

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/>

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH 28 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 Debatista, 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.S.Q. Letran, Bob & Theresa Marini, Sandra & Kenny Mahoney, Susie Manga, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Gary Morrissey, Jayne Muscat, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Michelle Pellicano, Maricar Poblete, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Arabella Steele, Sue Tipaldo, Chandra Sampantham, Caroline Stevenson, Vivian Tomines, Sakalia Ameto Vili, Natalie Woodward.

If you would like to add to our Sick List or know of any Parishioner who is unwell please contact Father Henry or email the Parish Office: secretary@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, Anthony Hastings, Aggie Motha, Maria Amma Peter, Anthony Ruzgas.

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

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

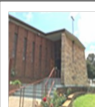
Account Name: Seven Hills Catholic Church.
BSB: 067 950
ACC: 000552
Reference: (Your *Planned Giving envelope number* or for a one off donation, 'DONATION')

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 book of Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14*

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune. Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays.

Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord. My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life. Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.

You will be happy and prosper. **(R.)**

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord.

May the Lord bless you from Zion

all the days of your life! **(R.)**

2. Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house;

your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians 3:12-21*

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful. Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and the fullness of his message live within you.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 2:13-15. 19-23*

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:

I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled:

He will be called a Nazarene.

The Gospel of the Lord.

FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

The gospel for the Feast of the Holy Family recounts the flight into Egypt. It tells the story of a single family fleeing dire circumstances, then the other readings emphasize relationships within families and perpetuate conventional ideas. Some such ideas seem to have little to do with Christianity, and more to do with the cultures in which the texts were written, including the infamous line in Colossians about women being subordinate to their husbands.

Religious leaders sometimes pluck these passages out of context and argue that this is what being a "holy family" is all about. But there's nothing especially Christian about a patriarchal family structure. Men lording it over women would not have been exceptional in the Roman empire. If anything, the patriarchal family structure looks less Christian, given the broader context of Jesus' radically egalitarian teachings. The early church, at least in the beginning, lived out those teachings: "in Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, man nor woman."

Various scripture scholars have tried to make sense of what looks like a contradiction, between an emphasis on human-made hierarchies, and Jesus' disruption of those hierarchies. Some suggest that such passages are specific to issues in particular communities, others argue that these rules were interpolations—human biases creeping in. There are desperate attempts to deny the authenticity of this Gospel passage on the archaeological ground that it was impossible for Mary and Joseph to seek refuge in Egypt during the time.

Whatever the case, any snippet like this must be read within the broader context of the Christian vision which, as we saw all through Advent, is about eliminating inequalities, not reinforcing them. The closeknit relationship between the three members of the Holy Family in such a difficult time of their life remains an inspiring source to all Christian families to stay together both in good times and in bad and to keep on praying for God's support and guidance.

In the current climate of the world where Refugee and Migrant issues have remained a talking point, its flight into Egypt to escape Herod reminds us of the ongoing Migration stories of our world that happened in Jesus' time and has continued to take place all over the world in our time, and encourages us to try our best to show our solidarity with those who are forced to flee their homelands for a more secure life elsewhere, so that a better solution will be found to support them.

Let us give praise and thanks to God for the gift of the Holy Family and entrust all families in our parish unto the care of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray that we always remain united in faith and ever safe under their constant protection in the coming New Year 2026.

Have a happy New Year.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Wishing everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, may the Lord ever look kindly on you and give you his peace in the coming year.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS THANK YOU

Many thanks to our volunteers and ministers for generously helping make our church look great and liturgies beautiful throughout Advent and Christmas this year.

PARISH OFFICE AND BULLETIN

Please keep in mind that our Parish Office will close from Christmas to the New Year and there will be no bulletin for the entire month of January to allow our Parish staff to have their holidays, and Fr Henry will be around in the office as usual.

FAREWELL THANKSGIVING MASS FOR DEACON THONG NGUYEN

Deacon Thong Nguyen has been appointed as Assistant Deacon at St Michael's Baulkham Hills by Bishop Vincent recently after two years with us at Our Lady of Lourdes, Seven Hills, so on behalf of this Parish community I would like to thank him for his help to co-ordinate our Catechists and Communion to the Sick groups, and support to the Vinnies. We congratulate him for his new appointment, and wish him all the best in the next chapter of his ministry. In this Mass of Thanksgiving to farewell him today, let us give praise and thanks to God for his ministerial time with us and ask the Lord to continue to grant him many blessings in the ministry ahead.

