



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 Office Team: Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Jane Nguyen, Laura Ilioski

Office Hours: Tuesday-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: 25 February 2026

Baptism: 22 February 2026

Sacrament Co-Ordinator: Mrs Artelle Lenthall

Youth Co-Ordinator: Diana Park

Parish Website: www.olol7hills.org.au

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OLOL7Hills/>



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

8 February 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, Hoa Chau, James Debattista, Christian Detera, Ben Dixon, Annabelle Edwards, Para Dias, Lucia Fernando, Renuka Fernando, Grace George, Philippe Honore, Odette James, Anthony Janicska, Mary Jordan, Takis Karapatsakis, Clare Kinsley, T.S.Q. Letran, Theresa Marini, Sandra & Kenny Mahoney, Susie Manga, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Gary Morrissey, Jayne Muscat, Lynnda Lim-Huynh, Mary Odeke, 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: Minerva Carpizo, Mary Leeder, Aggie Motha, Dorothy Newman, Maria Amma Peter.

Anniversaries: Leisle Abreo, Cecilia Abela, Mary Alagiah, Fredy Alphonse, France Angseesing, Lourdes Apalisok, Tony Borg, Dennis Clarke, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Rita de Silva, Alita Do Rosario, Frank, Joe Falzon, Mansour Farid, M.A Fernando, Joseph, Carmena & Sammy Formosa, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, Emily Galea, Jean, Elsie, Karl, Gervais Garrick, Francis Lomano, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Thelma Morrissey, Anton & Lourda Motha, Paul Mula, Louis & Stephen Mula, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Felix & Andreanna Muscat, Carol Orduna, Mile Perak, Helen Tanti,

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, Antonio, Amelia & Germana Bertinato, Sam Borg, Peter & Antonio, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli, Barrie Chamberlain, 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, Tessie & Andy Mangine, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Pauline Meilak, William & Emilia Mifsud, Joseph & Doris Mifsud, Mary Mifsud, Bertu, Albert, Paul, Louis, Stephen & Joseph Mula, Xavier Motha Jnr, Mary & Francis Muscat, Jason Muscat & family, Lakshman Perera, Eustace Ratnam, John & Roseline Ratnam, Benigno & Rosita Rival, Mary Silva, Christopher Solomon, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.



Funeral Notice

Mary Leeder

St Bernadette's Church
Lalor Park

Friday 13th of February, 1.00pm

May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen

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

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.

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 58:7-10*

Thus says the Lord:

Share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor, clothe the man you see to be naked and turn not from your own kin. Then will your light shine like the dawn and your wound be quickly healed over.

Your integrity will go before you and the glory of the Lord behind you. Cry, and the Lord will answer; call, and he will say, 'I am here.' If you do away with the yoke, the clenched fist, the wicked word, if you give your bread to the hungry, and relief to the oppressed, your light will rise in the darkness, and your shadows become like noon.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

1. He is a light in the darkness for the upright:
he is generous, merciful and just.
The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honour. **(R.)**

3. With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory. **(R.)**

2. The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever.
He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 2:1-5*

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ.

Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
the man who follows me
will have the light of life.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:13-16*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Happy Feast Day 2026
Our Lady of Lourdes pray for us.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

This is a special time of the year for our Parish to stop and reflect upon an event taking place in a town so far away from here roughly about 17,200 kms or more, namely the apparitions of Our Lady to the 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous, 18 times altogether from 11 February to 16 July 1858.

Our Lady first appeared to Bernadette in a golden light, wearing a white dress with a blue sash and yellow roses on her feet on Thursday 11 February 1858 in the cave called Massabielle at Lourdes in the Southwest of France. The Lady in white asked Bernadette to pray and do penance for sinners and to build a chapel for her at the site.

When Bernadette returned to the site on the feast of the Annunciation 25 February, the lady identified herself as the Immaculate Conception, the Marian dogma of the Immaculate Conception pronounced by Pope Pius IX a few years previous, on December 8, 1854. In her own words Bernadette recalled the image of the lady *'With her two arms hanging down, she raised her eyes and looked up at the sky, and it was then that she told me, joining her hands together now at the height of her breast, that she was the Immaculate Conception. Those were the last words she ever said to me.'* Bernadette was also encouraged by the Lady to drink and wash in a "fountain" at the back of the cave. Though the area was dry, a spring began to emerge when Bernadette dug into the mud, it still flows today and has been widely known for its healing power.

