



OUR LADY OF LOURDES

PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS

"Still a wonderful place to pray & stay"

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Parish Priest:	Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran	Parish School:	LOLO 8869 6800
Parish Office Team:	Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Jane Nguyen, Laura Ilioski	Principal:	Ms Keiran Byrnes
Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday	9am - 3.00pm	Reconciliation:	Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
WEEKDAY MASS:	Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am Thursday 9.00am	Baptismal Preparation:	15 April 2026
WEEKEND MASS:	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9.30am	Baptism:	8 March 2026
		Sacrament Co-Ordinator:	Mrs Artelle Lenthall
		Youth Co-Ordinator:	Diana Park
		Parish Website:	www.olol7hills.org.au
		Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/LOLO7Hills/

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 1 March 2026 • Year A



Let us Pray for the Sick

Florence Arinaran, 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, Michelle Pellicano, Maricar Poblete, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Arabella Steele, Sue Tiplado, Chandra Sampantham, Caroline Stevenson, Vivian Tomines, Sakalia Ameto Vili, Natalie Woodward.

If you would like to add to our Sick List or know of any Parishioner who is unwell please contact Father Henry or email the

Parish Office: secretary@olol7hills.com.au

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

Let us Pray for the Deceased

Recently Deceased: Noeline Bartlet, Minerva Carpizo, Dawn Fernando, Mary Leeder, Bob Marini, James Muscat, Dorothy Newman, Rudolfo Ramas, Cheryl Robertson, Francis Zaidan

Anniversaries: Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, Fredy Alphonse, Lourdes Apalisok, Michelle Azzopardi, Dulcie Duraisamy, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Rita de Silva, Frank, Joe Falzon, Mansour Farid, M.A Fernando, Joseph, Carmena & Sammy Formosa, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, Emily Galea, Constance Gaycroft, Francis Lomano, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Paul Mula, Louis & Stephen Mula, Charles Muscat, Tony Muscat, Felix & Andreanna Muscat, Harold Ngan, Antonio Solis Palmos, Mile Perak, Palmira Rosario, Helen Tanti

Remembrance: Neil Amaratunga, France Angseesing, Sam Borg, Antonio, Amelia & Germana Bertinato, Peter & Antonio, Fe Licup Carmen, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli and Camenzuli Family, Barrie Chamberlain, Joseph, Johnny Edwards, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Launcer De Guire, O. Francis, J. Francis, Melvyn Fernandes, Merita Fernando, Nevis Fernando, Leandro Garcia Snr, Evangeline, Rudy Garcia, Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Francisco Giusa, Salatori Giogio, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Selvam Irudayaraj, J.B, Jonathan Tek Kie, Mangion & Cini Family, Tessie & Andy Mangine, Maureen & John Mead, Pauline Meilak, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, William & Emilia Mifsud, Joseph & Doris Mifsud, Mary Mifsud, Apolinaro & Felina Maglaya, Solomon Moras, Bertu, Albert, Paul, Louis, Stephen & Joseph Mula and Mula Family, Anton & Lourda Motha, Xavier Motha Jnr, Mary & Francis Muscat, Jason Muscat & family, Jim & Phillipa Muscat, Lakshman Perera, Natalia & Felicisimo Prahinoq, Eustace Ratnam, John & Roseline Ratnam, Benigno & Rosita Rivala, Maria Reyes, Cornelio & Iluminada Rondario, Mary Silva, Christopher Solomon, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.

Names will be published for 2 weeks at a time.

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.



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 Genesis 12:1-4*

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing. ' I will bless those who bless you: I will curse those who slight you. All the tribes of the earth shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

1. The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**

3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. **(R.)**

2. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy 1:8-10*

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace.

This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 17:1-9*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him.

Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.'

