perera, Marlyn Pestano, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose, Maria, Laureano, Karen, Yolanda Reyes, Mary Silva, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.

Names will be published for 2 weeks at a time.

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.

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



KEEP UP TO DATE

By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more. Visit www.lol7hills.org.au

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**(R) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally.

He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

According to scholars, marriage customs in Palestine in Jesus' time often included two parts: the engagement and the wedding.

The engagement period usually lasted for a year during which the bride and the groom stayed in their homes and communicated to each other through messages delivered by the best man. The engagement began with the signing of a formal marriage agreement or with the groom offering gifts to the bride's family. At this stage, the bride and the groom were legally husband and wife even though they did not yet live together. Vietnamese people have done the same, except the engagement period is less than a year, usually six months.

After a year-long engagement time, the wedding ceremony then took place, and the groom could formally take his wife into his home to begin their married life together.

This background knowledge of Jewish marriage customs will help us better appreciate the Gospel account this Sunday, as it allows us to understand the dilemma St. Joseph faced when he discovered Mary's conception during their engagement. On the one hand, they were legally husband and wife; on the other hand, Mary was clearly carrying a child who was not his. For Joseph, a righteous and honorable man, divorce seemed to be the best solution, one that would end the relationship quietly and protect Mary's life, since she could otherwise be accused of adultery, an offense that, under Jewish law, could result in death by stoning. This messy entanglement is finally cleared up by the angel appearing to Joseph in a dream to reveal the mystery behind Mary's conception, that she was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The angel also asked Joseph to take Mary home to be his wife with the obligation to name the child Jesus, a name that means 'the Lord saves' or simply 'salvation.'

In the eyes of Matthew whose Gospel was meant to bring Jesus' Good News to the group of Jewish followers often familiar with the teachings of the prophets in the scripture, what happened here was extra special, because it fulfilled exactly what Isaiah prophesied long before, as we hear in the first reading today, that 'the maiden is with child and soon give birth to a son, whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us.' This prophetic fulfillment Have a joy-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ADVENT WREATH

It is usually constructed around a circular base. This circular base is traditionally taken to symbolise the ever-renewing cycle of the seasons, and the four candles, represent the four Sundays of Advent. The fourth candle, the "Candle of Love," reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth.



HALL CANOPY PLAQUE

From this weekend, the Pledging Book for the Hall Canopy Plaque is 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.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS THANK YOU

Thank you everyone for such an overwhelming support to our Parish invitation to show our love and care for the needy both in our community and beyond through our Christmas Hampers tradition, and a special thank you note to our dedicated Vinnies for overseeing the whole program from collecting and sorting out donations to distributing them dutifully.

MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church from this weekend for Ministers of the Eucharist, Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers and Welcomers who would like to serve at a Christmas Mass. We kindly ask that ministers sign up for one liturgy only.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2026

Ministry rosters for February - July 2026 are now available. You can find a copy at the back Sacristy or on our website under 'Parish Forms'. If you require more copies or notice any discrepancies, please kindly contact the parish office.

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN 2026-2030

Copies of our Parish Pastoral Plan 2026-2030 are now on and all are invited to have a look after Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY—CHRISTMAS STORY

Thank you to the children who have volunteered to act out the Christmas Story this year. This will take place during the 6pm mass on the 24th December. For those children who are not participating but attending the mass, you are invited to dress up as angels or shepherds.

A PRACTICAL TIP EACH WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

TIP 14 Take a Break from Online Shopping

Online shopping produces a lot of packaging waste and produces excess carbon emissions from airplanes and vehicles. Take a month off online shopping or reduce what you buy online. Try to make purchases closer to home!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS & BULLETIN

Our Parish office will close between Christmas and New Year and there will be no bulletins throughout the month of January 2026 to allow Parish staff to take a break. However, I will be around in the Parish office as usual.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE RETURNS IN 2026

Those interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar, the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2026. Enrolment forms can be found at the back sacristy.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

- Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Mount Druitt Combined Churches Christmas Day Community Lunch: 25 December

Don't spend Christmas alone. A free Christmas Day lunch hosted by Mt Druitt Combined Churches on Thursday 25 December from 11am, with Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt as the venue host. All are welcome. Registration is essential. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/MtDruittChristmasLunch>

Baulkham Hills Christmas Luncheon: 25 December

The Parish of Baulkham Hills are hosting a Christmas Lunch for anyone who will be on their own on Christmas Day. You may be in town for a visit, or just moved into the area, or may simply be unable to share Christmas Day with your loved ones. So come and share it with us. It will be held on Thursday 25 December in and around the St Michael's Primary School hall, and everyone is welcome, families and individuals. But places are limited, so you will need to register to attend. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9639 0598 or email baulkhamhills@parracatholic.org.

Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January. For one week, there will be celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who've enriched our parishes, schools and communities. Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross.

Grab your copy of the Catholic Outlook Magazine!

The latest quarterly edition of the *Catholic Outlook* Magazine is out now, keeping you connected with exciting news and events in the Diocese of Parramatta.

OLOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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>. Face to Face courses will resume in 2026. Dates and times will be provided once confirmed.

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.

Visiting Clergy to OLOL

Thank you to Fr. Hoang Viet Nguyen who graciously assisted Fr Henry with mass and reconciliation this week. Visiting clergy all uphold the standards and processes we here at OLOL and the Diocese have put in place to ensure the safety of our community.

Santo Nino Fiesta Sinulog 2026: 18 January

The Devotees of the Holy Infant Jesus Santo Nino invite you to attend the 2026 Fiesta Sinulog on Sunday 18 January at St Patrick's Church, Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown at 2pm. All devotees, please bring your Santo Nino statues. Novena Masses will be held between 8-16 January at 7pm at the parishes of St Clair-Erskine Park, Penrith, St Marys, Rooty Hill, Winston Hills, Plumpton, Marayong, Quakers Hill and Kellyville. For more information, please contact the Blacktown Parish on (02) 9622 1125 or email blacktown@parracatholic.org

Sing a New Song Music Workshop for Children: 21 January

Do you have a child in Year 4-12? Invite them to come along to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 21 January from 9:30am to 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Morning tea and lunch provided. Student participants will form a choir that will sing at the Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Sunday 25 January at 11am. To register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/0URuFAeThA>

Rosary Making Workshop: 9 February

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on Monday 9 February at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for further information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Diocesan World Day of the Sick: 11 February

Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on the 11th February 2026 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. To register, please visit parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-the-sick-mass/

Children and Young People's Participation

A Safeguarding culture for Children and Young People is fostered and sustained by our parish being committed to living the Gospel by serving the most vulnerable. Here at OLOL Seven Hills we implement all Arch/Diocesan policies, procedures and community standards that are Child and Young Person centred to lift barriers so their voices can be heard and their participation valued.

OLOL Parish community values and celebrates ALL our Children and Young People for who they are and the great contributions they make to our parish. We therefore have an obligation to uphold their human and spiritual rights. This is achieved at OLOL by: 1. Providing ministries, services and programs that are relevant for Children and Young People including those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and who have a disability; 2. Committing to zero tolerance to any attitude and activity that makes Children and Young People feel less safe; 3. Enhancing relationships between leaders, community members, Children and Young People; and 4. Creating a new perspective to invigorate renewal. We also ensure all our volunteers and staff have an up to date WWCC and completed all safeguard training.

Greeting of the Holy Father to the sick in the Audience Hall before the General Audience

Good morning everyone! Good morning! Welcome!

I will offer a brief greeting, a blessing for each of you.

On this day, we wanted to protect you a little from the elements, especially the cold... It is not raining, but this way you may be a little more comfortable. Afterwards, you can follow the Audience on the screen, or if you wish, you can also go outside, but we would like to make the most of this small, more personal encounter to greet you, to offer you the Lord's blessing, and also our best wishes. Christmas is almost here, and we would like to ask the Lord that the joy of this Christmas season accompany you all: your families, your loved ones, and that you may always be in the Lord's hands with the trust and love that only God can give us.

I give my blessing to all of you now, and then I will come and greet you.

Blessing

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Human life is characterized by a constant movement that drives us to do, to act. Nowadays speed is required everywhere in order to achieve optimal results in a wide variety of fields. How does Jesus' resurrection shed light on this aspect of our experience? When we participate in his victory over death, will we rest? Faith tells us: yes, we will rest. We will not be inactive, but we will enter into God's repose, which is peace and joy. So, should we just wait, or can this change us right now?

We are absorbed by many activities that do not always leave us satisfied. A lot of our actions have to do with practical, concrete things. We have to assume responsibility for many commitments, solve problems, face difficulties. Jesus too was involved with people and with life, not sparing himself, but rather giving himself to the end. Yet we often perceive how too much doing, instead of giving us fulfilment, becomes a vortex that overwhelms us, takes away our serenity, and prevents us from living to the fullest what is truly important in our lives. We then feel tired and dissatisfied: time seems to be wasted on a thousand practical things that do not, however, resolve the ultimate meaning of our existence. Sometimes, at the end of days full of activities, we feel empty. Why? Because we are not machines, we have a "heart"; indeed, we can say that we *are* a heart.

The heart is the symbol of all our humanity, the sum of our thoughts, feelings and desires, the invisible centre of our selves. The Evangelist Matthew invites us to reflect on the importance of the heart, quoting this beautiful phrase of Jesus: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Mt 6:21).

It is therefore in the heart that true treasure is kept, not in earthly safes, not in large financial investments, which today more than ever before are out of control and unjustly concentrated at the bloody price of millions of human lives and the devastation of God's creation.

It is important to reflect on these aspects, because in the numerous commitments we continually face, there is an increasing risk of dispersion, sometimes of despair, of meaninglessness, even in apparently successful people. Instead, interpreting life in the light of Easter, looking at it with the Risen Jesus, means finding access to the essence of the human person, to our heart: *cor inquietum*. With this adjective "restless", Saint Augustine helps us understand the human being's yearning for fulfilment. The full sentence refers to the beginning of the *Confessions*, where Augustine writes: "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (I, 1,1).

Restlessness is the sign that our heart does not move by chance, in a disordered way, without a purpose or a destination, but is oriented towards its ultimate destination, the "return home". The authentic approach of the heart does not consist in possessing the goods of this world, but in achieving what can fill it completely; namely, the love of God, or rather, God who is Love. This treasure, however, can only be found by loving the neighbour we meet along the way: brothers and sisters in flesh and blood, whose presence stirs and questions our heart, calling it to open up and give itself. Our neighbour asks us to slow down, to look them in the eye, sometimes to change our plans, perhaps even to change direction.

Dear friends, here is the secret of the movement of the human heart: returning to the source of its being, delighting in the joy that never fails, that never disappoints. No one can live without a meaning that goes beyond the contingent, beyond what passes away. The human heart cannot live without hope, without knowing that it is made for fullness, not for want.

Jesus Christ, with his Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection, has given us a solid foundation for this hope. The restless heart will not be disappointed, if it enters into the dynamism of the love for which it was created. The destination is certain, life has triumphed, and in Christ it will continue to triumph in every death of daily life. This is Christian hope: let us always bless and thank the Lord who has given it to us!

DOCTRINAL NOTE ON MARIAN TITLES: MOTHER OF THE FAITHFUL, NOT CO-REDEMPTRIX

The document of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by Pope Leo XIV, offers clarifications on titles applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and calls for special attention to the use of the expression, “Mediatrix of all graces.”

Co-redemptrix

Regarding the title “Co-redemptrix,” the Note recalls that “some Popes have used the title “without elaborating much on its meaning.” Generally, it continues, “they have presented the title in two specific ways: in reference to Mary’s divine motherhood (insofar as she, as Mother, made possible the Redemption that Christ accomplished) or in reference to her union with Christ at the redemptive Cross. The Second Vatican Council refrained from using the title for dogmatic, pastoral, and ecumenical reasons. Saint John Paul II referred to Mary as ‘Co-redemptrix’ on at least seven occasions, particularly relating this title to the salvific value of our sufferings when they are offered together with the sufferings of Christ, to whom Mary is united especially at the Cross” (18).

The document cites an internal discussion within the then-Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which in February 1996 had discussed the request to proclaim a new dogma on Mary as “Co-redemptrix or Mediatrix of all graces.” Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was opposed to such a definition, arguing, “the precise meaning of these titles is not clear, and the doctrine contained in them is not mature. [...] It is not clear how the doctrine expressed in these titles is present in Scripture and the apostolic tradition.”

Later, in 2002, the future Benedict XVI expressed himself publicly in the same way: “The formula ‘Co-redemptrix’ departs to too great an extent from the language of Scripture and of the Fathers and therefore gives rise to misunderstandings... Everything comes from Him [Christ], as the Letter to the Ephesians and the Letter to the Colossians, in particular, tell us; Mary, too, is everything that she is through Him. The word ‘Co-redemptrix’ would obscure this origin.”

The note clarifies that Cardinal Ratzinger did not deny the good intentions behind the proposal, nor the valuable aspects reflected in it, but nonetheless maintained that they were “being expressed in the wrong way” (19).

Pope Francis also expressed his clear opposition to the use of the title Co-Redemptrix on at least three occasions. Tuesday’s Doctrinal Note concludes: “*It is always inappropriate* to use the title ‘Co-redemptrix’ to define Mary’s cooperation. This title risks obscuring Christ’s unique salvific mediation and can therefore create confusion and an imbalance in the harmony of the truths of the Christian faith. [...] When an expression requires many, repeated explanations to prevent it from straying from a correct meaning, it does not serve the faith of the People of God and becomes *unhelpful*” (22).

Mediatrix

The Note emphasises that “the biblical statement about Christ’s exclusive mediation is conclusive. Christ is the only Mediator” (24).

At the same time, MPF recognises “the fact that the word ‘mediation’ is commonly used in many areas of everyday life, where it is understood simply as cooperation, assistance, or intercession. As a result, it is inevitable that the term would be applied to Mary in a subordinate sense. Used in this way, it does not intend to add any efficacy or power to the unique mediation of Jesus Christ, true God and true man” (25).

Further, “it is clear that Mary has a real mediatory role in enabling the Incarnation of the Son of God in our humanity” (26).

Mother of believers and Mediatrix of all graces

Mary’s maternal role “in no way obscures or diminishes” the unique mediation of Christ, “but rather shows its power [...] Understood in this way, Mary’s motherhood does not seek to weaken the unique adoration due to Christ alone but, rather, seeks to enkindle it.”

Therefore, the Note states, “one must avoid titles and expressions that present Mary as a kind of ‘lightning rod’ before the Lord’s justice, as if she were a necessary alternative before the insufficiency of God’s mercy” (37b).

Thus, the title “Mother of Believers” “enables us to speak of Mary’s role in our relation to our life of grace”.

However, MPF goes on to urge caution concerning the use of expressions that may convey “less acceptable notions” (45).

“Cardinal Ratzinger already affirmed” for example, “that the title ‘Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces’ was not clearly grounded in Revelation.” So, the Note continues, “in line with this conviction, we can recognize the difficulties this title poses, both in terms of theological reflection and spirituality” (45). In fact, “no human person — not even the Apostles or the Blessed Virgin — can act as a universal dispenser of grace. Only God can bestow grace, and he does so through the humanity of Christ” (53).

“Some titles, such as ‘Mediatrix of All Graces,’ have limits that do not favour a correct understanding of Mary’s unique place,” MPF explains, adding, “In fact, she, the first redeemed, could not have been the mediatrix of the grace that she herself received” (67).

Nonetheless, the Doctrinal Note acknowledges that “the term ‘graces,’ when seen in reference to Mary’s maternal help at various moments in our lives, can have an acceptable meaning. The plural form expresses all the aids — even material — that the Lord may grant us when He heeds His Mother’s intercession” (68).

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

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 12th February 2026, 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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Christmas Schedule for December 2025

24th	Children/Family Christmas Mass	6:00pm
24th	Christmas Mass	9:00pm
24th	Midnight Mass	12:00am
25th	Christmas Day Mass	8:00am & 9:30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

20/21 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: B. Motha, M. Mifsud 8am: F. Paiva, T. Perak 9.30am: C. Brooks, Kamela Huihui	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, N. Sumcad 8am: T. Perak, K. Walker 9.30am: N. Arambulo, L. Rigney	
Altar Servers	Vigil: N. D'Cruz, J. Steele, Aaliya Faulkner-Dhiman, 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: K. Maruthanayagam, C. Attard, L. Sager.	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: K.Thoms & C.W 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	24 Dec	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

27/28 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Lawrence Falzon 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Simic, N. Shami 8am: F. Paiva, J. Sarmiento 9.30am: P. Gow, G. Basilli	
Readers	Vigil: Yxaak & Yxavel Dino 8am: F. Kennedy, A. McNally 9.30am: J. Nonato, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Julian & Orlando Martinez, C. Bellamin 8am: Jaxon Blackshaw, Sub Rqd 9.30am: K. Cassaniti, L. Sadipoor, A. Melki	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary	
Church Cleaning	1 January	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli	

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21st, 2025

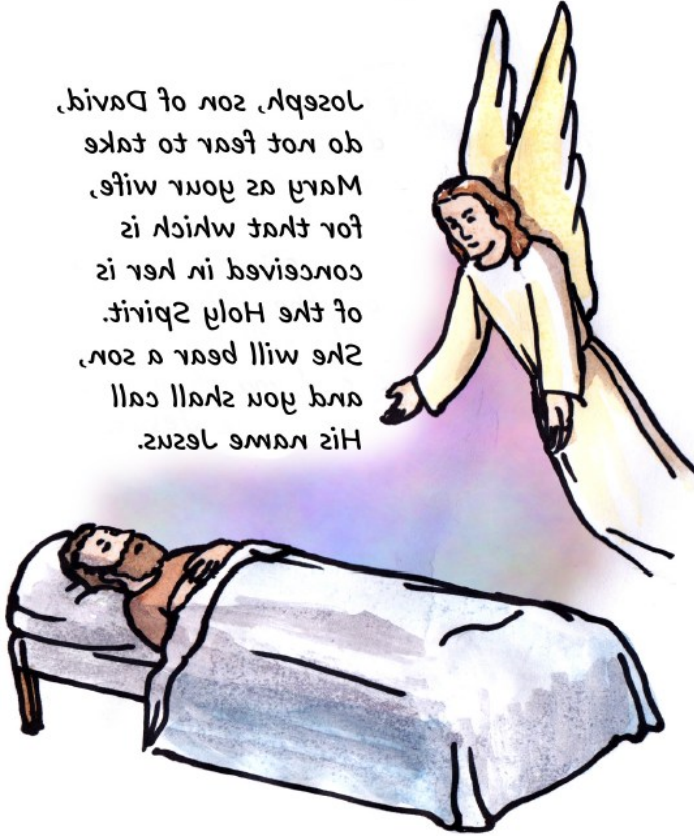
What's in a Name?

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 18:21

Based on Matthew 1:18-25



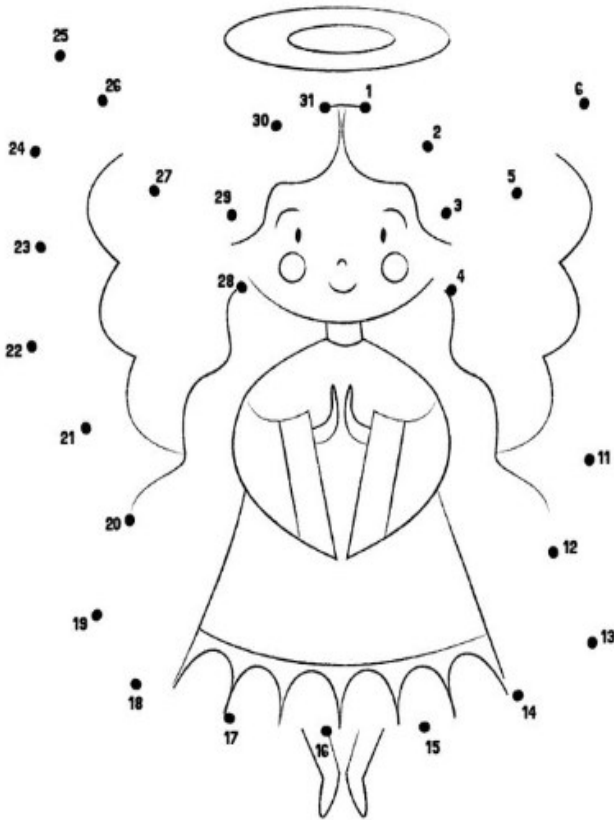
Joseph, son of David,
do not fear to take
Mary as your wife,
for that which is
conceived in her is
of the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son,
and you shall call
his name Jesus.



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

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!

HUSBAND	SON	IMMANUEL	MARY	NAME
CHRIST	CHILD	VIRGIN	BIRTH	ANGEL
JOSEPH	MARRY	AFRAID	DREAM	JESUS



angel





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 School:	LOLO 8869 6800
Parish Deacon:	Deacon Thong Nguyen	Principal:	Ms Keiran Byrnes
Parish Office Team:	Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Jane Nguyen, Laura Ilioski	Reconciliation:	Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
Office Hours: Monday-Friday:	9am - 3.00pm	Baptismal Preparation:	18 February 2026
WEEKDAY MASS:	Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am Thursday 9.00am	Baptism:	11 January 2026
WEEKEND MASS:	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9.30am	Sacrament Co-Ordinator:	Mrs Artelle Lenthall
		Youth Co-Ordinator:	Diana Park
		Parish Website:	www.olol7hills.org.au
		Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/LOLO7Hills/

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 21 December 2025 • Year A



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, Takis Karapatsakis, Clare Kinsley, T.Q Letran, Susie Manga, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Gary Morrissey, Jayne Muscat, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Michelle Pellicano, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Arabella Steele, Sue Tiplado, 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@olol7hills.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, Rosita Ballecer, Anthony Hastings, Aggie Motha, Maria Amma Peter, Veronica Rosales, Anthony Ruzgas

Anniversaries: Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, France Angseesing, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Evan Elisher, Rita de Silva, Frank, M.A Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, Norma Lorenzo, Joseph Mahon, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Irene Moroney, Thelma Morrissey, Anton & Lourda Motha, Paul Mula, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Eustace Ratnam, Roseline Ratnam

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Sydney Azie, Antonio, Amelia & Germana Bertinato, Sam Borg, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato Cabasa, Peter & Antonio, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli, Barrie Chamberlain, Myrna Cruz, Joseph, Johnny Edwards, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Launcer De Guire, Bede Diab, Debe Diab, Marcel Diab, Mohsen Diab, Peter Diab, Toufic Diab, O. Francis, J. Francis, Melvyn Fernandes, Merita Fernando, Nevis Fernando, Leandro Garcia Snr, Evangeline, Rudy Garcia, Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Selvam Irudayaraj, J.B, Jonathan Tek Kie, Mangion & Cini Family, Felina Maglaya, Tessie & Andy Mangine, 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, Aurora Nufable Nonato, Coleen O'Sullivan, Serge Pasnin, Lakshman Perera, Marlyn Pestano, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose, Maria, Laureano, Karen, Yolanda Reyes, Mary Silva, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.

Names will be published for 2 weeks at a time.

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.

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



KEEP UP TO DATE

By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more. Visit www.olol7hills.org.au

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**(R) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally.

He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

According to scholars, marriage customs in Palestine in Jesus' time often included two parts: the engagement and the wedding.

The engagement period usually lasted for a year during which the bride and the groom stayed in their homes and communicated to each other through messages delivered by the best man. The engagement began with the signing of a formal marriage agreement or with the groom offering gifts to the bride's family. At this stage, the bride and the groom were legally husband and wife even though they did not yet live together. Vietnamese people have done the same, except the engagement period is less than a year, usually six months.

After a year-long engagement time, the wedding ceremony then took place, and the groom could formally take his wife into his home to begin their married life together.

This background knowledge of Jewish marriage customs will help us better appreciate the Gospel account this Sunday, as it allows us to understand the dilemma St. Joseph faced when he discovered Mary's conception during their engagement. On the one hand, they were legally husband and wife; on the other hand, Mary was clearly carrying a child who was not his. For Joseph, a righteous and honorable man, divorce seemed to be the best solution, one that would end the relationship quietly and protect Mary's life, since she could otherwise be accused of adultery, an offense that, under Jewish law, could result in death by stoning. This messy entanglement is finally cleared up by the angel appearing to Joseph in a dream to reveal the mystery behind Mary's conception, that she was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The angel also asked Joseph to take Mary home to be his wife with the obligation to name the child Jesus, a name that means 'the Lord saves' or simply 'salvation.'

In the eyes of Matthew whose Gospel was meant to bring Jesus' Good News to the group of Jewish followers often familiar with the teachings of the prophets in the scripture, what happened here was extra special, because it fulfilled exactly what Isaiah prophesied long before, as we hear in the first reading today, that 'the maiden is with child and soon give birth to a son, whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us.' This prophetic fulfillment Have a joy-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ADVENT WREATH

It is usually constructed around a circular base. This circular base is traditionally taken to symbolise the ever-renewing cycle of the seasons, and the four candles, represent the four Sundays of Advent. The fourth candle, the "Candle of Love," reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth.



