

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: 14 December 2025
Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall
Youth Co-Ordinator: Diana Park
Parish Website: www.olol7hills.org.au
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 7 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, 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 Tipaldo, Chandra Sampantham, Caroline Stevenson, Vivian Tomines, Sakalia Ameto Vili, Natalie Woodward.

If you would like to add to our Sick List or know of any

Parishioner who is unwell please contact Father Henry or email the

Parish Office: secretary@olol7hills.com.au

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

Let us Pray for the Deceased

Recently Deceased: Fr. Leonard Testa, Rosita Ballecer, Cyril Bhooroo, Joseph Grech, Chandra Fernando, Harold Kelly, Michelle Maripa, Aggie Motha, Maria Amma Peter, Fay Russell, Ilalio Tautuna, Ralph Vaz, Antionette Zarb.

Anniversaries: Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, France Angseesing, Roger, Edmee Bruneau, Mary Camenzuli, Blaise Costa, Hansel de Silva, Rita de Silva, Frank, M.A Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, Teodoro Garcia, Paul Gauci, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Sr. Christina Morrissey RSS, Paul Mula, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Jason Muscat, Jacintha Noronha, Lorita Laberinto Udan, Seu, Selela & Antonio Vili.

Remembrance: Alakise, Jose Abadiano, Neil Amaratunga, 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, 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, Anton & Lourda Motha, Mary & Francis Muscat, Jason Muscat & family, Gil & Angelita Carol Anne Paterson, Lakshman Perera, Marlyn Pestano, Eustace Ratnam, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose, Maria, Laureano, Karen, Rosemalar Sangarappilai, Yolanda Reyes Mary Silva, Sheadon Trek, Dionisio Udan, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella, Generoso, Modesta, Fernando Viray, Vinnie Zahra, Robert & Leila Zammit, Mary Zammit. ****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.

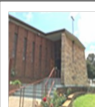
BSB: 067 950
ACC: 000552
Reference: (Your **Planned Giving envelope number** or for a one off donation, 'DONATION')

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 11:1-10*

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together.

The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. (R.) | 3. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. (R.) |
| 2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to the earth's bounds. (R.) | 4. May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. (R.) |

SECOND READING *A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Romans 15:4-9*

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you.

The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 3:1-12*

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees

coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

At the recent Advent and Christmas reflection for the clergy in the diocese, Sr Kari Hatherell OSU began her presentation by inviting us to quietly reflect on what we hope the people in our communities will receive during Advent. At the end, she asked us to consider what we, as clergy, wish to gain during this special time. I cannot speak for the others, but for both questions I found myself holding the same answer: I hope to make this season as spiritually nourishing as possible, for our parishioners and for myself. The daily Advent reflection booklets and the hamper tags are small, tangible ways of supporting this hope, alongside the Eucharist and the sacrament of Reconciliation. In her talk, Sr Kari particularly impressed me when she named Isaiah, St John the Baptist, and Mary as the prophets of Advent. I had to admit publicly that, while I have always thought of Mary as the Mother of Jesus, the Mother of God, and the most perfect disciple of the Lord, I had never really imagined her as a prophet. Yet, when we reflect on her response to the angel in the Annunciation and her words to Elizabeth in the Magnificat, we can clearly see that her message is indeed profoundly prophetic.

With regard to the other two prophets of Advent, we have the opportunity to hear them preach to us in this Sunday's first reading and Gospel. Isaiah prophesies the coming of the Messiah, filled with virtues we now recognise as the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and he describes a time marked by peace and harmony among all creatures. John the Baptist, described by the evangelist, quoting Isaiah, as a voice in the wilderness inviting his contemporaries to prepare a way for the Son of God, helps all kinds of people, including the Pharisees and Sadducees, to ready themselves for the coming of Jesus. He delivers a strong message urging his listeners to repent of their sins and to make their lives spiritually fruitful; otherwise, they risk becoming like barren trees fit only to be cut down and burned, or like chaff destined for the fire.