When they heard this the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

It's interesting to note that before this Gospel account for the Second Sunday of Lent, where Jesus takes his closest disciples, Peter, James, and John, up the mountain and is transfigured before their eyes, likely to give them a glimpse of his divine glory and to strengthen them ahead of his coming Passion, death, and resurrection. During this time, Jesus had to "tell Peter off" for he had asked Jesus not to entertain the thought about his Passion and death, he frankly used these rather harsh words to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You would have me stumble. Your thoughts are not from God but from man' (cf. Mt 16.22). This is amazing, given that not long before that he offered Peter the power to bind and unbind everything on earth following Peter's profession that 'you are the Christ, the Son of the living God' (cf. 16. 29-31). For this trip of a lifetime, Peter straightforward as he always was, felt so good about what he and his friends were witnessing namely Jesus' transfiguration with his face shining like the sun and clothes turning into white as the light, the sudden presence of highly revered figures such as Moses and Elijah conversing with Jesus, and the curtain of the bright cloud covering them, he honestly summed up his great feeling in what he said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.'

Instead of a response from Jesus, he heard the voice of the Father from above telling his group, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' Here God publicly verifies Jesus' divine Sonship as the Son of God as he claimed and invites the whole world to pay attention to his teachings and put them into practice.

Despite the wonderful scene before their eyes, the voice of the Divine somehow brought a sense of awe into the Apostles, consequently they fell on their faces and were filled with fear, Jesus had to calm them down with his touch and encouraging words, 'stand up, do not be afraid,' and gave them the instruction to keep their experience confidential till his resurrection.

From a symbolic perspective, this Gospel story contains a lot of symbolic images, such as (1) Moses and Elijah, two biblical figures stand for the Law and the Prophets, another name for the Jewish Scriptures whose purpose was to help prepare for the coming of the messiah, (2) Jesus' shining face and his white clothes remind people of this Jewish belief that the saints will dress in white in the kingdom of God, (3) the cloud is a reminder of God's presence with the Israelites when they were on the way out of Egypt, and finally (4) the tents highlight this Jewish belief that people will camp in tents in God's kingdom. All these symbols aim to verify Jesus' identity as the Messiah sent by God to deliver people from sin and lead them into the promised land of God's Kingdom through his death and resurrection foretold multiple times by Jesus himself.

Though this Gospel story provides us with a lot of things to talk about, let us focus particularly on Peter's positive reaction to the heavenly world Jesus revealed to him and his friends that he described as wonderful to the point he was completely won over and had no intention to return to the earthly world anymore, let us pray today for the strength to faithfully follow the way of Jesus like the disciples of old, consequently we deserve a place in such a wonderful place one day.

Have a heaven-oriented week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

All members of our Parish Pastoral Council are invited to attend a monthly meeting on Wednesday 11th of March at 7.30pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

IMPORTANT NOTES FOR LENT

- Lent begins from Ash Wednesday.
- In Lent there is no Alleluia at Mass.
- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence for healthy Catholics.
- Lent is a penitential time of prayer, self-denial and helping others.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday during LENT at 7.30pm.

PARISH LENTEN RETREAT

Saturday the 14 March, 9.30am to 2.00pm with this years theme 'Called to Fly Like an Eagle.' Please save the date and join the popular Retreat Master Fr Kevin Walsh for a wonderful spiritual preparation of the Holy Week and Easter. Please RSVP on the clipboard available at the rear of the church or contact the Parish Office.

CHURCH HALL CANOPY RAFFLE

We have started to sell raffle tickets to help fundraise for the canopy construction and tickets continue to be on sale after all Masses in the Church foyer this weekend and the coming ones till 16th August this year, please help to buy the tickets as much as you can, and for those who wish to help distribute the tickets amongst family circles, please feel free to approach the seller on duty and register names and number of books on the record book.

PROJECT COMPASSION

As usual, we are invited to join in the Project Compassion to help support vulnerable communities around the world. This is an appropriate time for us to put into practice what Jesus asked us to do in the Gospel for Ash Wednesday namely almsgiving, please make sure each family have a Project Compassion box at home during Lent, and bring it back to the church from the Holy Thursday.

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.

