



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/>

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 14 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 Bhojroo, Joseph Grech, Chandra Fernando, Harold Kelly, Michelle Maripa, Aggie Motha, Maria Amma Peter, Veronica Rosales, Fay Russell, Ralph Vaz, Antionette Zarb.

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

Remembrance: Alakise, Neil Amaratunga, 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, 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, Aurora Nufable Nonato, Coleen O'Sullivan, Lakshman Perera, Marlyn Pestano, Eustace Ratnam, John & Roseline Ratnam, Jose, Maria, Laureano, Karen, Yolanda Reyes, Mary Silva, Rosemalar Sangarappilai, 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

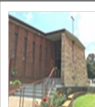
BSB: 062 315

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 35:1-6,10*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) Lord, come and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**

3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St James 5:7-10*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon.

Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 11:2-11*

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John:

'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you.

'I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

After the 9:30am Mass last Sunday, a priest friend of mine called from Epping, where he lives with his religious community, and said, "I have someone here with me who wants to say hello to you." I assumed it was someone I knew who had just returned from a mission trip and wanted to catch up. I could never have expected the pleasant surprise that awaited me, because on the line was my long-lost friend, the companion who had walked with me through the hardest time of my life in Cambodia. The last time we saw each other was 41 years ago after a spell of ten days in jail where we decided to break our group of four into two cells finding our separate ways to leave Cambodia: I travelled by boat and he walked through the jungle to enter Thailand. Both of us succeeded in our endeavour but had landed in different Refugee Camps at different times, then ended up re-settling in two different parts of the world. When he was ordained 35 years ago, I was kept busy wrestling with my Formation program in the seminary, consequently I had no time to think about him, and I guess he was also busy with life and had no time to think about me, but deep down we two wanted to meet again. He just quietly slipped into Sydney with a friend to surprise me. So, what a joy I had last Sunday and it continues to linger on up till now, this Third Sunday of Advent, an appropriate time to talk about joy.

As we know, this Sunday has been known as the Gaudete Sunday in the Church liturgy, since 'GAUDETE' is a Latin word meaning 'rejoice' taken from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians, 'rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near' (cf. Phil 4.4-5), and these words then become the Entrance Antiphon for this Third Sunday of Advent Mass. Why are we asked to rejoice? Some of us might ask, and the answer is (1) that because the coming of Lord is near as the Entrance Antiphon reminds us, and his nearness to us is threefold: his nativity commemoration, his Parousia and his coming at the end of our life, and (2) that because his time is marked with wondrous signs, such as, sight for the blind, hearing for the deaf, walk for the lame, speech for the dumb and liberation for the captives as the prophet Isaiah prophesized in the first reading, and Jesus repeated this prophetic message in the Gospel to confirm his divine identity as the Messiah, the Son of God Isaiah and other prophets foretold.

Significantly, Jesus joyfully acknowledged John's mission to prepare people for his coming as his herald by praising him as the greatest man that no one greater than him has ever seen, and praised him for his humility to the point that 'the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

In the joy of this Gaudete Sunday, let us ask the Lord to re-fill our heart with his joy and help us to brighten our home, our church and our community with uplifting spirit through the good things we say and do, especially in the days leading to the celebration of Christmas.

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 third candle is known as the Shepherd's candle and symbolises joy. To the shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble people like them, too. This joy is celebrated in the Readings of the Mass.



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.

PARISH SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Second rite of Reconciliation on Wednesday 17 December at 7.30pm with the help of clergy outside the parish.

Individual confessions: 18th, 19th from 9.30 – 10.30am

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.

FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT (FGM) AT OLOL

The delightful morning tea hosted by the Divine Rainbow and Joyful Journey family groups on 30-November, was a success, bringing together families and the OLOL community. More families have expressed interest in joining. The Divine Rainbow group will conclude the year with a Christmas event on 19-December, featuring Secret Santa gift exchanges.

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

A PRACTICAL TIP EACH WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF CREATION

TIP 13 Learn About a Local Plant/Animal

Pick a native species. Observe it and learn how to identify it. Fall in love with it! A heart connection with the life around us is the root of conservation. Tell someone about your findings and connection to this new species.

MINISTRY ROSTER UPDATE 2026

Thank you to those who submitted their updated roster forms. Preparation of rosters for the various ministries for February-July 2026 is currently underway and they will be available for distribution next weekend.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant

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

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

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

New 2026 Academic Scholarship Opportunity

Nagle College Blacktown is now offering a limited number of Academic Scholarships for Year 7 students commencing in 2026. The scholarships are intended to recognise exceptional academic promise and make an excellent Catholic secondary girls' education more accessible to families. Please review the eligibility criteria and application process on the school website as soon as possible. Learn more here: <https://www.nagleblacktown.catholic.edu.au/nagle-scholarship>.