May I invite you to pay particular attention to Matthew's description of how people came to John to confess their sins? This striking detail reveals to us the pre-Christian roots of our sacrament of Confession.

Let us pray this week for the grace to fertilize our life and make it bear fruits of peace and harmony starting from our own parish community and families by the way we show our tolerance to each other and treat one another in a friendly manner as St Paul reminds us in the second reading this Sunday of peace.

Have a peace-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 second candle known as the Bethlehem's candle symbolises peace. Remember the prophet Micah did foretell that the Messiah shall be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David.



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.

PRESENTATION OF THE "CHRISTMAS STORY"

Dear Parents and Guardians, Thank you for allowing your children to participate in the presentation of the "Christmas Story" on Wednesday 24 December during the 6pm Family Mass. Please note we will need to stay back after the 9.30am mass on Sunday 21 December for an extra 10-15 minutes so we can practise in the Church. On Wednesday 24 December, please be at Church between 5 -5.30pm so we can organise the children in their costumes. In order for your children to feel confident when performing, we kindly ask they commit to the above practice. If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office.

Many thanks, Nicole Steele, Children's Liturgy Coordinator

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.

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.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AT THE PIETY SHOP

The Piety Shop has a lovely range of ideas for Christmas, come have a browse at the back of the Church.

MIDNIGHT CHRISTMAS MASS CHOIR

Parishioners of high school age and above are invited to join the Midnight Mass Choir this Christmas. Singers and instrumentalists, particularly those who play woodwind, string, or brass instruments, are warmly encouraged to join us. Practise dates will be Sunday 14 December at 11am and Saturday 20 December at 4pm. If you would like to take part or for further information, please kindly contact Christine Clarke on 0488 113 920 or the Parish Office.

A PRACTICAL TIP EACH WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

TIP 12 Volunteer

Find a local environmental organisation doing work that may interest you and sign up to volunteer! Caring for creation requires the whole community.

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.

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.

CANDLE WAX ON THE CHURCH CARPET

Please do not try to remove candle wax on the church carpet by yourselves, for you might make it worse. Instead let our staff know and we ask our carpet cleaners to treat it.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

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

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Mt Schoenstatt Advent and Christmas Carols: 13 December

Come and prepare your hearts for the coming of Christ at the Advent and Christmas Carols at Mt Schoenstatt Family Hall, 230 Fairlight Road Mulgoa on Saturday 13 December from 7pm. All children are encouraged to arrive by 6.45pm dressed as angels or shepherds. Contact Sr. M. Rita for more details: 0493 026 628 srrita@schoenstatt.org.au

Donate to Jesuit Refugee Services this Christmas!

As Christmas approaches, Jesuit Refugee Services is calling upon the community to support their work accompanying and serving people seeking asylum who are facing homelessness. Parishes and communities are invited to contribute to JRS' Advent Food Drive, collecting pantry staples to stock their Foodbank, or by purchasing supermarket gift cards for groceries over the holiday period. For more information about how you can help, please contact Kristen on (02) 9356 3888 or email kristen.lazarus@jrs.org.au.

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.

LOLO SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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.

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.

Driving

Some volunteer positions at OLOL may involve the need for car transport. To donate the use of your private vehicle or to utilise any vehicle you must comply with the following:

- The vehicle must be roadworthy and registered
- You must have comprehensive car insurance
- You must have a current driver's licence
- You must adhere to all relevant road rules at all times, including those regarding alcohol and illegal drugs, and the use of mobile phones while driving
- You are liable for any fines or infringement notices while performing volunteer duties.

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

SUPPORTING CATHOLIC CARE GRIEF AND LOSS COUNSELLING

Thank you for helping heal broken hearts this Christmas, your kindness provides professional counselling, tailored care plans and the training that equips our team to serve with wisdom and compassion. If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit parracatholic.org/appeal Thank you.

Caritas Australia's Global Gifts are Christmas Cards with purpose!