HALL CANOPY PLAQUE

From this weekend, the Pledging Book for the Hall Canopy Plaque is 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.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS THANK YOU

Thank you everyone for such an overwhelming support to our Parish invitation to show our love and care for the needy both in our community and beyond through our Christmas Hampers tradition, and a special thank you note to our dedicated Vinnies for overseeing the whole program from collecting and sorting out donations to distributing them dutifully.

MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church from this weekend for Ministers of the Eucharist, Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers and Welcomers who would like to serve at a Christmas Mass. We kindly ask that ministers sign up for one liturgy only.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2026

Ministry rosters for February - July 2026 are now available. You can find a copy at the back Sacristy or on our website under 'Parish Forms'. If you require more copies or notice any discrepancies, please kindly contact the parish office.

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN 2026-2030

Copies of our Parish Pastoral Plan 2026-2030 are now on and all are invited to have a look after Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY—CHRISTMAS STORY

Thank you to the children who have volunteered to act out the Christmas Story this year. This will take place during the 6pm mass on the 24th December. For those children who are not participating but attending the mass, you are invited to dress up as angels or shepherds.

A PRACTICAL TIP EACH WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

TIP 14 Take a Break from Online Shopping

Online shopping produces a lot of packaging waste and produces excess carbon emissions from airplanes and vehicles. Take a month off online shopping or reduce what you buy online. Try to make purchases closer to home!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS & BULLETIN

Our Parish office will close between Christmas and New Year and there will be no bulletins throughout the month of January 2026 to allow Parish staff to take a break. However, I will be around in the Parish office as usual.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE RETURNS IN 2026

Those interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar, the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2026. Enrolment forms can be found at the back sacristy.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

- Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Mount Druitt Combined Churches Christmas Day Community Lunch: 25 December

Don't spend Christmas alone. A free Christmas Day lunch hosted by Mt Druitt Combined Churches on Thursday 25 December from 11am, with Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt as the venue host. All are welcome. Registration is essential. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/MtDruittChristmasLunch>

Baulkham Hills Christmas Luncheon: 25 December

The Parish of Baulkham Hills are hosting a Christmas Lunch for anyone who will be on their own on Christmas Day. You may be in town for a visit, or just moved into the area, or may simply be unable to share Christmas Day with your loved ones. So come and share it with us. It will be held on Thursday 25 December in and around the St Michael's Primary School hall, and everyone is welcome, families and individuals. But places are limited, so you will need to register to attend. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9639 0598 or email baulkhamhills@parracatholic.org.

Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January. For one week, there will be celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who've enriched our parishes, schools and communities. Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross.

Grab your copy of the Catholic Outlook Magazine!

The latest quarterly edition of the *Catholic Outlook* Magazine is out now, keeping you connected with exciting news and events in the Diocese of Parramatta.

OLOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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>. Face to Face courses will resume in 2026. Dates and times will be provided once confirmed.

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.

Visiting Clergy to OLOL

Thank you to Fr. Hoang Viet Nguyen who graciously assisted Fr Henry with mass and reconciliation this week. Visiting clergy all uphold the standards and processes we here at OLOL and the Diocese have put in place to ensure the safety of our community.

Santo Nino Fiesta Sinulog 2026: 18 January

The Devotees of the Holy Infant Jesus Santo Nino invite you to attend the 2026 Fiesta Sinulog on Sunday 18 January at St Patrick's Church, Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown at 2pm. All devotees, please bring your Santo Nino statues. Novena Masses will be held between 8-16 January at 7pm at the parishes of St Clair-Erskine Park, Penrith, St Marys, Rooty Hill, Winston Hills, Plumpton, Marayong, Quakers Hill and Kellyville. For more information, please contact the Blacktown Parish on (02) 9622 1125 or email blacktown@parracatholic.org

Sing a New Song Music Workshop for Children: 21 January

Do you have a child in Year 4-12? Invite them to come along to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 21 January from 9:30am to 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Morning tea and lunch provided. Student participants will form a choir that will sing at the Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Sunday 25 January at 11am. To register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/0URuFAeThA>

Rosary Making Workshop: 9 February

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on Monday 9 February at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for further information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Diocesan World Day of the Sick: 11 February

Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on the 11th February 2026 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. To register, please visit parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-the-sick-mass/

Children and Young People's Participation

A Safeguarding culture for Children and Young People is fostered and sustained by our parish being committed to living the Gospel by serving the most vulnerable. Here at OLOL Seven Hills we implement all Arch/Diocesan policies, procedures and community standards that are Child and Young Person centred to lift barriers so their voices can be heard and their participation valued.

OLOL Parish community values and celebrates ALL our Children and Young People for who they are and the great contributions they make to our parish. We therefore have an obligation to uphold their human and spiritual rights. This is achieved at OLOL by: 1. Providing ministries, services and programs that are relevant for Children and Young People including those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and who have a disability; 2. Committing to zero tolerance to any attitude and activity that makes Children and Young People feel less safe; 3. Enhancing relationships between leaders, community members, Children and Young People; and 4. Creating a new perspective to invigorate renewal. We also ensure all our volunteers and staff have an up to date WWCC and completed all safeguard training.

Greeting of the Holy Father to the sick in the Audience Hall before the General Audience

Good morning everyone! Good morning! Welcome!

I will offer a brief greeting, a blessing for each of you.

On this day, we wanted to protect you a little from the elements, especially the cold... It is not raining, but this way you may be a little more comfortable. Afterwards, you can follow the Audience on the screen, or if you wish, you can also go outside, but we would like to make the most of this small, more personal encounter to greet you, to offer you the Lord's blessing, and also our best wishes. Christmas is almost here, and we would like to ask the Lord that the joy of this Christmas season accompany you all: your families, your loved ones, and that you may always be in the Lord's hands with the trust and love that only God can give us.

I give my blessing to all of you now, and then I will come and greet you.

Blessing

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Human life is characterized by a constant movement that drives us to do, to act. Nowadays speed is required everywhere in order to achieve optimal results in a wide variety of fields. How does Jesus' resurrection shed light on this aspect of our experience? When we participate in his victory over death, will we rest? Faith tells us: yes, we will rest. We will not be inactive, but we will enter into God's repose, which is peace and joy. So, should we just wait, or can this change us right now?

We are absorbed by many activities that do not always leave us satisfied. A lot of our actions have to do with practical, concrete things. We have to assume responsibility for many commitments, solve problems, face difficulties. Jesus too was involved with people and with life, not sparing himself, but rather giving himself to the end. Yet we often perceive how too much doing, instead of giving us fulfilment, becomes a vortex that overwhelms us, takes away our serenity, and prevents us from living to the fullest what is truly important in our lives. We then feel tired and dissatisfied: time seems to be wasted on a thousand practical things that do not, however, resolve the ultimate meaning of our existence. Sometimes, at the end of days full of activities, we feel empty. Why? Because we are not machines, we have a "heart"; indeed, we can say that we *are* a heart.

The heart is the symbol of all our humanity, the sum of our thoughts, feelings and desires, the invisible centre of our selves. The Evangelist Matthew invites us to reflect on the importance of the heart, quoting this beautiful phrase of Jesus: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Mt 6:21).

It is therefore in the heart that true treasure is kept, not in earthly safes, not in large financial investments, which today more than ever before are out of control and unjustly concentrated at the bloody price of millions of human lives and the devastation of God's creation.

It is important to reflect on these aspects, because in the numerous commitments we continually face, there is an increasing risk of dispersion, sometimes of despair, of meaninglessness, even in apparently successful people. Instead, interpreting life in the light of Easter, looking at it with the Risen Jesus, means finding access to the essence of the human person, to our heart: *cor inquietum*. With this adjective "restless", Saint Augustine helps us understand the human being's yearning for fulfilment. The full sentence refers to the beginning of the *Confessions*, where Augustine writes: "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (I, 1,1).

Restlessness is the sign that our heart does not move by chance, in a disordered way, without a purpose or a destination, but is oriented towards its ultimate destination, the "return home". The authentic approach of the heart does not consist in possessing the goods of this world, but in achieving what can fill it completely; namely, the love of God, or rather, God who is Love. This treasure, however, can only be found by loving the neighbour we meet along the way: brothers and sisters in flesh and blood, whose presence stirs and questions our heart, calling it to open up and give itself. Our neighbour asks us to slow down, to look them in the eye, sometimes to change our plans, perhaps even to change direction.

Dear friends, here is the secret of the movement of the human heart: returning to the source of its being, delighting in the joy that never fails, that never disappoints. No one can live without a meaning that goes beyond the contingent, beyond what passes away. The human heart cannot live without hope, without knowing that it is made for fullness, not for want.

Jesus Christ, with his Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection, has given us a solid foundation for this hope. The restless heart will not be disappointed, if it enters into the dynamism of the love for which it was created. The destination is certain, life has triumphed, and in Christ it will continue to triumph in every death of daily life. This is Christian hope: let us always bless and thank the Lord who has given it to us!

DOCTRINAL NOTE ON MARIAN TITLES: MOTHER OF THE FAITHFUL, NOT CO-REDEMPTRIX

The document of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by Pope Leo XIV, offers clarifications on titles applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and calls for special attention to the use of the expression, “Mediatrix of all graces.”

Co-redemptrix

Regarding the title “Co-redemptrix,” the Note recalls that “some Popes have used the title “without elaborating much on its meaning.” Generally, it continues, “they have presented the title in two specific ways: in reference to Mary’s divine motherhood (insofar as she, as Mother, made possible the Redemption that Christ accomplished) or in reference to her union with Christ at the redemptive Cross. The Second Vatican Council refrained from using the title for dogmatic, pastoral, and ecumenical reasons. Saint John Paul II referred to Mary as ‘Co-redemptrix’ on at least seven occasions, particularly relating this title to the salvific value of our sufferings when they are offered together with the sufferings of Christ, to whom Mary is united especially at the Cross” (18).

The document cites an internal discussion within the then-Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which in February 1996 had discussed the request to proclaim a new dogma on Mary as “Co-redemptrix or Mediatrix of all graces.” Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was opposed to such a definition, arguing, “the precise meaning of these titles is not clear, and the doctrine contained in them is not mature. [...] It is not clear how the doctrine expressed in these titles is present in Scripture and the apostolic tradition.”

Later, in 2002, the future Benedict XVI expressed himself publicly in the same way: “The formula ‘Co-redemptrix’ departs to too great an extent from the language of Scripture and of the Fathers and therefore gives rise to misunderstandings... Everything comes from Him [Christ], as the Letter to the Ephesians and the Letter to the Colossians, in particular, tell us; Mary, too, is everything that she is through Him. The word ‘Co-redemptrix’ would obscure this origin.”

The note clarifies that Cardinal Ratzinger did not deny the good intentions behind the proposal, nor the valuable aspects reflected in it, but nonetheless maintained that they were “being expressed in the wrong way” (19).

Pope Francis also expressed his clear opposition to the use of the title Co-Redemptrix on at least three occasions. Tuesday’s Doctrinal Note concludes: “*It is always inappropriate* to use the title ‘Co-redemptrix’ to define Mary’s cooperation. This title risks obscuring Christ’s unique salvific mediation and can therefore create confusion and an imbalance in the harmony of the truths of the Christian faith. [...] When an expression requires many, repeated explanations to prevent it from straying from a correct meaning, it does not serve the faith of the People of God and becomes *unhelpful*” (22).

Mediatrix

The Note emphasises that “the biblical statement about Christ’s exclusive mediation is conclusive. Christ is the only Mediator” (24).

At the same time, MPF recognises “the fact that the word ‘mediation’ is commonly used in many areas of everyday life, where it is understood simply as cooperation, assistance, or intercession. As a result, it is inevitable that the term would be applied to Mary in a subordinate sense. Used in this way, it does not intend to add any efficacy or power to the unique mediation of Jesus Christ, true God and true man” (25).

Further, “it is clear that Mary has a real mediatory role in enabling the Incarnation of the Son of God in our humanity” (26).

Mother of believers and Mediatrix of all graces

Mary’s maternal role “in no way obscures or diminishes” the unique mediation of Christ, “but rather shows its power [...] Understood in this way, Mary’s motherhood does not seek to weaken the unique adoration due to Christ alone but, rather, seeks to enkindle it.”

Therefore, the Note states, “one must avoid titles and expressions that present Mary as a kind of ‘lightning rod’ before the Lord’s justice, as if she were a necessary alternative before the insufficiency of God’s mercy” (37b).

Thus, the title “Mother of Believers” “enables us to speak of Mary’s role in our relation to our life of grace”.

However, MPF goes on to urge caution concerning the use of expressions that may convey “less acceptable notions” (45).

“Cardinal Ratzinger already affirmed” for example, “that the title ‘Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces’ was not clearly grounded in Revelation.” So, the Note continues, “in line with this conviction, we can recognize the difficulties this title poses, both in terms of theological reflection and spirituality” (45). In fact, “no human person — not even the Apostles or the Blessed Virgin — can act as a universal dispenser of grace. Only God can bestow grace, and he does so through the humanity of Christ” (53).

“Some titles, such as ‘Mediatrix of All Graces,’ have limits that do not favour a correct understanding of Mary’s unique place,” MPF explains, adding, “In fact, she, the first redeemed, could not have been the mediatrix of the grace that she herself received” (67).

Nonetheless, the Doctrinal Note acknowledges that “the term ‘graces,’ when seen in reference to Mary’s maternal help at various moments in our lives, can have an acceptable meaning. The plural form expresses all the aids — even material — that the Lord may grant us when He heeds His Mother’s intercession” (68).

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

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 12th February 2026, 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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Christmas Schedule for December 2025

24th	Children/Family Christmas Mass	6:00pm
24th	Christmas Mass	9:00pm
24th	Midnight Mass	12:00am
25th	Christmas Day Mass	8:00am & 9:30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

20/21 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: B. Motha, M. Mifsud 8am: F. Paiva, T. Perak 9.30am: C. Brooks, Kamela Huihui	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, N. Sumcad 8am: T. Perak, K. Walker 9.30am: N. Arambulo, L. Rigney	
Altar Servers	Vigil: N. D'Cruz, J. Steele, Aaliya Faulkner-Dhiman, 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: K. Maruthanayagam, C. Attard, L. Sager.	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: K.Thoms & C.W 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	24 Dec	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

27/28 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Lawrence Falzon 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Simic, N. Shami 8am: F. Paiva, J. Sarmiento 9.30am: P. Gow, G. Basilli	
Readers	Vigil: Yxaak & Yxavel Dino 8am: F. Kennedy, A. McNally 9.30am: J. Nonato, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Julian & Orlando Martinez, C. Bellamin 8am: Jaxon Blackshaw, Sub Rqd 9.30am: K. Cassaniti, L. Sadipoor, A. Melki	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary	
Church Cleaning	1 January	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli	

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21st, 2025

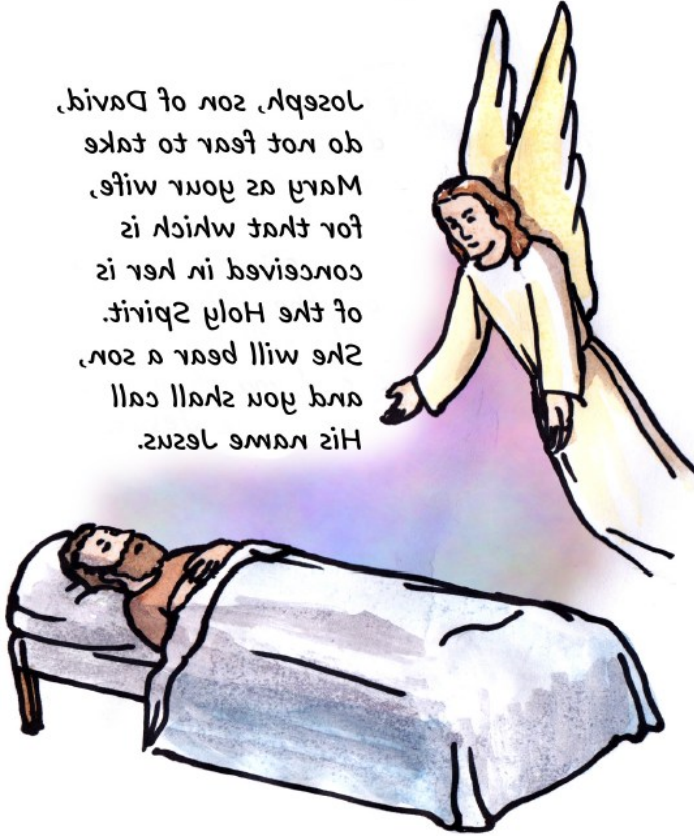
What's in a Name?

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 18:21

Based on Matthew 1:18-25



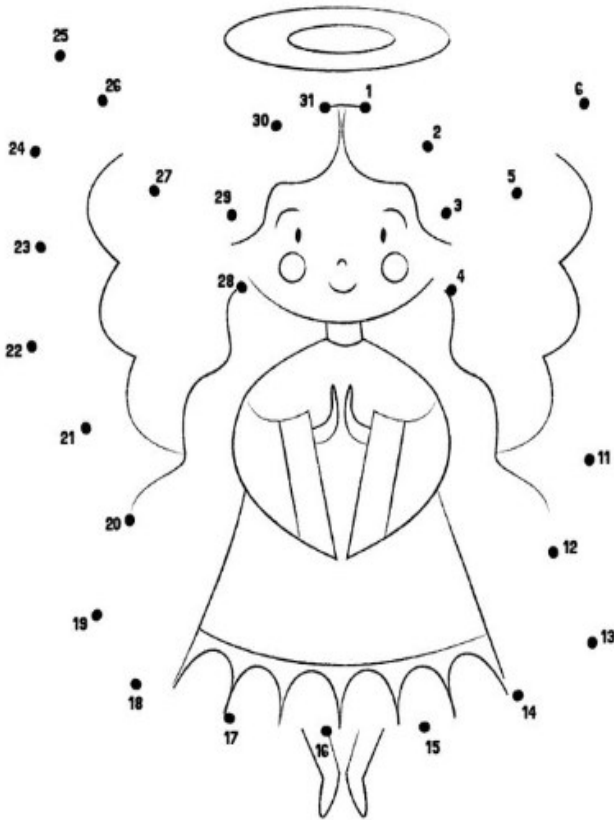
Joseph, son of David,
do not fear to take
Mary as your wife,
for that which is
conceived in her is
of the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son,
and you shall call
his name Jesus.



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

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!

HUSBAND	SON	IMMANUEL	MARY	NAME
CHRIST	CHILD	VIRGIN	BIRTH	ANGEL
JOSEPH	MARRY	AFRAID	DREAM	JESUS



angel





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 School:	LOLO 8869 6800
Parish Deacon:	Deacon Thong Nguyen	Principal:	Ms Keiran Byrnes
Parish Office Team:	Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Jane Nguyen, Laura Ilioski	Reconciliation:	Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
Office Hours: Monday-Friday:	9am - 3.00pm	Baptismal Preparation:	18 February 2026
WEEKDAY MASS:	Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am Thursday 9.00am	Baptism:	11 January 2026
WEEKEND MASS:	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9.30am	Sacrament Co-Ordinator:	Mrs Artelle Lenthall
		Youth Co-Ordinator:	Diana Park
		Parish Website:	www.olol7hills.org.au
		Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/LOLO7Hills/

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 21 December 2025 • Year A



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, Takis Karapatsakis, Clare Kinsley, T.Q Letran, Susie Manga, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Gary Morrissey, Jayne Muscat, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Michelle Pellicano, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Arabella Steele, Sue Tiplado, 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@olol7hills.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, Rosita Ballecer, Anthony Hastings, Aggie Motha, Maria Amma Peter, Veronica Rosales, Anthony Ruzgas

Anniversaries: Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, France Angseesing, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Evan Elisher, Rita de Silva, Frank, M.A Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, Norma Lorenzo, Joseph Mahon, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Irene Moroney, Thelma Morrissey, Anton & Lourda Motha, Paul Mula, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Eustace Ratnam, Roseline Ratnam

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Sydney Azie, Antonio, Amelia & Germana Bertimato, Sam Borg, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato Cabasa, Peter & Antonio, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli, Barrie Chamberlain, Myrna Cruz, Joseph, Johnny Edwards, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Launcer De Guire, Bede Diab, Debe Diab, Marcel Diab, Mohsen Diab, Peter Diab, Toufic Diab, O. Francis, J. Francis, Melvyn Fernandes, Merita Fernando, Nevis Fernando, Leandro Garcia Snr, Evangeline, Rudy Garcia, Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Selvam Irudayaraj, J.B, Jonathan Tek Kie, Mangion & Cini Family, Felina Maglaya, Tessie & Andy Mangine, 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, Aurora Nufable Nonato, Coleen O'Sullivan, Serge Pasnin, Lakshman Perera, Marlyn Pestano, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose, Maria, Laureano, Karen, Yolanda Reyes, Mary Silva, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.

Names will be published for 2 weeks at a time.

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.

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



KEEP UP TO DATE

By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more. Visit www.olol7hills.org.au

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**(R) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally.

He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

According to scholars, marriage customs in Palestine in Jesus' time often included two parts: the engagement and the wedding.

The engagement period usually lasted for a year during which the bride and the groom stayed in their homes and communicated to each other through messages delivered by the best man. The engagement began with the signing of a formal marriage agreement or with the groom offering gifts to the bride's family. At this stage, the bride and the groom were legally husband and wife even though they did not yet live together. Vietnamese people have done the same, except the engagement period is less than a year, usually six months.

After a year-long engagement time, the wedding ceremony then took place, and the groom could formally take his wife into his home to begin their married life together.

This background knowledge of Jewish marriage customs will help us better appreciate the Gospel account this Sunday, as it allows us to understand the dilemma St. Joseph faced when he discovered Mary's conception during their engagement. On the one hand, they were legally husband and wife; on the other hand, Mary was clearly carrying a child who was not his. For Joseph, a righteous and honorable man, divorce seemed to be the best solution, one that would end the relationship quietly and protect Mary's life, since she could otherwise be accused of adultery, an offense that, under Jewish law, could result in death by stoning. This messy entanglement is finally cleared up by the angel appearing to Joseph in a dream to reveal the mystery behind Mary's conception, that she was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The angel also asked Joseph to take Mary home to be his wife with the obligation to name the child Jesus, a name that means 'the Lord saves' or simply 'salvation.'

In the eyes of Matthew whose Gospel was meant to bring Jesus' Good News to the group of Jewish followers often familiar with the teachings of the prophets in the scripture, what happened here was extra special, because it fulfilled exactly what Isaiah prophesied long before, as we hear in the first reading today, that 'the maiden is with child and soon give birth to a son, whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us.' This prophetic fulfillment Have a joy-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ADVENT WREATH

It is usually constructed around a circular base. This circular base is traditionally taken to symbolise the ever-renewing cycle of the seasons, and the four candles, represent the four Sundays of Advent. The fourth candle, the "Candle of Love," reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth.



HALL CANOPY PLAQUE

From this weekend, the Pledging Book for the Hall Canopy Plaque is 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.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS THANK YOU

Thank you everyone for such an overwhelming support to our Parish invitation to show our love and care for the needy both in our community and beyond through our Christmas Hampers tradition, and a special thank you note to our dedicated Vinnies for overseeing the whole program from collecting and sorting out donations to distributing them dutifully.

MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church from this weekend for Ministers of the Eucharist, Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers and Welcomers who would like to serve at a Christmas Mass. We kindly ask that ministers sign up for one liturgy only.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2026

Ministry rosters for February - July 2026 are now available. You can find a copy at the back Sacristy or on our website under 'Parish Forms'. If you require more copies or notice any discrepancies, please kindly contact the parish office.

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN 2026-2030

Copies of our Parish Pastoral Plan 2026-2030 are now on and all are invited to have a look after Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY—CHRISTMAS STORY

Thank you to the children who have volunteered to act out the Christmas Story this year. This will take place during the 6pm mass on the 24th December. For those children who are not participating but attending the mass, you are invited to dress up as angels or shepherds.

A PRACTICAL TIP EACH WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

TIP 14 Take a Break from Online Shopping

Online shopping produces a lot of packaging waste and produces excess carbon emissions from airplanes and vehicles. Take a month off online shopping or reduce what you buy online. Try to make purchases closer to home!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS & BULLETIN

Our Parish office will close between Christmas and New Year and there will be no bulletins throughout the month of January 2026 to allow Parish staff to take a break. However, I will be around in the Parish office as usual.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE RETURNS IN 2026

Those interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar, the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2026. Enrolment forms can be found at the back sacristy.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

- Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Mount Druitt Combined Churches Christmas Day

Community Lunch: 25 December

Don't spend Christmas alone. A free Christmas Day lunch hosted by Mt Druitt Combined Churches on Thursday 25 December from 11am, with Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt as the venue host. All are welcome. Registration is essential. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/MtDruittChristmasLunch>

Baulkham Hills Christmas Luncheon: 25 December

The Parish of Baulkham Hills are hosting a Christmas Lunch for anyone who will be on their own on Christmas Day. You may be in town for a visit, or just moved into the area, or may simply be unable to share Christmas Day with your loved ones. So come and share it with us. It will be held on Thursday 25 December in and around the St Michael's Primary School hall, and everyone is welcome, families and individuals. But places are limited, so you will need to register to attend. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9639 0598 or email baulkhamhills@parracatholic.org.

Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January. For one week, there will be celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who've enriched our parishes, schools and communities. Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross.

Grab your copy of the Catholic Outlook Magazine!

The latest quarterly edition of the *Catholic Outlook* Magazine is out now, keeping you connected with exciting news and events in the Diocese of Parramatta.

OLOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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>. Face to Face courses will resume in 2026. Dates and times will be provided once confirmed.

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.

Visiting Clergy to OLOL

Thank you to Fr. Hoang Viet Nguyen who graciously assisted Fr Henry with mass and reconciliation this week. Visiting clergy all uphold the standards and processes we here at OLOL and the Diocese have put in place to ensure the safety of our community.

Santo Nino Fiesta Sinulog 2026: 18 January

The Devotees of the Holy Infant Jesus Santo Nino invite you to attend the 2026 Fiesta Sinulog on Sunday 18 January at St Patrick's Church, Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown at 2pm. All devotees, please bring your Santo Nino statues. Novena Masses will be held between 8-16 January at 7pm at the parishes of St Clair-Erskine Park, Penrith, St Marys, Rooty Hill, Winston Hills, Plumpton, Marayong, Quakers Hill and Kellyville. For more information, please contact the Blacktown Parish on (02) 9622 1125 or email blacktown@parracatholic.org

Sing a New Song Music Workshop for Children: 21 January

Do you have a child in Year 4-12? Invite them to come along to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 21 January from 9:30am to 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Morning tea and lunch provided. Student participants will form a choir that will sing at the Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Sunday 25 January at 11am. To register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/0URuFAeThA>

Rosary Making Workshop: 9 February

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on Monday 9 February at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for further information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Diocesan World Day of the Sick: 11 February

Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on the 11th February 2026 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. To register, please visit parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-the-sick-mass/

Children and Young People's Participation

A Safeguarding culture for Children and Young People is fostered and sustained by our parish being committed to living the Gospel by serving the most vulnerable. Here at OLOL Seven Hills we implement all Arch/Diocesan policies, procedures and community standards that are Child and Young Person centred to lift barriers so their voices can be heard and their participation valued.

OLOL Parish community values and celebrates ALL our Children and Young People for who they are and the great contributions they make to our parish. We therefore have an obligation to uphold their human and spiritual rights. This is achieved at OLOL by: 1. Providing ministries, services and programs that are relevant for Children and Young People including those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and who have a disability; 2. Committing to zero tolerance to any attitude and activity that makes Children and Young People feel less safe; 3. Enhancing relationships between leaders, community members, Children and Young People; and 4. Creating a new perspective to invigorate renewal. We also ensure all our volunteers and staff have an up to date WWCC and completed all safeguard training.

Greeting of the Holy Father to the sick in the Audience Hall before the General Audience

Good morning everyone! Good morning! Welcome!

I will offer a brief greeting, a blessing for each of you.

On this day, we wanted to protect you a little from the elements, especially the cold... It is not raining, but this way you may be a little more comfortable. Afterwards, you can follow the Audience on the screen, or if you wish, you can also go outside, but we would like to make the most of this small, more personal encounter to greet you, to offer you the Lord's blessing, and also our best wishes. Christmas is almost here, and we would like to ask the Lord that the joy of this Christmas season accompany you all: your families, your loved ones, and that you may always be in the Lord's hands with the trust and love that only God can give us.

I give my blessing to all of you now, and then I will come and greet you.

Blessing

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Human life is characterized by a constant movement that drives us to do, to act. Nowadays speed is required everywhere in order to achieve optimal results in a wide variety of fields. How does Jesus' resurrection shed light on this aspect of our experience? When we participate in his victory over death, will we rest? Faith tells us: yes, we will rest. We will not be inactive, but we will enter into God's repose, which is peace and joy. So, should we just wait, or can this change us right now?

We are absorbed by many activities that do not always leave us satisfied. A lot of our actions have to do with practical, concrete things. We have to assume responsibility for many commitments, solve problems, face difficulties. Jesus too was involved with people and with life, not sparing himself, but rather giving himself to the end. Yet we often perceive how too much doing, instead of giving us fulfilment, becomes a vortex that overwhelms us, takes away our serenity, and prevents us from living to the fullest what is truly important in our lives. We then feel tired and dissatisfied: time seems to be wasted on a thousand practical things that do not, however, resolve the ultimate meaning of our existence. Sometimes, at the end of days full of activities, we feel empty. Why? Because we are not machines, we have a "heart"; indeed, we can say that we *are* a heart.

The heart is the symbol of all our humanity, the sum of our thoughts, feelings and desires, the invisible centre of our selves. The Evangelist Matthew invites us to reflect on the importance of the heart, quoting this beautiful phrase of Jesus: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (*Mt* 6:21).

It is therefore in the heart that true treasure is kept, not in earthly safes, not in large financial investments, which today more than ever before are out of control and unjustly concentrated at the bloody price of millions of human lives and the devastation of God's creation.

It is important to reflect on these aspects, because in the numerous commitments we continually face, there is an increasing risk of dispersion, sometimes of despair, of meaninglessness, even in apparently successful people. Instead, interpreting life in the light of Easter, looking at it with the Risen Jesus, means finding access to the essence of the human person, to our heart: *cor inquietum*. With this adjective "restless", Saint Augustine helps us understand the human being's yearning for fulfilment. The full sentence refers to the beginning of the *Confessions*, where Augustine writes: "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (I, 1,1).

Restlessness is the sign that our heart does not move by chance, in a disordered way, without a purpose or a destination, but is oriented towards its ultimate destination, the "return home". The authentic approach of the heart does not consist in possessing the goods of this world, but in achieving what can fill it completely; namely, the love of God, or rather, God who is Love. This treasure, however, can only be found by loving the neighbour we meet along the way: brothers and sisters in flesh and blood, whose presence stirs and questions our heart, calling it to open up and give itself. Our neighbour asks us to slow down, to look them in the eye, sometimes to change our plans, perhaps even to change direction.

Dear friends, here is the secret of the movement of the human heart: returning to the source of its being, delighting in the joy that never fails, that never disappoints. No one can live without a meaning that goes beyond the contingent, beyond what passes away. The human heart cannot live without hope, without knowing that it is made for fullness, not for want.

Jesus Christ, with his Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection, has given us a solid foundation for this hope. The restless heart will not be disappointed, if it enters into the dynamism of the love for which it was created. The destination is certain, life has triumphed, and in Christ it will continue to triumph in every death of daily life. This is Christian hope: let us always bless and thank the Lord who has given it to us!

DOCTRINAL NOTE ON MARIAN TITLES: MOTHER OF THE FAITHFUL, NOT CO-REDEMPTRIX

The document of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by Pope Leo XIV, offers clarifications on titles applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and calls for special attention to the use of the expression, “Mediatrix of all graces.”

Co-redemptrix

Regarding the title “Co-redemptrix,” the Note recalls that “some Popes have used the title “without elaborating much on its meaning.” Generally, it continues, “they have presented the title in two specific ways: in reference to Mary’s divine motherhood (insofar as she, as Mother, made possible the Redemption that Christ accomplished) or in reference to her union with Christ at the redemptive Cross. The Second Vatican Council refrained from using the title for dogmatic, pastoral, and ecumenical reasons. Saint John Paul II referred to Mary as ‘Co-redemptrix’ on at least seven occasions, particularly relating this title to the salvific value of our sufferings when they are offered together with the sufferings of Christ, to whom Mary is united especially at the Cross” (18).

The document cites an internal discussion within the then-Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which in February 1996 had discussed the request to proclaim a new dogma on Mary as “Co-redemptrix or Mediatrix of all graces.” Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was opposed to such a definition, arguing, “the precise meaning of these titles is not clear, and the doctrine contained in them is not mature. [...] It is not clear how the doctrine expressed in these titles is present in Scripture and the apostolic tradition.”

Later, in 2002, the future Benedict XVI expressed himself publicly in the same way: “The formula ‘Co-redemptrix’ departs to too great an extent from the language of Scripture and of the Fathers and therefore gives rise to misunderstandings... Everything comes from Him [Christ], as the Letter to the Ephesians and the Letter to the Colossians, in particular, tell us; Mary, too, is everything that she is through Him. The word ‘Co-redemptrix’ would obscure this origin.”

The note clarifies that Cardinal Ratzinger did not deny the good intentions behind the proposal, nor the valuable aspects reflected in it, but nonetheless maintained that they were “being expressed in the wrong way” (19).

Pope Francis also expressed his clear opposition to the use of the title Co-Redemptrix on at least three occasions. Tuesday’s Doctrinal Note concludes: “*It is always inappropriate* to use the title ‘Co-redemptrix’ to define Mary’s cooperation. This title risks obscuring Christ’s unique salvific mediation and can therefore create confusion and an imbalance in the harmony of the truths of the Christian faith. [...] When an expression requires many, repeated explanations to prevent it from straying from a correct meaning, it does not serve the faith of the People of God and becomes *unhelpful*” (22).

Mediatrix

The Note emphasises that “the biblical statement about Christ’s exclusive mediation is conclusive. Christ is the only Mediator” (24).

At the same time, MPF recognises “the fact that the word ‘mediation’ is commonly used in many areas of everyday life, where it is understood simply as cooperation, assistance, or intercession. As a result, it is inevitable that the term would be applied to Mary in a subordinate sense. Used in this way, it does not intend to add any efficacy or power to the unique mediation of Jesus Christ, true God and true man” (25).

Further, “it is clear that Mary has a real mediatory role in enabling the Incarnation of the Son of God in our humanity” (26).

Mother of believers and Mediatrix of all graces

Mary’s maternal role “in no way obscures or diminishes” the unique mediation of Christ, “but rather shows its power [...] Understood in this way, Mary’s motherhood does not seek to weaken the unique adoration due to Christ alone but, rather, seeks to enkindle it.”

Therefore, the Note states, “one must avoid titles and expressions that present Mary as a kind of ‘lightning rod’ before the Lord’s justice, as if she were a necessary alternative before the insufficiency of God’s mercy” (37b).

Thus, the title “Mother of Believers” “enables us to speak of Mary’s role in our relation to our life of grace”.

However, MPF goes on to urge caution concerning the use of expressions that may convey “less acceptable notions” (45).

“Cardinal Ratzinger already affirmed” for example, “that the title ‘Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces’ was not clearly grounded in Revelation.” So, the Note continues, “in line with this conviction, we can recognize the difficulties this title poses, both in terms of theological reflection and spirituality” (45). In fact, “no human person — not even the Apostles or the Blessed Virgin — can act as a universal dispenser of grace. Only God can bestow grace, and he does so through the humanity of Christ” (53).

“Some titles, such as ‘Mediatrix of All Graces,’ have limits that do not favour a correct understanding of Mary’s unique place,” MPF explains, adding, “In fact, she, the first redeemed, could not have been the mediatrix of the grace that she herself received” (67).

Nonetheless, the Doctrinal Note acknowledges that “the term ‘graces,’ when seen in reference to Mary’s maternal help at various moments in our lives, can have an acceptable meaning. The plural form expresses all the aids — even material — that the Lord may grant us when He heeds His Mother’s intercession” (68).

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

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 12th February 2026, 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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Christmas Schedule for December 2025

24th	Children/Family Christmas Mass	6:00pm
24th	Christmas Mass	9:00pm
24th	Midnight Mass	12:00am
25th	Christmas Day Mass	8:00am & 9:30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

20/21 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: B. Motha, M. Mifsud 8am: F. Paiva, T. Perak 9.30am: C. Brooks, Kamela Huihui	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, N. Sumcad 8am: T. Perak, K. Walker 9.30am: N. Arambulo, L. Rigney	
Altar Servers	Vigil: N. D'Cruz, J. Steele, Aaliya Faulkner-Dhiman, 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: K. Maruthanayagam, C. Attard, L. Sager.	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: K.Thoms & C.W 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	24 Dec	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

27/28 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Lawrence Falzon 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Simic, N. Shami 8am: F. Paiva, J. Sarmiento 9.30am: P. Gow, G. Basilli	
Readers	Vigil: Yxaak & Yxavel Dino 8am: F. Kennedy, A. McNally 9.30am: J. Nonato, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Julian & Orlando Martinez, C. Bellamin 8am: Jaxon Blackshaw, Sub Rqd 9.30am: K. Cassaniti, L. Sadipoor, A. Melki	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary	
Church Cleaning	1 January	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli	

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21st, 2025

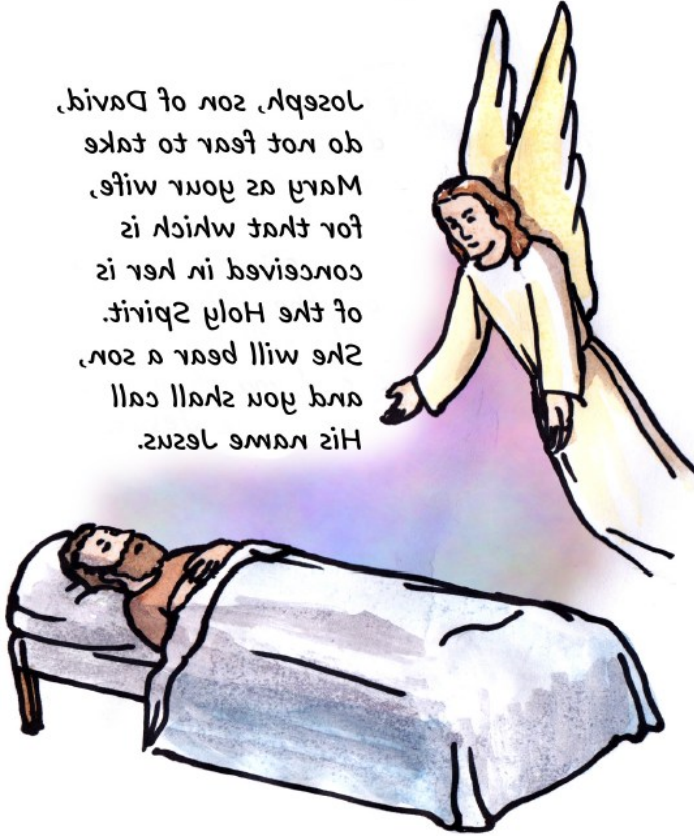
What's in a Name?

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 18:21

Based on Matthew 1:18-25



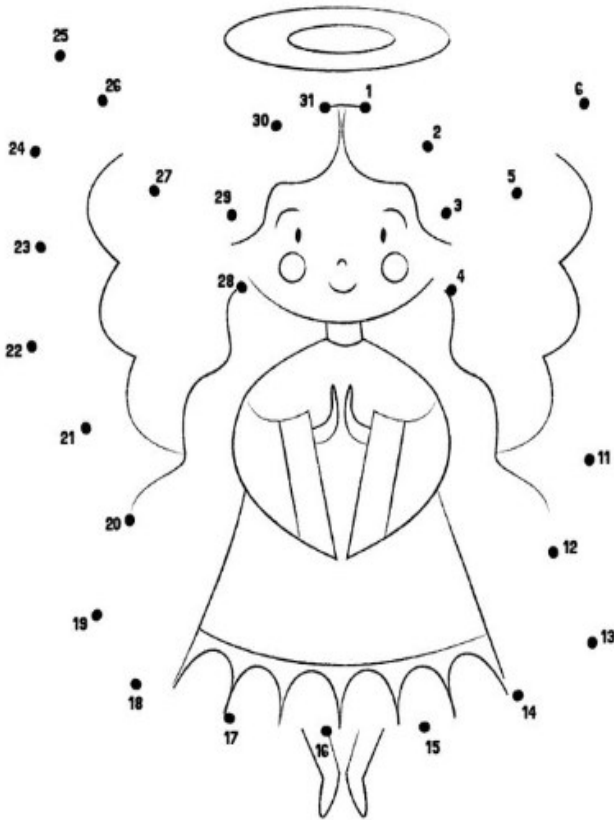
Joseph, son of David,
do not fear to take
Mary as your wife,
for that which is
conceived in her is
of the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son,
and you shall call
his name Jesus.



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

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!

HUSBAND	SON	IMMANUEL	MARY	NAME
CHRIST	CHILD	VIRGIN	BIRTH	ANGEL
JOSEPH	MARRY	AFRAID	DREAM	JESUS



angel





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@lol7hills.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: 18 February 2026
Baptism: 11 January 2026
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall
Youth Co-Ordinator: Diana Park
Parish Website: www.lol7hills.org.au
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/LOLOL7Hills/>

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 21 December 2025 • Year A



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, Takis Karapatsakis, Clare Kinsley, T.Q Letran, Susie Manga, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Gary Morrissey, Jayne Muscat, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Michelle Pellicano, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Arabella Steele, Sue Tiplado, 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, Rosita Ballecer, Anthony Hastings, Aggie Motha, Maria Amma Peter, Veronica Rosales, Anthony Ruzgas

Anniversaries: Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, France Angseesing, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Evan Elisher, Rita de Silva, Frank, M.A Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, Norma Lorenzo, Joseph Mahon, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Irene Moroney, Thelma Morrissey, Anton & Lourda Motha, Paul Mula, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Eustace Ratnam, Roseline Ratnam

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Sydney Azie, Antonio, Amelia & Germana Bertinato, Sam Borg, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato Cabasa, Peter & Antonio, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli, Barrie Chamberlain, Myrna Cruz, 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, O. Francis, J. Francis, Melvyn Fernandes, Merita Fernando, Nevis Fernando, Leandro Garcia Snr, Evangeline, Rudy Garcia, Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Selvam Irudayaraj, J.B, Jonathan Tek Kie, Mangion & Cini Family, Felina Maglaya, Tessie & Andy Mangine, 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, Aurora Nufable Nonato, Coleen O'Sullivan, Serge Pasnin, Lakshman Perera, Marlyn Pestano, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose, Maria, Laureano, Karen, Yolanda Reyes, Mary Silva, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.

Names will be published for 2 weeks at a time.

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.

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



KEEP UP TO DATE

By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more. Visit www.lol7hills.org.au

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**(R) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally.

He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

According to scholars, marriage customs in Palestine in Jesus' time often included two parts: the engagement and the wedding.

The engagement period usually lasted for a year during which the bride and the groom stayed in their homes and communicated to each other through messages delivered by the best man. The engagement began with the signing of a formal marriage agreement or with the groom offering gifts to the bride's family. At this stage, the bride and the groom were legally husband and wife even though they did not yet live together. Vietnamese people have done the same, except the engagement period is less than a year, usually six months.

After a year-long engagement time, the wedding ceremony then took place, and the groom could formally take his wife into his home to begin their married life together.

This background knowledge of Jewish marriage customs will help us better appreciate the Gospel account this Sunday, as it allows us to understand the dilemma St. Joseph faced when he discovered Mary's conception during their engagement. On the one hand, they were legally husband and wife; on the other hand, Mary was clearly carrying a child who was not his. For Joseph, a righteous and honorable man, divorce seemed to be the best solution, one that would end the relationship quietly and protect Mary's life, since she could otherwise be accused of adultery, an offense that, under Jewish law, could result in death by stoning. This messy entanglement is finally cleared up by the angel appearing to Joseph in a dream to reveal the mystery behind Mary's conception, that she was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The angel also asked Joseph to take Mary home to be his wife with the obligation to name the child Jesus, a name that means 'the Lord saves' or simply 'salvation.'

In the eyes of Matthew whose Gospel was meant to bring Jesus' Good News to the group of Jewish followers often familiar with the teachings of the prophets in the scripture, what happened here was extra special, because it fulfilled exactly what Isaiah prophesied long before, as we hear in the first reading today, that 'the maiden is with child and soon give birth to a son, whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us.' This prophetic fulfillment Have a joy-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ADVENT WREATH

It is usually constructed around a circular base. This circular base is traditionally taken to symbolise the ever-renewing cycle of the seasons, and the four candles, represent the four Sundays of Advent. The fourth candle, the "Candle of Love," reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth.



HALL CANOPY PLAQUE

From this weekend, the Pledging Book for the Hall Canopy Plaque is 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.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS THANK YOU

Thank you everyone for such an overwhelming support to our Parish invitation to show our love and care for the needy both in our community and beyond through our Christmas Hampers tradition, and a special thank you note to our dedicated Vinnies for overseeing the whole program from collecting and sorting out donations to distributing them dutifully.

MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church from this weekend for Ministers of the Eucharist, Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers and Welcomers who would like to serve at a Christmas Mass. We kindly ask that ministers sign up for one liturgy only.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2026

Ministry rosters for February - July 2026 are now available. You can find a copy at the back Sacristy or on our website under 'Parish Forms'. If you require more copies or notice any discrepancies, please kindly contact the parish office.

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN 2026-2030

Copies of our Parish Pastoral Plan 2026-2030 are now on and all are invited to have a look after Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY—CHRISTMAS STORY

Thank you to the children who have volunteered to act out the Christmas Story this year. This will take place during the 6pm mass on the 24th December. For those children who are not participating but attending the mass, you are invited to dress up as angels or shepherds.

A PRACTICAL TIP EACH WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

TIP 14 Take a Break from Online Shopping

Online shopping produces a lot of packaging waste and produces excess carbon emissions from airplanes and vehicles. Take a month off online shopping or reduce what you buy online. Try to make purchases closer to home!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS & BULLETIN

Our Parish office will close between Christmas and New Year and there will be no bulletins throughout the month of January 2026 to allow Parish staff to take a break. However, I will be around in the Parish office as usual.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE RETURNS IN 2026

Those interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar, the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2026. Enrolment forms can be found at the back sacristy.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

- Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Mount Druitt Combined Churches Christmas Day

Community Lunch: 25 December

Don't spend Christmas alone. A free Christmas Day lunch hosted by Mt Druitt Combined Churches on Thursday 25 December from 11am, with Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt as the venue host. All are welcome. Registration is essential. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/MtDruittChristmasLunch>

Baulkham Hills Christmas Luncheon: 25 December

The Parish of Baulkham Hills are hosting a Christmas Lunch for anyone who will be on their own on Christmas Day. You may be in town for a visit, or just moved into the area, or may simply be unable to share Christmas Day with your loved ones. So come and share it with us. It will be held on Thursday 25 December in and around the St Michael's Primary School hall, and everyone is welcome, families and individuals. But places are limited, so you will need to register to attend. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9639 0598 or email baulkhamhills@parracatholic.org.

Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January. For one week, there will be celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who've enriched our parishes, schools and communities. Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross.

Grab your copy of the Catholic Outlook Magazine!

The latest quarterly edition of the *Catholic Outlook* Magazine is out now, keeping you connected with exciting news and events in the Diocese of Parramatta.

OLOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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>. Face to Face courses will resume in 2026. Dates and times will be provided once confirmed.

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.

Visiting Clergy to OLOL

Thank you to Fr. Hoang Viet Nguyen who graciously assisted Fr Henry with mass and reconciliation this week. Visiting clergy all uphold the standards and processes we here at OLOL and the Diocese have put in place to ensure the safety of our community.

Santo Nino Fiesta Sinulog 2026: 18 January

The Devotees of the Holy Infant Jesus Santo Nino invite you to attend the 2026 Fiesta Sinulog on Sunday 18 January at St Patrick's Church, Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown at 2pm. All devotees, please bring your Santo Nino statues. Novena Masses will be held between 8-16 January at 7pm at the parishes of St Clair-Erskine Park, Penrith, St Marys, Rooty Hill, Winston Hills, Plumpton, Marayong, Quakers Hill and Kellyville. For more information, please contact the Blacktown Parish on (02) 9622 1125 or email blacktown@parracatholic.org

Sing a New Song Music Workshop for Children: 21 January

Do you have a child in Year 4-12? Invite them to come along to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 21 January from 9:30am to 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Morning tea and lunch provided. Student participants will form a choir that will sing at the Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Sunday 25 January at 11am. To register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/0URuFAeThA>

Rosary Making Workshop: 9 February

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on Monday 9 February at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for further information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Diocesan World Day of the Sick: 11 February

Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on the 11th February 2026 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. To register, please visit parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-the-sick-mass/

Children and Young People's Participation

A Safeguarding culture for Children and Young People is fostered and sustained by our parish being committed to living the Gospel by serving the most vulnerable. Here at OLOL Seven Hills we implement all Arch/Diocesan policies, procedures and community standards that are Child and Young Person centred to lift barriers so their voices can be heard and their participation valued.

OLOL Parish community values and celebrates ALL our Children and Young People for who they are and the great contributions they make to our parish. We therefore have an obligation to uphold their human and spiritual rights. This is achieved at OLOL by: 1. Providing ministries, services and programs that are relevant for Children and Young People including those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and who have a disability; 2. Committing to zero tolerance to any attitude and activity that makes Children and Young People feel less safe; 3. Enhancing relationships between leaders, community members, Children and Young People; and 4. Creating a new perspective to invigorate renewal. We also ensure all our volunteers and staff have an up to date WWCC and completed all safeguard training.

Greeting of the Holy Father to the sick in the Audience Hall before the General Audience

Good morning everyone! Good morning! Welcome!

I will offer a brief greeting, a blessing for each of you.