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>

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/

LOL 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.

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.

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.

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>

Dominican Retreat

Single adults, ages 18-35, are invited to join the Dominican Friars and Sisters for a weekend retreat at St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park, NSW from 13-15 February 2026. The retreat will consist of talks, discussion, Eucharistic Adoration, the Sacrament of Confession, Mass, and time for fellowship. Places limited. Fee: \$300 per person. Bookings can be made via <https://www.trybooking.com/DHJBL>

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.

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 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".

Elisabetta Piqué (La Nación): The Lebanese flag has the same colours as the flag of Peru. Is that a sign that you will be making a visit to Latin America in the second half of next year, combining it with Argentina and Uruguay? Joking aside, what visits are you preparing for the coming year? And, furthermore, speaking of Latin America, there is a great deal of tension because of what is happening in Venezuela. There is an ultimatum from President Trump to Maduro to resign, to leave power, and a threat to remove him by a military operation. What do you think about this?

[Pope, in Spanish]: As for visits, there is nothing absolutely certain; I hope to carry out a visit to Africa. That would possibly be the next journey.

Ms. Piqué: Where?

Africa, Personally, I hope to go to Algeria to visit the places of Saint Augustine, but also to continue the conversation of dialogue, of building bridges between the Christian world and the Muslim world. In the past, in another role, I already had the opportunity to speak about this topic. It is interesting: the figure of Saint Augustine helps a great deal as a bridge, because in Algeria he is very much respected as a son of the homeland. That is one. Then there are other countries, but we are working on it. Clearly, I would very much like to visit Latin America, Argentina, and Uruguay, which are waiting for the Pope's visit. I think Peru would also receive me, and if I go to Peru there would also be many neighbouring countries, but the plan is not yet defined. Regarding Venezuela, at the level of the Bishops' Conference and with the Nuncio, we are trying to find a way to calm the situation, seeking above all the good of the people, because in these situations it is the people who suffer, not the authorities. The signals coming from the United States change, and so we must see... On the one hand, it seems there has been a telephone conversation between the two presidents; on the other hand, there is this danger, this possibility, that there could be an action, an operation, including an invasion of Venezuelan territory. I again believe it is better to seek dialogue within this pressure, including economic pressure, but looking for another way to bring about change, if that is what the United States decide to do.

Michael Corre, La Croix : Hello Your Holiness, thank you for this very interesting trip. You just talked about continuing to build bridge between different worlds. I would like to ask: some Catholics in Europe believe that Islam is a threat to a Christian identity of the West. Are they right, and what would you say to them?

[Pope, in English]: All of the conversations that I had during my time, both in Türkiye and Lebanon, including with many Muslims, was precisely concentrated on the topic of peace and respect for people of different religions. I know that, as a matter of fact, that has not always been the case. I know that in Europe there are many times fears that are present but oftentimes generated by people who are against immigration and trying to keep out people who may be from another country, another religion, another race. And in that sense, I would say that we all need to work together, one of the values of this trip is precisely to raise the world's attention to the possibility that dialogue and friendship between Muslims and Christians is possible. I think one of the great lessons that Lebanon can teach to the world is precisely showing a land where Islam and Christianity are both present and are respected and that there is a possibility to live together to be friends. Stories, testimonies, witnesses that we heard even in the past two days of people helping each other; Christians with Muslims, both of whom had had their villages destroyed, for example, were saying we can come together and work together. I think those are lessons that would be important also to be heard in Europe or North America. We should perhaps be a little less fearful and look for ways of promoting authentic dialogue and respect.

Anna Giordano (Ard Radio): The Church in Lebanon is supported also by the German Church. There are, for example, some German aid agencies very active in Lebanon. So also from that point of view, it is important that the German Church stays a strong Church. So you probably know, that there is this (Synodaler Weg), Synodal Way, a process of change in the German Church going on. Do you think this process can be a way to strengthen the Church? Or is there the other way around? And why?