HALL CANOPY PLAQUE

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, where donors need to register their name, phone number and accurate details on the plaque of 25 letters or less. A leaflet is also available to take home that further explains about this Plaque Fundraising program.

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.

A PRACTICAL TIP EACH WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

TIP 15 Rest and Reflect

As Ayana Elizabeth Johnson writes, "we need to have a whole cultural shift, where it becomes our culture to take care of the Earth." How does the earth take care of you? How can you take care of the earth?

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.

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.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH FEAST DAY

Our Parish Feast Day will fall on Sunday 8th February 2026. We are going to celebrate officially at the 9.30am Sunday Mass followed by a luncheon in the hall. Please save the date and come along to join in commemorating this special day. We are inviting parishioners to bring along a plate to share. For further please enquiries, contact Evelyn Beed on 0437 572 636.

PARISH DIRECTORY 2026

Our annual parish directory is now available and is a useful source of information for anyone new to our parish or for those parishioners who would like to stay informed about events. Pick up your copy from one of the Church doors.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

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

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

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.

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>

LOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

What is Safeguarding?

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

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities

If missed any of the face to face training held at our parish, you can complete these modules independently at times convenient to you via <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>. 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.

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/

Be a stronger you – Free empowerment course for women: Beginning February 2026

Catholic Care has partnered with Survivor Voice Australia to run a free six-week empowerment program for women who have experienced domestic violence and abuse. Program will start in February 2026 in the Blue Mountains. Contact Catholic Care to express your interest: (02) 8843 2500.

Fr Joseph Lam book on Pope Leo XIV

Fr Joseph Lam, Parish Priest at the Parish of Baulkham Hills, has produced a new book that explores the traces of St Augustine in the words and messages of the successors of St Peter since 2005: Benedict XVI, Francis and Leo XIV. The book is \$45, with proceeds to help the renovation of the old heritage building at Baulkham Hills. To pre-order the book, please contact admin@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au.

Low Cost Counselling Services

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

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.

Children and Young People's Participation

A Safeguarding culture for Children and Young People is fostered and sustained at LOL by our parish community being committed to living the Gospel by serving the most vulnerable. Here at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish 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.

Copyright

The Church is not exempt from copyright legislation. It is binding on both institutions and individuals, and ignorance is not accepted as an excuse under the legislation. If a parish is not compliant, both the parish and any person involved in the breach of copyright (e.g. musicians, people preparing visual display files for liturgy) can be held to account. Here at LOL, we report all music and file image displays to the relevant licensing service.

POPE LEO'S CHRISTMAS ADDRESS TO THE ROMAN CURIA

Your Eminences,

Venerable brothers in the Episcopate and the priesthood,

Dear brothers and sisters,

The light of Christmas comes to meet us, inviting us to rediscover the newness from the humble grotto of Bethlehem, runs throughout human history. Drawn by this newness, which embraces all creation, let us walk in joy and hope, for a Savior has been born for us (cf. *Lk* 2:11): God has become flesh, has become our brother, and remains forever God-with-us.

With this joy in our hearts, and with deep gratitude, let us look upon the events that unfold, also in the life of the Church.

In this way, as we approach the Christmas festivities, in sharing my heartfelt greeting with all of you, and thanking the Cardinal Dean for his words – always full of enthusiasm: today, the Psalm tells us that our years are seventy, or eighty for the strongest, so we also celebrate with you – I wish first of all to remember my beloved predecessor, Pope Francis, who this year concluded his earthly life. His prophetic voice, pastoral style and rich magisterium have marked the Church's journey in recent years, encouraging us above all to place God's mercy at the centre, to give renewed impetus to evangelization, and to be a joyful Church, welcoming to all and attentive to the poorest.

Taking inspiration from his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, I would like to reflect on two fundamental aspects of the Church's life: *mission* and *communion*.

By her very nature, the Church is outward-looking, turned toward the world, *missionary*. She has received from Christ the gift of the Spirit in order to bring to all people the good news of God's love. As a living sign of this divine love for humanity, the Church exists to invite and gather all people to the festive banquet that the Lord prepares for us. In this gathering, every person can discover their identity as a beloved child, a brother or sister to their neighbour, and a new creation in Christ. Transformed by this discovery, they become witnesses to truth, justice and peace.