On this day, we wanted to protect you a little from the elements, especially the cold... It is not raining, but this way you may be a little more comfortable. Afterwards, you can follow the Audience on the screen, or if you wish, you can also go outside, but we would like to make the most of this small, more personal encounter to greet you, to offer you the Lord's blessing, and also our best wishes. Christmas is almost here, and we would like to ask the Lord that the joy of this Christmas season accompany you all: your families, your loved ones, and that you may always be in the Lord's hands with the trust and love that only God can give us.

I give my blessing to all of you now, and then I will come and greet you.

Blessing

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Human life is characterized by a constant movement that drives us to do, to act. Nowadays speed is required everywhere in order to achieve optimal results in a wide variety of fields. How does Jesus' resurrection shed light on this aspect of our experience? When we participate in his victory over death, will we rest? Faith tells us: yes, we will rest. We will not be inactive, but we will enter into God's repose, which is peace and joy. So, should we just wait, or can this change us right now?

We are absorbed by many activities that do not always leave us satisfied. A lot of our actions have to do with practical, concrete things. We have to assume responsibility for many commitments, solve problems, face difficulties. Jesus too was involved with people and with life, not sparing himself, but rather giving himself to the end. Yet we often perceive how too much doing, instead of giving us fulfilment, becomes a vortex that overwhelms us, takes away our serenity, and prevents us from living to the fullest what is truly important in our lives. We then feel tired and dissatisfied: time seems to be wasted on a thousand practical things that do not, however, resolve the ultimate meaning of our existence. Sometimes, at the end of days full of activities, we feel empty. Why? Because we are not machines, we have a "heart"; indeed, we can say that we *are* a heart.

The heart is the symbol of all our humanity, the sum of our thoughts, feelings and desires, the invisible centre of our selves. The Evangelist Matthew invites us to reflect on the importance of the heart, quoting this beautiful phrase of Jesus: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Mt 6:21).

It is therefore in the heart that true treasure is kept, not in earthly safes, not in large financial investments, which today more than ever before are out of control and unjustly concentrated at the bloody price of millions of human lives and the devastation of God's creation.

It is important to reflect on these aspects, because in the numerous commitments we continually face, there is an increasing risk of dispersion, sometimes of despair, of meaninglessness, even in apparently successful people. Instead, interpreting life in the light of Easter, looking at it with the Risen Jesus, means finding access to the essence of the human person, to our heart: *cor inquietum*. With this adjective "restless", Saint Augustine helps us understand the human being's yearning for fulfilment. The full sentence refers to the beginning of the *Confessions*, where Augustine writes: "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (I, 1,1).

Restlessness is the sign that our heart does not move by chance, in a disordered way, without a purpose or a destination, but is oriented towards its ultimate destination, the "return home". The authentic approach of the heart does not consist in possessing the goods of this world, but in achieving what can fill it completely; namely, the love of God, or rather, God who is Love. This treasure, however, can only be found by loving the neighbour we meet along the way: brothers and sisters in flesh and blood, whose presence stirs and questions our heart, calling it to open up and give itself. Our neighbour asks us to slow down, to look them in the eye, sometimes to change our plans, perhaps even to change direction.

Dear friends, here is the secret of the movement of the human heart: returning to the source of its being, delighting in the joy that never fails, that never disappoints. No one can live without a meaning that goes beyond the contingent, beyond what passes away. The human heart cannot live without hope, without knowing that it is made for fullness, not for want.

Jesus Christ, with his Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection, has given us a solid foundation for this hope. The restless heart will not be disappointed, if it enters into the dynamism of the love for which it was created. The destination is certain, life has triumphed, and in Christ it will continue to triumph in every death of daily life. This is Christian hope: let us always bless and thank the Lord who has given it to us!

DOCTRINAL NOTE ON MARIAN TITLES: MOTHER OF THE FAITHFUL, NOT CO-REDEMPTRIX

The document of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by Pope Leo XIV, offers clarifications on titles applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and calls for special attention to the use of the expression, “Mediatrix of all graces.”

Co-redemptrix

Regarding the title “Co-redemptrix,” the Note recalls that “some Popes have used the title “without elaborating much on its meaning.” Generally, it continues, “they have presented the title in two specific ways: in reference to Mary’s divine motherhood (insofar as she, as Mother, made possible the Redemption that Christ accomplished) or in reference to her union with Christ at the redemptive Cross. The Second Vatican Council refrained from using the title for dogmatic, pastoral, and ecumenical reasons. Saint John Paul II referred to Mary as ‘Co-redemptrix’ on at least seven occasions, particularly relating this title to the salvific value of our sufferings when they are offered together with the sufferings of Christ, to whom Mary is united especially at the Cross” (18).

The document cites an internal discussion within the then-Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which in February 1996 had discussed the request to proclaim a new dogma on Mary as “Co-redemptrix or Mediatrix of all graces.” Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was opposed to such a definition, arguing, “the precise meaning of these titles is not clear, and the doctrine contained in them is not mature. [...] It is not clear how the doctrine expressed in these titles is present in Scripture and the apostolic tradition.”

Later, in 2002, the future Benedict XVI expressed himself publicly in the same way: “The formula ‘Co-redemptrix’ departs to too great an extent from the language of Scripture and of the Fathers and therefore gives rise to misunderstandings... Everything comes from Him [Christ], as the Letter to the Ephesians and the Letter to the Colossians, in particular, tell us; Mary, too, is everything that she is through Him. The word ‘Co-redemptrix’ would obscure this origin.”

The note clarifies that Cardinal Ratzinger did not deny the good intentions behind the proposal, nor the valuable aspects reflected in it, but nonetheless maintained that they were “being expressed in the wrong way” (19).

Pope Francis also expressed his clear opposition to the use of the title Co-Redemptrix on at least three occasions. Tuesday’s Doctrinal Note concludes: “*It is always inappropriate* to use the title ‘Co-redemptrix’ to define Mary’s cooperation. This title risks obscuring Christ’s unique salvific mediation and can therefore create confusion and an imbalance in the harmony of the truths of the Christian faith. [...] When an expression requires many, repeated explanations to prevent it from straying from a correct meaning, it does not serve the faith of the People of God and becomes *unhelpful*” (22).

Mediatrix

The Note emphasises that “the biblical statement about Christ’s exclusive mediation is conclusive. Christ is the only Mediator” (24).

At the same time, MPF recognises “the fact that the word ‘mediation’ is commonly used in many areas of everyday life, where it is understood simply as cooperation, assistance, or intercession. As a result, it is inevitable that the term would be applied to Mary in a subordinate sense. Used in this way, it does not intend to add any efficacy or power to the unique mediation of Jesus Christ, true God and true man” (25).

Further, “it is clear that Mary has a real mediatory role in enabling the Incarnation of the Son of God in our humanity” (26).

Mother of believers and Mediatrix of all graces

Mary’s maternal role “in no way obscures or diminishes” the unique mediation of Christ, “but rather shows its power [...] Understood in this way, Mary’s motherhood does not seek to weaken the unique adoration due to Christ alone but, rather, seeks to enkindle it.”

Therefore, the Note states, “one must avoid titles and expressions that present Mary as a kind of ‘lightning rod’ before the Lord’s justice, as if she were a necessary alternative before the insufficiency of God’s mercy” (37b).

Thus, the title “Mother of Believers” “enables us to speak of Mary’s role in our relation to our life of grace”.

However, MPF goes on to urge caution concerning the use of expressions that may convey “less acceptable notions” (45).

“Cardinal Ratzinger already affirmed” for example, “that the title ‘Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces’ was not clearly grounded in Revelation.” So, the Note continues, “in line with this conviction, we can recognize the difficulties this title poses, both in terms of theological reflection and spirituality” (45). In fact, “no human person — not even the Apostles or the Blessed Virgin — can act as a universal dispenser of grace. Only God can bestow grace, and he does so through the humanity of Christ” (53).

“Some titles, such as ‘Mediatrix of All Graces,’ have limits that do not favour a correct understanding of Mary’s unique place,” MPF explains, adding, “In fact, she, the first redeemed, could not have been the mediatrix of the grace that she herself received” (67).

Nonetheless, the Doctrinal Note acknowledges that “the term ‘graces,’ when seen in reference to Mary’s maternal help at various moments in our lives, can have an acceptable meaning. The plural form expresses all the aids — even material — that the Lord may grant us when He heeds His Mother’s intercession” (68).

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

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 12th February 2026, 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 GROTTO: 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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Christmas Schedule for December 2025

24th	Children/Family Christmas Mass	6:00pm
24th	Christmas Mass	9:00pm
24th	Midnight Mass	12:00am
25th	Christmas Day Mass	8:00am & 9:30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

20/21 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: B. Motha, M. Mifsud 8am: F. Paiva, T. Perak 9.30am: C. Brooks, Kamela Huihui	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, N. Sumcad 8am: T. Perak, K. Walker 9.30am: N. Arambulo, L. Rigney	
Altar Servers	Vigil: N. D'Cruz, J. Steele, Aaliya Faulkner-Dhiman, 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: K. Maruthanayagam, C. Attard, L. Sager.	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: K.Thoms & C.W 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	24 Dec	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

27/28 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Lawrence Falzon 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Simic, N. Shami 8am: F. Paiva, J. Sarmiento 9.30am: P. Gow, G. Basilli	
Readers	Vigil: Yxaak & Yxavel Dino 8am: F. Kennedy, A. McNally 9.30am: J. Nonato, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Julian & Orlando Martinez, C. Bellamin 8am: Jaxon Blackshaw, Sub Rqd 9.30am: K. Cassaniti, L. Sadipoor, A. Melki	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary	
Church Cleaning	1 January	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli	

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21st, 2025

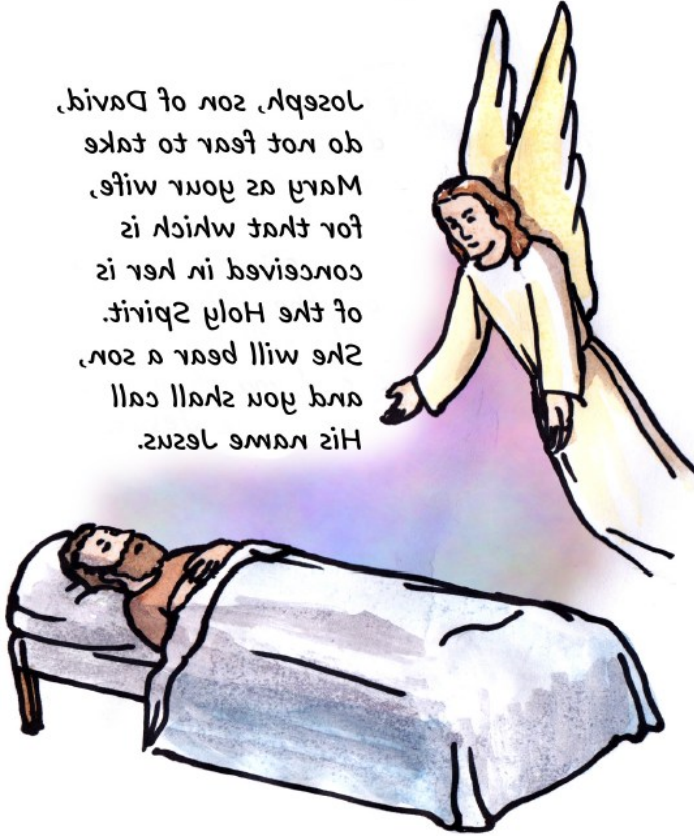
What's in a Name?

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 18:21

Based on Matthew 1:18-25



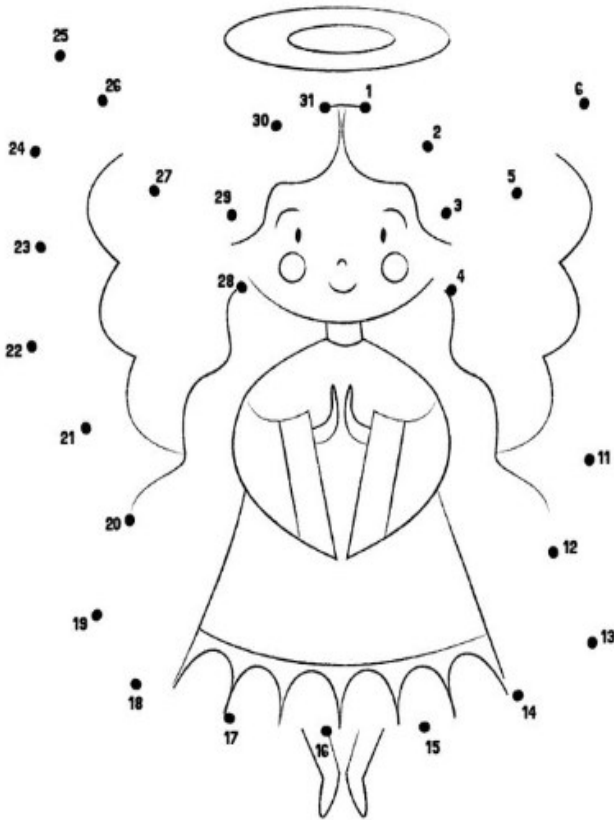
Joseph, son of David,
do not fear to take
Mary as your wife,
for that which is
conceived in her is
of the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son,
and you shall call
his name Jesus.



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

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!

HUSBAND	SON	IMMANUEL	MARY	NAME
CHRIST	CHILD	VIRGIN	BIRTH	ANGEL
JOSEPH	MARRY	AFRAID	DREAM	JESUS



angel





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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Email: secretary@olol7hills.com.au

Parish Priest:	Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran	Parish School:	LOLO 8869 6800
Parish Deacon:	Deacon Thong Nguyen	Principal:	Ms Keiran Byrnes
Parish Office Team:	Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Jane Nguyen, Laura Ilioski	Reconciliation:	Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
Office Hours: Monday-Friday:	9am - 3.00pm	Baptismal Preparation:	18 February 2026
WEEKDAY MASS:	Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am Thursday 9.00am	Baptism:	11 January 2026
WEEKEND MASS:	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9.30am	Sacrament Co-Ordinator:	Mrs Artelle Lenthall
		Youth Co-Ordinator:	Diana Park
		Parish Website:	www.olol7hills.org.au
		Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/LOLO7Hills/

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 21 December 2025 • Year A



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, Takis Karapatsakis, Clare Kinsley, T.Q Letran, Susie Manga, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Gary Morrissey, Jayne Muscat, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Michelle Pellicano, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Arabella Steele, Sue Tiplado, 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@olol7hills.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, Rosita Ballecer, Anthony Hastings, Aggie Motha, Maria Amma Peter, Veronica Rosales, Anthony Ruzgas

Anniversaries: Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, France Angseesing, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Evan Elisher, Rita de Silva, Frank, M.A Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, Norma Lorenzo, Joseph Mahon, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Irene Moroney, Thelma Morrissey, Anton & Lourda Motha, Paul Mula, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Eustace Ratnam, Roseline Ratnam

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Sydney Azie, Antonio, Amelia & Germana Bertinato, Sam Borg, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato Cabasa, Peter & Antonio, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli, Barrie Chamberlain, Myrna Cruz, Joseph, Johnny Edwards, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Launcer De Guire, Bede Diab, Debe Diab, Marcel Diab, Mohsen Diab, Peter Diab, Toufic Diab, O. Francis, J. Francis, Melvyn Fernandes, Merita Fernando, Nevis Fernando, Leandro Garcia Snr, Evangeline, Rudy Garcia, Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Selvam Irudayaraj, J.B, Jonathan Tek Kie, Mangion & Cini Family, Felina Maglaya, Tessie & Andy Mangine, 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, Aurora Nufable Nonato, Coleen O'Sullivan, Serge Pasnin, Lakshman Perera, Marlyn Pestano, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose, Maria, Laureano, Karen, Yolanda Reyes, Mary Silva, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.

Names will be published for 2 weeks at a time.

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.

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



KEEP UP TO DATE

By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more. Visit www.olol7hills.org.au

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**(R) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally.

He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

According to scholars, marriage customs in Palestine in Jesus' time often included two parts: the engagement and the wedding.

The engagement period usually lasted for a year during which the bride and the groom stayed in their homes and communicated to each other through messages delivered by the best man. The engagement began with the signing of a formal marriage agreement or with the groom offering gifts to the bride's family. At this stage, the bride and the groom were legally husband and wife even though they did not yet live together. Vietnamese people have done the same, except the engagement period is less than a year, usually six months.

After a year-long engagement time, the wedding ceremony then took place, and the groom could formally take his wife into his home to begin their married life together.

This background knowledge of Jewish marriage customs will help us better appreciate the Gospel account this Sunday, as it allows us to understand the dilemma St. Joseph faced when he discovered Mary's conception during their engagement. On the one hand, they were legally husband and wife; on the other hand, Mary was clearly carrying a child who was not his. For Joseph, a righteous and honorable man, divorce seemed to be the best solution, one that would end the relationship quietly and protect Mary's life, since she could otherwise be accused of adultery, an offense that, under Jewish law, could result in death by stoning. This messy entanglement is finally cleared up by the angel appearing to Joseph in a dream to reveal the mystery behind Mary's conception, that she was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The angel also asked Joseph to take Mary home to be his wife with the obligation to name the child Jesus, a name that means 'the Lord saves' or simply 'salvation.'

In the eyes of Matthew whose Gospel was meant to bring Jesus' Good News to the group of Jewish followers often familiar with the teachings of the prophets in the scripture, what happened here was extra special, because it fulfilled exactly what Isaiah prophesied long before, as we hear in the first reading today, that 'the maiden is with child and soon give birth to a son, whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us.' This prophetic fulfillment Have a joy-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ADVENT WREATH

It is usually constructed around a circular base. This circular base is traditionally taken to symbolise the ever-renewing cycle of the seasons, and the four candles, represent the four Sundays of Advent. The fourth candle, the "Candle of Love," reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth.



HALL CANOPY PLAQUE

From this weekend, the Pledging Book for the Hall Canopy Plaque is 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.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS THANK YOU

Thank you everyone for such an overwhelming support to our Parish invitation to show our love and care for the needy both in our community and beyond through our Christmas Hampers tradition, and a special thank you note to our dedicated Vinnies for overseeing the whole program from collecting and sorting out donations to distributing them dutifully.

MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church from this weekend for Ministers of the Eucharist, Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers and Welcomers who would like to serve at a Christmas Mass. We kindly ask that ministers sign up for one liturgy only.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2026

Ministry rosters for February - July 2026 are now available. You can find a copy at the back Sacristy or on our website under 'Parish Forms'. If you require more copies or notice any discrepancies, please kindly contact the parish office.

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN 2026-2030

Copies of our Parish Pastoral Plan 2026-2030 are now on and all are invited to have a look after Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY—CHRISTMAS STORY

Thank you to the children who have volunteered to act out the Christmas Story this year. This will take place during the 6pm mass on the 24th December. For those children who are not participating but attending the mass, you are invited to dress up as angels or shepherds.

A PRACTICAL TIP EACH WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

TIP 14 Take a Break from Online Shopping

Online shopping produces a lot of packaging waste and produces excess carbon emissions from airplanes and vehicles. Take a month off online shopping or reduce what you buy online. Try to make purchases closer to home!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS & BULLETIN

Our Parish office will close between Christmas and New Year and there will be no bulletins throughout the month of January 2026 to allow Parish staff to take a break. However, I will be around in the Parish office as usual.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE RETURNS IN 2026

Those interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar, the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2026. Enrolment forms can be found at the back sacristy.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

- Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Mount Druitt Combined Churches Christmas Day

Community Lunch: 25 December

Don't spend Christmas alone. A free Christmas Day lunch hosted by Mt Druitt Combined Churches on Thursday 25 December from 11am, with Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt as the venue host. All are welcome. Registration is essential. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/MtDruittChristmasLunch>

Baulkham Hills Christmas Luncheon: 25 December

The Parish of Baulkham Hills are hosting a Christmas Lunch for anyone who will be on their own on Christmas Day. You may be in town for a visit, or just moved into the area, or may simply be unable to share Christmas Day with your loved ones. So come and share it with us. It will be held on Thursday 25 December in and around the St Michael's Primary School hall, and everyone is welcome, families and individuals. But places are limited, so you will need to register to attend. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9639 0598 or email baulkhamhills@parracatholic.org.

Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January. For one week, there will be celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who've enriched our parishes, schools and communities. Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross.

Grab your copy of the Catholic Outlook Magazine!

The latest quarterly edition of the *Catholic Outlook* Magazine is out now, keeping you connected with exciting news and events in the Diocese of Parramatta.

OLOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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>. Face to Face courses will resume in 2026. Dates and times will be provided once confirmed.

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.

Visiting Clergy to OLOL

Thank you to Fr. Hoang Viet Nguyen who graciously assisted Fr Henry with mass and reconciliation this week. Visiting clergy all uphold the standards and processes we here at OLOL and the Diocese have put in place to ensure the safety of our community.

Santo Nino Fiesta Sinulog 2026: 18 January

The Devotees of the Holy Infant Jesus Santo Nino invite you to attend the 2026 Fiesta Sinulog on Sunday 18 January at St Patrick's Church, Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown at 2pm. All devotees, please bring your Santo Nino statues. Novena Masses will be held between 8-16 January at 7pm at the parishes of St Clair-Erskine Park, Penrith, St Marys, Rooty Hill, Winston Hills, Plumpton, Marayong, Quakers Hill and Kellyville. For more information, please contact the Blacktown Parish on (02) 9622 1125 or email blacktown@parracatholic.org

Sing a New Song Music Workshop for Children: 21 January

Do you have a child in Year 4-12? Invite them to come along to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 21 January from 9:30am to 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Morning tea and lunch provided. Student participants will form a choir that will sing at the Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Sunday 25 January at 11am. To register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/0URuFAeThA>

Rosary Making Workshop: 9 February

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on Monday 9 February at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for further information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Diocesan World Day of the Sick: 11 February

Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on the 11th February 2026 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. To register, please visit parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-the-sick-mass/

Children and Young People's Participation

A Safeguarding culture for Children and Young People is fostered and sustained by our parish being committed to living the Gospel by serving the most vulnerable. Here at OLOL Seven Hills we implement all Arch/Diocesan policies, procedures and community standards that are Child and Young Person centred to lift barriers so their voices can be heard and their participation valued.

OLOL Parish community values and celebrates ALL our Children and Young People for who they are and the great contributions they make to our parish. We therefore have an obligation to uphold their human and spiritual rights. This is achieved at OLOL by: 1. Providing ministries, services and programs that are relevant for Children and Young People including those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and who have a disability; 2. Committing to zero tolerance to any attitude and activity that makes Children and Young People feel less safe; 3. Enhancing relationships between leaders, community members, Children and Young People; and 4. Creating a new perspective to invigorate renewal. We also ensure all our volunteers and staff have an up to date WWCC and completed all safeguard training.

Greeting of the Holy Father to the sick in the Audience Hall before the General Audience

Good morning everyone! Good morning! Welcome!

I will offer a brief greeting, a blessing for each of you.

On this day, we wanted to protect you a little from the elements, especially the cold... It is not raining, but this way you may be a little more comfortable. Afterwards, you can follow the Audience on the screen, or if you wish, you can also go outside, but we would like to make the most of this small, more personal encounter to greet you, to offer you the Lord's blessing, and also our best wishes. Christmas is almost here, and we would like to ask the Lord that the joy of this Christmas season accompany you all: your families, your loved ones, and that you may always be in the Lord's hands with the trust and love that only God can give us.

I give my blessing to all of you now, and then I will come and greet you.

Blessing

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Human life is characterized by a constant movement that drives us to do, to act. Nowadays speed is required everywhere in order to achieve optimal results in a wide variety of fields. How does Jesus' resurrection shed light on this aspect of our experience? When we participate in his victory over death, will we rest? Faith tells us: yes, we will rest. We will not be inactive, but we will enter into God's repose, which is peace and joy. So, should we just wait, or can this change us right now?

We are absorbed by many activities that do not always leave us satisfied. A lot of our actions have to do with practical, concrete things. We have to assume responsibility for many commitments, solve problems, face difficulties. Jesus too was involved with people and with life, not sparing himself, but rather giving himself to the end. Yet we often perceive how too much doing, instead of giving us fulfilment, becomes a vortex that overwhelms us, takes away our serenity, and prevents us from living to the fullest what is truly important in our lives. We then feel tired and dissatisfied: time seems to be wasted on a thousand practical things that do not, however, resolve the ultimate meaning of our existence. Sometimes, at the end of days full of activities, we feel empty. Why? Because we are not machines, we have a "heart"; indeed, we can say that we *are* a heart.

The heart is the symbol of all our humanity, the sum of our thoughts, feelings and desires, the invisible centre of our selves. The Evangelist Matthew invites us to reflect on the importance of the heart, quoting this beautiful phrase of Jesus: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (*Mt 6:21*).

It is therefore in the heart that true treasure is kept, not in earthly safes, not in large financial investments, which today more than ever before are out of control and unjustly concentrated at the bloody price of millions of human lives and the devastation of God's creation.