Every card you buy helps build brighter futures for children, women and men experiencing hardship and poverty. By putting your compassion into action and shopping for the Global Gifts of your choice you will bring hope and joy to the world's most vulnerable and communities, while giving your loved ones a meaningful Christmas card. View the range of Global Gifts: www.globalgifts.org.au

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>

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.

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.

LOLO 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.

Photography

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

POPE LEO'S FIRST INTERVIEW

Aboard the papal plane returning to Rome from Lebanon, Pope Leo XIV speaks to journalists about the role of the Holy See, which works “behind-the-scenes” in peace negotiations, so that all parties may lay down arms. Regarding Ukraine, the Pope underlines Europe’s involvement and the important role Italy could play, and answers a question about how he reacted to his election, stressing the importance of giving one’s life to God and letting him “lead the way”.

Vatican News

“First of all, I want to say thank you to all of you who have worked so hard; I would like you to pass on this message also to the other journalists, both in Türkiye and in Lebanon, who have worked to communicate the important messages of this journey. You too all deserve a big round of applause for this visit.”

Pope Leo XIV greeted the 81 journalists on board the flight from Beirut to Rome with those words, before answering several questions, speaking in English, Italian and Spanish.

He spoke about his just-concluded Apostolic Journey, the Middle East, the war in Ukraine, Europe’s presence in peace negotiations, and the situation in Venezuela.

He also received a gift from a Lebanese correspondent: a hand-made painting, created live on television in recent days, depicting him and the symbolic places he visited in the Land of the Cedars.

Below is a working English transcription and translation of the press conference:

Joe Farchakh (LBC International): You are an American Pope who is leading a peace process. My question is whether you will use your contacts with President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. On the plane, you said that the Vatican is a friend of Israel. Will you raise the issue of stopping Israel’s aggression against Lebanon? And is a sustainable peace possible in the region?

[Pope Leo XIV, in English]: First of all, yes, I believe sustainable peace is achievable. I think that when we talk about hope, when we talk about peace, when we look to the future, we do so because I believe it is possible that peace once again come to the region and come to your country, to Lebanon.

In fact I have already, in a very small way, begun a few conversations with some of the leaders of places that you have mentioned, and I would intend to continue to do that, personally or through the Holy See, because the fact is that we do have diplomatic relationships with most of the countries through the region, and it would be our hope certainly, to continue to raise that call for peace that I spoke of at the very end of the Mass today.

Imad Atrach (Sky News Arabia): In your last speech, there was a clear message to the Lebanese authorities to negotiate. To negotiate, to dialogue, to build. Will the Vatican do something concrete in this regard? Last night you met a Shia representative. Before your visit, Hezbollah sent you a message; I don’t know if you received it, if you read it. What could you tell us about this? Thank you very much for having visited Lebanon, which was a dream for us.

[Pope, in Italian]: One aspect of this journey, which was not the main reason—because the visit was conceived with ecumenical questions in mind, with the theme of Nicaea, the meeting with Catholic and Orthodox Patriarchs, and the search for unity in the Church but in fact, during this journey, I had personal encounters with representatives of different groups who represent political authorities, people or groups who have something to do with internal conflicts or even international conflicts in the region.

Our work is not primarily something public that we proclaim in the streets; it is somewhat behind the scenes. It is something we have already done and will continue to do to convince the parties to lay down their arms, to abandon violence, and to come together to the table of dialogue: to seek answers and solutions that are not violent but can be more effective.

Imad Atrach: The message from Hezbollah?

Yes, I saw it. Clearly, on the part of the Church there is the proposal that they lay down their arms and that we seek dialogue. But beyond this, I prefer not to comment at this time.

Cindy Wooden, CNS : Holy Father, you said a couple of months ago that there is a learning curve to being Pope. When you arrived at Harissa yesterday, with the warm welcome, it looked like you said, ‘Wow.’ Can you tell us what you are learning? What is the most difficult thing to learn for you in being Pope? And you haven’t told us anything either about what it felt like in the Conclave when it became clear what was happening. Can you tell us a little bit about that?