Evangelii Gaudium encourages us to make progress in the missionary transformation of the Church, who draws her inexhaustible strength from the mandate of the Risen Christ. "Jesus' command to 'go and make disciples' echoes in the changing scenarios and ever new challenges to the Church's mission of evangelization, and all of us are called to take part in this new missionary 'going forth'" (no. 20). This missionary character flows from the fact that God himself first set out toward us and, in Christ, came in search of us. Mission begins in the heart of the Most Holy Trinity. Indeed, God consecrated and sent his Son into the world, so that "everyone who believes in him might not perish but may have eternal life" (*Jn* 3:16). The first great "exodus," then, is God's own his going forth from himself to meet us. The mystery of Christmas proclaims precisely this: the Son's mission consists in his coming into the world (cf. Saint Augustine, *The Trinity*, IV, 20, 28).

In this way, the mission of Jesus on earth, which continues in the Holy Spirit through the Church, becomes a criterion for discernment in our lives, in our journey of faith, in ecclesial practices, and also in the service we carry out in the Roman Curia. Structures must not weigh down or slow the progress of the Gospel or hinder the dynamism of evangelization; instead, we must "make them more mission-oriented" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 27).

In the spirit of our baptismal co-responsibility, therefore, we are all called to cooperate in Christ's mission. The work of the Curia, too, must be animated by this spirit and foster pastoral solicitude in service to the particular Churches and their pastors. We need an ever more missionary Roman Curia, in which institutions, offices and tasks are conceived in light of today's major ecclesial, pastoral and social challenges, and not merely to ensure ordinary administration. At the same time, in the life of the Church, mission is closely linked to *communion*. While the mystery of Christmas celebrates the mission of the Son of God among us, it also contemplates its purpose, namely that God has reconciled the world to himself through Christ (cf. *2 Cor* 5:19) and in him made us his children. Christmas reminds us that Jesus came to reveal the true face of God as Father, so that we might all become his children and therefore brothers and sisters to one another. The Father's love, embodied and revealed by Jesus in his liberating actions and preaching, enables us, in the Holy Spirit, to be a sign of a new humanity — no longer founded on selfishness and individualism, but on mutual love and solidarity. This task is urgent both *ad intra* and *ad extra*.

It is urgent *ad intra*, because communion in the Church always remains a challenge that calls us to conversion. At times, beneath an apparent calm, forces of division may be at play. We can fall into the temptation of swinging between two opposite extremes: uniformity that fails to value differences, or the exacerbation of differences and viewpoints instead of seeking communion. Thus, in interpersonal relationships, in internal office dynamics, or in addressing questions of faith, liturgy, morality and more besides, there is a risk of falling into rigidity or ideology, with their consequent conflicts. Yet we are the Church of Christ, his members, his body. We are brothers and sisters in him. And in Christ, though many and diverse, we are one: *In Illo uno unum*.

We are called, especially here in the Curia, to be builders of Christ's communion, which is to take shape in a synodal Church where all cooperate in the same mission, each according to his or her charism and role. This communion is built not so much through words and documents as through concrete gestures and attitudes that ought to appear in our daily lives, including in our work. I would like to recall what Saint Augustine wrote in his *Letter to Proba*: "In all human affairs, nothing is truly cherished without a friend." Yet he asked, with a note of bitterness: "But how seldom in this life is such a person found whose spirit and conduct may be trusted with full confidence?" (*Letter to Proba*, 130, 2,4).

At times this bitterness finds its way among us as well, when, after many years of service in the Curia, we observe with disappointment that certain dynamics – linked to the exercise of power, the desire to prevail, or the pursuit of personal interests – are slow to change. We then ask ourselves: is it possible to be friends in the Roman Curia?

To have relationships of genuine fraternal friendship? Amid daily toil, it is a grace to find trustworthy friends, where masks fall away, no one is used or sidelined, genuine support is offered, and each person's worth and competence are respected, preventing resentment and dissatisfaction. Such relationships call for a personal conversion, so that Christ's love, which makes us brothers and sisters, may shine through.

This becomes a sign also *ad extra*, in a world wounded by discord, violence and conflict, where we also witness a growth in aggression and anger, often exploited by both the digital sphere and politics. The Lord's birth brings the gift of peace and invites us to become its prophetic sign in a human and cultural context that is too fragmented. The work of the Curia and of the Church as a whole must be conceived within this broader horizon: we are not mere gardeners tending our own plot, but disciples and witnesses of the Kingdom of God, called in Christ to be leaven of universal fraternity among

different peoples, religions and cultures. This happens if we ourselves live as brothers and sisters and allow the light of communion to shine in the world.