It is important to reflect on these aspects, because in the numerous commitments we continually face, there is an increasing risk of dispersion, sometimes of despair, of meaninglessness, even in apparently successful people. Instead, interpreting life in the light of Easter, looking at it with the Risen Jesus, means finding access to the essence of the human person, to our heart: *cor inquietum*. With this adjective "restless", Saint Augustine helps us understand the human being's yearning for fulfilment. The full sentence refers to the beginning of the *Confessions*, where Augustine writes: "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (I, 1,1).

Restlessness is the sign that our heart does not move by chance, in a disordered way, without a purpose or a destination, but is oriented towards its ultimate destination, the "return home". The authentic approach of the heart does not consist in possessing the goods of this world, but in achieving what can fill it completely; namely, the love of God, or rather, God who is Love. This treasure, however, can only be found by loving the neighbour we meet along the way: brothers and sisters in flesh and blood, whose presence stirs and questions our heart, calling it to open up and give itself. Our neighbour asks us to slow down, to look them in the eye, sometimes to change our plans, perhaps even to change direction.

Dear friends, here is the secret of the movement of the human heart: returning to the source of its being, delighting in the joy that never fails, that never disappoints. No one can live without a meaning that goes beyond the contingent, beyond what passes away. The human heart cannot live without hope, without knowing that it is made for fullness, not for want.

Jesus Christ, with his Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection, has given us a solid foundation for this hope. The restless heart will not be disappointed, if it enters into the dynamism of the love for which it was created. The destination is certain, life has triumphed, and in Christ it will continue to triumph in every death of daily life. This is Christian hope: let us always bless and thank the Lord who has given it to us!

DOCTRINAL NOTE ON MARIAN TITLES: MOTHER OF THE FAITHFUL, NOT CO-REDEMPTRIX

The document of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by Pope Leo XIV, offers clarifications on titles applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and calls for special attention to the use of the expression, “Mediatrix of all graces.”

Co-redemptrix

Regarding the title “Co-redemptrix,” the Note recalls that “some Popes have used the title “without elaborating much on its meaning.” Generally, it continues, “they have presented the title in two specific ways: in reference to Mary’s divine motherhood (insofar as she, as Mother, made possible the Redemption that Christ accomplished) or in reference to her union with Christ at the redemptive Cross. The Second Vatican Council refrained from using the title for dogmatic, pastoral, and ecumenical reasons. Saint John Paul II referred to Mary as ‘Co-redemptrix’ on at least seven occasions, particularly relating this title to the salvific value of our sufferings when they are offered together with the sufferings of Christ, to whom Mary is united especially at the Cross” (18).

The document cites an internal discussion within the then-Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which in February 1996 had discussed the request to proclaim a new dogma on Mary as “Co-redemptrix or Mediatrix of all graces.” Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was opposed to such a definition, arguing, “the precise meaning of these titles is not clear, and the doctrine contained in them is not mature. [...] It is not clear how the doctrine expressed in these titles is present in Scripture and the apostolic tradition.”

Later, in 2002, the future Benedict XVI expressed himself publicly in the same way: “The formula ‘Co-redemptrix’ departs to too great an extent from the language of Scripture and of the Fathers and therefore gives rise to misunderstandings... Everything comes from Him [Christ], as the Letter to the Ephesians and the Letter to the Colossians, in particular, tell us; Mary, too, is everything that she is through Him. The word ‘Co-redemptrix’ would obscure this origin.”

The note clarifies that Cardinal Ratzinger did not deny the good intentions behind the proposal, nor the valuable aspects reflected in it, but nonetheless maintained that they were “being expressed in the wrong way” (19).

Pope Francis also expressed his clear opposition to the use of the title Co-Redemptrix on at least three occasions. Tuesday’s Doctrinal Note concludes: “*It is always inappropriate* to use the title ‘Co-redemptrix’ to define Mary’s cooperation. This title risks obscuring Christ’s unique salvific mediation and can therefore create confusion and an imbalance in the harmony of the truths of the Christian faith. [...] When an expression requires many, repeated explanations to prevent it from straying from a correct meaning, it does not serve the faith of the People of God and becomes *unhelpful*” (22).

Mediatrix

The Note emphasises that “the biblical statement about Christ’s exclusive mediation is conclusive. Christ is the only Mediator” (24).

At the same time, MPF recognises “the fact that the word ‘mediation’ is commonly used in many areas of everyday life, where it is understood simply as cooperation, assistance, or intercession. As a result, it is inevitable that the term would be applied to Mary in a subordinate sense. Used in this way, it does not intend to add any efficacy or power to the unique mediation of Jesus Christ, true God and true man” (25).

Further, “it is clear that Mary has a real mediatory role in enabling the Incarnation of the Son of God in our humanity” (26).

Mother of believers and Mediatrix of all graces

Mary’s maternal role “in no way obscures or diminishes” the unique mediation of Christ, “but rather shows its power [...] Understood in this way, Mary’s motherhood does not seek to weaken the unique adoration due to Christ alone but, rather, seeks to enkindle it.”

Therefore, the Note states, “one must avoid titles and expressions that present Mary as a kind of ‘lightning rod’ before the Lord’s justice, as if she were a necessary alternative before the insufficiency of God’s mercy” (37b).

Thus, the title “Mother of Believers” “enables us to speak of Mary’s role in our relation to our life of grace”.

However, MPF goes on to urge caution concerning the use of expressions that may convey “less acceptable notions” (45).

“Cardinal Ratzinger already affirmed” for example, “that the title ‘Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces’ was not clearly grounded in Revelation.” So, the Note continues, “in line with this conviction, we can recognize the difficulties this title poses, both in terms of theological reflection and spirituality” (45). In fact, “no human person — not even the Apostles or the Blessed Virgin — can act as a universal dispenser of grace. Only God can bestow grace, and he does so through the humanity of Christ” (53).

“Some titles, such as ‘Mediatrix of All Graces,’ have limits that do not favour a correct understanding of Mary’s unique place,” MPF explains, adding, “In fact, she, the first redeemed, could not have been the mediatrix of the grace that she herself received” (67).

Nonetheless, the Doctrinal Note acknowledges that “the term ‘graces,’ when seen in reference to Mary’s maternal help at various moments in our lives, can have an acceptable meaning. The plural form expresses all the aids — even material — that the Lord may grant us when He heeds His Mother’s intercession” (68).

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

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 12th February 2026, 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 GROTTO: 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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Christmas Schedule for December 2025

24th	Children/Family Christmas Mass	6:00pm
24th	Christmas Mass	9:00pm
24th	Midnight Mass	12:00am
25th	Christmas Day Mass	8:00am & 9:30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

20/21 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: B. Motha, M. Mifsud 8am: F. Paiva, T. Perak 9.30am: C. Brooks, Kamela Huihui	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, N. Sumcad 8am: T. Perak, K. Walker 9.30am: N. Arambulo, L. Rigney	
Altar Servers	Vigil: N. D'Cruz, J. Steele, Aaliya Faulkner-Dhiman, 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: K. Maruthanayagam, C. Attard, L. Sager.	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: K.Thoms & C.W 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	24 Dec	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

27/28 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Lawrence Falzon 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Simic, N. Shami 8am: F. Paiva, J. Sarmiento 9.30am: P. Gow, G. Basilli	
Readers	Vigil: Yxaak & Yxavel Dino 8am: F. Kennedy, A. McNally 9.30am: J. Nonato, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Julian & Orlando Martinez, C. Bellamin 8am: Jaxon Blackshaw, Sub Rqd 9.30am: K. Cassaniti, L. Sadipoor, A. Melki	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary	
Church Cleaning	1 January	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli	

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21st, 2025

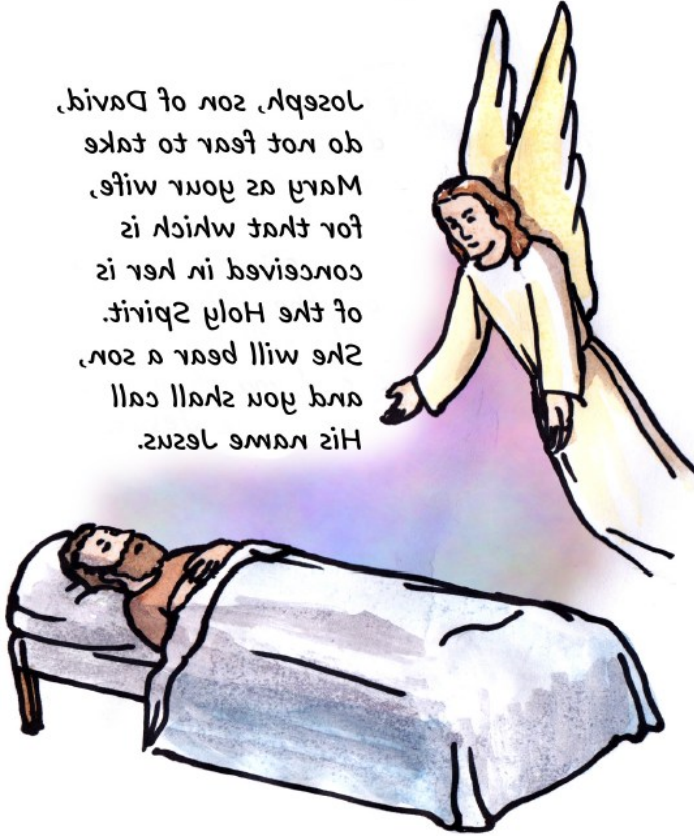
What's in a Name?

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 18:21

Based on Matthew 1:18-25



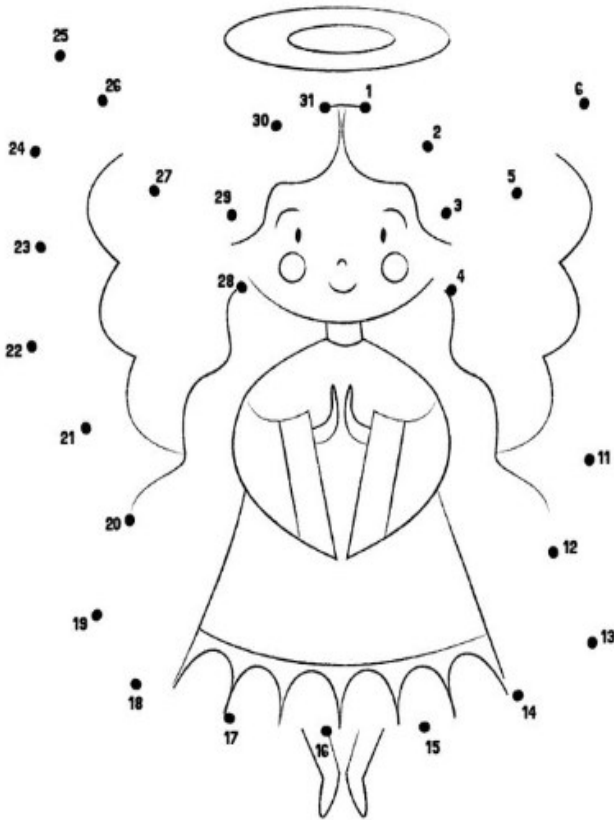
Joseph, son of David,
do not fear to take
Mary as your wife,
for that which is
conceived in her is
of the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son,
and you shall call
his name Jesus.



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

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!

HUSBAND	SON	IMMANUEL	MARY	NAME
CHRIST	CHILD	VIRGIN	BIRTH	ANGEL
JOSEPH	MARRY	AFRAID	DREAM	JESUS



angel





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 School:	LOLO 8869 6800
Parish Deacon:	Deacon Thong Nguyen	Principal:	Ms Keiran Byrnes
Parish Office Team:	Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Jane Nguyen, Laura Ilioski	Reconciliation:	Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
Office Hours: Monday-Friday:	9am - 3.00pm	Baptismal Preparation:	18 February 2026
WEEKDAY MASS:	Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am Thursday 9.00am	Baptism:	11 January 2026
WEEKEND MASS:	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9.30am	Sacrament Co-Ordinator:	Mrs Artelle Lenthall
		Youth Co-Ordinator:	Diana Park
		Parish Website:	www.olol7hills.org.au
		Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/LOLO7Hills/

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 21 December 2025 • Year A



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, Takis Karapatsakis, Clare Kinsley, T.Q Letran, Susie Manga, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Gary Morrissey, Jayne Muscat, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Michelle Pellicano, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Arabella Steele, Sue Tiplado, 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@olol7hills.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, Rosita Ballecer, Anthony Hastings, Aggie Motha, Maria Amma Peter, Veronica Rosales, Anthony Ruzgas

Anniversaries: Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, France Angseesing, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Evan Elisher, Rita de Silva, Frank, M.A Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, Norma Lorenzo, Joseph Mahon, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Irene Moroney, Thelma Morrissey, Anton & Lourda Motha, Paul Mula, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Eustace Ratnam, Roseline Ratnam

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Sydney Azie, Antonio, Amelia & Germana Bertimato, Sam Borg, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato Cabasa, Peter & Antonio, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli, Barrie Chamberlain, Myrna Cruz, Joseph, Johnny Edwards, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Launcer De Guire, Bede Diab, Debe Diab, Marcel Diab, Mohsen Diab, Peter Diab, Toufic Diab, O. Francis, J. Francis, Melvyn Fernandes, Merita Fernando, Nevis Fernando, Leandro Garcia Snr, Evangeline, Rudy Garcia, Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Selvam Irudayaraj, J.B, Jonathan Tek Kie, Mangion & Cini Family, Felina Maglaya, Tessie & Andy Mangine, 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, Aurora Nufable Nonato, Coleen O'Sullivan, Serge Pasnin, Lakshman Perera, Marlyn Pestano, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose, Maria, Laureano, Karen, Yolanda Reyes, Mary Silva, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.

Names will be published for 2 weeks at a time.

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.

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



KEEP UP TO DATE

By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more. Visit www.olol7hills.org.au

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**(R) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally.

He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

According to scholars, marriage customs in Palestine in Jesus' time often included two parts: the engagement and the wedding.

The engagement period usually lasted for a year during which the bride and the groom stayed in their homes and communicated to each other through messages delivered by the best man. The engagement began with the signing of a formal marriage agreement or with the groom offering gifts to the bride's family. At this stage, the bride and the groom were legally husband and wife even though they did not yet live together. Vietnamese people have done the same, except the engagement period is less than a year, usually six months.

After a year-long engagement time, the wedding ceremony then took place, and the groom could formally take his wife into his home to begin their married life together.

This background knowledge of Jewish marriage customs will help us better appreciate the Gospel account this Sunday, as it allows us to understand the dilemma St. Joseph faced when he discovered Mary's conception during their engagement. On the one hand, they were legally husband and wife; on the other hand, Mary was clearly carrying a child who was not his. For Joseph, a righteous and honorable man, divorce seemed to be the best solution, one that would end the relationship quietly and protect Mary's life, since she could otherwise be accused of adultery, an offense that, under Jewish law, could result in death by stoning. This messy entanglement is finally cleared up by the angel appearing to Joseph in a dream to reveal the mystery behind Mary's conception, that she was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The angel also asked Joseph to take Mary home to be his wife with the obligation to name the child Jesus, a name that means 'the Lord saves' or simply 'salvation.'

In the eyes of Matthew whose Gospel was meant to bring Jesus' Good News to the group of Jewish followers often familiar with the teachings of the prophets in the scripture, what happened here was extra special, because it fulfilled exactly what Isaiah prophesied long before, as we hear in the first reading today, that 'the maiden is with child and soon give birth to a son, whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us.' This prophetic fulfillment Have a joy-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ADVENT WREATH

It is usually constructed around a circular base. This circular base is traditionally taken to symbolise the ever-renewing cycle of the seasons, and the four candles, represent the four Sundays of Advent. The fourth candle, the "Candle of Love," reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth.



HALL CANOPY PLAQUE

From this weekend, the Pledging Book for the Hall Canopy Plaque is 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.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS THANK YOU

Thank you everyone for such an overwhelming support to our Parish invitation to show our love and care for the needy both in our community and beyond through our Christmas Hampers tradition, and a special thank you note to our dedicated Vinnies for overseeing the whole program from collecting and sorting out donations to distributing them dutifully.

MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church from this weekend for Ministers of the Eucharist, Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers and Welcomers who would like to serve at a Christmas Mass. We kindly ask that ministers sign up for one liturgy only.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2026

Ministry rosters for February - July 2026 are now available. You can find a copy at the back Sacristy or on our website under 'Parish Forms'. If you require more copies or notice any discrepancies, please kindly contact the parish office.

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN 2026-2030

Copies of our Parish Pastoral Plan 2026-2030 are now on and all are invited to have a look after Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY—CHRISTMAS STORY

Thank you to the children who have volunteered to act out the Christmas Story this year. This will take place during the 6pm mass on the 24th December. For those children who are not participating but attending the mass, you are invited to dress up as angels or shepherds.

A PRACTICAL TIP EACH WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

TIP 14 Take a Break from Online Shopping

Online shopping produces a lot of packaging waste and produces excess carbon emissions from airplanes and vehicles. Take a month off online shopping or reduce what you buy online. Try to make purchases closer to home!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS & BULLETIN

Our Parish office will close between Christmas and New Year and there will be no bulletins throughout the month of January 2026 to allow Parish staff to take a break. However, I will be around in the Parish office as usual.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE RETURNS IN 2026

Those interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar, the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2026. Enrolment forms can be found at the back sacristy.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

- Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Mount Druitt Combined Churches Christmas Day

Community Lunch: 25 December

Don't spend Christmas alone. A free Christmas Day lunch hosted by Mt Druitt Combined Churches on Thursday 25 December from 11am, with Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt as the venue host. All are welcome. Registration is essential. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/MtDruittChristmasLunch>

Baulkham Hills Christmas Luncheon: 25 December

The Parish of Baulkham Hills are hosting a Christmas Lunch for anyone who will be on their own on Christmas Day. You may be in town for a visit, or just moved into the area, or may simply be unable to share Christmas Day with your loved ones. So come and share it with us. It will be held on Thursday 25 December in and around the St Michael's Primary School hall, and everyone is welcome, families and individuals. But places are limited, so you will need to register to attend. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9639 0598 or email baulkhamhills@parracatholic.org.

Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January. For one week, there will be celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who've enriched our parishes, schools and communities. Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross.

Grab your copy of the Catholic Outlook Magazine!

The latest quarterly edition of the *Catholic Outlook* Magazine is out now, keeping you connected with exciting news and events in the Diocese of Parramatta.

OLOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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>. Face to Face courses will resume in 2026. Dates and times will be provided once confirmed.

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.

Visiting Clergy to OLOL

Thank you to Fr. Hoang Viet Nguyen who graciously assisted Fr Henry with mass and reconciliation this week. Visiting clergy all uphold the standards and processes we here at OLOL and the Diocese have put in place to ensure the safety of our community.

Santo Nino Fiesta Sinulog 2026: 18 January

The Devotees of the Holy Infant Jesus Santo Nino invite you to attend the 2026 Fiesta Sinulog on Sunday 18 January at St Patrick's Church, Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown at 2pm. All devotees, please bring your Santo Nino statues. Novena Masses will be held between 8-16 January at 7pm at the parishes of St Clair-Erskine Park, Penrith, St Marys, Rooty Hill, Winston Hills, Plumpton, Marayong, Quakers Hill and Kellyville. For more information, please contact the Blacktown Parish on (02) 9622 1125 or email blacktown@parracatholic.org

Sing a New Song Music Workshop for Children: 21 January

Do you have a child in Year 4-12? Invite them to come along to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 21 January from 9:30am to 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Morning tea and lunch provided. Student participants will form a choir that will sing at the Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Sunday 25 January at 11am. To register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/0URuFAeThA>

Rosary Making Workshop: 9 February

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on Monday 9 February at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for further information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Diocesan World Day of the Sick: 11 February

Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on the 11th February 2026 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. To register, please visit parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-the-sick-mass/

Children and Young People's Participation

A Safeguarding culture for Children and Young People is fostered and sustained by our parish being committed to living the Gospel by serving the most vulnerable. Here at OLOL Seven Hills we implement all Arch/Diocesan policies, procedures and community standards that are Child and Young Person centred to lift barriers so their voices can be heard and their participation valued.

OLOL Parish community values and celebrates ALL our Children and Young People for who they are and the great contributions they make to our parish. We therefore have an obligation to uphold their human and spiritual rights. This is achieved at OLOL by: 1. Providing ministries, services and programs that are relevant for Children and Young People including those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and who have a disability; 2. Committing to zero tolerance to any attitude and activity that makes Children and Young People feel less safe; 3. Enhancing relationships between leaders, community members, Children and Young People; and 4. Creating a new perspective to invigorate renewal. We also ensure all our volunteers and staff have an up to date WWCC and completed all safeguard training.

Greeting of the Holy Father to the sick in the Audience Hall before the General Audience

Good morning everyone! Good morning! Welcome!

I will offer a brief greeting, a blessing for each of you.

On this day, we wanted to protect you a little from the elements, especially the cold... It is not raining, but this way you may be a little more comfortable. Afterwards, you can follow the Audience on the screen, or if you wish, you can also go outside, but we would like to make the most of this small, more personal encounter to greet you, to offer you the Lord's blessing, and also our best wishes. Christmas is almost here, and we would like to ask the Lord that the joy of this Christmas season accompany you all: your families, your loved ones, and that you may always be in the Lord's hands with the trust and love that only God can give us.

I give my blessing to all of you now, and then I will come and greet you.

Blessing

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Human life is characterized by a constant movement that drives us to do, to act. Nowadays speed is required everywhere in order to achieve optimal results in a wide variety of fields. How does Jesus' resurrection shed light on this aspect of our experience? When we participate in his victory over death, will we rest? Faith tells us: yes, we will rest. We will not be inactive, but we will enter into God's repose, which is peace and joy. So, should we just wait, or can this change us right now?

We are absorbed by many activities that do not always leave us satisfied. A lot of our actions have to do with practical, concrete things. We have to assume responsibility for many commitments, solve problems, face difficulties. Jesus too was involved with people and with life, not sparing himself, but rather giving himself to the end. Yet we often perceive how too much doing, instead of giving us fulfilment, becomes a vortex that overwhelms us, takes away our serenity, and prevents us from living to the fullest what is truly important in our lives. We then feel tired and dissatisfied: time seems to be wasted on a thousand practical things that do not, however, resolve the ultimate meaning of our existence. Sometimes, at the end of days full of activities, we feel empty. Why? Because we are not machines, we have a "heart"; indeed, we can say that we *are* a heart.

The heart is the symbol of all our humanity, the sum of our thoughts, feelings and desires, the invisible centre of our selves. The Evangelist Matthew invites us to reflect on the importance of the heart, quoting this beautiful phrase of Jesus: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Mt 6:21).

It is therefore in the heart that true treasure is kept, not in earthly safes, not in large financial investments, which today more than ever before are out of control and unjustly concentrated at the bloody price of millions of human lives and the devastation of God's creation.

It is important to reflect on these aspects, because in the numerous commitments we continually face, there is an increasing risk of dispersion, sometimes of despair, of meaninglessness, even in apparently successful people. Instead, interpreting life in the light of Easter, looking at it with the Risen Jesus, means finding access to the essence of the human person, to our heart: *cor inquietum*. With this adjective "restless", Saint Augustine helps us understand the human being's yearning for fulfilment. The full sentence refers to the beginning of the *Confessions*, where Augustine writes: "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (I, 1,1).

Restlessness is the sign that our heart does not move by chance, in a disordered way, without a purpose or a destination, but is oriented towards its ultimate destination, the "return home". The authentic approach of the heart does not consist in possessing the goods of this world, but in achieving what can fill it completely; namely, the love of God, or rather, God who is Love. This treasure, however, can only be found by loving the neighbour we meet along the way: brothers and sisters in flesh and blood, whose presence stirs and questions our heart, calling it to open up and give itself. Our neighbour asks us to slow down, to look them in the eye, sometimes to change our plans, perhaps even to change direction.

Dear friends, here is the secret of the movement of the human heart: returning to the source of its being, delighting in the joy that never fails, that never disappoints. No one can live without a meaning that goes beyond the contingent, beyond what passes away. The human heart cannot live without hope, without knowing that it is made for fullness, not for want.

Jesus Christ, with his Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection, has given us a solid foundation for this hope. The restless heart will not be disappointed, if it enters into the dynamism of the love for which it was created. The destination is certain, life has triumphed, and in Christ it will continue to triumph in every death of daily life. This is Christian hope: let us always bless and thank the Lord who has given it to us!

DOCTRINAL NOTE ON MARIAN TITLES: MOTHER OF THE FAITHFUL, NOT CO-REDEMPTRIX

The document of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by Pope Leo XIV, offers clarifications on titles applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and calls for special attention to the use of the expression, “Mediatrix of all graces.”

Co-redemptrix

Regarding the title “Co-redemptrix,” the Note recalls that “some Popes have used the title “without elaborating much on its meaning.” Generally, it continues, “they have presented the title in two specific ways: in reference to Mary’s divine motherhood (insofar as she, as Mother, made possible the Redemption that Christ accomplished) or in reference to her union with Christ at the redemptive Cross. The Second Vatican Council refrained from using the title for dogmatic, pastoral, and ecumenical reasons. Saint John Paul II referred to Mary as ‘Co-redemptrix’ on at least seven occasions, particularly relating this title to the salvific value of our sufferings when they are offered together with the sufferings of Christ, to whom Mary is united especially at the Cross” (18).