PLAQUE PAYMENT

Parishioners who have pledged a plaque are kindly asked to make the \$300 payment online and then email the EFT remittance to secretary@olol7hills.com.au with your plaque wording (MUST be 25 letters of less).

Banking details below:

Account Name: Seven Hills Catholic Church.

BSB: 067 950

ACC: 000552

REF: (your surname) PLAQUE

Alternatively, please contact the parish office during office hours, Tues-Fri 9am-3pm. Thank you for your support.

CANDLE WAX ON THE CHURCH CARPET

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

DIOCESAN NEWS

Rosary Making Workshops

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 the following days:

- Saturday 7 March at Holy Spirit Parish, St Clair-Erskine Park, from 2pm.
 - Tuesday 10 March at Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown, from 7pm.
- Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for more information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Catalyst for Renewal Spirituality on the Sofa: 4 March

Catalyst for Renewal presents Spirituality on the Sofa (SOS), a program of online conversations that explore aspects of faith and spirituality. On Wednesday 4 March from 7.30pm to 9pm, join Dr Catherine Playoust and Justice Francois Kunc as they explore “Peace: an impossible dream?”. For more details, visit cfr.org.au

FaithLIFE Lenten Scripture night by Dr Michele Connolly RSJ: 3 March

Are you looking to read the Bible during Lent but don't know where to start? Consider the FREE Diocesan Lenten Scripture Night guided by Scripture scholar Dr Michele Connolly RSJ on Tuesday 3 March from 7pm–9pm at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes. RSVP via www.parracatholic.org/events/lenten-scripture-night OR email met@parracatholic.org

Women's Breakfast Celebrating the Feast of St Joseph

Saturday 21 March 8am – 10am Mary MacKillop Spirituality Ministry, 33 Barina Downs Rd, Baulkham Hills Cost: \$20 per person (breakfast included) All women are warmly invited to a special community breakfast celebrating the Feast of St Joseph and honouring the legacy of Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph. Guest speaker: Sr Virginia Bourke rsj. Bookings essential: Scan the Qr code on the parish notice board flyer to register All women are welcome.

LOLO SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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.

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> . Dates and times will be provided once confirmed.

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

Australian Catholic Historical Society Gathering: 15 March

The next event for the Australian Catholic Historical Society will be held on Sunday 15 March in the crypt of St Patrick's, Church Hill at 2pm. Professor Paul Watt from Adelaide University will be presenting on “Writing a history of Gregorian Chant in Australia: Why is it complicated and occasionally controversial?” 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/>

Missionaries of God's Love Discernment Retreat Weekend: 13-15 March

An opportunity for single women aged 18-35 to come and listen for the voice of Jesus, ask questions and experience prayer, talks, sisterhood and times of sharing to help you discern your vocation. The weekend will be held on from 13 to 15 March at Carmel House, 345 St Andrews Road, Varroville. Registration: mglisters.sydney@gmail.com

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

MET Natural Fertility – Natural Family Planning (NFP)

Are you looking for help to track your fertility cycle? Come and explore a natural, effective, healthy and scientific approach to achieve, space/avoid pregnancy or monitor women's health. NFP is suitable for all situations including post-contraception, breastfeeding mothers and women experiencing peri-menopause. Express your interest at www.parracatholic.org/learn/natural-family-planning

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>.

Supporting the Safety of Our Community

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'S ANGELUS

Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday!

Today, on the First Sunday of Lent, the Gospel tells us about Jesus who, led by the Spirit, enters the desert and is tempted by the devil (cf. *Mt* 4:1–11). After fasting for forty days, he feels the weight of his humanity: physically, through hunger, and morally, through the devil's temptations. In this, he experiences the same struggle we all face on our journey. By resisting the evil one, he demonstrates how we, too, can overcome the devil's deception and snares.

Through this Word of life, the liturgy invites us to view Lent as a luminous path. By means of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we can renew our cooperation with the Lord in the crafting of our lives as a unique masterpiece. This involves allowing him to cleanse the stains and heal the wounds of sin, as we commit to letting our lives blossom in beauty until they attain the fullness of love — the only source of true happiness.