After a lengthy process of investigations, Fr Dominique Peyramale and bishop Bertrand-Sévère Laurence bought the grotto and the land around it from the town of Lourdes in 1861, three years after the apparitions. Immediately they set about to modify the area to make it more accessible to pilgrims and started work to build the first of the churches, which is now known as the "Crypt".

The Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, commonly known as the "Upper Basilica", was consecrated in 1876. The Rosary Basilica, known as the "Lower Basilica", was completed in 1899, and designed by architect Leopold Hardy. It was consecrated in 1901 and has a capacity of 1,500 worshipers.

As we know, the Blessed Sacrament procession is held daily at 5:00pm. The procession begins at the open-air altar on the prairie across the river from the grotto and is led by sick pilgrims followed by a priest, bishop or cardinal carrying a monstrance containing the Blessed Sacrament and during extreme weather conditions, the procession takes place inside the basilica. From a sleepy town of four thousand residents in 1858, Lourdes has grown to become a major pilgrim destination with 52 hectares and 22 places of worship, and millions of people including many sick and disabled visitors come over every year to pray and ask for Our Lady of Lourdes' intercessions, some of us were blessed to be there and I hope to be there one day.

In the Gospel this Sunday, the evangelist reminds us of our call to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world as Jesus' disciples in the world, Our Lady of Lourdes, our patroness shows us a good example of what it means to be the salt and the light of Christ both through (1) her message inviting us to dedicate our prayer and penance for the conversion of sinners and (2) her healing works given to those who asked for help, we, in turn, are also encouraged to be the salt and the light for Christ, meaning to love God and especially our neighbour in the way the prophet Isaiah inspired us in the first reading this Sunday by sharing the bread with the hungry, offering shelter to the homeless poor, clothing those with no clothes, in other words, we have a duty to care for the poor and needy around us.

Let us pray today for the grace to our Lord Jesus and Our Lady of Lourdes proud for our willingness to become the salt of the earth and the light of the world through our kind words and genuine care for all those who need our supports.

Happy Feast Day and have a charity-oriented week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

BISHOP VINCENT MASS

We are privileged to have Bishop Vincent here with us to celebrate the Vigil Mass on the eve of the celebration of Our Lady of Lourdes. Please make him welcome.

PARISH FEAST DAY LUNCHEON

Everyone is warmly invited to join our luncheon packed with food and live entertainment in the hall after our 9.30am Sunday Mass.

CHURCH HALL CANOPY RAFFLE

As another effort to help raise funds for the construction of our Parish Hall Canopy, which will provide our parishioners with an outdoor undercover space for social occasions, we invite you to support our Parish and School community through this fundraising program. This will involve the sale of 10,000 raffle tickets. The raffle will be drawn at the 9.30am Mass on Sunday, 16 August 2026. Ticket sales will begin after the 9.30am Mass this Sunday, 8 February. Thank you so much for your support.

PLEDGE BOOK FOR HALL CANOPY PLAQUE

Thank you to those who signed the Pledge Book for the Hall Canopy Plaque, and for those who wish to sign, this book is located at the Baptismal font. Please register your 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 the Plaque Fundraising program.

PARISH PASTORAL MEETING

Just a gentle reminder to members of our Parish Pastoral Council of the coming meeting on Wednesday 11 February at 7.30pm in the Parish Meeting Room, please spare your time to attend the meeting.

LOURDES OVER 50s GROUP MEETING

The next over 50s meeting is on Thursday 12th February, 10.30am till 1pm in the Parish Hall. All welcome.

THE GROTTTO: OLOL JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

The Grotto is back! Your kids are invited to our Junior Youth Group for ages 9-14 on the third Sunday of each month. The first session will be on the 15th of February from 3:30 – 6pm. Scan the QR codes on the posters around the exits of the church to register or email Diana Park via dianap@olol7hills.com.au for more information.

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/

DIOCESAN NEWS

Parishes United with Refugees: CAN YOU HELP?