The document cites an internal discussion within the then-Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which in February 1996 had discussed the request to proclaim a new dogma on Mary as “Co-redemptrix or Mediatrix of all graces.” Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was opposed to such a definition, arguing, “the precise meaning of these titles is not clear, and the doctrine contained in them is not mature. [...] It is not clear how the doctrine expressed in these titles is present in Scripture and the apostolic tradition.”

Later, in 2002, the future Benedict XVI expressed himself publicly in the same way: “The formula ‘Co-redemptrix’ departs to too great an extent from the language of Scripture and of the Fathers and therefore gives rise to misunderstandings... Everything comes from Him [Christ], as the Letter to the Ephesians and the Letter to the Colossians, in particular, tell us; Mary, too, is everything that she is through Him. The word ‘Co-redemptrix’ would obscure this origin.”

The note clarifies that Cardinal Ratzinger did not deny the good intentions behind the proposal, nor the valuable aspects reflected in it, but nonetheless maintained that they were “being expressed in the wrong way” (19).

Pope Francis also expressed his clear opposition to the use of the title Co-Redemptrix on at least three occasions. Tuesday’s Doctrinal Note concludes: “*It is always inappropriate* to use the title ‘Co-redemptrix’ to define Mary’s cooperation. This title risks obscuring Christ’s unique salvific mediation and can therefore create confusion and an imbalance in the harmony of the truths of the Christian faith. [...] When an expression requires many, repeated explanations to prevent it from straying from a correct meaning, it does not serve the faith of the People of God and becomes *unhelpful*” (22).

Mediatrix

The Note emphasises that “the biblical statement about Christ’s exclusive mediation is conclusive. Christ is the only Mediator” (24).

At the same time, MPF recognises “the fact that the word ‘mediation’ is commonly used in many areas of everyday life, where it is understood simply as cooperation, assistance, or intercession. As a result, it is inevitable that the term would be applied to Mary in a subordinate sense. Used in this way, it does not intend to add any efficacy or power to the unique mediation of Jesus Christ, true God and true man” (25).

Further, “it is clear that Mary has a real mediatory role in enabling the Incarnation of the Son of God in our humanity” (26).

Mother of believers and Mediatrix of all graces

Mary’s maternal role “in no way obscures or diminishes” the unique mediation of Christ, “but rather shows its power [...] Understood in this way, Mary’s motherhood does not seek to weaken the unique adoration due to Christ alone but, rather, seeks to enkindle it.”

Therefore, the Note states, “one must avoid titles and expressions that present Mary as a kind of ‘lightning rod’ before the Lord’s justice, as if she were a necessary alternative before the insufficiency of God’s mercy” (37b).

Thus, the title “Mother of Believers” “enables us to speak of Mary’s role in our relation to our life of grace”.

However, MPF goes on to urge caution concerning the use of expressions that may convey “less acceptable notions” (45).

“Cardinal Ratzinger already affirmed” for example, “that the title ‘Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces’ was not clearly grounded in Revelation.” So, the Note continues, “in line with this conviction, we can recognize the difficulties this title poses, both in terms of theological reflection and spirituality” (45). In fact, “no human person — not even the Apostles or the Blessed Virgin — can act as a universal dispenser of grace. Only God can bestow grace, and he does so through the humanity of Christ” (53).

“Some titles, such as ‘Mediatrix of All Graces,’ have limits that do not favour a correct understanding of Mary’s unique place,” MPF explains, adding, “In fact, she, the first redeemed, could not have been the mediatrix of the grace that she herself received” (67).

Nonetheless, the Doctrinal Note acknowledges that “the term ‘graces,’ when seen in reference to Mary’s maternal help at various moments in our lives, can have an acceptable meaning. The plural form expresses all the aids — even material — that the Lord may grant us when He heeds His Mother’s intercession” (68).

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

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 12th February 2026, 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 GROTTO: 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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Christmas Schedule for December 2025

24th	Children/Family Christmas Mass	6:00pm
24th	Christmas Mass	9:00pm
24th	Midnight Mass	12:00am
25th	Christmas Day Mass	8:00am & 9:30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

20/21 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: B. Motha, M. Mifsud 8am: F. Paiva, T. Perak 9.30am: C. Brooks, Kamela Huihui	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, N. Sumcad 8am: T. Perak, K. Walker 9.30am: N. Arambulo, L. Rigney	
Altar Servers	Vigil: N. D'Cruz, J. Steele, Aaliya Faulkner-Dhiman, 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: K. Maruthanayagam, C. Attard, L. Sager.	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: K.Thoms & C.W 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	24 Dec	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

27/28 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Lawrence Falzon 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Simic, N. Shami 8am: F. Paiva, J. Sarmiento 9.30am: P. Gow, G. Basilli	
Readers	Vigil: Yxaak & Yxavel Dino 8am: F. Kennedy, A. McNally 9.30am: J. Nonato, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Julian & Orlando Martinez, C. Bellamin 8am: Jaxon Blackshaw, Sub Rqd 9.30am: K. Cassaniti, L. Sadipoor, A. Melki	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary	
Church Cleaning	1 January	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli	

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21st, 2025

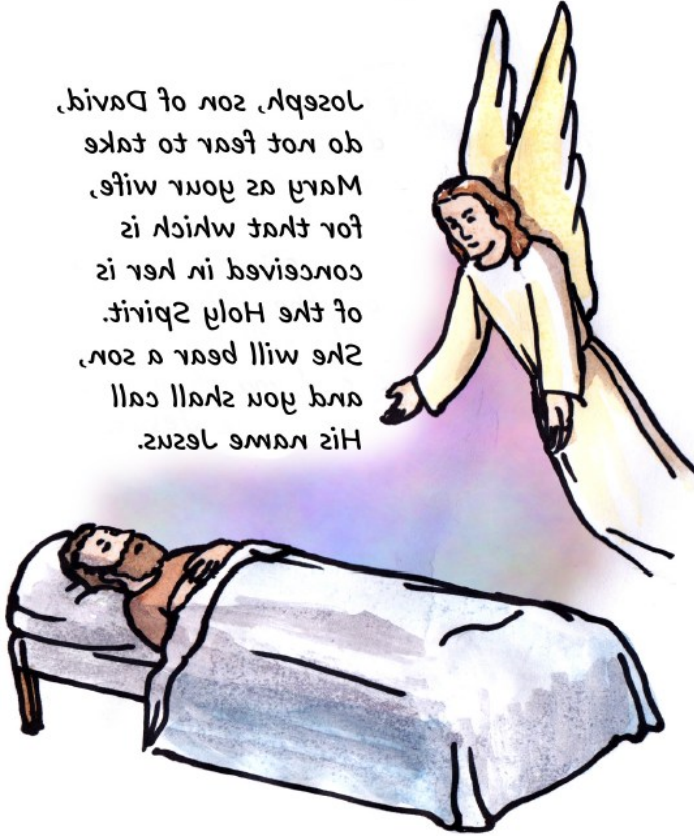
What's in a Name?

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 18:21

Based on Matthew 1:18-25



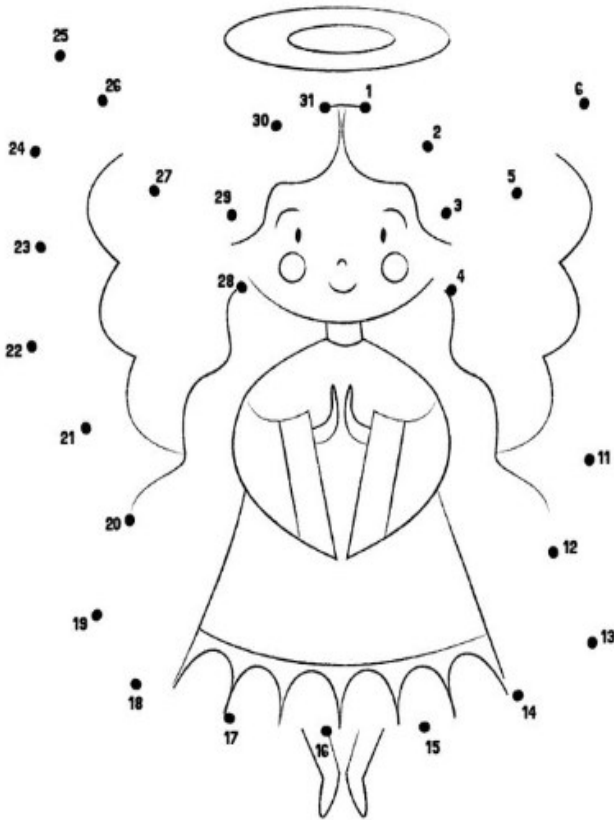
Joseph, son of David,
do not fear to take
Mary as your wife,
for that which is
conceived in her is
of the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son,
and you shall call
his name Jesus.



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

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!

HUSBAND	SON	IMMANUEL	MARY	NAME
CHRIST	CHILD	VIRGIN	BIRTH	ANGEL
JOSEPH	MARRY	AFRAID	DREAM	JESUS



angel





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@lol7hills.com.au

Parish Priest:	Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran	Parish School:	LOLO 8869 6800
Parish Deacon:	Deacon Thong Nguyen	Principal:	Ms Keiran Byrnes
Parish Office Team:	Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Jane Nguyen, Laura Ilioski	Reconciliation:	Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
Office Hours: Monday-Friday:	9am - 3.00pm	Baptismal Preparation:	18 February 2026
WEEKDAY MASS:	Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am Thursday 9.00am	Baptism:	11 January 2026
WEEKEND MASS:	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9.30am	Sacrament Co-Ordinator:	Mrs Artelle Lenthall
		Youth Co-Ordinator:	Diana Park
		Parish Website:	www.lol7hills.org.au
		Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/LOLO7Hills/

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 21 December 2025 • Year A



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, Takis Karapatsakis, Clare Kinsley, T.Q Letran, Susie Manga, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Gary Morrissey, Jayne Muscat, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Michelle Pellicano, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Arabella Steele, Sue Tiplado, 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, Rosita Ballecer, Anthony Hastings, Aggie Motha, Maria Amma Peter, Veronica Rosales, Anthony Ruzgas

Anniversaries: Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, France Angseesing, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Evan Elisher, Rita de Silva, Frank, M.A Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, Norma Lorenzo, Joseph Mahon, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Irene Moroney, Thelma Morrissey, Anton & Lourda Motha, Paul Mula, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Eustace Ratnam, Roseline Ratnam

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Sydney Azie, Antonio, Amelia & Germana Bertimato, Sam Borg, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato Cabasa, Peter & Antonio, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli, Barrie Chamberlain, Myrna Cruz, 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, O. Francis, J. Francis, Melvyn Fernandes, Merita Fernando, Nevis Fernando, Leandro Garcia Snr, Evangeline, Rudy Garcia, Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Selvam Irudayaraj, J.B, Jonathan Tek Kie, Mangion & Cini Family, Felina Maglaya, Tessie & Andy Mangine, 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, Aurora Nufable Nonato, Coleen O'Sullivan, Serge Pasnin, Lakshman Perera, Marlyn Pestano, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose, Maria, Laureano, Karen, Yolanda Reyes, Mary Silva, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.

Names will be published for 2 weeks at a time.

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.

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



KEEP UP TO DATE

By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more. Visit www.lol7hills.org.au

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**(R) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally.

He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

According to scholars, marriage customs in Palestine in Jesus' time often included two parts: the engagement and the wedding.

The engagement period usually lasted for a year during which the bride and the groom stayed in their homes and communicated to each other through messages delivered by the best man. The engagement began with the signing of a formal marriage agreement or with the groom offering gifts to the bride's family. At this stage, the bride and the groom were legally husband and wife even though they did not yet live together. Vietnamese people have done the same, except the engagement period is less than a year, usually six months.

After a year-long engagement time, the wedding ceremony then took place, and the groom could formally take his wife into his home to begin their married life together.

This background knowledge of Jewish marriage customs will help us better appreciate the Gospel account this Sunday, as it allows us to understand the dilemma St. Joseph faced when he discovered Mary's conception during their engagement. On the one hand, they were legally husband and wife; on the other hand, Mary was clearly carrying a child who was not his. For Joseph, a righteous and honorable man, divorce seemed to be the best solution, one that would end the relationship quietly and protect Mary's life, since she could otherwise be accused of adultery, an offense that, under Jewish law, could result in death by stoning. This messy entanglement is finally cleared up by the angel appearing to Joseph in a dream to reveal the mystery behind Mary's conception, that she was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The angel also asked Joseph to take Mary home to be his wife with the obligation to name the child Jesus, a name that means 'the Lord saves' or simply 'salvation.'

In the eyes of Matthew whose Gospel was meant to bring Jesus' Good News to the group of Jewish followers often familiar with the teachings of the prophets in the scripture, what happened here was extra special, because it fulfilled exactly what Isaiah prophesied long before, as we hear in the first reading today, that 'the maiden is with child and soon give birth to a son, whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us.' This prophetic fulfillment Have a joy-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ADVENT WREATH

It is usually constructed around a circular base. This circular base is traditionally taken to symbolise the ever-renewing cycle of the seasons, and the four candles, represent the four Sundays of Advent. The fourth candle, the "Candle of Love," reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth.



HALL CANOPY PLAQUE

From this weekend, the Pledging Book for the Hall Canopy Plaque is 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.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS THANK YOU

Thank you everyone for such an overwhelming support to our Parish invitation to show our love and care for the needy both in our community and beyond through our Christmas Hampers tradition, and a special thank you note to our dedicated Vinnies for overseeing the whole program from collecting and sorting out donations to distributing them dutifully.

MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church from this weekend for Ministers of the Eucharist, Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers and Welcomers who would like to serve at a Christmas Mass. We kindly ask that ministers sign up for one liturgy only.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2026

Ministry rosters for February - July 2026 are now available. You can find a copy at the back Sacristy or on our website under 'Parish Forms'. If you require more copies or notice any discrepancies, please kindly contact the parish office.

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN 2026-2030

Copies of our Parish Pastoral Plan 2026-2030 are now on and all are invited to have a look after Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY—CHRISTMAS STORY

Thank you to the children who have volunteered to act out the Christmas Story this year. This will take place during the 6pm mass on the 24th December. For those children who are not participating but attending the mass, you are invited to dress up as angels or shepherds.

A PRACTICAL TIP EACH WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

TIP 14 Take a Break from Online Shopping

Online shopping produces a lot of packaging waste and produces excess carbon emissions from airplanes and vehicles. Take a month off online shopping or reduce what you buy online. Try to make purchases closer to home!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS & BULLETIN

Our Parish office will close between Christmas and New Year and there will be no bulletins throughout the month of January 2026 to allow Parish staff to take a break. However, I will be around in the Parish office as usual.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE RETURNS IN 2026

Those interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar, the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2026. Enrolment forms can be found at the back sacristy.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

- Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Mount Druitt Combined Churches Christmas Day

Community Lunch: 25 December

Don't spend Christmas alone. A free Christmas Day lunch hosted by Mt Druitt Combined Churches on Thursday 25 December from 11am, with Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt as the venue host. All are welcome. Registration is essential. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/MtDruittChristmasLunch>

Baulkham Hills Christmas Luncheon: 25 December

The Parish of Baulkham Hills are hosting a Christmas Lunch for anyone who will be on their own on Christmas Day. You may be in town for a visit, or just moved into the area, or may simply be unable to share Christmas Day with your loved ones. So come and share it with us. It will be held on Thursday 25 December in and around the St Michael's Primary School hall, and everyone is welcome, families and individuals. But places are limited, so you will need to register to attend. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9639 0598 or email baulkhamhills@parracatholic.org.

Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January. For one week, there will be celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who've enriched our parishes, schools and communities. Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross.

Grab your copy of the Catholic Outlook Magazine!

The latest quarterly edition of the *Catholic Outlook* Magazine is out now, keeping you connected with exciting news and events in the Diocese of Parramatta.

OLOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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>. Face to Face courses will resume in 2026. Dates and times will be provided once confirmed.

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.

Visiting Clergy to OLOL

Thank you to Fr. Hoang Viet Nguyen who graciously assisted Fr Henry with mass and reconciliation this week. Visiting clergy all uphold the standards and processes we here at OLOL and the Diocese have put in place to ensure the safety of our community.

Santo Nino Fiesta Sinulog 2026: 18 January

The Devotees of the Holy Infant Jesus Santo Nino invite you to attend the 2026 Fiesta Sinulog on Sunday 18 January at St Patrick's Church, Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown at 2pm. All devotees, please bring your Santo Nino statues. Novena Masses will be held between 8-16 January at 7pm at the parishes of St Clair-Erskine Park, Penrith, St Marys, Rooty Hill, Winston Hills, Plumpton, Marayong, Quakers Hill and Kellyville. For more information, please contact the Blacktown Parish on (02) 9622 1125 or email blacktown@parracatholic.org

Sing a New Song Music Workshop for Children: 21 January

Do you have a child in Year 4-12? Invite them to come along to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 21 January from 9:30am to 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Morning tea and lunch provided. Student participants will form a choir that will sing at the Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Sunday 25 January at 11am. To register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/0URuFAeThA>

Rosary Making Workshop: 9 February

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on Monday 9 February at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for further information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Diocesan World Day of the Sick: 11 February

Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on the 11th February 2026 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. To register, please visit parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-the-sick-mass/

Children and Young People's Participation

A Safeguarding culture for Children and Young People is fostered and sustained by our parish being committed to living the Gospel by serving the most vulnerable. Here at OLOL Seven Hills we implement all Arch/Diocesan policies, procedures and community standards that are Child and Young Person centred to lift barriers so their voices can be heard and their participation valued.

OLOL Parish community values and celebrates ALL our Children and Young People for who they are and the great contributions they make to our parish. We therefore have an obligation to uphold their human and spiritual rights. This is achieved at OLOL by: 1. Providing ministries, services and programs that are relevant for Children and Young People including those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and who have a disability; 2. Committing to zero tolerance to any attitude and activity that makes Children and Young People feel less safe; 3. Enhancing relationships between leaders, community members, Children and Young People; and 4. Creating a new perspective to invigorate renewal. We also ensure all our volunteers and staff have an up to date WWCC and completed all safeguard training.

Greeting of the Holy Father to the sick in the Audience Hall before the General Audience

Good morning everyone! Good morning! Welcome!

I will offer a brief greeting, a blessing for each of you.

On this day, we wanted to protect you a little from the elements, especially the cold... It is not raining, but this way you may be a little more comfortable. Afterwards, you can follow the Audience on the screen, or if you wish, you can also go outside, but we would like to make the most of this small, more personal encounter to greet you, to offer you the Lord's blessing, and also our best wishes. Christmas is almost here, and we would like to ask the Lord that the joy of this Christmas season accompany you all: your families, your loved ones, and that you may always be in the Lord's hands with the trust and love that only God can give us.

I give my blessing to all of you now, and then I will come and greet you.

Blessing

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Human life is characterized by a constant movement that drives us to do, to act. Nowadays speed is required everywhere in order to achieve optimal results in a wide variety of fields. How does Jesus' resurrection shed light on this aspect of our experience? When we participate in his victory over death, will we rest? Faith tells us: yes, we will rest. We will not be inactive, but we will enter into God's repose, which is peace and joy. So, should we just wait, or can this change us right now?

We are absorbed by many activities that do not always leave us satisfied. A lot of our actions have to do with practical, concrete things. We have to assume responsibility for many commitments, solve problems, face difficulties. Jesus too was involved with people and with life, not sparing himself, but rather giving himself to the end. Yet we often perceive how too much doing, instead of giving us fulfilment, becomes a vortex that overwhelms us, takes away our serenity, and prevents us from living to the fullest what is truly important in our lives. We then feel tired and dissatisfied: time seems to be wasted on a thousand practical things that do not, however, resolve the ultimate meaning of our existence. Sometimes, at the end of days full of activities, we feel empty. Why? Because we are not machines, we have a "heart"; indeed, we can say that we *are* a heart.

The heart is the symbol of all our humanity, the sum of our thoughts, feelings and desires, the invisible centre of our selves. The Evangelist Matthew invites us to reflect on the importance of the heart, quoting this beautiful phrase of Jesus: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (*Mt 6:21*).

It is therefore in the heart that true treasure is kept, not in earthly safes, not in large financial investments, which today more than ever before are out of control and unjustly concentrated at the bloody price of millions of human lives and the devastation of God's creation.

It is important to reflect on these aspects, because in the numerous commitments we continually face, there is an increasing risk of dispersion, sometimes of despair, of meaninglessness, even in apparently successful people. Instead, interpreting life in the light of Easter, looking at it with the Risen Jesus, means finding access to the essence of the human person, to our heart: *cor inquietum*. With this adjective "restless", Saint Augustine helps us understand the human being's yearning for fulfilment. The full sentence refers to the beginning of the *Confessions*, where Augustine writes: "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (*I, 1,1*).

Restlessness is the sign that our heart does not move by chance, in a disordered way, without a purpose or a destination, but is oriented towards its ultimate destination, the "return home". The authentic approach of the heart does not consist in possessing the goods of this world, but in achieving what can fill it completely; namely, the love of God, or rather, God who is Love. This treasure, however, can only be found by loving the neighbour we meet along the way: brothers and sisters in flesh and blood, whose presence stirs and questions our heart, calling it to open up and give itself. Our neighbour asks us to slow down, to look them in the eye, sometimes to change our plans, perhaps even to change direction.

Dear friends, here is the secret of the movement of the human heart: returning to the source of its being, delighting in the joy that never fails, that never disappoints. No one can live without a meaning that goes beyond the contingent, beyond what passes away. The human heart cannot live without hope, without knowing that it is made for fullness, not for want.

Jesus Christ, with his Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection, has given us a solid foundation for this hope. The restless heart will not be disappointed, if it enters into the dynamism of the love for which it was created. The destination is certain, life has triumphed, and in Christ it will continue to triumph in every death of daily life. This is Christian hope: let us always bless and thank the Lord who has given it to us!

DOCTRINAL NOTE ON MARIAN TITLES: MOTHER OF THE FAITHFUL, NOT CO-REDEMPTRIX

The document of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by Pope Leo XIV, offers clarifications on titles applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and calls for special attention to the use of the expression, “Mediatrix of all graces.”

Co-redemptrix

Regarding the title “Co-redemptrix,” the Note recalls that “some Popes have used the title “without elaborating much on its meaning.” Generally, it continues, “they have presented the title in two specific ways: in reference to Mary’s divine motherhood (insofar as she, as Mother, made possible the Redemption that Christ accomplished) or in reference to her union with Christ at the redemptive Cross. The Second Vatican Council refrained from using the title for dogmatic, pastoral, and ecumenical reasons. Saint John Paul II referred to Mary as ‘Co-redemptrix’ on at least seven occasions, particularly relating this title to the salvific value of our sufferings when they are offered together with the sufferings of Christ, to whom Mary is united especially at the Cross” (18).

The document cites an internal discussion within the then-Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which in February 1996 had discussed the request to proclaim a new dogma on Mary as “Co-redemptrix or Mediatrix of all graces.” Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was opposed to such a definition, arguing, “the precise meaning of these titles is not clear, and the doctrine contained in them is not mature. [...] It is not clear how the doctrine expressed in these titles is present in Scripture and the apostolic tradition.”

Later, in 2002, the future Benedict XVI expressed himself publicly in the same way: “The formula ‘Co-redemptrix’ departs to too great an extent from the language of Scripture and of the Fathers and therefore gives rise to misunderstandings... Everything comes from Him [Christ], as the Letter to the Ephesians and the Letter to the Colossians, in particular, tell us; Mary, too, is everything that she is through Him. The word ‘Co-redemptrix’ would obscure this origin.”

The note clarifies that Cardinal Ratzinger did not deny the good intentions behind the proposal, nor the valuable aspects reflected in it, but nonetheless maintained that they were “being expressed in the wrong way” (19).

Pope Francis also expressed his clear opposition to the use of the title Co-Redemptrix on at least three occasions. Tuesday’s Doctrinal Note concludes: “*It is always inappropriate* to use the title ‘Co-redemptrix’ to define Mary’s cooperation. This title risks obscuring Christ’s unique salvific mediation and can therefore create confusion and an imbalance in the harmony of the truths of the Christian faith. [...] When an expression requires many, repeated explanations to prevent it from straying from a correct meaning, it does not serve the faith of the People of God and becomes *unhelpful*” (22).

Mediatrix

The Note emphasises that “the biblical statement about Christ’s exclusive mediation is conclusive. Christ is the only Mediator” (24).

At the same time, MPF recognises “the fact that the word ‘mediation’ is commonly used in many areas of everyday life, where it is understood simply as cooperation, assistance, or intercession. As a result, it is inevitable that the term would be applied to Mary in a subordinate sense. Used in this way, it does not intend to add any efficacy or power to the unique mediation of Jesus Christ, true God and true man” (25).

Further, “it is clear that Mary has a real mediatory role in enabling the Incarnation of the Son of God in our humanity” (26).