To be sure, this is a demanding journey. There is always the risk of discouragement or of being drawn to easier paths to satisfaction, such as wealth, fame and power (cf. *Mt* 4:3–8). These temptations, which Jesus himself faced, are merely poor substitutes for the joy for which we were created. Ultimately, they leave us dissatisfied, restless and empty.

For this reason, Saint Paul VI taught that penance — far from impoverishing our humanity — enriches, purifies and strengthens it, as we move toward a horizon that has “as its aim love and surrender to God” (Apostolic Constitution *Paenitemini*, 17 February 1966, I). Indeed, while penance makes us aware of our limitations, it also grants us the strength to overcome them and to live, with God's help, in deeper communion with him and with one another.

In this time of grace, let us therefore practice penance generously, alongside prayer and works of mercy. Let us create space for silence by turning off televisions, radios and cell phones for a while. Let us meditate on the Word of God, approach the Sacraments, and listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit who speaks to us in our heart. Let us also listen to one another — in our families, workplaces and communities. Let us dedicate time to those who are alone, especially the elderly, the poor and the sick. By giving up what is superfluous, we can share what we save with those in need. Then, as Saint Augustine taught, our prayer offered in this way — “in humility and charity, by fasting and giving, by restraining ourselves and pardoning, by paying out good deeds and not paying back bad ones, by turning away from evil and doing good” (*Sermons*, 206, 3) — will reach heaven and give us peace.

We entrust our Lenten journey to the Virgin Mary, our Mother who always assists her children in times of trial.

After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters,

Four years have passed since the beginning of the war against Ukraine. My heartfelt thoughts remain focused on the tragic situation unfolding before the eyes of the whole world: so many victims, so many lives and families shattered, such immense destruction, such unspeakable suffering! Every war is truly a wound inflicted upon the entire human family; it leaves in its wake death, devastation and a trail of pain that marks generations.

Peace cannot be postponed. It is an urgent necessity that must find a home in our hearts and be translated into responsible decisions. For this reason, I renew my heartfelt appeal: let the weapons fall silent, let the bombings cease, let an immediate ceasefire be reached, and let dialogue be strengthened to pave the way toward peace.

I invite everyone to join in prayer for the embattled people of Ukraine and for all those who suffer due to this war and every conflict in the world, that the long-awaited gift of peace may shine upon our days.

I now extend my greetings to all of you: the faithful of Rome and pilgrims from Italy and various other countries.

I warmly bless the Working Sisters of Jesus on the centenary of the founding of their Institute. I greet the School of Saint Joseph Calasanzio in Prievidza, Slovakia, and I offer my encouragement to the associations committed to addressing rare diseases together.

I greet the Apostleship of Prayer group from Biella; the faithful from Nicosia, Castelfranco Veneto, and the deanery of Melegnano; the confirmation candidates from Boltiere; the young people of the Saint Mary Magdalene pastoral community in Milan; and the scouts from Tarquinia.

I wish everyone a happy Sunday and a fruitful Lenten journey.

BISHOP ERIK VARDEN'S LENTEN RETREAT By Bishop Erik Varden, OCSO*

Bishop Erik Varden delivers his seventh reflection at the Spiritual Exercises in the Vatican for Pope Leo XIV, Cardinals residing in Rome, and heads of Dicasteries, focusing on the theme of 'Glory'. The following is a summary of his reflection.

When Jesus spelled out what it means to remain with him, to enter the Kingdom towards which he was pointing, 'many of his disciples drew back and no longer went about with him'. They would not put up with his discourses about sacramental realism, the indissolubility of marriage, the necessity of the Cross. When Christ was crucified on Calvary, the *synodos* that had walked with him six days before was no more. Two followers only remained: his Mother and John, the Beloved Disciple. John gives a stark account of Jesus's kenosis. It plays out at two levels: that of divine, compassionate love crushed in the wine-press of the Cross; and that of the betrayal of human loyalties. Yet John insists that this scene of dereliction manifests Christ's *glory*.