Dear brothers and sisters, mission and communion are possible if we place Christ at the centre. This year's Jubilee reminded us that he alone is the hope that does not disappoint. This Holy Year also marked two significant anniversaries. It recalled the Council of Nicaea, which brings us back to the roots of our faith, and the Second Vatican Council, which, by fixing its gaze on Christ, strengthened the Church and sent her forth to engage the modern world, remaining attentive to the joys, hopes, griefs and anxieties of the people of our time (cf. *Gaudium et Spes*, 1).

Lastly, I would recall that fifty years ago, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Saint Paul VI promulgated the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, written after the Third Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops.

Among others, it emphasizes two essential realities: that "it is the whole Church that receives the mission to evangelize, and the work of each individual member is important for the whole" (no. 15). Second, it affirms that "the first means of evangelization is the witness of an authentically Christian life, given over to God in a communion that nothing should destroy and at the same time given to one's neighbour with limitless zeal" (no. 41).

Let us remember this also in our curial service: the work of each is important for the whole, and the witness of a Christian life, expressed in communion, is the first and greatest service we can offer.

Your Eminences, Excellencies, dear brothers and sisters, the Lord descends from heaven and humbles himself toward us. As Bonhoeffer wrote, reflecting on the mystery of Christmas: "God is not ashamed of the lowliness of human beings. God marches right in... God is near to lowliness; he loves the lost, the neglected, the unseemly, the excluded, the weak and broken" (D. Bonhoeffer, *Riconoscere Dio al centro della vita*, Brescia 2004, 12).

May the Lord grant us his own humility, his compassion and his love, so that we may become his disciples and witnesses each day. I wholeheartedly wish you all a holy Christmas. May the Lord bring us his light and grant peace to the world.

POPE LEO: EVEN JUBILEE ENDS WE REMAIN PILGRIMS OF HOPE

As the Jubilee Year draws to a close, Pope Leo XIV reminds the faithful that its deepest gift endures. Hope, he says, continues to shape the Church's journey, calling all to remain pilgrims who generate life and renewal.

Addressing the faithful during the last Saturday Jubilee Audience of this Holy Year, Pope Leo XIV reminded Christians that the pilgrimage it inspired does not end.

"The Jubilee is drawing to a close," the Pope said, "but the hope that this Year has given us does not end: we will remain pilgrims of hope."

Beginning his catechesis with words regarding the approaching celebration of Christmas, Pope Leo XIV reflected on the meaning of Christian hope, rooted not in fear but in the closeness of God revealed in Jesus Christ.

Without Christ, he noted, the proclamation that "the Lord is near" could sound threatening; in Jesus, however, it becomes a promise of mercy.

"In Him there is no threat, but forgiveness," the Pope said, pointing to the mystery of the Incarnation as the definitive sign of a God who gives life and continually renews it.

Without hope we are dead

Quoting Saint Paul's words to the Romans, "For in hope we were saved", Pope Leo XIV explained that hope is not a vague sentiment, but a living, generative force.

"Without hope, we are dead; with hope, we come into the light," he said, describing hope as a theological virtue, "a power of God," that brings forth life.

True strength, the Pope explained, is not found in domination or fear. "What threatens and kills is not strength," he said, "it is arrogance, aggressive fear, evil that generates nothing." God's strength, by contrast, "gives birth," and for this reason, he concluded, "to hope is to generate."

Listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor

Turning to the groaning of creation described by Saint Paul, Pope Leo XIV invited the faithful to listen attentively to "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor," lamenting the injustice of a world in which resources are increasingly concentrated in the hands of a few. God, he recalled, intended the goods of creation for all.

"Our task," he said plainly, "is to generate, not to steal."

History is in the hands of God and those who hope in Him

Even suffering, the Pope noted, takes on a new meaning in faith: it becomes "the suffering of childbirth." God continues to create, and human beings, sustained by hope, are called to cooperate in that creative work. "History," he said, "is in the hands of God and of those who hope in Him."

Reflecting on the Marian dimension of Christian prayer, Pope Leo XIV pointed to Mary of Nazareth as the living image of hope that gives life. In her, he said, believers see "one of us who generates," one who gave "face, body and voice to the Word of God."

"Jesus wants to be born again," the Pope said. "We can give Him body and voice. This is the childbirth for which creation waits."