Mother of believers and Mediatrix of all graces

Mary’s maternal role “in no way obscures or diminishes” the unique mediation of Christ, “but rather shows its power [...] Understood in this way, Mary’s motherhood does not seek to weaken the unique adoration due to Christ alone but, rather, seeks to enkindle it.”

Therefore, the Note states, “one must avoid titles and expressions that present Mary as a kind of ‘lightning rod’ before the Lord’s justice, as if she were a necessary alternative before the insufficiency of God’s mercy” (37b).

Thus, the title “Mother of Believers” “enables us to speak of Mary’s role in our relation to our life of grace”.

However, MPF goes on to urge caution concerning the use of expressions that may convey “less acceptable notions” (45).

“Cardinal Ratzinger already affirmed” for example, “that the title ‘Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces’ was not clearly grounded in Revelation.” So, the Note continues, “in line with this conviction, we can recognize the difficulties this title poses, both in terms of theological reflection and spirituality” (45). In fact, “no human person — not even the Apostles or the Blessed Virgin — can act as a universal dispenser of grace. Only God can bestow grace, and he does so through the humanity of Christ” (53).

“Some titles, such as ‘Mediatrix of All Graces,’ have limits that do not favour a correct understanding of Mary’s unique place,” MPF explains, adding, “In fact, she, the first redeemed, could not have been the mediatrix of the grace that she herself received” (67).

Nonetheless, the Doctrinal Note acknowledges that “the term ‘graces,’ when seen in reference to Mary’s maternal help at various moments in our lives, can have an acceptable meaning. The plural form expresses all the aids — even material — that the Lord may grant us when He heeds His Mother’s intercession” (68).

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

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 12th February 2026, 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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Christmas Schedule for December 2025

24th	Children/Family Christmas Mass	6:00pm
24th	Christmas Mass	9:00pm
24th	Midnight Mass	12:00am
25th	Christmas Day Mass	8:00am & 9:30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

20/21 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: B. Motha, M. Mifsud 8am: F. Paiva, T. Perak 9.30am: C. Brooks, Kamela Huihui	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, N. Sumcad 8am: T. Perak, K. Walker 9.30am: N. Arambulo, L. Rigney	
Altar Servers	Vigil: N. D'Cruz, J. Steele, Aaliya Faulkner-Dhiman, 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: K. Maruthanayagam, C. Attard, L. Sager.	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: K.Thoms & C.W 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	24 Dec	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

27/28 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Lawrence Falzon 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Simic, N. Shami 8am: F. Paiva, J. Sarmiento 9.30am: P. Gow, G. Basilli	
Readers	Vigil: Yxaak & Yxavel Dino 8am: F. Kennedy, A. McNally 9.30am: J. Nonato, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Julian & Orlando Martinez, C. Bellamin 8am: Jaxon Blackshaw, Sub Rqd 9.30am: K. Cassaniti, L. Sadipoor, A. Melki	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary	
Church Cleaning	1 January	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli	

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21st, 2025

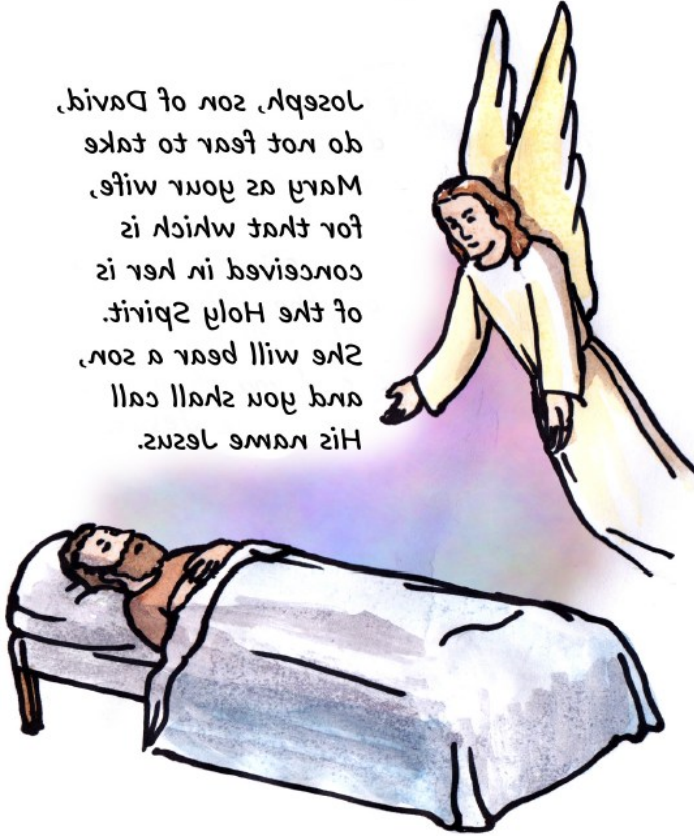
What's in a Name?

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 18:21

Based on Matthew 1:18-25



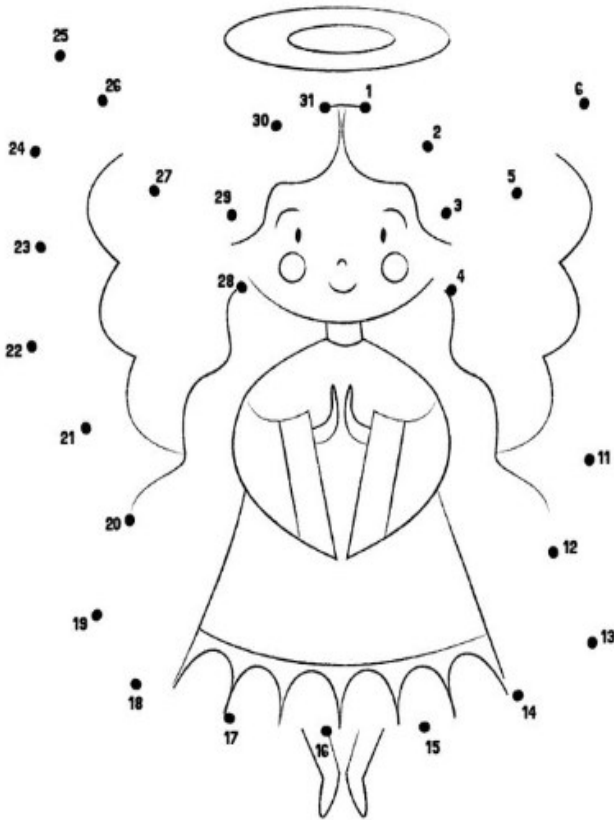
Joseph, son of David,
do not fear to take
Mary as your wife,
for that which is
conceived in her is
of the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son,
and you shall call
his name Jesus.



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

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!

HUSBAND	SON	IMMANUEL	MARY	NAME
CHRIST	CHILD	VIRGIN	BIRTH	ANGEL
JOSEPH	MARRY	AFRAID	DREAM	JESUS



angel





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: 18 February 2026
Baptism: 11 January 2026
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall
Youth Co-Ordinator: Diana Park
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.org.au
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 21 December 2025 • Year A



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, Takis Karapatsakis, Clare Kinsley, T.Q Letran, Susie Manga, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Gary Morrissey, Jayne Muscat, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Michelle Pellicano, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Arabella Steele, Sue Tiplado, 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@olol7hills.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, Rosita Ballecer, Anthony Hastings, Aggie Motha, Maria Amma Peter, Veronica Rosales, Anthony Ruzgas

Anniversaries: Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, France Angseesing, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Evan Elisher, Rita de Silva, Frank, M.A Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, Norma Lorenzo, Joseph Mahon, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Irene Moroney, Thelma Morrissey, Anton & Lourda Motha, Paul Mula, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Eustace Ratnam, Roseline Ratnam

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Sydney Azie, Antonio, Amelia & Germana Bertimato, Sam Borg, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato Cabasa, Peter & Antonio, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli, Barrie Chamberlain, Myrna Cruz, Joseph, Johnny Edwards, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Launcer De Guire, Bede Diab, Debe Diab, Marcel Diab, Mohsen Diab, Peter Diab, Toufic Diab, O. Francis, J. Francis, Melvyn Fernandes, Merita Fernando, Nevis Fernando, Leandro Garcia Snr, Evangeline, Rudy Garcia, Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Selvam Irudayaraj, J.B, Jonathan Tek Kie, Mangion & Cini Family, Felina Maglaya, Tessie & Andy Mangine, 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, Aurora Nufable Nonato, Coleen O'Sullivan, Serge Pasnin, Lakshman Perera, Marlyn Pestano, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose, Maria, Laureano, Karen, Yolanda Reyes, Mary Silva, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.

Names will be published for 2 weeks at a time.

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.

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



KEEP UP TO DATE

By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more. Visit www.olol7hills.org.au

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**(R) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally.

He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

According to scholars, marriage customs in Palestine in Jesus' time often included two parts: the engagement and the wedding.

The engagement period usually lasted for a year during which the bride and the groom stayed in their homes and communicated to each other through messages delivered by the best man. The engagement began with the signing of a formal marriage agreement or with the groom offering gifts to the bride's family. At this stage, the bride and the groom were legally husband and wife even though they did not yet live together. Vietnamese people have done the same, except the engagement period is less than a year, usually six months.

After a year-long engagement time, the wedding ceremony then took place, and the groom could formally take his wife into his home to begin their married life together.

This background knowledge of Jewish marriage customs will help us better appreciate the Gospel account this Sunday, as it allows us to understand the dilemma St. Joseph faced when he discovered Mary's conception during their engagement. On the one hand, they were legally husband and wife; on the other hand, Mary was clearly carrying a child who was not his. For Joseph, a righteous and honorable man, divorce seemed to be the best solution, one that would end the relationship quietly and protect Mary's life, since she could otherwise be accused of adultery, an offense that, under Jewish law, could result in death by stoning. This messy entanglement is finally cleared up by the angel appearing to Joseph in a dream to reveal the mystery behind Mary's conception, that she was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The angel also asked Joseph to take Mary home to be his wife with the obligation to name the child Jesus, a name that means 'the Lord saves' or simply 'salvation.'

In the eyes of Matthew whose Gospel was meant to bring Jesus' Good News to the group of Jewish followers often familiar with the teachings of the prophets in the scripture, what happened here was extra special, because it fulfilled exactly what Isaiah prophesied long before, as we hear in the first reading today, that 'the maiden is with child and soon give birth to a son, whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us.' This prophetic fulfillment Have a joy-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ADVENT WREATH

It is usually constructed around a circular base. This circular base is traditionally taken to symbolise the ever-renewing cycle of the seasons, and the four candles, represent the four Sundays of Advent. The fourth candle, the "Candle of Love," reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth.



HALL CANOPY PLAQUE

From this weekend, the Pledging Book for the Hall Canopy Plaque is 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.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS THANK YOU

Thank you everyone for such an overwhelming support to our Parish invitation to show our love and care for the needy both in our community and beyond through our Christmas Hampers tradition, and a special thank you note to our dedicated Vinnies for overseeing the whole program from collecting and sorting out donations to distributing them dutifully.

MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church from this weekend for Ministers of the Eucharist, Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers and Welcomers who would like to serve at a Christmas Mass. We kindly ask that ministers sign up for one liturgy only.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2026

Ministry rosters for February - July 2026 are now available. You can find a copy at the back Sacristy or on our website under 'Parish Forms'. If you require more copies or notice any discrepancies, please kindly contact the parish office.

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN 2026-2030

Copies of our Parish Pastoral Plan 2026-2030 are now on and all are invited to have a look after Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY—CHRISTMAS STORY

Thank you to the children who have volunteered to act out the Christmas Story this year. This will take place during the 6pm mass on the 24th December. For those children who are not participating but attending the mass, you are invited to dress up as angels or shepherds.

A PRACTICAL TIP EACH WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

TIP 14 Take a Break from Online Shopping

Online shopping produces a lot of packaging waste and produces excess carbon emissions from airplanes and vehicles. Take a month off online shopping or reduce what you buy online. Try to make purchases closer to home!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS & BULLETIN

Our Parish office will close between Christmas and New Year and there will be no bulletins throughout the month of January 2026 to allow Parish staff to take a break. However, I will be around in the Parish office as usual.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE RETURNS IN 2026

Those interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar, the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2026. Enrolment forms can be found at the back sacristy.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

- Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Mount Druitt Combined Churches Christmas Day

Community Lunch: 25 December

Don't spend Christmas alone. A free Christmas Day lunch hosted by Mt Druitt Combined Churches on Thursday 25 December from 11am, with Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt as the venue host. All are welcome. Registration is essential. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/MtDruittChristmasLunch>

Baulkham Hills Christmas Luncheon: 25 December

The Parish of Baulkham Hills are hosting a Christmas Lunch for anyone who will be on their own on Christmas Day. You may be in town for a visit, or just moved into the area, or may simply be unable to share Christmas Day with your loved ones. So come and share it with us. It will be held on Thursday 25 December in and around the St Michael's Primary School hall, and everyone is welcome, families and individuals. But places are limited, so you will need to register to attend. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9639 0598 or email baulkhamhills@parracatholic.org.

Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January. For one week, there will be celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who've enriched our parishes, schools and communities. Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross.

Grab your copy of the Catholic Outlook Magazine!

The latest quarterly edition of the *Catholic Outlook* Magazine is out now, keeping you connected with exciting news and events in the Diocese of Parramatta.

OLOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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>. Face to Face courses will resume in 2026. Dates and times will be provided once confirmed.

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.

Visiting Clergy to OLOL

Thank you to Fr. Hoang Viet Nguyen who graciously assisted Fr Henry with mass and reconciliation this week. Visiting clergy all uphold the standards and processes we here at OLOL and the Diocese have put in place to ensure the safety of our community.

Santo Nino Fiesta Sinulog 2026: 18 January

The Devotees of the Holy Infant Jesus Santo Nino invite you to attend the 2026 Fiesta Sinulog on Sunday 18 January at St Patrick's Church, Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown at 2pm. All devotees, please bring your Santo Nino statues. Novena Masses will be held between 8-16 January at 7pm at the parishes of St Clair-Erskine Park, Penrith, St Marys, Rooty Hill, Winston Hills, Plumpton, Marayong, Quakers Hill and Kellyville. For more information, please contact the Blacktown Parish on (02) 9622 1125 or email blacktown@parracatholic.org

Sing a New Song Music Workshop for Children: 21 January

Do you have a child in Year 4-12? Invite them to come along to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 21 January from 9:30am to 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Morning tea and lunch provided. Student participants will form a choir that will sing at the Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Sunday 25 January at 11am. To register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/0URuFAeThA>

Rosary Making Workshop: 9 February

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on Monday 9 February at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for further information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Diocesan World Day of the Sick: 11 February

Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on the 11th February 2026 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. To register, please visit parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-the-sick-mass/

Children and Young People's Participation

A Safeguarding culture for Children and Young People is fostered and sustained by our parish being committed to living the Gospel by serving the most vulnerable. Here at OLOL Seven Hills we implement all Arch/Diocesan policies, procedures and community standards that are Child and Young Person centred to lift barriers so their voices can be heard and their participation valued.

OLOL Parish community values and celebrates ALL our Children and Young People for who they are and the great contributions they make to our parish. We therefore have an obligation to uphold their human and spiritual rights. This is achieved at OLOL by: 1. Providing ministries, services and programs that are relevant for Children and Young People including those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and who have a disability; 2. Committing to zero tolerance to any attitude and activity that makes Children and Young People feel less safe; 3. Enhancing relationships between leaders, community members, Children and Young People; and 4. Creating a new perspective to invigorate renewal. We also ensure all our volunteers and staff have an up to date WWCC and completed all safeguard training.

Greeting of the Holy Father to the sick in the Audience Hall before the General Audience

Good morning everyone! Good morning! Welcome!

I will offer a brief greeting, a blessing for each of you.

On this day, we wanted to protect you a little from the elements, especially the cold... It is not raining, but this way you may be a little more comfortable. Afterwards, you can follow the Audience on the screen, or if you wish, you can also go outside, but we would like to make the most of this small, more personal encounter to greet you, to offer you the Lord's blessing, and also our best wishes. Christmas is almost here, and we would like to ask the Lord that the joy of this Christmas season accompany you all: your families, your loved ones, and that you may always be in the Lord's hands with the trust and love that only God can give us.

I give my blessing to all of you now, and then I will come and greet you.

Blessing

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Human life is characterized by a constant movement that drives us to do, to act. Nowadays speed is required everywhere in order to achieve optimal results in a wide variety of fields. How does Jesus' resurrection shed light on this aspect of our experience? When we participate in his victory over death, will we rest? Faith tells us: yes, we will rest. We will not be inactive, but we will enter into God's repose, which is peace and joy. So, should we just wait, or can this change us right now?

We are absorbed by many activities that do not always leave us satisfied. A lot of our actions have to do with practical, concrete things. We have to assume responsibility for many commitments, solve problems, face difficulties. Jesus too was involved with people and with life, not sparing himself, but rather giving himself to the end. Yet we often perceive how too much doing, instead of giving us fulfilment, becomes a vortex that overwhelms us, takes away our serenity, and prevents us from living to the fullest what is truly important in our lives. We then feel tired and dissatisfied: time seems to be wasted on a thousand practical things that do not, however, resolve the ultimate meaning of our existence. Sometimes, at the end of days full of activities, we feel empty. Why? Because we are not machines, we have a "heart"; indeed, we can say that we *are* a heart.

The heart is the symbol of all our humanity, the sum of our thoughts, feelings and desires, the invisible centre of our selves. The Evangelist Matthew invites us to reflect on the importance of the heart, quoting this beautiful phrase of Jesus: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (*Mt 6:21*).

It is therefore in the heart that true treasure is kept, not in earthly safes, not in large financial investments, which today more than ever before are out of control and unjustly concentrated at the bloody price of millions of human lives and the devastation of God's creation.

It is important to reflect on these aspects, because in the numerous commitments we continually face, there is an increasing risk of dispersion, sometimes of despair, of meaninglessness, even in apparently successful people. Instead, interpreting life in the light of Easter, looking at it with the Risen Jesus, means finding access to the essence of the human person, to our heart: *cor inquietum*. With this adjective "restless", Saint Augustine helps us understand the human being's yearning for fulfilment. The full sentence refers to the beginning of the *Confessions*, where Augustine writes: "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (I, 1,1).

Restlessness is the sign that our heart does not move by chance, in a disordered way, without a purpose or a destination, but is oriented towards its ultimate destination, the "return home". The authentic approach of the heart does not consist in possessing the goods of this world, but in achieving what can fill it completely; namely, the love of God, or rather, God who is Love. This treasure, however, can only be found by loving the neighbour we meet along the way: brothers and sisters in flesh and blood, whose presence stirs and questions our heart, calling it to open up and give itself. Our neighbour asks us to slow down, to look them in the eye, sometimes to change our plans, perhaps even to change direction.

Dear friends, here is the secret of the movement of the human heart: returning to the source of its being, delighting in the joy that never fails, that never disappoints. No one can live without a meaning that goes beyond the contingent, beyond what passes away. The human heart cannot live without hope, without knowing that it is made for fullness, not for want.

Jesus Christ, with his Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection, has given us a solid foundation for this hope. The restless heart will not be disappointed, if it enters into the dynamism of the love for which it was created. The destination is certain, life has triumphed, and in Christ it will continue to triumph in every death of daily life. This is Christian hope: let us always bless and thank the Lord who has given it to us!

DOCTRINAL NOTE ON MARIAN TITLES: MOTHER OF THE FAITHFUL, NOT CO-REDEMPTRIX

The document of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by Pope Leo XIV, offers clarifications on titles applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and calls for special attention to the use of the expression, “Mediatrix of all graces.”

Co-redemptrix

Regarding the title “Co-redemptrix,” the Note recalls that “some Popes have used the title “without elaborating much on its meaning.” Generally, it continues, “they have presented the title in two specific ways: in reference to Mary’s divine motherhood (insofar as she, as Mother, made possible the Redemption that Christ accomplished) or in reference to her union with Christ at the redemptive Cross. The Second Vatican Council refrained from using the title for dogmatic, pastoral, and ecumenical reasons. Saint John Paul II referred to Mary as ‘Co-redemptrix’ on at least seven occasions, particularly relating this title to the salvific value of our sufferings when they are offered together with the sufferings of Christ, to whom Mary is united especially at the Cross” (18).

The document cites an internal discussion within the then-Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which in February 1996 had discussed the request to proclaim a new dogma on Mary as “Co-redemptrix or Mediatrix of all graces.” Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was opposed to such a definition, arguing, “the precise meaning of these titles is not clear, and the doctrine contained in them is not mature. [...] It is not clear how the doctrine expressed in these titles is present in Scripture and the apostolic tradition.”

Later, in 2002, the future Benedict XVI expressed himself publicly in the same way: “The formula ‘Co-redemptrix’ departs to too great an extent from the language of Scripture and of the Fathers and therefore gives rise to misunderstandings... Everything comes from Him [Christ], as the Letter to the Ephesians and the Letter to the Colossians, in particular, tell us; Mary, too, is everything that she is through Him. The word ‘Co-redemptrix’ would obscure this origin.”

The note clarifies that Cardinal Ratzinger did not deny the good intentions behind the proposal, nor the valuable aspects reflected in it, but nonetheless maintained that they were “being expressed in the wrong way” (19).

Pope Francis also expressed his clear opposition to the use of the title Co-Redemptrix on at least three occasions. Tuesday’s Doctrinal Note concludes: “*It is always inappropriate* to use the title ‘Co-redemptrix’ to define Mary’s cooperation. This title risks obscuring Christ’s unique salvific mediation and can therefore create confusion and an imbalance in the harmony of the truths of the Christian faith. [...] When an expression requires many, repeated explanations to prevent it from straying from a correct meaning, it does not serve the faith of the People of God and becomes *unhelpful*” (22).

Mediatrix

The Note emphasises that “the biblical statement about Christ’s exclusive mediation is conclusive. Christ is the only Mediator” (24).

At the same time, MPF recognises “the fact that the word ‘mediation’ is commonly used in many areas of everyday life, where it is understood simply as cooperation, assistance, or intercession. As a result, it is inevitable that the term would be applied to Mary in a subordinate sense. Used in this way, it does not intend to add any efficacy or power to the unique mediation of Jesus Christ, true God and true man” (25).

Further, “it is clear that Mary has a real mediatory role in enabling the Incarnation of the Son of God in our humanity” (26).

Mother of believers and Mediatrix of all graces

Mary’s maternal role “in no way obscures or diminishes” the unique mediation of Christ, “but rather shows its power [...] Understood in this way, Mary’s motherhood does not seek to weaken the unique adoration due to Christ alone but, rather, seeks to enkindle it.”

Therefore, the Note states, “one must avoid titles and expressions that present Mary as a kind of ‘lightning rod’ before the Lord’s justice, as if she were a necessary alternative before the insufficiency of God’s mercy” (37b).

Thus, the title “Mother of Believers” “enables us to speak of Mary’s role in our relation to our life of grace”.

However, MPF goes on to urge caution concerning the use of expressions that may convey “less acceptable notions” (45).

“Cardinal Ratzinger already affirmed” for example, “that the title ‘Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces’ was not clearly grounded in Revelation.” So, the Note continues, “in line with this conviction, we can recognize the difficulties this title poses, both in terms of theological reflection and spirituality” (45). In fact, “no human person — not even the Apostles or the Blessed Virgin — can act as a universal dispenser of grace. Only God can bestow grace, and he does so through the humanity of Christ” (53).

“Some titles, such as ‘Mediatrix of All Graces,’ have limits that do not favour a correct understanding of Mary’s unique place,” MPF explains, adding, “In fact, she, the first redeemed, could not have been the mediatrix of the grace that she herself received” (67).

Nonetheless, the Doctrinal Note acknowledges that “the term ‘graces,’ when seen in reference to Mary’s maternal help at various moments in our lives, can have an acceptable meaning. The plural form expresses all the aids — even material — that the Lord may grant us when He heeds His Mother’s intercession” (68).