'Glorification', says Bernard, 'happens in the presence of God's face' when, our earthly voyage done, we shall at last behold what in this life we have firmly hoped for, putting our trust in Jesus's name. '*Spes in nomine, res in facie est*'. There is no way of rendering this terse formula except by way of turgid circumscription: 'Our hope is in the name of the Lord; the reality hoped for will be revealed face to face.'

Yet a 'hidden glory' is perceptible even now. Augustine liked to say that we carry the image of glory in an 'obscure form'. Once we have passed through this life, the form will reveal itself explicit and 'luminous'. It will be apt to stand before God. Any deformities inflicted by ill-used liberty will be reformed then, so that the form will appear in its intended beauty: as '*forma formosa*'. Augustine, at once so profoundly humane and trenchantly lucid, stresses that the glory of the image can never be lost; it is imprinted on our being. It can, though, be buried under accumulating layers of darkness, which must be removed. The Church reminds women and men of the glory secretly alive in them. She shows us that present mediocrity and despair, not least my despair at my own persistent failures, need not be final; that God's plan for us is infinitely lovely; and that God, through Christ's Mystical Body, *will* give us grace and strength, if only we ask.

The Church manifests the radiance of 'hidden glory' in her saints. They stand as proofs that even illness and degradation may be means providence uses to realise a glorious purpose, bestowing strength on the feeble and making them radiant. The Church channels 'hidden glory' in her sacraments. Any Catholic knows what light can break forth in the confessional, in an anointing, at an ordination or a wedding. Most splendid, and in some ways most veiled, is the glory of the Holy Eucharist. What priest, after offering Mass, has not felt what a great musician once said about an instrument in a bright communication of beauty, healing, and truth: 'death would really be no tragedy: [for] the best of that which is at the centre of human life has been seen and lived through', his heart on fire with glorious wonder?

* *Bishop Erik Varden, Bishop of Trondheim, Norway, was asked to preach the 2026 Spiritual Exercises for Pope Leo XIV, Cardinals residing in Rome, and the heads of Dicasteries of the Roman Curia, which runs from Sunday, February 22, to Friday, February 27.*

RATZINGER AND THE CHURCH THAT WELCOMES PEOPLE WHILE LEAVING FREE By Andrea Torielli

In the book "The Faith of the Future", a homily by the then Cardinal presents Saint Monica and her attitude toward her son Saint Augustine as the personification of the ecclesial community: a space of life, of welcome, of freedom, where each person's freedom is respected and faith is never imposed. "Suffering, she learned to let him walk his own road, without constraints. She learned to endure that his road was altogether different" from the one she had imagined for him.

This reflection on the mother of Saint Augustine, spoken at the consecration of the parish church dedicated to St Monica in the Neuparlach district of Munich by the then-Cardinal Archbishop, Joseph Ratzinger. The date was 29 November 1981, just four days after the announcement of his appointment as Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Once again, we see an image of Ratzinger far removed from the one projected on him by those who use selected passages of the magisterium of Benedict XVI to try to set it in opposition to that of his successors. The homily, until now available only in German, is published in the volume of Ratzinger's selected texts '*La fede del futuro*,' ("The Faith of the Future" - ed.), translated by Pietro Luca Azzaro and with a preface by Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin. In this homily, the Archbishop of Munich presents the figure of Augustine's mother as a living experience of what the Church is in its most profound essence. "In her," Ratzinger writes, referring to the saint of Hippo, "he experienced the Church as person, the Church personally, so that for him it was not some kind of apparatus, from which one feels something very distant, structures that turn out to be somewhat incomprehensible. In this woman there was personally present what the Church is." Augustine, the cardinal recalled, wrote of his mother: "She not only gave me this bodily life, but she gave me a space of the heart, she gave me a space of life in which I was able to become a man." The human being, Ratzinger affirmed, "needs a relational space of trust, of love; and a meaning that allows him to walk toward the future."