[Pope, in English]: Well, my first comment would be that just a year or two ago I too thought about retiring someday. You have received that gift apparently; some of us will continue to work. *(A joke referencing the fact that Ms. Wooden is retiring in December, ed.)*

The Conclave itself, I believe very strictly about the secret of the Conclave, even though I know that there have been public interviews where some things were revealed. I said to a reporter the day before I was elected, she caught me on the street I was going to lunch across the street at the Augustinians, and she said, ‘What do you think? You have become one of the candidates!’ And I simply said, ‘Everything is in the hands of God.’ And I believe that profoundly. One of you, there is a German journalist on here who said to me previously, tell me one book, besides St. Augustine, that we could read to understand who Prevost is. And there’s several I thought of, but one of them is a book called, “*The practice of the presence of God.*” It’s a very simple book, by someone who doesn’t even give his last name, Brother Lawrence, written many years ago.

But it describes, if you will, a type of prayer and spirituality where one simply gives his life to the Lord and allows the Lord to lead. If you want to know something about me, that has been my spirituality for many years.

In midst of great challenges, living in Peru during years of terrorism, being called to service in places where I never thought I would be called to serve to. I trust in God, and that message is something that I share with all people. So what was it like? I resigned myself to the fact when I saw how things were going, and I said that this could be a reality. I took a deep breath, I said here we go Lord, you're in charge, you lead the way. I don't know that I said 'Wow' last night. In the sense that my face is very expressive, but I'm oftentimes amused by how the journalists interpret my face. I mean, it's interesting; sometimes I get, you know, like really great ideas from all of you, because you think you can read my mind or my face. And it's not—you're not always correct. I mean, I was at the Jubilee for Youth, where there were over 1 million young people there. Last night was a small crowd. It's always marvellous to me; I think to myself, 'These people are here because they want to see the Pope,' but I say to myself, 'They are here because they want to see Jesus Christ and they want to see a messenger of peace,' in this case in particular. So to just listen to their enthusiasm, and to hear their response to that message is something that I think is—that enthusiasm is awe-inspiring. I just hope I never get tired of appreciating everything that all these young people are showing.

Gian Guido Vecchi (Corriere della Sera): These are hours of great tension between NATO and Russia; there is talk of hybrid war, prospects of cyberattacks, and things of this kind. Do you see the risk of an escalation, of a conflict carried forward with new means as reported by NATO leaders? And, in this climate, can there be negotiations for a just peace without Europe, which in recent months has been systematically excluded by the American presidency?

[Pope, in Italian]: This is obviously an important issue for peace in the world, but the Holy See does not have a direct involvement, because we are not members of NATO nor of any of the talks so far, and even though many times we have called for a ceasefire, for dialogue and not war. And it is now a war with many aspects: with the increase in arms, all the armaments production going on, cyberattacks, energy. Now that winter is coming there is a serious problem there. It is clear that, on the one hand, the President of the United States is thinking he can promote a peace plan that he would like to carry out and that, at least at first, is without Europe. But Europe's presence is important, and that first proposal was also modified because of what Europe was saying. Specifically, I think Italy's role could be very important. Culturally and historically, Italy has the capacity to act as an intermediary in the midst of a conflict that exists between different parties: Ukraine, Russia, the United States... In this sense, I could suggest that the Holy See might encourage this kind of mediation, and that one should seek and that we should seek together—a solution that could truly offer peace, a just peace, in this case in Ukraine. (To be continued)

Our Lady of Lourdes Christmas Schedule for December 2025		
17th	Parish Second Rite of Reconciliation	7:30pm
18th	Individual Confession	9:30-10:30am
19th	Individual Confession	9:30-10:30pm
24th	Children/Family Christmas Mass	6:00pm
24th	Christmas Mass	9:00pm
24th	Midnight Mass	12:00am
25th	Christmas Day Mass	8:00am & 9:00am



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 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.