Parishes United with Refugees from St Anthony's, OLOL Seven Hills and Blacktown Regional Uniting churches had a great day with the Safour family on Australia Day. For more of this story visit the Diocesan Catholic Outlook.

<https://catholicoutlook.org/seven-parishes-recognised-for-supporting-refugee-families/>

Today, we are asking for a donation to help cover the cost of specialist orthodontic treatment for a child in the family as they are unable to meet the cost. Tax deductible donations can be made via Shout for Good. <https://shoutforgood.com/fundraisers/ParishesUnitedwithRefugees>

FaithLIFE Scripture Short Course: Begins 10 February

FaithLIFE Scripture offers a 3-session Catholic Bible study and faith formation short course on how to engage with the Bible through the Catholic tradition during turbulent times. The program will run on Tuesday 10, 17 and 24 February at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes, from 7pm to 9pm. The program is facilitated by Scripture scholar Dr Michele Connolly RSJ and is open to adults of all ages and supports ongoing adult faith formation. To register, visit <https://parracatholic.org/events/faithlife-scripture-session-1/>



Volunteer with IMPACT Develop sustained self-reliant futures in overseas communities!

Join Palms International Volunteering [online](#) in this special session where you'll learn about our [diverse assignments](#) suited to your qualifications. Hear from Palms volunteers how skill-exchange makes a lasting impact in communities and changes lives.

Venue: Online- Scan the QR or register at palms.org.au/events

Date: Thursday 19 February 2026

Time: 7 pm – 8:30 pm AEDT

02 9560 5333

palms@palms.org.au



OLOL 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.

When should I complete my Safeguarding Training?

All Clergy, employees and volunteers in parish ministry are required by the NSW Children's Guardian Act 2019 to be current and complete with Safeguarding Training. Check with your Parish Office when you are due to update your Safeguarding Training.

- If you are new to ministry, you must complete the Introductory Modules 1-3 (Cycle 1).
 - If you completed Cycle 1 modules two years ago, you must complete Renewal Modules 4 and 5 (Cycle 2)
- If you renewed your Cycle 2 two years ago, you must complete a Refresher Module 6 (Cycle 3)

Safeguarding Training Modules can always be completed online at <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au/>.

Face-to-face training opportunities can be found at <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>.

Visiting Clergy to OLOL

All visiting Clergy to our Church, uphold the standards and processes here, at OLOL and the Diocese of Parramatta have put in place to ensure the safety of our Community.

Australian Catholic Historical Society Gathering: 15 February

The next event for the Australian Catholic Historical Society will be held Sunday 15 February in the crypt of St Patrick's, Church Hill at 2pm. Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Archbishop Emeritus of Brisbane, will be presenting on "the 60th

Anniversary of Vatican II *Dei Verbum* – Its influence on the history of Biblical Scholarship". Members, their guests, and visitors are most welcome and there is no charge. Details of the programme of the ACHS as well as resources on church history and YouTube videos are on the website

<https://australiancatholichistoricalsociety.com.au/>

Blacktown Parish presents 'The Witness'

Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown, are bringing to life the musical "The Witness" – telling the story of the life of Jesus through the eyes of St Peter. We encourage anyone interested in being part of The Witness experience to

[register](#). For vocal auditions, contact our Music Director, Marianne Fernandes, at marianne@bethewitness.com.au.

To learn more, visit [Be The Witness – The Musical](#) or email info@bethewitness.com.au.

Catholic Healthcare formation and support Mass: 22 February

The Diocese's Catholic Healthcare ministry, in collaboration with the Hawkesbury Deanery, is organising a formation and support Mass for those in the healthcare ministry of the Church on Sunday 22 February at Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Rouse Hill, at 5:30pm. For further information, please contact Deacon Michael Tan on

Michael.Tan@parracatholic.org.

Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend: 21-22 February

How prepared are you for marriage? Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life. We give you a chance to spend time together to strengthen and enrich your relationship. Additional weekends will be held from 23-24 May and 8-9 August. For information, visit our website: www.engagedencounter.org.au

Safeguarding Training Dates for Deaneries

From this year, parishes within a Deanery will have the same Safeguarding Training Renewal and Refresher Dates. In 2026, the dates for those in a Deanery to update and complete their Training will be:

- Blacktown Deanery – April 2026
- The Hills Deanery – August 2026
- Cumberland Deanery – November 2026

The remaining Deaneries will renew in 2027.