But this "space of life" has little to do with ecclesiastical structures or with identity-based communities of the perfect who isolate themselves from the world, condemning it day in and day out. On the contrary, it admirably sketches the face of a welcoming Church, respectful of everyone's freedom and of each person's timing. Just as Monica was with her son, who considered "allowing him to be free" to be "an essential element for the formation of this vital space": free to make mistakes, free to follow his carnal passions... Monica "knew how to wait. She knew how to accept the conflict between generations. Suffering, she learned to let him walk his own road, without constraints. She learned to endure that his road was altogether different from the one that, in faith, she had imagined for him; and yet she learned to love him, to stand beside him, not to abandon him, while still leaving him the freedom of his being. In this openness while waiting, by which she left him the freedom to become himself—not imposing the faith on him, but simply being there for him as a person, as a mother—precisely in this way she transmitted the faith to him."

These are enlightening words for parents, for educators, and more generally for those who proclaim the Gospel. A Church as a "space of life, of freedom, of hope."

The future Pope commented, "I believe that today there is much suspicion and aversion toward the Church... because we experience the Church very little as person, very little the Church personally. We hear it spoken of only as structure, office, and apparatus. But the Church will be able to subsist, and we will be able to take root in her and she will be able to become our homeland, only if she continues to subsist in persons. This space, all spaces—even the halls where we spend our free time and meet—should be spaces that help us to become Church in person for one another; space that for us may be vital space, mother, someone who makes available to us a place of trust and of the possibility of living."

A Church, a "field hospital," that accompanies you, where love heals the deepest wounds and one feels at home.

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 March 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.

March 2026

4	Sacramental Meeting (3rd)	6.30pm
7	Sacramental Meeting (3rd) RPT	4.30pm
12	Over 50's Group Meeting	10.30am
14	Parish Lenten Retreat	9.30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

28 February / 1 March

Acolytes	Vigil: Daniel La Guidara 8am: Eugene Miu 9.30am: Ryan Epondulan	
Ministers	Vigil: J. Franco, L. La Guidara 8am: A. McNally, B. Motha 9.30am: K. Huihui, K. Huihui	
Readers	Vigil: A. Franco, T. Perak 8am: P. Ferriols, J. Mai 9.30am: A. Han, R. Saldanha	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Alex & Christina La Guidara 8am: Chris Bellamin, Volunteer 9.30am: L. Sager, M. Stormer, E. Wright	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Young Adults Group	
Musicians	Vigil: Christine Clarke 8am: Fr Henry 9.30am: Couples for Christ	
Flowers	Annette & Raquel	
Church Cleaning	5 March	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Georgina Basili	

7/8 March

Acolytes	Vigil: Abel Do Rosario 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Fayelene Kennedy	
Ministers	Vigil: M. Mifsud, M. Simic 8am: F. Paiva, T. Perak 9.30am: C. Brooks, A. Walker	
Readers	Vigil: Y. Dino, N. Do Rosario 8am: J. Sarmiento, K. Walker 9.30am: J. Nonato, E. Pieris	
Altar Servers	Vigil: G. Amaladass, C. Smith, A. Faulkner-Dhiman, 8am: J. Blackshaw, K. Maruthanayagam 9.30am: K. Cassaniti, M. Pieris, J. Pieris	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: Fr. Henry & C.W 8am: Fr Henry 9.30am: Tongan Choir	
Flowers	Fenty & Liz	
Church Cleaning	14 March	Tongan Community Edgardo Barcelon Edgar Cebreira
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli, Sastina Pieris	

The Kids' Bulletin

Second Sunday of Lent
March 1st, 2026

pleased; listen to him.
With whom I am well
This is my beloved Son



The Transfiguration

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" Matthew 17:5 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 17:1-9



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

What did Peter, James and John hear from the bright cloud when Jesus was transfigured on the mountain?

Look in the mirror to find out!

SIX	PETER	CLOTHES	VOICE	JOHN
LOVE	MOSES	GOOD	WHITE	ELIJAH
JAMES	DAYS	APPEARED	MOUNTAIN	HIGH