[Pope, in English]: The Synodal Way is not unique to Germany; the whole Church has celebrated a Synod and synodality over the past several years. There are some great similarities, but there are also some marked differences between how the Synodal Way in Germany has been carried forward and how it may well continue in the universal Church. On the one hand, I would say there is room certainly for respect for inculturation. The fact that in one place synodality is lived in a certain way, and in another place it is lived differently, does not mean that there will be rupture or a fracture. I think that is very important to remember. At the same time, I am aware that many Catholics in Germany believe that certain aspects of the Synodal Way that has been celebrated in Germany up until now, do not represent their own hope for the Church or their own way of living the Church. So, there is need for further dialogue and listening within Germany itself, so that no one's voice is excluded, so that the voice of those who are more powerful does not silence or stifle the voice of those who might also be very numerous but don't have a place to speak up and to allow their own voices and own expressions of Church participation to be listened to. At the same time, as you know I am sure, the group of German Bishops has been meeting, for the last couple of years, with a group of the Cardinals from the Roman Curia. There is an ongoing process there as well, to try and make sure the German Synodal Way does not, if you will, break away from what needs to be considered as a pathway of the universal Church. I'm sure that'll continue. I suspect there'll be some adjustments made on both sides in Germany, but I'm certainly hopeful that things will work out positively.

Rita El-Mounayer (Sat-7 International): We are four different Christian channels broadcasting in the Middle East and North Africa, two in Arabic, one in Farsi and one in Turkish. First of all, I would like to thank you for giving a time for the Lebanese people. I am myself a child of war, and I know how much it means to have a hug from Your Holiness, a tap on the shoulder, and saying everything is going to be ok. And what struck me is your motto: 'In the one we are one.'

This motto speaks of building bridges between different Christian denominations, between religions and also across neighbours, that sometimes can be a bit difficult. So my question is, from your own perspective, what unique gift does the Church in the Middle East—with all its tears, wounds, challenges and past history—can give the Church in the West and the world?

[Pope, in English]: Let me preface my response by saying that today people who grew up in a very individualistic society young people who passed significant amount of time during the pandemic because of COVID, and whose personal relationships are oftentimes very isolated, in reality because they are only through computer screens or smartphones they ask sometimes, 'Why should we want to be one? I am an individual, and I don't care about others.' And there is a very important message here to say to all people that unity, friendship, human relationships, communion, are extremely important and extremely valuable. If for no other reason, then the example you mentioned about someone who has lived through war or has suffered and is in pain, what an embrace can mean to them. What that very human, real, healthy expression of personal care can do to heal the heart of someone else. On a personal level, that can become, if you will, a common level, a community level that unites all of us, and helps us understand, and respect for one another goes far beyond 'You keep your distance; I'll stay here, and you stay there, and we'll have no interaction.' But it means building up relationships that will enrich all people. With that message, certainly, my motto is primarily because of Christ "il illo" is 'In Christ who is one we are all one.' But it is not defined, if you will, only for Christians. As a matter of fact, it is an invitation to all of us and to others to say: the more we can promote authentic unity and understanding, respect and human relationships of friendship and dialogue in the world, the greater possibility there is that we will put aside the arms of war, that we will leave aside the distrust, the hatred, the animosity that has so often been built up and that we will find ways to come together and be able to promote authentic peace and justice throughout the world.

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." The Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith on Tuesday, 4 November 2025, published *Mater populi fidelis* ("The Mother of the Faithful People"), a Doctrinal Note "On Some Marian Titles Regarding Mary's Cooperation in the Work of Salvation." Signed by the Prefect, Cardinal Víctor Manuel Fernández, and the Secretary for the Dicastery's Doctrinal Section, Monsignor Armando Matteo, the Note was approved by the Pope on 7 October. *Mater populi fidelis* (MPF) is the fruit of a long and complex collegial effort. It is a doctrinal document on Marian devotion, centred on the figure of Mary, who is associated with the work of Christ as Mother of believers. The Note provides a significant biblical foundation for devotion to Mary, as well as marshalling various contributions from the Fathers, the Doctors of the Church, elements of Eastern tradition, and the thought of recent Popes. In this positive framework, the doctrinal text analyses a number of Marian titles, encouraging the adoption of some of those appellations and warning against the use of others. Titles such as "Mother of Believers," "Spiritual Mother," "Mother of the Faithful" are noticed with approval in the Note. Conversely, the title of "Co-redemptrix" is deemed inappropriate and problematic. The title of "Mediatrice" is considered unacceptable when it takes on a meaning that excludes Jesus Christ; however, it can be used appropriately so long as it expresses an inclusive and participatory mediation that glorifies the power of Christ. The titles "Mother of Grace" and "Mediatrice of All Graces" are considered acceptable when used in a very precise sense, but the document also warns of particularly broad explanations of the meaning of the terms. Essentially, the Note reaffirms Catholic doctrine, which always emphasised that everything in Mary is directed towards the centrality of Christ and His salvific work. For this reason, even if some Marian titles admit of an orthodox interpretation through correct exegesis, *Mater populi fidelis* says it is preferable to avoid them. In his presentation of the Doctrinal Note, Cardinal Fernández expresses appreciation for popular devotion but warns against groups and publications that propose a certain dogmatic development and raise doubts among the faithful, including through social media. The main problem in interpreting these titles applied to Our Lady, he says concerns the way of understanding Mary's association with Christ's work of redemption (paragraph 3). (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](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.