Online Training Modules are always available for those who are entering ministry. Face-to-face opportunities can be found at: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>. For further inquiries and to book in F2F Training dates at your Parish, please contact: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

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.

POPE LEO' ANGELUS

Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday!

Today's liturgy proclaims a beautiful passage from the Good News that Jesus announces to all humanity: the Gospel of the Beatitudes (Mt 5:1-12). These are, in fact, lights that the Lord kindles in the darkness of history, revealing the plan of salvation that the Father accomplishes through the Son, with the power of the Holy Spirit.

On the mountain, Christ gives his disciples the new law, no longer written on stone. It is a law that renews our lives and makes them good, even when the world seems to have failed us and is full of misery. Only God can truly call the poor and afflicted blessed (cf. vv. 3-4), because he is the highest good who gives himself to all with infinite love. Only God can satisfy those who seek peace and justice (cf. vv. 6.9), because he is the just judge of the world and the author of eternal peace. Only in God do the meek, the merciful and the pure of heart find joy (vv. 5.7-8), because he is the fulfilment of their expectations. In persecution, God is the source of redemption; in falsehood, he is the anchor of truth. Therefore, Jesus proclaims: "Rejoice and be glad!" (v. 12).

These Beatitudes remain a paradox only for those who believe that God is other than how Christ reveals him. Those who expect the arrogant to always rule the earth are surprised by the Lord's words.

Those who are accustomed to thinking that happiness belongs to the rich may believe that Jesus is deluded.

However, the delusion lies precisely in the lack of faith in Christ. He is the poor man who shares his life with everyone, the meek man who perseveres in suffering, the peacemaker persecuted to death on the cross.

In this way, Jesus illuminates the meaning of history. It is no longer written by conquerors, but rather by God, who is able to accomplish it by saving the oppressed. The Son looks at the world through the Father's love. On the other hand, as Pope Francis said, there are "the experts in illusion. We should not follow them because they are unable to give us hope" (Angelus, 17 February 2019). Instead, God gives this hope primarily to those whom the world dismisses as hopeless.

Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, the Beatitudes become for us a measure of happiness, leading us to ask whether we consider it an achievement to be bought or a gift to be shared; whether we place it in objects that are consumed or in relationships that accompany us. It is in fact because of Christ (cf. Mt 5:11) and thanks to him that the bitterness of trials is transformed into the joy of the redeemed. Jesus does not speak of a distant consolation, but of a constant grace that always sustains us, especially in times of affliction.

The Beatitudes lift up the humble and disperse the proud in their inmost thoughts (cf Lk 1:51). Therefore, we ask for the intercession of the Virgin Mary, servant of the Lord, whom all generations call blessed.

After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters,

I have received the greatly troubling news regarding an increase in tensions between Cuba and the United States of America, two neighboring countries. I echo the message of the Cuban bishops, inviting all responsible parties to promote a sincere and effective dialogue, in order to avoid violence and actions that could increase the suffering of the dear Cuban people. May the Virgen de la Caridad del Cobre assist and protect all of the children of that beloved land!

Next Friday, the Milan-Cortina Winter Olympic Games will begin, followed by the Paralympic Games. I extend my wishes to the organizers and all the athletes. These great sporting events send a powerful message of fraternity and rekindle hope for a world at peace. This is also the meaning of the Olympic truce, an ancient custom that accompanies the Games. I hope that all those who care about peace among peoples and are in positions of authority will take this opportunity to make concrete gestures of détente and dialogue.

Today in Italy is the "National Day for Civilian Victims of War and Conflict around the World." Unfortunately this initiative is still tragically relevant. Every day there are more civilian victims of armed actions, actions that openly violate morality and the law. The dead and wounded of yesterday and today will truly be honored when this intolerable injustice comes to an end.

I assure you of my prayers for the dead and for those who are suffering as a result of the storms that have struck Portugal and southern Italy in recent days. Let us also not forget the people of Mozambique who have been severely affected by flooding.

I greet all of you, dear Romans and pilgrims from various countries!