December 2025

14	Christmas 'Midnight Choir 'Practice	11.00am
17	Last Day School Term 4	
17	Parish Second Rite of Reconciliation	7.30pm
21	'Christmas Story' Presentation Church Practice	10.30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

6/7 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Derick Soares 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Ryan Epondulan	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Simic, R. Soares 8am: J. Irudayaraj, F. Paiva 9.30am: A. Han, F. Kennedy	
Readers	Vigil: R. Saldanha, Yxaak Dino 8am: J. Sarmiento, A. McNally 9.30am: A. Pushparajan, M. Aquino	
Altar Servers	Vigil: J.Jeganathan, J.Jeganathan, G. George 8am: Volunteers 9.30am: Sub Rqd, A. Melki, K.Cassaniti	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Tongan Choir	
Musicians	Vigil: Christine Clarke 8am: Fr Henry 9.30am: Couples for Christ	
Flowers	Fenty & Liz	
Church Cleaning	13 Dec	Tongan Community Edgardo Barcelon Edgar Cabrera Aman Rawah
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon	

13/14 December

Acolytes	Vigil: Frank Paiva 8am: Ernie Gartner 9.30am: Ramzee Michael	
Ministers	Vigil: N. Shami, J. Franco 8am: M. Santos, T. Perak 9.30am: M. Michael, G. Basili	
Readers	Vigil: A. Punch, A. Franco 8am: B. Motha, J. Mai 9.30am: A. Walker, Edward Pieris	
Altar Servers	Vigil: B. Spadaro, J.Spadaro, A.Monteiro 8am: C. Bellamin, J. Blackshaw 9.30am: J.Pieris, M. Pieris, H. Winter	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Young Adults Group	
Musicians	Vigil: Christine Clarke 8am: Fr Henry 9.30am: Tongan Choir	
Flowers	Claudette & Raquel	
Church Cleaning	18 Dec	Cathy Hutchings Annette Peatman Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Ugre 8am: Anne McNally 9.30am: Sastina Pieris	

The Kids' Bulletin

Second Sunday of Advent
December 7th, 2025

The one who is
coming after me
is mightier than I.

→ 8 Δ + 0 0

x n ✓ = + 1 8 2 0 ~

Δ + - → - → 8

→ 0 0 2 U ✓ + 9 + -

n < 7 7 + 9 8

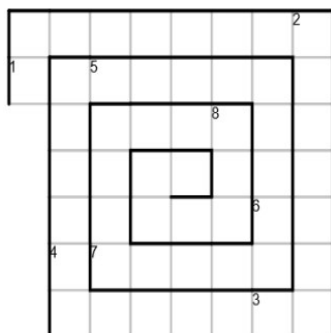
What did Saint
John the Baptist
say about the one
who was coming
after him?
Use the code to
find out!

n x 7 8 7 → + 0 < 0 ✓ 9 U - ~ Δ 2 1
A B D E F H I L N O P R S T U W Y Z

Choose the word that best matches the definition.

1. The man who preached that Jesus was coming
A. Peter B. John C. Joseph D. Thomas
2. The sounds that are made when people speak or sing
A. sight B. barking C. voice D. chirping
3. One who speaks for God, or tells what will happen in the future
A. prophet B. announcer C. evangelist D. teacher
4. To be sorry for something bad you have done and make a change
A. baptize B. preach C. repent D. beg

Look at the numbered sentences, decide which is the right word and write it on the spiral puzzle. A new word starts in each box with a number.



1. Having no bends or curves.
2. To make things or oneself ready.
3. Having a surface free from roughness
4. What we use to speak.
5. To grant a pardon for sin.
6. Having an irregular, course, or shaggy surface
7. To turn away from one's sins.
8. Having bends, curves, or angles.

STRAIGHT	ROUGH	CROOKED	REPENT
FORGIVE	VOICE	PREPARE	SMOOTH

A Voice in the Wilderness

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."
Matthew 3:1-2 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Matthew 3:1-12 (NIV).



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

PREPARE	STRAIGHT	CLOTHES	LOCUSTS	REPENT
PATHS	BELT	LORD	KINGDOM	PROPHET
JOHN	DESERT	BAPTIST	HONEY	LEATHER
CAMEL	HEAVEN	PREACHING	HAIR	WILD