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.

13/14 December

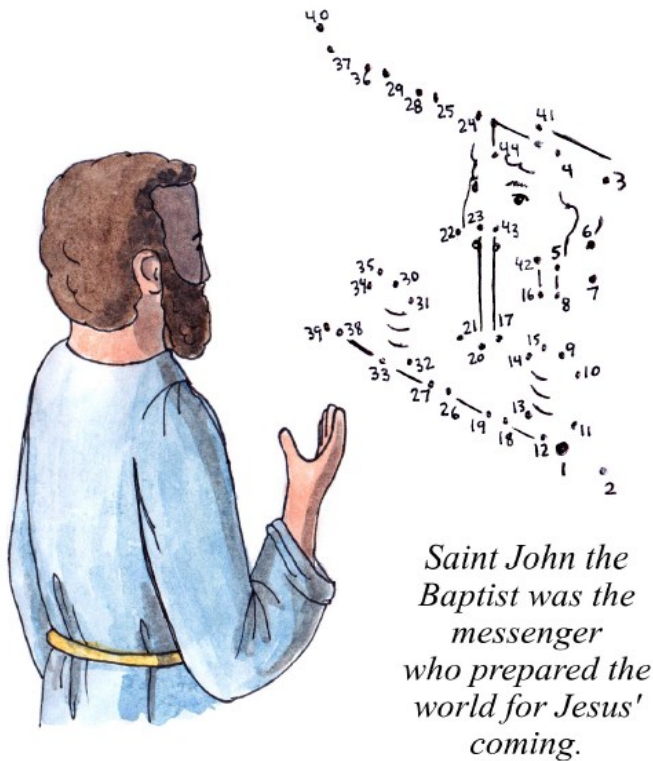
| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Acolytes | Vigil: Frank Paiva 8am: Ernie Gartner 9.30am: Ramzee Michael |
| Ministers | Vigil: N. Shami, J. Franco 8am: M. Santos, T. Perak 9.30am: M. Michael, G. Basili |
| Readers | Vigil: A. Punch, A. Franco 8am: B. Motha, J. Mai 9.30am: A. Walker, 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 |

20/21 December

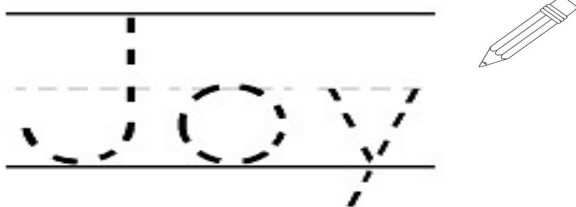
| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Acolytes | Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui |
| Ministers | Vigil: B. Motha, M. Mifsud 8am: F. Paiva, T. Perak 9.30am: C. Brooks, Kamela Huihui |
| Readers | Vigil: N. Do Rosario, N. Sumcad 8am: J. Cabasa, K. Walker 9.30am: 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 |

The Kids' Bulletin

Third Sunday of Advent
December 14th, 2025



*Where was he in today's Gospel reading?
Connect the dots to find out!
Then you can finish colouring in the picture.*



What Happens When Jesus Comes?

In today's Gospel reading Jesus tells the disciples to tell John the Baptist what He does.

What happens to whom?

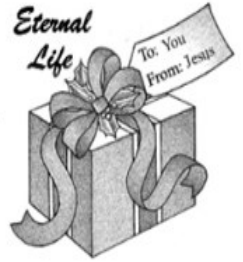
Match up the people with what happens to them.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| the blind • | • are raised up |
| and the lame • | • have good news preached to them |
| lepers • | • hear |
| the deaf • | • are cleansed |
| the dead • | • receive their sight |
| and the poor • | • walk |

The Gifts that Jesus Brings

The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.
Matthew 11:5 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Matthew 11:2-11 (NIV).



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

| | | | | |
|--------|----------|---------|--------|------|
| BLIND | LAME | HEARD | DEAF | HEAR |
| GOOD | PREACHED | POOR | CHRIST | DEAD |
| RAISED | SEE | LEPROSY | PRISON | JOHN |
| NEWS | CURED | SIGHT | WALK | HEAR |