In particular, I am pleased to welcome the members of the Luce-Vita movement of the Diocese of Siedlce, Poland, accompanied by their Auxiliary Bishop. I greet the groups of faithful from Paraná in Argentina, from Chojnice, Warsaw, Wrocław, and Wagrowiec in Poland, from Pula and Sinj in Croatia, from Guatemala City and San Salvador, as well as the students from the Rodríguez Moñino Institute in Badajoz and those from Cuenca, Spain. I also greet the devotees of Our Lady of Miracles of Corbetta, near Milan.

I thank you from my heart for your prayers and wish everyone a happy Sunday!

Catechesis. The Documents of Vatican Council II. I. Dogmatic Constitution Dei Verbum.

4. The Sacred Scripture: The Word of God in human words

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

The Conciliar Constitution Dei Verbum, on which we are reflecting during these weeks, indicates in the Sacred Scripture, read in the living Tradition of the Church, a privileged space for encounter where God continues to speak to the men and women of every time, so that, by listening, they can know him and love him. The biblical texts, however, were not written in a heavenly or superhuman language. Indeed, as daily life teaches us, two people who speak different languages cannot understand each other, cannot enter into dialogue, and are unable to establish a relationship. In some cases, making oneself to others is a first act of love. This is why God chooses to speak using human languages and thus, various authors, inspired by the Holy Spirit, have written the texts of Sacred Scripture. As the Conciliar document reminds us, "the words of God, expressed in human language, have been made like human discourse, just as the word of the eternal Father, when He took to Himself the flesh of human weakness, was in every way made like men" (DV, 13). Therefore, not only in its content, but also in its language, the Scripture reveals God's merciful condescension towards men, and his desire to be close to them.

Throughout the course of Church history, the relationship between the divine Author and the human authors of the sacred texts has been studied.

For several centuries, many theologians were concerned to defend the divine inspiration of the Sacred Scripture, almost considering the human authors merely as passive tools of the Holy Spirit. In more recent times, reflection has re-evaluated the contribution of hagiographers in the writing of sacred texts, to the point that the Conciliar document speaks of God as the principal "author" of Sacred Scripture, but also calls hagiographers "true authors" of the sacred books (cf. DV, 11). As a keen exegete of the last century observed, "to reduce human activity to that of a mere amanuensis is not to glorify divine activity".[1] God never mortifies human beings and their potential!

If, therefore, the Scripture is the word of God in human words, any approach to it that neglects or denies one of these two dimensions proves to be partial. It follows that a correct interpretation of the sacred texts can dispense with the historic environment in which they developed and the literary forms that were used; on the contrary, to renounce the study of the human words that God used risks leading to fundamentalist or spiritualist readings of the Scripture, which betray its meaning. This principle also applies to the proclamation of the Word of God: if it loses touch with reality, with human hopes and sufferings, if an incomprehensible language is used, uncommunicative or anachronistic, it is ineffective. In every age, the Church is called to re-propose the Word of God in a language capable of being embodied in history and reaching hearts. As Pope Francis reminds us, "Whenever we make the effort to return to the source and to recover the original freshness of the Gospel, new avenues arise, new paths of creativity open up, with different forms of expression, more eloquent signs and words with new meaning for today's world".

[2] Equally reductive, on the other hand, is a reading of Scripture that neglects its divine origin and ends up understanding it as a mere human teaching, as something to be studied simply from a technical point of view or as a text "only of the past".[3] Rather, especially when proclaimed in the context of the liturgy, Scripture is intended to speak to believers, to touch their present lives with their problems, to enlighten the steps to be taken and the decisions to be made. This becomes possible only when believers read and interpret the sacred texts under the guidance of the same Spirit who inspired them (cf. DV, 12).

In this regard, the Scripture serves to nurture the life and charity of believers, as Saint Augustine recalls: "Whoever ... thinks that he understands the Holy Scriptures ... but puts such an interpretation upon them as does not tend to build up this twofold love of God and our neighbour, does not yet understand them as he ought". [4] The divine origin of the Scripture also recalls that the Gospel, entrusted to the witness of the baptized, despite embracing all the dimensions of life and reality, transcends them: it cannot be reduced to a mere philanthropic or social message, but is the joyful proclamation of the full and eternal life that God has given to us in Jesus.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us thank the Lord because, in his goodness, he ensures our lives do not lack the essential nourishment of his Word, and let us pray that our words, and even more so our lives, do not obscure the love of God that is narrated in them.