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

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 12th February 2026, 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 GROTTO: 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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Christmas Schedule for December 2025

24th	Children/Family Christmas Mass	6:00pm
24th	Christmas Mass	9:00pm
24th	Midnight Mass	12:00am
25th	Christmas Day Mass	8:00am & 9:30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

20/21 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: B. Motha, M. Mifsud 8am: F. Paiva, T. Perak 9.30am: C. Brooks, Kamela Huihui	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, N. Sumcad 8am: T. Perak, K. Walker 9.30am: N. Arambulo, L. Rigney	
Altar Servers	Vigil: N. D'Cruz, J. Steele, Aaliya Faulkner-Dhiman, 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: K. Maruthanayagam, C. Attard, L. Sager.	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: K.Thoms & C.W 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	24 Dec	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

27/28 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Lawrence Falzon 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Simic, N. Shami 8am: F. Paiva, J. Sarmiento 9.30am: P. Gow, G. Basilli	
Readers	Vigil: Yxaak & Yxavel Dino 8am: F. Kennedy, A. McNally 9.30am: J. Nonato, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Julian & Orlando Martinez, C. Bellamin 8am: Jaxon Blackshaw, Sub Rqd 9.30am: K. Cassaniti, L. Sadipoor, A. Melki	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary	
Church Cleaning	1 January	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli	

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21st, 2025

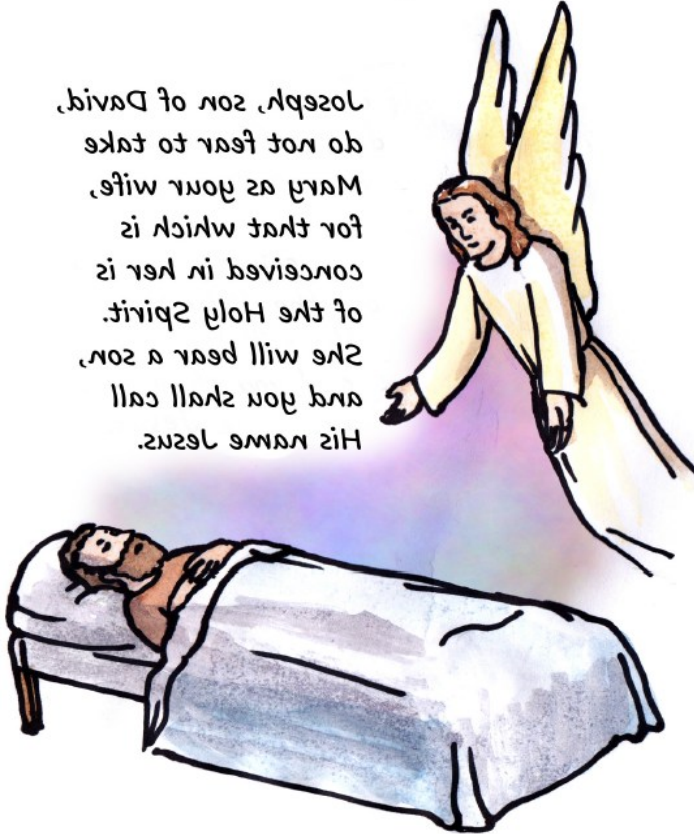
What's in a Name?

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 18:21

Based on Matthew 1:18-25



Joseph, son of David,
do not fear to take
Mary as your wife,
for that which is
conceived in her is
of the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son,
and you shall call
his name Jesus.



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

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!

HUSBAND	SON	IMMANUEL	MARY	NAME
CHRIST	CHILD	VIRGIN	BIRTH	ANGEL
JOSEPH	MARRY	AFRAID	DREAM	JESUS



angel





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: 18 February 2026
Baptism: 11 January 2026
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall
Youth Co-Ordinator: Diana Park
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.org.au
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 21 December 2025 • Year A



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, Takis Karapatsakis, Clare Kinsley, T.Q Letran, Susie Manga, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Gary Morrissey, Jayne Muscat, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Michelle Pellicano, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Arabella Steele, Sue Tiplado, 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@olol7hills.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, Rosita Ballecer, Anthony Hastings, Aggie Motha, Maria Amma Peter, Veronica Rosales, Anthony Ruzgas

Anniversaries: Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, France Angseesing, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Evan Elisher, Rita de Silva, Frank, M.A Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, Norma Lorenzo, Joseph Mahon, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Irene Moroney, Thelma Morrissey, Anton & Lourda Motha, Paul Mula, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Eustace Ratnam, Roseline Ratnam

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Sydney Azie, Antonio, Amelia & Germana Bertinato, Sam Borg, Ceferino, Rosario, Renato Cabasa, Peter & Antonio, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli, Barrie Chamberlain, Myrna Cruz, 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, O. Francis, J. Francis, Melvyn Fernandes, Merita Fernando, Nevis Fernando, Leandro Garcia Snr, Evangeline, Rudy Garcia, Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Selvam Irudayaraj, J.B, Jonathan Tek Kie, Mangion & Cini Family, Felina Maglaya, Tessie & Andy Mangine, 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, Aurora Nufable Nonato, Coleen O'Sullivan, Serge Pasnin, Lakshman Perera, Marlyn Pestano, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose, Maria, Laureano, Karen, Yolanda Reyes, Mary Silva, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.

Names will be published for 2 weeks at a time.

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.

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



KEEP UP TO DATE

By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more. Visit www.olol7hills.org.au

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**(R) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally.

He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

According to scholars, marriage customs in Palestine in Jesus' time often included two parts: the engagement and the wedding.

The engagement period usually lasted for a year during which the bride and the groom stayed in their homes and communicated to each other through messages delivered by the best man. The engagement began with the signing of a formal marriage agreement or with the groom offering gifts to the bride's family. At this stage, the bride and the groom were legally husband and wife even though they did not yet live together. Vietnamese people have done the same, except the engagement period is less than a year, usually six months.

After a year-long engagement time, the wedding ceremony then took place, and the groom could formally take his wife into his home to begin their married life together.

This background knowledge of Jewish marriage customs will help us better appreciate the Gospel account this Sunday, as it allows us to understand the dilemma St. Joseph faced when he discovered Mary's conception during their engagement. On the one hand, they were legally husband and wife; on the other hand, Mary was clearly carrying a child who was not his. For Joseph, a righteous and honorable man, divorce seemed to be the best solution, one that would end the relationship quietly and protect Mary's life, since she could otherwise be accused of adultery, an offense that, under Jewish law, could result in death by stoning. This messy entanglement is finally cleared up by the angel appearing to Joseph in a dream to reveal the mystery behind Mary's conception, that she was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The angel also asked Joseph to take Mary home to be his wife with the obligation to name the child Jesus, a name that means 'the Lord saves' or simply 'salvation.'

In the eyes of Matthew whose Gospel was meant to bring Jesus' Good News to the group of Jewish followers often familiar with the teachings of the prophets in the scripture, what happened here was extra special, because it fulfilled exactly what Isaiah prophesied long before, as we hear in the first reading today, that 'the maiden is with child and soon give birth to a son, whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means God-is-with-us.' This prophetic fulfillment Have a joy-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ADVENT WREATH

It is usually constructed around a circular base. This circular base is traditionally taken to symbolise the ever-renewing cycle of the seasons, and the four candles, represent the four Sundays of Advent. The fourth candle, the "Candle of Love," reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth.



HALL CANOPY PLAQUE

From this weekend, the Pledging Book for the Hall Canopy Plaque is 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.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS THANK YOU

Thank you everyone for such an overwhelming support to our Parish invitation to show our love and care for the needy both in our community and beyond through our Christmas Hampers tradition, and a special thank you note to our dedicated Vinnies for overseeing the whole program from collecting and sorting out donations to distributing them dutifully.

MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church from this weekend for Ministers of the Eucharist, Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers and Welcomers who would like to serve at a Christmas Mass. We kindly ask that ministers sign up for one liturgy only.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2026

Ministry rosters for February - July 2026 are now available. You can find a copy at the back Sacristy or on our website under 'Parish Forms'. If you require more copies or notice any discrepancies, please kindly contact the parish office.

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN 2026-2030

Copies of our Parish Pastoral Plan 2026-2030 are now on and all are invited to have a look after Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY—CHRISTMAS STORY

Thank you to the children who have volunteered to act out the Christmas Story this year. This will take place during the 6pm mass on the 24th December. For those children who are not participating but attending the mass, you are invited to dress up as angels or shepherds.

A PRACTICAL TIP EACH WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

TIP 14 Take a Break from Online Shopping

Online shopping produces a lot of packaging waste and produces excess carbon emissions from airplanes and vehicles. Take a month off online shopping or reduce what you buy online. Try to make purchases closer to home!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS & BULLETIN

Our Parish office will close between Christmas and New Year and there will be no bulletins throughout the month of January 2026 to allow Parish staff to take a break. However, I will be around in the Parish office as usual.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE RETURNS IN 2026

Those interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar, the Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2026. Enrolment forms can be found at the back sacristy.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

- Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Mount Druitt Combined Churches Christmas Day

Community Lunch: 25 December

Don't spend Christmas alone. A free Christmas Day lunch hosted by Mt Druitt Combined Churches on Thursday 25 December from 11am, with Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt as the venue host. All are welcome. Registration is essential. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/MtDruittChristmasLunch>

Baulkham Hills Christmas Luncheon: 25 December

The Parish of Baulkham Hills are hosting a Christmas Lunch for anyone who will be on their own on Christmas Day. You may be in town for a visit, or just moved into the area, or may simply be unable to share Christmas Day with your loved ones. So come and share it with us. It will be held on Thursday 25 December in and around the St Michael's Primary School hall, and everyone is welcome, families and individuals. But places are limited, so you will need to register to attend. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9639 0598 or email baulkhamhills@parracatholic.org.

Migrant Jubilee Cross visits the Diocese of Parramatta

To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Migrant Jubilee Cross will be visiting several parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta from 5-11 January. For one week, there will be celebrations that recognise the faith, gifts and resilience of migrant communities who've enriched our parishes, schools and communities. Bring your friends and family to experience the Migrant Jubilee Cross Pilgrimage at a parish near you. Learn more at parracatholic.org/migrant-jubilee-cross.

Grab your copy of the Catholic Outlook Magazine!

The latest quarterly edition of the *Catholic Outlook* Magazine is out now, keeping you connected with exciting news and events in the Diocese of Parramatta.

OLOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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>. Face to Face courses will resume in 2026. Dates and times will be provided once confirmed.

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.

Visiting Clergy to OLOL

Thank you to Fr. Hoang Viet Nguyen who graciously assisted Fr Henry with mass and reconciliation this week. Visiting clergy all uphold the standards and processes we here at OLOL and the Diocese have put in place to ensure the safety of our community.

Santo Nino Fiesta Sinulog 2026: 18 January

The Devotees of the Holy Infant Jesus Santo Nino invite you to attend the 2026 Fiesta Sinulog on Sunday 18 January at St Patrick's Church, Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown at 2pm. All devotees, please bring your Santo Nino statues. Novena Masses will be held between 8-16 January at 7pm at the parishes of St Clair-Erskine Park, Penrith, St Marys, Rooty Hill, Winston Hills, Plumpton, Marayong, Quakers Hill and Kellyville. For more information, please contact the Blacktown Parish on (02) 9622 1125 or email blacktown@parracatholic.org

Sing a New Song Music Workshop for Children: 21 January

Do you have a child in Year 4-12? Invite them to come along to our 'Sing A New Song Holiday Music Workshop', for a fun day of singing and exploration of sacred music. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 21 January from 9:30am to 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Morning tea and lunch provided. Student participants will form a choir that will sing at the Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta on Sunday 25 January at 11am. To register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/0URuFAeThA>

Rosary Making Workshop: 9 February

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on Monday 9 February at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for further information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Diocesan World Day of the Sick: 11 February

Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on the 11th February 2026 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. To register, please visit parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-the-sick-mass/

Children and Young People's Participation

A Safeguarding culture for Children and Young People is fostered and sustained by our parish being committed to living the Gospel by serving the most vulnerable. Here at OLOL Seven Hills we implement all Arch/Diocesan policies, procedures and community standards that are Child and Young Person centred to lift barriers so their voices can be heard and their participation valued.

OLOL Parish community values and celebrates ALL our Children and Young People for who they are and the great contributions they make to our parish. We therefore have an obligation to uphold their human and spiritual rights. This is achieved at OLOL by: 1. Providing ministries, services and programs that are relevant for Children and Young People including those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and who have a disability; 2. Committing to zero tolerance to any attitude and activity that makes Children and Young People feel less safe; 3. Enhancing relationships between leaders, community members, Children and Young People; and 4. Creating a new perspective to invigorate renewal. We also ensure all our volunteers and staff have an up to date WWCC and completed all safeguard training.

Greeting of the Holy Father to the sick in the Audience Hall before the General Audience

Good morning everyone! Good morning! Welcome!

I will offer a brief greeting, a blessing for each of you.

On this day, we wanted to protect you a little from the elements, especially the cold... It is not raining, but this way you may be a little more comfortable. Afterwards, you can follow the Audience on the screen, or if you wish, you can also go outside, but we would like to make the most of this small, more personal encounter to greet you, to offer you the Lord's blessing, and also our best wishes. Christmas is almost here, and we would like to ask the Lord that the joy of this Christmas season accompany you all: your families, your loved ones, and that you may always be in the Lord's hands with the trust and love that only God can give us.

I give my blessing to all of you now, and then I will come and greet you.

Blessing

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Human life is characterized by a constant movement that drives us to do, to act. Nowadays speed is required everywhere in order to achieve optimal results in a wide variety of fields. How does Jesus' resurrection shed light on this aspect of our experience? When we participate in his victory over death, will we rest? Faith tells us: yes, we will rest. We will not be inactive, but we will enter into God's repose, which is peace and joy. So, should we just wait, or can this change us right now?

We are absorbed by many activities that do not always leave us satisfied. A lot of our actions have to do with practical, concrete things. We have to assume responsibility for many commitments, solve problems, face difficulties. Jesus too was involved with people and with life, not sparing himself, but rather giving himself to the end. Yet we often perceive how too much doing, instead of giving us fulfilment, becomes a vortex that overwhelms us, takes away our serenity, and prevents us from living to the fullest what is truly important in our lives. We then feel tired and dissatisfied: time seems to be wasted on a thousand practical things that do not, however, resolve the ultimate meaning of our existence. Sometimes, at the end of days full of activities, we feel empty. Why? Because we are not machines, we have a "heart"; indeed, we can say that we *are* a heart.

The heart is the symbol of all our humanity, the sum of our thoughts, feelings and desires, the invisible centre of our selves. The Evangelist Matthew invites us to reflect on the importance of the heart, quoting this beautiful phrase of Jesus: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (*Mt* 6:21).

It is therefore in the heart that true treasure is kept, not in earthly safes, not in large financial investments, which today more than ever before are out of control and unjustly concentrated at the bloody price of millions of human lives and the devastation of God's creation.

It is important to reflect on these aspects, because in the numerous commitments we continually face, there is an increasing risk of dispersion, sometimes of despair, of meaninglessness, even in apparently successful people. Instead, interpreting life in the light of Easter, looking at it with the Risen Jesus, means finding access to the essence of the human person, to our heart: *cor inquietum*. With this adjective "restless", Saint Augustine helps us understand the human being's yearning for fulfilment. The full sentence refers to the beginning of the *Confessions*, where Augustine writes: "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (I, 1,1).

Restlessness is the sign that our heart does not move by chance, in a disordered way, without a purpose or a destination, but is oriented towards its ultimate destination, the "return home". The authentic approach of the heart does not consist in possessing the goods of this world, but in achieving what can fill it completely; namely, the love of God, or rather, God who is Love. This treasure, however, can only be found by loving the neighbour we meet along the way: brothers and sisters in flesh and blood, whose presence stirs and questions our heart, calling it to open up and give itself. Our neighbour asks us to slow down, to look them in the eye, sometimes to change our plans, perhaps even to change direction.

Dear friends, here is the secret of the movement of the human heart: returning to the source of its being, delighting in the joy that never fails, that never disappoints. No one can live without a meaning that goes beyond the contingent, beyond what passes away. The human heart cannot live without hope, without knowing that it is made for fullness, not for want.

Jesus Christ, with his Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection, has given us a solid foundation for this hope. The restless heart will not be disappointed, if it enters into the dynamism of the love for which it was created. The destination is certain, life has triumphed, and in Christ it will continue to triumph in every death of daily life. This is Christian hope: let us always bless and thank the Lord who has given it to us!

DOCTRINAL NOTE ON MARIAN TITLES: MOTHER OF THE FAITHFUL, NOT CO-REDEMPTRIX

The document of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by Pope Leo XIV, offers clarifications on titles applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and calls for special attention to the use of the expression, “Mediatrix of all graces.”

Co-redemptrix

Regarding the title “Co-redemptrix,” the Note recalls that “some Popes have used the title “without elaborating much on its meaning.” Generally, it continues, “they have presented the title in two specific ways: in reference to Mary’s divine motherhood (insofar as she, as Mother, made possible the Redemption that Christ accomplished) or in reference to her union with Christ at the redemptive Cross. The Second Vatican Council refrained from using the title for dogmatic, pastoral, and ecumenical reasons. Saint John Paul II referred to Mary as ‘Co-redemptrix’ on at least seven occasions, particularly relating this title to the salvific value of our sufferings when they are offered together with the sufferings of Christ, to whom Mary is united especially at the Cross” (18).

The document cites an internal discussion within the then-Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which in February 1996 had discussed the request to proclaim a new dogma on Mary as “Co-redemptrix or Mediatrix of all graces.” Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was opposed to such a definition, arguing, “the precise meaning of these titles is not clear, and the doctrine contained in them is not mature. [...] It is not clear how the doctrine expressed in these titles is present in Scripture and the apostolic tradition.”

Later, in 2002, the future Benedict XVI expressed himself publicly in the same way: “The formula ‘Co-redemptrix’ departs to too great an extent from the language of Scripture and of the Fathers and therefore gives rise to misunderstandings... Everything comes from Him [Christ], as the Letter to the Ephesians and the Letter to the Colossians, in particular, tell us; Mary, too, is everything that she is through Him. The word ‘Co-redemptrix’ would obscure this origin.”

The note clarifies that Cardinal Ratzinger did not deny the good intentions behind the proposal, nor the valuable aspects reflected in it, but nonetheless maintained that they were “being expressed in the wrong way” (19).

Pope Francis also expressed his clear opposition to the use of the title Co-Redemptrix on at least three occasions. Tuesday’s Doctrinal Note concludes: “*It is always inappropriate* to use the title ‘Co-redemptrix’ to define Mary’s cooperation. This title risks obscuring Christ’s unique salvific mediation and can therefore create confusion and an imbalance in the harmony of the truths of the Christian faith. [...] When an expression requires many, repeated explanations to prevent it from straying from a correct meaning, it does not serve the faith of the People of God and becomes *unhelpful*” (22).

Mediatrix

The Note emphasises that “the biblical statement about Christ’s exclusive mediation is conclusive. Christ is the only Mediator” (24).

At the same time, MPF recognises “the fact that the word ‘mediation’ is commonly used in many areas of everyday life, where it is understood simply as cooperation, assistance, or intercession. As a result, it is inevitable that the term would be applied to Mary in a subordinate sense. Used in this way, it does not intend to add any efficacy or power to the unique mediation of Jesus Christ, true God and true man” (25).

Further, “it is clear that Mary has a real mediatory role in enabling the Incarnation of the Son of God in our humanity” (26).

Mother of believers and Mediatrix of all graces

Mary’s maternal role “in no way obscures or diminishes” the unique mediation of Christ, “but rather shows its power [...] Understood in this way, Mary’s motherhood does not seek to weaken the unique adoration due to Christ alone but, rather, seeks to enkindle it.”

Therefore, the Note states, “one must avoid titles and expressions that present Mary as a kind of ‘lightning rod’ before the Lord’s justice, as if she were a necessary alternative before the insufficiency of God’s mercy” (37b).

Thus, the title “Mother of Believers” “enables us to speak of Mary’s role in our relation to our life of grace”.

However, MPF goes on to urge caution concerning the use of expressions that may convey “less acceptable notions” (45).

“Cardinal Ratzinger already affirmed” for example, “that the title ‘Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces’ was not clearly grounded in Revelation.” So, the Note continues, “in line with this conviction, we can recognize the difficulties this title poses, both in terms of theological reflection and spirituality” (45). In fact, “no human person — not even the Apostles or the Blessed Virgin — can act as a universal dispenser of grace. Only God can bestow grace, and he does so through the humanity of Christ” (53).

“Some titles, such as ‘Mediatrix of All Graces,’ have limits that do not favour a correct understanding of Mary’s unique place,” MPF explains, adding, “In fact, she, the first redeemed, could not have been the mediatrix of the grace that she herself received” (67).

Nonetheless, the Doctrinal Note acknowledges that “the term ‘graces,’ when seen in reference to Mary’s maternal help at various moments in our lives, can have an acceptable meaning. The plural form expresses all the aids — even material — that the Lord may grant us when He heeds His Mother’s intercession” (68).

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

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 12th February 2026, 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 GROTTO: 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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Christmas Schedule for December 2025

24th	Children/Family Christmas Mass	6:00pm
24th	Christmas Mass	9:00pm
24th	Midnight Mass	12:00am
25th	Christmas Day Mass	8:00am & 9:30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

20/21 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: B. Motha, M. Mifsud 8am: F. Paiva, T. Perak 9.30am: C. Brooks, Kamela Huihui	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, N. Sumcad 8am: T. Perak, K. Walker 9.30am: N. Arambulo, L. Rigney	
Altar Servers	Vigil: N. D'Cruz, J. Steele, Aaliya Faulkner-Dhiman, 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: K. Maruthanayagam, C. Attard, L. Sager.	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: K.Thoms & C.W 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Fennie & Angela	
Church Cleaning	24 Dec	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

27/28 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Lawrence Falzon 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Eugene Miu	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Simic, N. Shami 8am: F. Paiva, J. Sarmiento 9.30am: P. Gow, G. Basilli	
Readers	Vigil: Yxaak & Yxavel Dino 8am: F. Kennedy, A. McNally 9.30am: J. Nonato, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Julian & Orlando Martinez, C. Bellamin 8am: Jaxon Blackshaw, Sub Rqd 9.30am: K. Cassaniti, L. Sadipoor, A. Melki	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette & Mary	
Church Cleaning	1 January	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli	

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21st, 2025

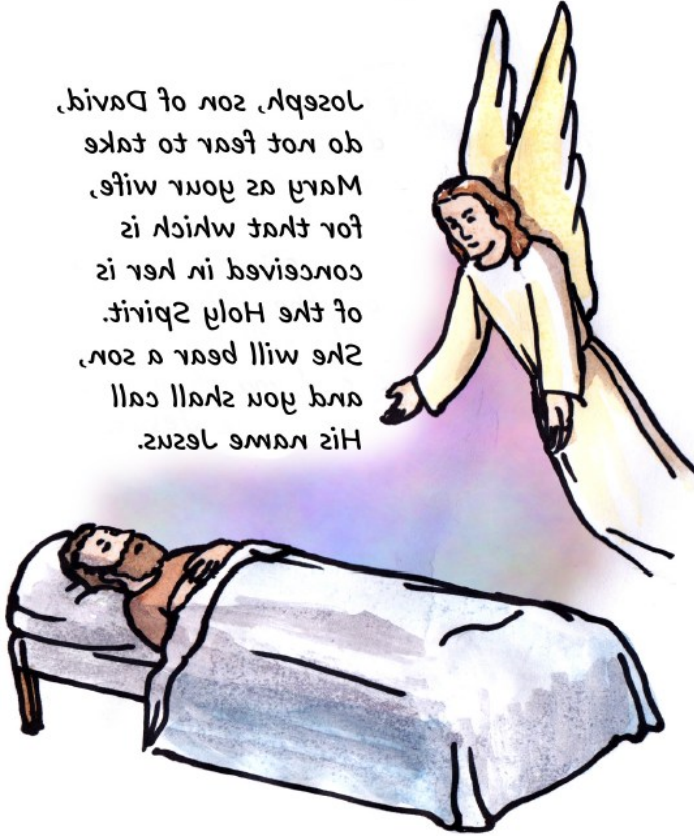
What's in a Name?

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 18:21

Based on Matthew 1:18-25



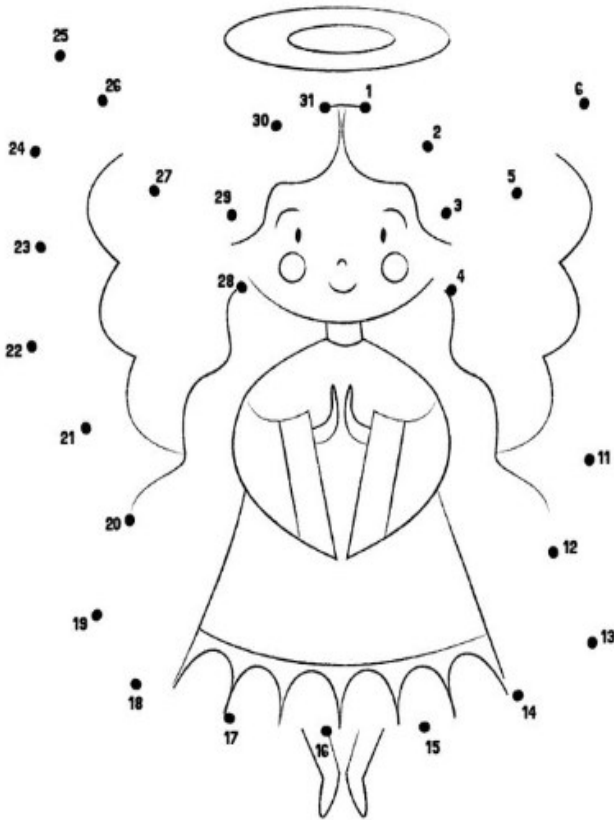
Joseph, son of David,
do not fear to take
Mary as your wife,
for that which is
conceived in her is
of the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son,
and you shall call
his name Jesus.



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

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him what God wanted him to do. What did the angel say? Look in a mirror to find out!

HUSBAND	SON	IMMANUEL	MARY	NAME
CHRIST	CHILD	VIRGIN	BIRTH	ANGEL
JOSEPH	MARRY	AFRAID	DREAM	JESUS



angel