"To hope," he concluded, "is to see this world become the world of God."

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.

BECOME A CATECHIST AN SRE VOLUNTEER

Volunteers from OLOL parish share their faith with children in local public primary schools, including Seven Hills, Seven Hills North, Bert Oldfield, and Vardys Road. Volunteers give just one hour a week and are supported with training and teaching materials. For further enquiries please contact Anne McNally on 0466 993 159.

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

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

3/4 January

Acolytes	Vigil: Frank Paiva 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am: Ryan Epondulan
Ministers	Vigil: J. Franco, T. Perak 8am: L. Fernandes, A. McNally 9.30am: A. Han, C. Brooks
Readers	Vigil: A. Punch, R. Saldanha 8am: M. Santos, P. Ferriols 9.30am: C. Diaz, Z. Smith
Altar Servers	Vigil: Marijana & Sebastian Gluvic, H. Winter 8am: A. Faulkner-Dhiman, Sub Rqd 9.30am: N. D'Cruz, J. Steele, C. Attard
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Young Adults Group
Musicians	Vigil: Christine Clarke 8am: Fr. Henry 9.30am: Couples for Christ
Flowers	Fennie & Liz
Church Cleaning	10 January Tongan Community Edgardo Barcelon Edgar Cabrera Aman Rawah
Welcomers	Vigil: Ram Ugre 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Volunteer

The Kids' Bulletin

Sunday December 28th, 2025
Feast of the Holy Family

Angels Watching Over Me



When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." Matthew 2:13 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Matthew 2:13-23 (NIV).



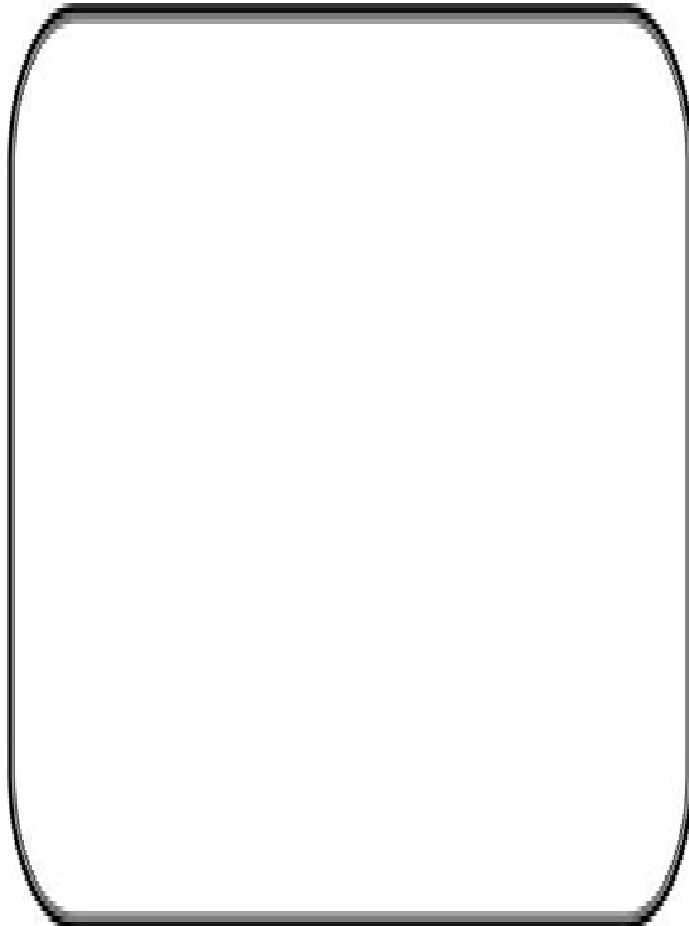
Matt. 2:13-15

Use the number code to see what the prophet predicted about the Child Jesus.

11 15 14 11 5 4 6 16 12 14 7
2 1 8 8 4 3 9 16 13 11 10

A	C	D	E	F	G	I	L	M	N	O	P	S	T	U	Y
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16

Draw a picture of your family.



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

LORD	FULLFILL	KILL	MOTHER	ESCAPE
EGYPT	RETURN	SEARCH	HEROD	ANGEL
MAGI	ISRAEL	BETHLEHEM	NIGHT	NAZARETH
JOSEPH	APPEAR	DEATH	SON	CHILD

THE HOLY FAMILY

Jesus + Mary + Joseph