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.

February 2026

12	Over 50's Group Meeting	10.30am
15	Sacramental Enrolment Mass	9.30am
18	Ash Wednesday Mass	8am, 9.15am, 7.30pm
18	Sacramental Meeting (1st)	6.30pm

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

Acolytes, Ministers, Readers and Altar Servers, please remember to arrive 15

7/8 February

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Ernie Gartner 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui
Ministers	Vigil: D. Green, F. Paiva 8am: J. Irudayaraj, M. Santos 9.30am: C. Brooks, K. Huihui
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, N. Sumcad 8am: P. Ferriols, Tom Perak 9.30am: C. Diaz, J. Nonato
Altar Servers	Vigil: G. George, M. Gluvic, S. Gluvic 8am: J. Blackshaw, Sub Rqd 9.30am: J. Steele, M. Stormer, H. Winter
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	OLOL Feast Day
Musicians	Vigil: Fr. Henry & C.W 8am: Fr. Henry 9.30am: Tongan Choir
Flowers	Siani, Raquel, Tess
Church Cleaning	14 Feb Tongan Community Edgardo Barcelon Edgar Cabrera Aman Rawah
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Georgina Basili Edgardo Barcelon

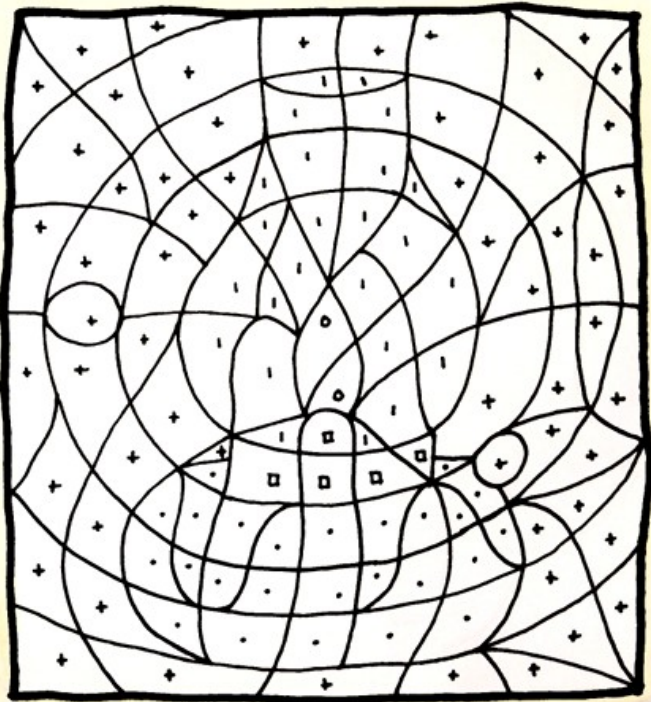
14/15 February

Acolytes	Vigil: Darryl Green 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Ramzee Michael
Ministers	Vigil: N. Shami, M. Simic 8am: J. Mai, J. Sarmiento 9.30am: F. Kennedy, B. Motha
Readers	Vigil: Yxavel & Yxaak Dino 8am: J. Cabassa, Anne McNally 9.30am: N. Arambulo, Edward Pieris
Altar Servers	Vigil: B. Spadaro, J. Spadaro, S. Thoms 8am: C. Bellamin, C. Smith 9.30am: M. Pieris, J. Pieris, L. Sadipoor
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Tongan Choir
Musicians	Vigil: K. Thoms & C.W 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Christine Clarke
Flowers	Fenty & Angela
Church Cleaning	19 Feb Cathy Hutchings Annette Peatman Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli, Sastina Pieris

The Kids' Bulletin

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 8th, 2026

On February 11, we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the title given to Mary when she appeared to Bernadette Soubirous in 1858 in Lourdes, France.



Matt 5:13-16

What did Jesus tell us we should be like?
Colour in the spaces according to the code to find out!

- + blue
- white
- o orange
- brown
- red



shine

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

LAMP	LIGHT	BOWL	GOOD	DEEDS
WORLD	CITY	MEN	HIDDEN	SHINE
PRaise	HOUSE	FATHER	HILL	STAND